



COURTESY OF ELIJAH GREENE '25

BASKETBALL FIGHTS TO THE FINISH • PAGE B1

News Analysis: Why the Democratic primary changes matter

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | POLITICS CORRESPONDENT • The Democratic National Convention voted to reorder their party's 2024 presidential primary on February 4. The reordering included removing Iowa's caucus from the early slate of states and replacing it with South Carolina to empower Black voters. While changes are still possible, the vote, held during a three-day meeting in Philadelphia, marks a formal endorsement by the Democratic National Committee. At least for the Democratic party, the start of the 2024 primaries will differ greatly from the 2020 primaries. "Folks, the Democratic party looks like America, and so does this proposal," said DNC Chair Jaime Harrison ahead of the vote.

"The Democratic party has been facing pushback for a while on the traditional order of primaries and caucuses... The idea is to have more diverse states to better represent the party."

-Dr. Shamira Gelbman

This move means a big shift in the Democratic primary calendar. South Carolina will now have first position on February 3, followed by Nevada and New Hampshire on February 6, then Georgia on February 13 and Michigan on February 27. "The Democratic party has been facing pushback for a while on the traditional order of primaries and caucuses," said Associate Professor of Political Science Dr. Shamira Gelbman. "The idea is to have more diverse states to better represent the party." Four of these five beginning states are battleground states, meaning the primary winner will have been able to lay previous important ground-
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Nikki Haley announces bid for Republican presidential nomination, challenging Trump

COOPER E. SMITH '23 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley (R) announced her bid for the Republican nomination for the 2024 presidential election on February 14. Haley is the first of several expected Republicans to challenge former President Donald Trump officially, complicating the dynamic between Haley and her former boss as the former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations under former President Donald Trump. "The Washington establishment has failed us over and over again," Haley said in her campaign video. "It's time for a new generation of leadership." Haley is the first woman

of color to run for the Republican presidential nomination. In the video, Haley referenced her family's immigrant roots. "The railroad tracks divided the town by race," Haley said. "I was the proud daughter of Indian immigrants. Not Black, not White—I was different." Despite these references to racial divides in her hometown, Haley firmly relied on vaguely-defined national history and ideals as tenets of her campaign. "Some look at our past as evidence that America's founding principles are bad," Haley's voice said over footage of the 1619 Project and footage of U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. "Some



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think our ideas are not just wrong, but racist and evil. Nothing could be further from the truth." Though Haley's only current opponent for the nomination is former President Donald Trump, Haley never mentioned
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FAFSA changes spell promise, uncertainty

DeLonis: 'The days of the Expected Family Contribution are coming to an end'

SAM BENEDICT '25 | NEWS EDITOR • Beginning in 2024-25, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will see significant changes, particularly to the Expected Family Contribution metric. The changes seem poised to change the financial aid of many Wabash students, and the financial aid office is anticipating a heavy workload to combat this overhaul. The recently-passed FAFSA Simplification Act will see student aid evaluated through the Student Aid Index (SAI) as opposed to the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) metric. Families with multiple children in college have previously been expected to receive more aid as a result, but this is no longer the case. Pell Grant access has been expanded for students across the country and the number of questions on the FAFSA has significantly decreased. "The FAFSA formula is changing significantly," said Director of Financial Aid at Wabash College Alex DeLonis. "The days of having your federal and state aid get calculated using an Expected Family Contribution number is coming to an end. Beginning in 2024-25, we will now use the Student Aid Index. Nationwide, we will see more students become eligible for Pell grants which is very positive. However, the new formula may result in some students losing federal and/or state aid eligibility. From what we see, the biggest negative impact to

Wabash students is that the formula will no longer take into consideration how many family members in the household are attending college at the same time. A significant number of our students have siblings who are also enrolled in college, but that positive impact on the formula is going away." The goal of the FAFSA changes is to expand access to all students who desire to pursue higher education. Previously, drug convictions and failure to submit an application would have eliminated a student from receiving aid, but these regulations no longer apply to students in the 2023-24 academic year and beyond. These changes have been guided by college administrators and the Department of Education. "I am currently on
"We believe this will have a positive impact on enrollment going forward for incoming classes."
-Alex DeLonis
the NASFAA FAFSA Simplification Working Group," said DeLonis. "For the past 3 years, we have been giving feedback directly to Federal Student Aid as they have developed the new FAFSA. I have also been part of many advocacy groups to push the
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Train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio leads to environmental disaster

ARMAN LUTHRA '26 | CARTOONIST, STAFF WRITER • A train carrying 150 cars from Madison, Illinois, en route to Conway, Pennsylvania, tragically derailed in the village of East Palestine, Ohio on February 3. The quaint locale, with a population of roughly 4,700 individuals, is located approximately 50 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. The derailment, which involved the release of hazardous vinyl chloride, has exposed a potential health and environmental crisis. Vinyl chloride, a toxic substance with a permissible exposure limit of 1 part per million over an 8-hour period, is known to cause severe health issues. With train cars typically carrying between 250 to 250,000 pounds of vinyl chloride, the quantity of this hazardous chemical released during a spill can be overwhelmingly massive. In fact, the estimated volume of the spilled substance alone in the incident could be upwards of a million pounds. However, the toxic nature of this substance is compounded by the fact that it is transported in its liquid form, meaning that the leak would also release boiling gas into the atmosphere and the surround-

ing ground. The aftermath of this derailment was no less than catastrophic. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which is currently undertaking an investigation into this unfortunate event, has revealed that a staggering 38 cars were involved in the derailment. Adding insult to injury, a raging fire subsequently broke out, resulting in significant damage to a further 12 cars. The fire that ensued at the site of the vinyl chloride spill has compounded the gravity of the situation, adding an additional layer of apprehension, exacerbating the hazard and further complicating the remediation process. When vinyl chloride is burned, it produces hydrogen chloride, an unstable substance that readily latches onto water to form hydrochloric acid. This means that, although the burning off of the vinyl chloride has been termed a "success" by government officials, it has also released hundreds of thousands of pounds of acid into the atmosphere. In addition, alarming reports have emerged regarding the inadvertent release of the vinyl chloride compound into the nearby Ohio River. This



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Onlookers in East Palestine, Ohio stare at an ominous cloud following a train derailment on February 3, 2023.

has caused severe environmental distress, as evidenced by the presence of dead fish in the watercourse. The potential for catastrophic consequences is undeniable, with environmental damage and public health risks looming on the horizon. Despite the gravity of the situation, Norfolk Southern Railway, the responsible party, has sought to downplay the severity of the incident. This stance has been



Secretary Pete Buttigieg @SecretaryPete

We are making historic investments on rail safety through funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, work that accelerates this year and continue in the years to come.

5:50 PM · Feb 14, 2023 · 93.5K Views

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Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg comments on the infrastructural plans to avoid similar accidents in the future. echoed by politicians and media outlets alike, prompting many to call for a more proactive and transparent response to this critical issue.

Smith: News around the world

COOPER E. SMITH '23 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Turkey and Syria: Rescue efforts are ongoing in Turkey and Syria after two 7.7 and 7.6-magnitude earthquakes on February 6. As of February 15, the death toll has reached 35,400 in Turkey and 5,800 in Syria.

China: The Chinese government accused Washington of flying high-altitude surveillance balloons over the Xinjiang and Tibet regions. China has pledged to “take countermeasures” in response to the U.S. decisions to shoot down a similar Chinese spy balloon and to blacklist six Chinese companies connected to the spy balloon program.

Russia: A report from the U.S. Department of State and Yale University found that Russia has placed at least 6,000 Ukrainian children in 43 re-education camps within Russia, spanning Crimea to Siberia. Russia has publicly reported that these camps serve a humanitarian mission, though the report argues that these camps serve a policy of relocation, re-education and forced adoption. According to the Yale School of Public Health’s new Humanitarian Research Lab, Russia’s actions violate the Geneva Conventions and could constitute war crimes.

Iran: In a deepening military relationship with Russia, Tehran has announced new plans to build a drone factory in Russia with the capacity to produce over 6,000 new military drones to support Russia’s war in Ukraine. This news follows U.S. officials’ previous reports that Iran has provided hundreds of such drones to Russia. Iranian support for the Russian war effort has been one of the looming factors jeopardizing the renegotiation of the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal.

United Kingdom: First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon announced on February 15 that she will resign her post as leader of the Scottish National Party, a sudden and unexpected move. Sturgeon, a staunch advocate for Scottish independence, issued this announcement after the independence movement faced losses in the Supreme Court of the U.K. and in the House of Commons, which used its veto power for the first time to block a Scottish “home rule” law extending protections for transgender Scots. Sturgeon claimed that continuing in her role would ultimately harm the independence movement, though she will remain in power until a successor is chosen.



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon resigns her post on February 15, 2023.

Changes in Democratic primary

Continued from A1

work and connections prior to general elections. This holds true especially for Michigan and Georgia which both voted for former President Donald Trump (R) in 2016 and later flipped to Biden in 2020.

The only one of the newly shifted states that is not considered a battleground state is South Carolina, which hasn’t gone for a Democratic presidential candidate in a general election since 1976. Despite that, the 27% of Black voters represent a consistent base of support for Democrats. Compared to the electorate in Iowa and New Hampshire, which are both under 5% Black, South Carolina provides an opportunity for an important constituency in the Democratic party to have their

“Folks, the Democratic party looks like America, and so does this proposal.”

-DNC Chair Jaime Harrison

voices heard. Beyond diversity, South Carolina Democrats tend to lean more moderate on both economic and social issues. In contrast, Iowa and New Hampshire Democrats tend to be more liberal than the average Democrat. Should President Biden announce his anticipated 2024 presidential campaign, such moves would ensure that a more far left challenger would have a more difficult time gaining support in early primaries. Even back in 2020, South Carolina was key to Biden in the primaries with him winning twice of the vote of his closest competitor, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT).



Democratic activists cheer at the Democratic National Convention on January 2023. This Convention changed the longstanding primary order, placing South Carolina first in the cycle to prioritize the impact of Black voters.

“There’s a lot going on here, but I think the overarching story is that pre-dating 2020 there has been pressure within the party to have states that better represent the base of the Democratic party,” said Dr. Gelbman.

President Joe Biden himself advocated for the change, going so far as to write to the DNC rules committee in December.

“For decades, Black voters in particular have been the backbone of the Democratic Party but have been pushed to the back of the early primary process,” Biden wrote. “We rely on these voters in elections but have not recognized their importance in our nominating calendar. It is time to stop taking these voters for granted, and time to give them a louder and earlier voice in the process.”

“It shows that the President of the United States has demonstrated his respect for and appreciation of South Carolina,” said South Carolina Rep. Jim Clyburn, assistant Democratic leader in the House and a close Biden ally. As for the timing of any prima-

ry changes, the right time is midway between elections, according to Gelbman.

“You’ve had the chance to get a feel for what happened last time,” said Gelbman. “But it’s far enough in advance for the next time so people can get ready for it.”

Party leaders from both Iowa and New Hampshire appealed to the DNC before the vote, but to no avail. The reputation of Iowa’s caucus abilities took a hit in 2020 when the results were severely delayed due to technical issues and reporting problems. The changes may not last, however, as the DNC has already committed to revisiting the voting calendar prior to the 2028 election. The new calendar could prove largely pointless for 2024 as Biden’s expected run for a second term will likely be without any major primary challenger. Yet, what seems to be important for many Democrats is the precedent this decision sets.

“Here’s the reality, no one state should have a lock on going first,” said Michigan Rep. Debbie Dingell.

Nikki Haley campaign announcement

Continued from A1

his name in her 3.5 minute-long campaign announcement. However, though she did not explicitly engage with Trump’s claim that the 2020 presidential election was fraudulent, she nevertheless endorsed Biden as the rightful winner while demonstrating a popularity crisis in the Republican party.

“Republicans have lost the popular vote in seven out of the last eight presidential elections,” said Haley. “That record has got to change.”

Haley has demonstrated a rocky relationship with Trump, previously supporting and opposing him. During the early days of Trump’s 2016 candidacy, Haley opposed him, calling Trump “everything a governor doesn’t want in a president.” Then, at the 2020 Republican National Convention, Haley vouched for Trump, claiming that Trump “has always put America first, and he has earned four more years as president.” After the January 6 insurrection, Haley strongly rebuked Trump’s encouragement, saying Trump’s “actions since Election Day will be judged harshly by history.”

On February 15, Trump commented on Haley’s announce-

ment on Truth Social. “She’s polling at 1%, not a bad start!!!” Trump wrote.

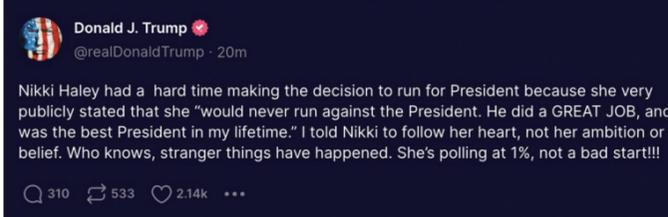
The Democratic National Committee similarly issued a statement shortly after the release of Haley’s campaign video.

“Haley’s entrance officially kicks off a messy 2024 primary race for the MAGA base that has long been brewing,” the Democratic National Committee wrote in a February 14 statement. “Everyone get your popcorn.”

There are other Republicans rumored or expected to be considering running for the nomination. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is widely expected to become Trump’s most serious challenger, though not the only one. In recent weeks, former Vice President Mike Pence and Senator Tim Scott (R-SC) have visited Iowa to campaign—a classic first step for presidential hopefuls, as Iowa is the first state to vote in the Republican nomination campaign. Former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency Mike Pompeo also recently published a book with an inside look at the Trump Administration, potentially hinting at a run for the



Nikki Haley cheers on her supporters. Haley announced her campaign for the Republican presidential nomination over video on February 14.



nomination. To conclude her announcement, Haley struck a fighting posture accentuated with her positionality as the only Republican woman candidate. “I don’t put up with bullies,” said Haley. “And when you kick back, it hurts them more if you’re wearing heels.”

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

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

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 500 words.

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Staff Editorial: The Bachelor grants awards to Super Bowl Commercials



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Sir Elton John makes a guest appearance in a Doritos commercial for Super Bowl LVII.

In the spirit of last week's Grammy Awards and next month's Oscar Awards, the Editorial Staff would like to gift The Bachelor awards to various Super Bowl LVII commercials—the good, the bad and the ugly. Some awards are for stellar performance, others are awarded for proverbially fumbling the ball off your quarterback's foot and giving up a fumble return TD. Enjoy.

The Funniest Ad Award goes to the Avocados from Mexico commercial, which implied that Adam and Eve could have avoided the Fall of Man by trading the Forbidden Fruit for an avocado. The entire world is changed, and everyone continues to live in a state of naked tranquility. It has received some backlash, but I disagree with the sentiment. Perhaps slightly sacrilegious, it did exactly what it was supposed to: it was humorous, creative and attention-grabbing.

The Worst Scriptwriting Award goes to the Kia "Binky Dad" advertisement. Only a Gen X scriptwriter could have designed the most painful depiction of a hip Gen Z teen shouting "OMG tragic! #Binkydad." Please, spare us pre-1995 writers' takes on Gen Z.

The Clever, Creative and Effective Award goes to the 'Rickrolling' ad courtesy of CSAA Insurance Group and digital media company, Deloitte Digital. While nobody will remember the companies that financed the ad,

social media certainly enjoyed the unexpected 90-sec Rick Astley cameo in what was otherwise a pretty average advertisement showing.

The Most Controversial Award goes to the Jesus Gets Us ads from The Servant Foundation. Social media and everyone's Super Bowl parties were alive with discussion about their ad, saying that Jesus is one of us and that he knows our struggle. Seems to us that all the discussion is about whether the \$21 million The Servant Foundation spent on the ad was a good investment—or if it could have been used to do something else, like helping actual people.

The What the F— were You Thinking Award goes to the Tubi ad for causing pandemonium in homes and sports bars across the country. If your comrades screamed at you for happening to be the person seated next to the remote when this ad aired, you may be entitled to financial compensation.



Anna Faris stars in Avocados from Mexico ad for Super Bowl LVII.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

'THE GALACTIC REPUBLIC WILL BE REORGANIZED...'

Lo-Five to the cancellation of Student Senate this week due to the ever-crucial conflict of a lecture from environmental Indiana Jones. C'mon guys, democracy is supposed to die in darkness, not in last-minute lame-excuse cancellations.

DEAN'S OFFICE, WHERE ART THOU?

Hi-Five to the Dean's Office for taking your sweet time releasing Comps scores. Please send help to the Armory basement—the seniors on the Editorial Staff are getting anxious, and they keep making us write shitty Hi-Fives.

'THEY SEE ME ROLLIN, THEY HATIN'

Lo-Five to the Rhynies for failing job description #1. Head over heels, not kindergarten "stop drop and roll."

EVERY DOG HAS ITS DAY

Hi-Five to the German ballet director who smeared dog feces on a critic's face after he didn't like one of the critic's reviews. The state opera house may not have liked your actions, but we may have a job for you yet. The Rhetoric department is located at...

LET THEM EAT... NOTHING

Lo-Five to the Wall Street Journal for the incredibly-intelligent thought piece "To save money, maybe you should skip breakfast." Ya know, you could save even more money by skipping breakfast, lunch AND dinner.

Letter to the Editor: Response to 'The Bachelor's guide to last minute Valentine's Day,' or the question of expressing your love



Morgane Cuoc

Reply to this opinion at
bbulloc23@wabash.edu

single day, so I do care about you!" (Words of affirmation)? ... Wearing, isn't it?

Then, we can infer that when Weillbaker gives ideas about gifts and experiences, he refers to the expressions of love through gifts and quality time.

Interestingly enough, nothing in the article mentions the most common love language: the simple fact of expressing the love you have for the other ("words of affirmation"). Just saying the words. Just tell how you feel. This could be the topic of another article—does being in a male college allows feelings to be expressed, or does it reinforce the repression of emotions, buried deeply inside? I wonder. In France, the suicidal rate for men is three times higher than the rate for women—is there a link to establish with showing your vulnerability, something that is still frowned upon in a patriarchal system that does not allow men to truly express their feelings without being judged by their peers (or women)?

You might not agree with the fact that there are only five languages—and they are the ones enunciated by Gary Chapman; but still, you might agree to the theory that we all express our love in different ways and that there is actually—it might be the key idea—not a right way or a wrong way to do so.

Too often do we measure the efforts we make for another person as the right way to act. Too often, for instance, gifts are seen for so-called superficial people, words might seem useless (she/ he knows how you feel, right? Why do you always have to say it again?), or creating a special occasion tiresome (doesn't the person see what you are doing for her/him every single day?). Some people are huggers while others do not even feel comfortable being pat in the back. But there is no hierarchy between those languages and this theory has proven to be a great tool to heal all types of relationships, not only romantic but family or friends.

It personally helps me to understand my own parents, who have not told me a single time since I moved thousands of kilometers away from them that they love me. They just never express any feelings, and yes, sometimes, it can be weird. But when I saw the box of gifts they sent me from France last Christmas, I could picture my mother's efforts to choose the

'How many more?' Cartoon by Arman Luthra '26



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presents, thinking about me, and I could feel her love for me, in her own way. While I would have preferred having her telling me with words that she missed me, she said it with pairs of gloves and socks.

How many times do we feel the other person is not here for us, when she/he actually is?

As the winter season takes off people mind and that more and more are looking for care, let's pause and think about it.

And you? When was the last time you expressed your love to one of your friends?

When was the last time someone reached out to you to share their love? In which way that you might have missed?

I like the idea of ending this article with the cliché that "everyday should be Valentine's Day". But to please the editorial line of this magazine, I shall in fact summon a British actor for the last words: let's all remember with Bill Nighy that "love is all around" ...

Op-Ed series: Senior political science majors in action

For their senior seminar last fall, each senior political science major designed and conducted research on an area of their interest. Each senior produced a lengthy seminar paper, targeted as if for publication in a leading political science journal. However, as seminar papers and journal articles can often be overly wonky and technical, the political science department also required each

senior to write an op-ed regarding their research aimed at general audiences. The following is a handful of these op-eds, in which soon-to-graduate Wabash political scientists demonstrate their abilities to take complex, political issues and bring them into democratic discourse with experts and non-experts alike.

Crisis of (dis)trust? Anti-intellectualism and conservatism



Carson Price '23

Reply to this opinion at crprice23@wabash.edu

resistance from both Republican politicians as well their conservative constituents. These developments beg the question: how does Republican anti-intellectual messaging impact conservative Americans' view of intellectualism?

A general survey of the literature on public opinion and political messaging suggests a model of public opinion development known as elite opinion formation, first discussed in John Zaller's seminal piece *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Further support for this theory has been offered in recent publications, including a 2021 study by Adam Enders and Joseph Uscinski. They find that anti-intellectualism erodes trust in public institutions, and often leads people to turn to irrational lines of thinking including conspiracy theories, opposition to empiricism, and distrust of science. My own research was focused on the impact of anti-intellectual messaging on conservative Americans. In my research, I define anti-intellectualism as opposition and hostility towards academia and expertise. In order to investigate the potential relationship between Republican political elite's rhetoric and the corresponding impact on their conservative constituents, I conducted a survey experiment. In my research, I analyzed participants who identified as either "Somewhat Conservative" or "Very Conservative". Some participants were then shown a series of fabricated quotations from Republican political elites, with one group being shown pro-intellectual quotes and the other being shown anti-intellectual quotes. The third group served as my

control and completed the entire survey without any quotational material. The survey which followed the treatment for the two groups asked questions regarding trust of professions associated with intellectualism, trust in institutions, as well as an assessment of the threat level of several contemporary issues.

In my results, I find that the impact of Republican political elite's messaging is significant on participants attitudes on COVID-19 and find that the group shown anti-intellectual messaging viewed COVID-19 as a low threat, while the group shown pro-intellectual messaging viewed COVID-19 as a more significant threat. My research presents new findings in the way public opinion on intellectualism is formed, as I find that the intensity in which participants identified with conservatism was significant in how the treatment impacted their responses. Participants identifying as "Very Conservative" were much more likely to adopt stronger anti-intellectual views when shown anti-intellectual messaging, and less likely to adopt stronger pro-intellectual views when shown pro-intellectual messaging. Inversely, I found that "Somewhat Conservative" participants were more likely to adopt pro-intellectual views when shown pro-intellectual messaging, and less likely to adopt anti-intellectual views when shown anti-intellectual messaging. Strong affiliation with conservatism is also generally associated with higher levels of anti-intellectualism, including low trust of academia, medicine, and research.

This research has serious implications in an era increasingly defined by shifts toward stronger affiliation with specific ideologies, a trend labeled as "affective polarization" in a recent study from Brown University. If Americans are in fact becoming more extreme in their political affiliation, then the resulting impacts from political elites' rhetoric is also increasing. The growth of anti-intellectual views in the U.S. has had significantly negative effects, as these views highly correlate with belief in conspiracy theories including election fraud and QAnon. If political elites have such a substantial impact on public opinion, this should lead us to radically rethink how our political elites engage with their constituencies. My findings, along with previous work on the topic, suggest that we can no longer simply condemn anti-intellectual rhetoric as 'misleading'. Recent anti-intellectual rhetoric from Republican political elites isn't merely misleading, it's also incredibly destructive and harmful to the people who identify with conservative ideology. My research suggests that the national trends toward ideological polarization are not only negative because of a growth in extremism, but also that the increasing polarization will accelerate the growth of anti-intellectualism.

Kennedy v. Bremerton must go



Jakob Goodwin '23

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violated their religious beliefs. The Court corrected its error a few years later in *West Virginia v. Barnette*, but it seems unlikely that the Court will correct itself here.

In his decision, Justice Gorsuch overturned a longstanding precedent on the Establishment Clause. In the 60s, the Court decided *Lemon v. Kurtzman*, saying that the government action must have a secular purpose, primarily neither advance nor inhibit religion, or foster an excessive government entanglement, or else it is unconstitutional. Later, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor stripped away the third prong in the test in her "Endorsement Test". These tests focus on attempting to understand if the effect of the government's action is coercive, forcing someone to violate their own religious beliefs or follow beliefs they don't have to avoid being left out of society.

Conservative legal analysts have bemoaned these tests for a long time, claiming that they are too restrictive and would not allow nearly any religious expression by state employees (which is indeed the point), but the move to a poorly defined "history and tradition" test that Gorsuch points to opens the door to a dangerous return to the time where students have few First Amendment rights at school.

Justice Gorsuch's proposed "history and tradition" test is based on the Court's decision in *Employment Division v. Smith*, in which Justice Scalia writes that a law is constitutional

if it is generally applicable and does not target specific religious practices. While this may sound nice, the practical realities of this test are dangerous.

Most schools have dress codes of some sort that ban hats. If a school decided to interpret that rule as literally as possible, Smith's rule could allow them to ban any and all religious headwear like turbans and yarmulkas. That is an extreme example, and the Court would likely disallow that. But few cases are that cut and dry.

What if a teacher wanted to pray at the beginning of class at their desk out loud? What if a student or two know the teacher from the synagogue and that turns that prayer into a social event? How is a student of another faith or of no faith to respond when they feel left out and socially punished for standing by their own religious convictions?

The scenario above is the same one that happened in *Kennedy v. Bremerton* with some minor changes. Joseph Kennedy led a prayer on his own and a number of students joined in and it eventually became the entire team. It then became both teams in the contest. And on one fateful night, after announcing that he would be holding his prayer, in protest of the School District's warnings to stop, many members of the Bremerton community rushed the field after the game to join the prayer. They knocked down members of the band and turned

Coach Kennedy's silent and private prayer into a community-wide spectacle of state religious establishment.

The only way to solve this problem and prevent the social exclusion of children from their schools and of Americans from their democracy is to return to Justice O'Connor's Endorsement Test.

In laying it out, O'Connor writes that to do otherwise sends the "message to nonadherents that they are outsiders, not full members of the political community, and an accompanying message to adherents that they are insiders, favored members of the political community."

The First Amendment's religion clauses were designed to ensure that everyone had ultimate liberty to follow their religious convictions because the government could not establish a church and condemn them. Justice Gorsuch's opinion in *Kennedy* is directly antithetical to the principles that underlie America. The only way to correct his error is to turn back to *Lemon* and the Endorsement Test to ensure that none feel that they are outsiders or full members of their community simply because of their religious beliefs.

This summer, the Supreme Court of the United States decided *Kennedy v. Bremerton*, or the "praying coach" case. In his majority opinion, Justice Gorsuch paints a picture of a high school football coach at a school in Washington that is being persecuted for his faith. As Gorsuch tells it, Coach Joseph Kennedy went to the 50-yard line after a high school football game, bowed his head, and silently prayed on his own. Kennedy lied and Gorsuch's acceptance of that fiction has returned the Court to the 1940s, where it ruled that students could be forced to salute the flag despite their religious protestations.

In 1940, the Court ruled *Minersville School District v. Gobitis*, in which it ruled that a school district could force Jehovah's Witnesses to salute the flag although they believed it

How should citizens digest information within a constitutional republic that believes it's a democracy?



Adam Hiliard '23

Reply to this opinion at ahillia23@wabash.edu

that of the United States? This is a question that must be asked because of the increase in extreme partisanship, formed due to the dominance of two primary political parties. Each of which is seeking to sway the public one direction or another.

When viewing media or news sources regardless of their obvious political affiliation, you as the viewer, should not jump to take everything that is said as fact. By "obvious", I mean it would be safe to assume that everyone knows Fox News is generally Pro-Republican and CNN Pro-Democrat. After all, the New York Times has already issued 4 corrections to articles released in 2023 alone. USA today retracted 23 stories in June of 2022 due to quotes being fabricated by the author.

Doing your own research as an informed citizen would be the ideal method to deciphering whether or not the information that is being conveyed to you is the entire story and correct. A simple google search for instance would be a good place to start, viewing multiple stories on the same topic may open your eyes to the different spins put on each story by different news organizations. But generally speaking, the basic information may be the same across all networks and that is ideally what you the consumer should focus upon.

This brings me to suppression of information and disinformation. This is itself by far the most dangerous problem facing our Republic. The idea that news conglomerates at the will of the government and those within can surpass information and deem it as "fake news" or "disinformation" regardless of the truth in order to win political favoritism for their preferred candidate is startling. Many believe this to be conspiracy or outright not true, let's look at some evidence.

Since Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter, he has steadily released internal documentation between Twitter and the FBI. Yes, that right, the FBI, an unelected entity tasked with various homeland security operations. You might ask 'Why is the FBI communicating with Twitter?' Well, that is because the FBI did not want the news story about Hunter Bidens laptop to be made public. Due to the fact that it contained potentially incriminating information about the Biden family's overseas dealings.

Another great example of this type of suppression or intentional misinformation is the alleged Russian Collusion between the

Kremlin and the Trump campaign. A document surfaced during the 2016 election between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton known as the Steele Dossier. This alleged collusion was run day and night across news stations. In reality, the entire document was fabricated by sources employed by the Clinton campaign in an attempt to damage their opposition. This was essentially an attempt to accuse their opposition of treason to negatively sway public opinion.

Instances like these above threaten the very fabric of individual freedom. The government, no matter the entity or organization, cannot be allowed to tell private business what they can

or cannot allow on their platforms. Secondly, as individual free thinkers, we cannot take what is given to us no matter the source as 100% fact without identifying where the alleged information is coming from. Lastly, I beg every last American citizen to use common sense and your own ability to reason and research to best interpret information that is provided to you by public networks and sources.

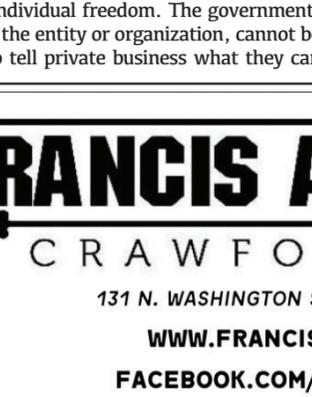
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vs.



Surprising slip-ups set stage for Saturday showdown

ANDREW DEVER '25 | OPINION EDITOR • At least we still have a chance. Thanks to Wooster's loss against Denison on Wednesday, February 15, the Little Giants basketball team can still clinch a share of the NCAC regular season championship. But to do so, Wabash must beat Wooster on Saturday, February 18.

Sitting at 18-6 (11-4 NCAC), one game behind the conference leaders Wooster at 18-5 (12-3 NCAC), the Little Giants' remarkably successful season will hinge on the away contest at the perennial powerhouse. Importantly, the outcome of the game will also be integral in deciding who will host the NCAC postseason tournament's semifinals and championship game, with the winner claiming the first overall seed in next week's tournament.

How did we get here? Well, going into Wednesday night, Wooster held a one game advantage in NCAC play while being a half-game better in the overall season. Consequently, Wooster and Wabash both had a lot to play for with Saturday's game looming on the horizon.

However, Wooster and Wabash ultimately both suffered difficult road losses to keep the distance between the competing colleges at one game. In Wooster's matchup against The Big Red, Denison utilized a crucial 12-0 run down the stretch to pull away from the league leaders after a close first 30 minutes. After establishing a slight lead, the Denison home crowd energized their team to hold on, winning 78-70.

Wooster's slip gave Wabash the opportunity to pull even in the standings, setting up a tie for first place in NCAC standings. Ultimately, however, Wooster's loss meant that, regardless of Wabash's result against Wittenburg in the penultimate game of the regular season, Wabash would still be alive in their hunt to repeat as the regular-season champions.

Simultaneous with Wooster's contest at Denison, Wabash tipped off against Wittenburg in Springfield, Ohio. In what would ultimately be the slowest paced and lowest scoring game of the season, the Little Giants were unable to produce significant and consistent offense against the stringent Wittenburg defense.

In the first half, Wabash struggled to hit their shots on offense, finding it really hard to enter into a rhythm until the last five minutes of the first period. Luckily for the Little Giants, they were able to stifle Wittenburg on its offensive possessions, at one point keeping the home team from scoring for a lengthy period. After a smooth Edreece Redmond '24 layup in the last minute of the first half, Wabash went into the locker room tied with Wittenburg 23-23.

“There is zero chance that we go down to Wooster on Saturday and don't come back as conference champions, and I couldn't be more excited to go win it with these guys.”

- Champ McCorkle '25

The second half continued to be a defensive contest, with the two teams dueling for the lead as the clock dwindled. With the Little Giants down by two points in the final minutes of the game, freshman Randy Kelley '26 coolly elevated over his defender to tie the game at 51-51. After a hard-fought 40 minutes, Wittenburg and Wabash headed to overtime.

In the overtime period, Wabash



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Edreece Redmond '24 stares down his Mount St. Joseph opponent in the opening game of the season on November 8, 2022, at Chadwick Court.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Jack Davidson '22 (right) embraces **Ahmoni Jones '24** after the Little Giants defeated Ohio Wesleyan University on February 4, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

continued to struggle offensively and never led. While a Redmond three brought the Little Giants to within one, at 55-54, a controversial foul call on Champ McCorkle '24 prevented Wabash from taking the lead in the final minute of overtime.

“The refs were talking after the call and apologized for making the wrong call,” said McCorkle. “Wittenberg doesn't have a monitor so they weren't able to go back and reverse it, but it is what it is.”

Due to the slow-paced nature of the game, Wabash only had three players achieve double-digit totals by the end of the game. Vinny Bucilla '25 continued to lead the offensive effort with 12 points, while fellow starter Sam Comer '24 contributed 10 of his own points. Significantly, Kelley followed up his previous impressive performances with 10 points off the bench, including several crucial plays down the stretch of regulation.

“I have a bunch of great teammates and we enjoy playing together. I like our chances Saturday against Wooster.”

- Randy Kelley '26

Nevertheless, the overall offensive numbers were bleak. Wittenberg effectively disrupted Wabash's flow in transition and held the Little Giants to a poor 35% from the field. But despite the loss, the Wabash players remained optimistic about the chances at Wooster on Saturday, as well as their play heading into the postseason tournament.

“It feels great being able to come in and help the team out the past couple weeks,” said Kelley. “I have a bunch of great teammates and we enjoy playing together. I like our chances Saturday against Wooster. I believe we will learn from tonight and get ready for another tough conference road game.”

Looking forward to Saturday, Wabash will be hoping to replicate their previous success against Wooster, when they triumphed at Chadwick Court 83-68 on January 7. In that game, Wooster struggled to keep up with the explosive Wabash offensive, which pulled away from the Terriers with an astonishing 53 points in the second half.

Throughout that earlier contest, the Little Giants neared 70% shooting from the field with five players in double figures, led by 18 points from Avery Beaver '24. Additionally, Wabash dominated on the boards and limited Wooster to relatively low scoring halves. While a share of the conference championship will still be up for grabs, the arguably more important repercussion of Saturday's showdown will be the one-seed and home field advantage at the NCAC tournament.

“We didn't have to lose this one tonight, but I have supreme confidence we will make changes and put ourselves in the right mindset to go home with the league title,” said McCorkle. “There is zero chance that we go down to Wooster on Saturday and don't come back as conference champions, and I couldn't be more excited to go win it with these guys.”

WABASH @ WOOSTER

February 18, 2022

3:15 p.m.

Wooster, Ohio

McRoberts: NCAC basketball power rankings

NOAH MCROBERTS '25 | SPORTS WRITER • Well folks, here we are. In less than 48 hours, we will know the shape and form of the conference tournament. Let's see what the last edition of power rankings hold.

● **1. Wooster Fighting Scots (18-5, 12-3 NCAC) [Last week: 1]**

Break out the bagpipes, as the Fighting Scots are a game away from securing home court advantage for the duration of the NCAC tournament. They are not the flashiest team in the conference by any stretch, but they have played well as a unit. They have five different players that average over 10 points per game, they hound opposing offenses limiting them to the lowest totals in the conference and they snag boards like no other. Wooster is favorite to be champions.

● **2. Wabash Little Giants (18-6, 11-4 NCAC) [Last week: 2]**

Beloved by all pinstripe-wearing and white-pot-donning men, the Little Giants pose a legitimate threat to Wooster's supremacy. If they can bag home court advantage, they'll be unstoppable. The Cavemen have survived all the season's cold stretches and find themselves in prime territory for a conference run.

● **3. OWU Battling Bishops (15-9, 10-5 NCAC) [Last week: 3]**

The Battling Bishops have tended to be extremely matchup dependent. If they face a team with dominating defense, they struggle significantly in low scoring affairs. But if Jack Clement finds space to run free, they can play with the best of them. Their ability to make a playoff run very likely depends on the teams in the way.

● **4. Denison Big Red (13-10, 9-6 NCAC) [Last week: 4]**

As the season has progressed, The Big Red have only improved. They loaded up with a tough non-conference schedule at the frontend of the season, and it seems to have prepared them for the end of the season. They've secured themselves a seed in the middle of the pack after a slow spot, so if there is a Cinderella at this ball it looks Big and Red.

● **5. DePauw Tigers (17-8, 9-7 NCAC) [Last week: 5]**

After looking like world beaters at the midway point, it seems that the conference has keyed in on the Tigers. Everyone seems to have figured out that the only Dannie worth guarding is Elijah Hales. An early exit may be looming for the School Down South.

● **6. Wittenberg Tigers (12-11, 8-7 NCAC) [Last week: 7]**

Wittenberg caused an upset on Wednesday night when they beat the Little Giants, but they have looked strong for some time. Their defense has rounded into shape recently, so they manage to hang with most teams. The Tigers force you to make buckets around the rim, so if you rely on the long ball, you're in for a tough time.

● **7. Oberlin Yeomen (8-16, 4-11 NCAC) [Last week: 6]**

Oberlin is my second favorite team in Division III basketball right now. Though only winning three of their last seven, they have toppled the likes of Wooster and lost overtime matchups with DePauw and Wabash. When the mighty Yeomen of old come knocking on your door, no one is safe.

● **8. Hiram Terriers (10-13, 5-10 NCAC) [Last week: 8]**

Looking back, the Terriers shouldn't have fired off so many of their fireworks on New Year's Eve. Since then, they haven't eclipsed 80 points once, in what has been a devastating second half of the season.

● **9. Kenyon Owls (7-17, 0-15 NCAC) [Last week: 9]**

Since the beginning of the 2018-19 season, Kenyon has won a total of five conference matchups, and it looks like they won't add to that total this season. Who knows if they will ever add to that total again? They might as well tear down their basketball court and replace it with racquetball, swimming, or other common country club accessory.

Wallace: Reflecting on early season predictions

ETHAN WALLACE '24 | BASKETBALL WRITER • At the beginning of the basketball season, I wrote a piece titled "Carving out a new identity" in which I looked ahead at the Little Giants' prospects for this year. So, with the benefit of hindsight on the regular season, it's about time I revisit my predictions. It turns out that the "new identity" I spoke of in November was not so new after all.

After graduating the best offensive trio in the program's history at the end of the 2021-22 season, it seemed that the Little Giants needed a shift in style. The plan was simple: replace the fast-paced offensive team of 2022 with a more deliberate, defense-minded group.

At least, that was the plan. But in reality, the defensive vision I had expected at the beginning of the season never manifested. Sure, Wabash has averaged 12.2 fewer points per game than they did last season, but the Little Giants still lead the conference in total PPG. And that's without the perennial powerhouses of the now-graduated Jack Davidson '22 and Tyler Watson '22. There can be no denying that Wabash is still one of the best offensive teams in the conference.

Despite battling with small injuries all season, the star of the Wabash offense has been Ahmoni Jones '24. Jones came into the season as lead returning scorer for Wabash, and everybody correctly assumed he would be the one to lead the team going forward. Now averaging 16.3 ppg, which has stretched to 18.5 ppg against conference opponents, Jones is the team's leading points scorer. He also leads the team in rebounds, bringing in 5.9 boards per game.

Jones truly is a dual threat. On the one hand, he's able to stretch the floor with his catch-and-shoot threes, which can be sporadic early in the game but always heat up eventually. And on the other hand, his rebounding and lethal post-up fade allow him to outmaneuver his opponents in the paint. It's no surprise that nearly all of Wabash's biggest wins have come from spectacular Jones performances.

Perhaps the only downside to Jones is that he takes a lot of shots and doesn't always end up justifying them. He has just as many games with 10 or less points as he does games with 20 or more, which is dangerous for a lead scorer in a single elimination tournament.

Of the other returners, none has



Averey Beaver '24 makes an inbound pass against Hiram on February 11, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

stood out more than Vinny Buccilla '24. Buccilla is second in scoring for the team with a cool 14.2 points per game, a huge improvement from his 3.3 ppg last season. He's the perfect secondary scorer for the team. When Jones isn't at his best, Buccilla is.

On top of shooting .429 from beyond the arch, Buccilla brings a steady flow of points, with the occasional big scoring night when stakes are high. Second in assists and third in rebounding, he makes his presence felt across the board, and his perimeter defense is an invaluable resource.

Early in the season, Wabash struggled to prevent offensive rebounds. But after the game against Rose-Hulman, Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett changed the starting lineup to include Gavin Schippert '26. Shippert himself only averages 3.5 rebounds per game, but his high effort box out creates a lot of space to keep the other teams' best rebounders back, allowing space for Wabash to pick up extra boards.

Another player taking on a different role to the one expected of him has been Edreece Redmond '24. Early in the year, Redmond was getting 10+ points a night with few exceptions. But since then, he's averaged only 8.6 ppg.

Where Redmond has made himself invaluable, however, is on defense. He leads the team in steals and puts ridiculous amounts of pressure on opponents. He also leads the team in blocks, bringing boosts of energy to Wabash in key defensive plays.

In fact, Redmond has been the highlight of what is otherwise a pretty woeful Wabash defense. Despite all the talk in the preseason of a more defense-heavy team, the Little Giants have truly struggled to prevent the opposition putting up points on them. Wabash has the third worst defense in the conference, with opposition averaging 72.0 points per game. So while the team has managed to keep up its offensive prowess, it has come at the cost of good D.

"I knew we had a tough, competitive, group that would not want the program to go backwards on their watch," said Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett. "I have been surprised that we are in the top two in the NCAC in scoring, and I would have expected this group to have been better defensively."

The team has also had a hard time on the road with a 6-4 away record. That figure looks even worse when you consider that all three of those losses came in conference play against Ohio Wesleyan, De-

Pauw and Denison respectively. And one of the team's road wins, against Oberlin on January 21, was only secured in overtime.

"We have been very good offensively at home and very average on the road," said Brumett. "With the toughest road trip left, we will need to be much better offensively on the road than we have been the last few weeks."

Thankfully for Wabash, the right to host the NCAC tournament is still up for grabs. Despite losing to Wittenberg on Wednesday, February 15, Wabash just needs to beat Wooster in the final regular season game to secure home court advantage. Given that the Little Giants are 12-2 at Chadwick Court, hosting the tournament would be a huge psychological boost.

"If we want to come out of this week with two wins and a ring, we are going to have to do the little things well," said Sam Comer '24. "We need to follow the scouting report, take care of the ball and play as a team. If we do the little things well and play like the team we know we are capable of being, we are going to be hard to stop no matter who we play or where the game is played."

Luckily for the Little Giants, help is finally coming from the Wabash bench. Early in the season, bench scoring was a major issue for the Little Giants. The team would often only manage to get single digit scoring from its entire bench. But changes in the lineup have helped to alleviate that problem.

Averey Beaver '24 leads the bench in scoring with an average of 6.1 ppg against conference opponents. Champ McCorkle '24 has also found success after moving off the starting lineup, averaging 4.8 ppg. Josh Whack '26, who briefly started for the team while Sam Comer '24 was out with an injury, stays very efficient, averaging 5.5 ppg in conference. Together, these three have turned the Wabash bench from a weakness to one of its biggest strengths.

"It is a little unusual that we are still, at this late point in the season, learning how to play best together, but that is where we are," said Brumett. "It could make us very dangerous. Sam [Comer], Edreece [Redmond], Ahmoni [Jones], and Vinny [Buccilla] have all played heavy minutes throughout the season, but it might be our depth that carries us into the post-season."

Coach Brumett: 'You don't come to win just one ring'



Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett applauds his team after beating DePauw on February 1, 2023.

PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

ELIJAH GREENE '25 | SPORTS COLUMNIST • When I sat down with Jack Davidson '22 earlier this week, I was intrigued by something he told me about Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett. In Davidson's words, Brumett has "always believed he could build a team that was a conference championship winner year in, year out."

Year in, year out? It's certainly a high standard for a program that, before 2022, had never won the NCAC tournament. And compared to last season, most would have assumed that 2022-23 would be a "year out." With a completely new-

look squad and almost no returning starters, few fans would have looked you dead in the eye and said that this year's team was a conference contender.

And yet, here we are in the waning of the regular season with Wabash vying for back-to-back NCAC regular season championships. No matter how close the games were or how ugly it got, Coach Brumett has found a way to bring this young, inexperienced group together. The result? Wabash is still one of the best teams in the NCAC. That may have come as a surprise to some, but not Brumett.

"We recruited the guys that are leading this team with the expectation that we would stay good," said Brumett. "The recruiting process had nothing to do with Davidson. It had to do with the project, the expectation of winning."

It may sound like a cliché, but with the overarching success of Wabash athletics over the years, it's easy to see why Brumett's vision is to become a perennial basketball powerhouse in the NCAC.

As Brumett and I chatted, he dug out his conference championship ring and held it up to me, showing me his commitment to the ultima-

te goal of a coach: to continue to reach that coveted championship season after season.

"As a coach, you don't come to do a job to win just one [ring]," said Brumett. "Everything we have done has been to build the program in the right way to be a consistent, long-term winner."

Even though there have been rough patches this season, "we've played a tough schedule," said Brumett, who doesn't doubt the ability of his team for a minute.

After the team's loss to Earlham earlier this season, Brumett said, "I told them, 'this group of guys will win the league.' I don't know if it will be this year or the next, but it seems like everybody's going to be back [next year]."

And Brumett doesn't think that Wabash is that far away from being in the perennial conversation of Indiana's pastime.

"If our program is ready to take that big jump, we will be in the midst of the talk," said Brumett. "Having never hosted the NCAC tournament, now we're [possibly] hosting it two years in a row. And with everybody coming back, I'll expect to host it again next year."

With the monumental shove that the class of '22 has given to this Wabash basketball program, Brumett and his staff will look to capitalize on their success and build a dynasty that will hopefully unseat the likes of Wooster and Wittenberg. Simply put, one ring is not enough—he wants, and expects, more to come.

VINNY BUCCILLA '25
Wabash guard

PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

2022/23 STATISTICS

PPG: 14.2 APG: 2.0
RPG: 3.8 3PT%: 43.8

WABASH vs WOOSTER
Team PPG:

	Wabash College	77.0
	College of Wooster	74.0

NAJEE HARDAWAY
Wooster guard

COURTESY OF WOOSTER ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

2022/23 STATISTICS

PPG: 12.9 APG: 3.4
RPG: 4.5 3PT%: 30.0



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Josh Whack '26 rises above his Ohio Wesleyan defender in his signature style on February 4, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

Jones & Co. look to beat expectations again

Ahmoni Jones '24 reflects on new season, new role

ETHAN WALLACE '24 | BASKETBALL WRITER • Picked to finish third in the NCAC by its coaches, few expected the Little Giants to replicate their historic performance from last year. With Jack Davidson '22, Kellen Schreiber '22 and Tyler Watson '22 gone, Ahmoni Jones '24 stepped into a new leadership role for a Wabash team that had higher expectations for itself than anyone else did. Now, the Little Giants control their own destiny on Saturday, February 18, against Wooster.

And Jones has changed as a leader. His classmates and people who talk to him can tell you that Jones is a laid back guy. This year, Jones took on another challenge: he had to be the guy that brought energy to a young and inexperienced team.

"Last year, I didn't really have to be the one to bring the energy because we had four other guys who brought the energy without me having to," said Jones. "So this year, I knew the first thing that I needed to work on was making sure that I'm helping my teammates while I'm being the vocal leader."

Between some of his offseason work and his knee surgeries, Jones has been in the best shape of his life after focusing on his conditioning to get better for this year.

"I have strength and conditioning with the swim coach, Coach Ian [Disteldorf], on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays," said Jones. "In the offseason, I was in a pool when I couldn't run. I was doing laps in the pool. I was working on strengthening. I was doing stretches for injury prevention. So those little things that I did off the court really helped shoot myself forward during the season."

While Jones has led the Little Giants this year, he's been backed up by a broad cast of characters, led by Vinny Buccilla '25, Sam Comer '24 and Edreece Redmond II '24.

"Vinny, Josh, Edreece, Sam,

"I've seen my confidence grow... to a point where I felt like nobody could f— with me on the court."

- Ahmoni Jones '24

Behind Davidson and Co., Jones was primarily a defender—offense was an afterthought. But this year, Jones has served as the team's leading scorer, reaching 1,000 career points against Denison last week. Coming off knee surgery to fix a birth defect, Jones has changed his mindset this year.

"I've seen my confidence grow," said Jones. "And it kind of got to a point where I felt like nobody could f— with me on the court when I put my mind to it."



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Ahmoni Jones '24 rises for a shot in an 81-89 overtime defeat against Marietta College on November 18, 2022, at Chadwick Court.

Champ—the list can go on," said Jones, listing his teammates that have stepped up this year. "But the guys really stepped up and knew what they needed to work on to contribute to this team and they definitely have and the one thing that I love most about all of those guys is that they're willing to listen, and they're willing to put their pride aside to get better and help the team grow in any aspect."

This week, Wabash fell to Wittenberg 58-56. But with Denison's 78-70 defeat of Wooster, the Little Giants' matchup at Wooster this weekend is for the regular season conference championship and the rights to host the NCAC tournament. And with such a stellar home record, the Little Giants desperately want Chadwick Court to

host the tournament again.

"Compared to last year, I feel the energy in Chadwick has been even crazier," said Jones. "They've helped us so much throughout this season. And those home games really, really push us forward throughout the season. We're really hoping to bring the Chadwick Crazies and the conference tournament back to Chadwick."

If that wasn't enough, according to DIII basketball commentator Drew Pasteur, that game might also serve as an elimination game for the NCAA tournament, with both teams on the bubble for selection.

Jones and Co. know just how big this upcoming game is and they knew that before this week's loss. "[We have to] play every game

like it's our last," said Jones. "It's really getting down to that point where it might possibly be our last game. I always tell people, 'if you're satisfied with how hard you play, then you can't really be mad with the results.' The thing we as a team have to continue to think about is, 'how hard are we willing to play?' That way, we can continue to play and move forward as the NCAC and NCAA tournaments come about."

After this week's loss to Wittenberg and Wooster's loss to The Big Red, the message is the same.

"We're ready to play this game like our lives depend on it," said Jones. "It's the mentality we have to have for the rest of the year. The ball is in our hands and now we have to deliver."

Photo essay: Basketball's 2022-23 season in photos



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

November 8, 2022: Edreece Redmond '24 scored 19 points against Mount St. Joseph opponent in the opening game of the season. Wabash won 81-78.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

January 14, 2023: Assistant Basketball Coach Pat Sullivan talks to the team at a timeout at DePauw. Wabash lost 80-86 and moved to 13-4 on the season.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

January 18, 2023: Ahmoni Jones '24 rises for a shot in a 76-62 victory over Wittenberg, starting a five-game winning streak.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

February 1, 2023: Ahmoni Jones '24 celebrates victory over DePauw at Chadwick Court. Wabash moved to 16-4 (9-2 NCAC) after this game and avenged the earlier away loss in Greencastle.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

February 11, 2023: Edreece Redmond '24 (left) and Sam Comer '24 (right) embrace as the Little Giants cruise to an 80-70 victory over Hiram in the final home game of the regular season.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Jack Davidson '22 wields a sign that reads "We're going to Fort Wayne!" after Wabash beat Illinois Wesleyan University on March 11, 2022, at the Shirk Center in Bloomington, Illinois.



COURTESY OF JACK DAVIDSON '22

Jack Davidson '22 (second from left) and family prior to his departure for Australia, February 2023.

An iron resolve and a dream realized

Jack Davidson '22 discusses his journey to the Australian NBL 1

ELIJAH GREENE '25 | SPORTS COLUMNIST • It was not always clear whether Jack Davidson '22 would be successful at the game of basketball. Standing at 5 feet 5 inches tall as a freshman at Hamilton Southeastern High School in Fishers, Indiana, no one would have thought that this slight teenager would become enshrined in Indiana basketball legend. But fast forward to 2023, and Davidson stands alone as the greatest basketball player in Wabash history. And his journey is only just beginning.

Davidson's accolades speak for themselves. He is Wabash's all-time leading scorer and the Jostens Trophy winner in 2022. He has the all-time NCAA record for most consecutive made free throws in games at 95. He's a two-time All-American, three-time Academic All-American and the captain of a magical NCAA DIII tournament run in his senior season, culminating in a trip to the Final Four. There is absolutely no argument that with Davidson on the floor with the ball in his hands, you are in for a show.

But behind the wall of trophies, plaques and laurels resides a man with a resolve of iron. Davidson knew, before any of his coaches or his teammates, that basketball was his dream and that he would do whatever it took to reach the next level.

"I grew up playing every sport imaginable," said Davidson. "I loved basketball, but I also loved football and baseball, and I played golf." But, when push came to shove, Davidson knew from early on that basketball was his passion. "In my freshman year [of high school], I told my dad I just wanted to focus and put all of my time and effort into basketball."

Most players blanch at the amount of work that it takes to reach the college level of any sport. But not Davidson.

"It was easy for me to put the work in," said Davidson. "I was always busy anyway, so [training] was easy. I got to play basketball, work on my game, and do what I love. I loved it."

But resolve could only get him so far in high school. Davidson's notable lack of height or weight constrained him to the freshman team, then to JV, and finally to a varsity starter his junior year.

"Through almost my junior year I was so small, and I was so late to my growth spurt," said Davidson. "I was still a good player, but I was just so small that JV or varsity was not feasible."

Davidson wasn't the only one who understood his potential from early on. Wabash's Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett had his eye on Davidson from his sophomore year of high school.

"I was playing JV at the time, and [Coach Brumett] was coming to watch a varsity game," said Davidson. "But he got there early and saw some of the JV game. He said that he loved my game, that I had the ball on a string, and that I shot it really well, but I was just 5 foot 5. So, he said, 'If this kid grows, one day I'll really like him.'"

And Davidson finally did grow. By the end of his senior year, Davidson was 6 foot 1 inch and shooting over 50% from three, averaging



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Jack Davidson '22 against Illinois Wesleyan University on March 11, 2022, at the Shirk Center in Bloomington, Illinois.

"Realistically, I'm never going to make it to the NBA. I know that, and that was never a goal of mine"

- Jack Davidson '22

14 points per game for Hamilton Southeastern. Brumett and the rest of the basketball staff pounced, and Davidson ended up committing to Wabash.

"I had an offer from the University of Indianapolis, and I was thinking about walking on at a high-level Division I college," said Davidson. "But at the end of the day, I wanted to play a lot and get a really good education. And I wanted to play for a coach that believed in me. Wabash checked all of those boxes."

Davidson did indeed play a lot for the Little Giants. Starting every game from his freshman to his senior year, the Wabash basketball team was Davidson's from the moment he stepped foot on campus. "I had so much responsibility from

the time I got [to Wabash]," said Davidson. "Right when I got there, Coach Brumett told me: 'This is your team, and we're going to ride on your back.' So, I had no choice but to grind and work as hard as I possibly could every day to help the team win."

Even though the team was his, there were plenty of bumps in the road on the way to the Final Four. The Little Giants were 12-14 during Davidson's freshman season and floated in the upper half of the conference without gaining any real traction in the NCAC.

"It takes a lot," said Davidson, speaking about the difficulties of building a championship-winning program. "There's a lot of work in between those years. But Coach Brumett always believed that he could build a team that was a conference championship winner year in, year out."

This championship-winning team would not materialize until Davidson's fifth-year senior season, when the Little Giants won the NCAC tournament for the first time in school history, punching themselves a ticket to the NCAA tourna-

ment. The rest is history.

With near-improbable wins at every turn, the Little Giants upset Illinois Wesleyan University in the Elite Eight in Bloomington, Illinois, returning to the DIII Final Four for the first time since 1982. Regrettably, Wabash was sent home by Elmhurst University in that Final Four game, but Davidson enjoyed every bit of the ride.

"The team loved it," said Davidson. "We loved being around each other, we had fun being on the court and it was just a blast going through that journey [to the Final Four]. It's a testament to the culture we built through those years."

After his stellar college career and electrifying senior year, there was no question that Davidson was looking to continue to play at the professional level.

"I hired an agent right after my [senior] season was over," said Davidson. "The original plan was that I was going to go to Europe to play, maybe Spain or France."

But then came an offer that Davidson was loathed to pass up. He soon received calls from several G-League teams, including

the Greensboro Swarm, the Fort Wayne Mad Ants and the Cleveland Charge, each of whom asked Davidson to come in for a workout.

"If I have the chance to make a roster in the G-League, I want to give that a shot," said Davidson.

One of the main issues, though, is that most of the basketball leagues outside of the NBA have conflicting schedules. So, if Davidson wanted to try out for the G-League, he would have to forgo his European season. He decided it was worth taking the chance.

After two dead ends, Davidson was invited to the Greensboro Swarm's training camp in the fall of 2022. Most G-League camps of this sort invite 14-16 players with the intent of signing nine or 10. And unfortunately for Davidson, he didn't make the cut.

"It's a pretty exclusive group," said Davidson. "I was honored to get that invite and thought I deserved [a spot]. I thought I played really well, but at the end of the day, those guys were really high-level. Just to play against that competition was a blessing."

Despite the disappointment, Davidson truly believes he has what it takes to play in the G-League.

"Realistically, I'm never going to make it to the NBA. I know that, and that was never a goal of mine," said Davidson. "I think I'm big enough to play [in the G-League], but scouts and GMs might think I'm a little undersized for my position."

So, with no G-League contract, it was back to the drawing board. After some research, Davidson and his agent decided that pursuing the well-funded and competitive NBL 1, Australia's semi-pro second league, would be an excellent option.

It didn't take long for an opportunity to come along. Just weeks after reaching out to teams, Davidson received an offer from the Ballarat Miners, a team based in Victoria, who he promptly signed for.

But this is not the end-all-be-all for Davidson. Usually, and Davidson is no exception, teams in the European and Australian leagues sign their players to one-year contracts, with rare exceptions for well-established players who are almost household names with their teams. So, Davidson will have one year with the Miners, then he must reassess his options.

"I know I'm really skilled and I know I can play in a high league somewhere," said Davidson. "I think the NBL 1 gives me a fantastic opportunity to showcase that. It would be really awesome to play in the NBL [Australia's top league], which is one of the best leagues in the world outside of the NBA."

Ultimately, Davidson wants to be in Europe and firmly believes he can compete among the best. But no matter where he finishes, Davidson has proven that unyielding dedication and resilience paired with natural talent and skill is an almost unstoppable recipe. From a skinny, undersized teenager to the king of a college campus to a newly minted professional, Davidson has shot for the stars and ended up floating among them. He has turned his dream into a reality and has respected and appreciated his journey to it.

JACK DAVIDSON '22 IN THE RECORD BOOKS

POINTS:

1. Jack Davidson '22 – 2464
2. Josh Estelle '00 – 2065
3. Pete Metzelaars '82 – 1976
4. Jack Rodriguez '74 – 1943
5. Chad Tabor '99 – 1888

SCORING AVERAGE:

1. Jack Davidson '22 – 22.4
2. Jack Roudebush '74 – 22.1
3. Charles Bowdman '61 – 21.8
4. Tim Werbe '65 – 19.5
5. David Moore '69 – 19.4

3-POINT FIELD GOALS MADE:

1. Josh Estelle '00 – 328
2. Jack Davidson '22 – 324
3. Chase Haltom '10 – 235
4. Tyler Watson '22 – 180
5. Brady Claxton '03 – 173

FREE THROWS MADE:

1. Jack Davidson '22 – 718
2. Chad Tabor '99 – 535
3. Tom Bennett '60 – 483
4. Josh Estelle '00 – 431
5. Wes Smith '11 – 423

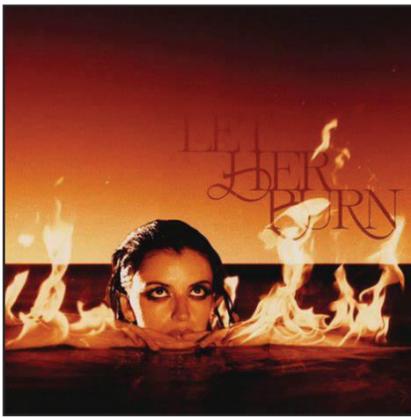
ASSISTS:

1. Mike Lustina '95 – 438
2. Jack Davidson '22 – 377
3. Steve Kobold '81 – 355
4. Mike Holcomb '82 – 325
5. Tyler Watson '22 – 288

Review: 'Let Her Burn' is a welcome surprise

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | POLITICS CORRESPONDENT • Rebecca Black has released her first studio album, "Let Her Burn," 12 years after her viral single "Friday." Carving out a new name for herself, Black sets fire to her past and dances in its flames reveling in darker and more mature themes. Here is my ranking of the track from worst to best:

- 10) Doe Eyed**
A recurring sin in this album is the clash between vocals and background instrumental and it is most offensive in this song. Listening to "Doe Eyed" is like listening to two vastly different but very bad songs at the same time. It's by far the worst on the album.
- 9) Erase You**
Erase this. It's odd to see the opening track listed so low and this song certainly did not inspire any level of confidence in me regarding the rest of the album. It has decent vocals, but they are nearly inaudible and often overshadowed by the instrumental.
- 8) Destroy Me**
A leap in quality from the previous two, but the beginning of this sounds more like a Sabrina Carpenter song to me than anything. The loud electric guitars are far from subtle, soon become annoying and don't really fit with the mild vocals. Plus, it's a bit too repetitive for my taste.
- 7) Performer**
"Performer" is a more relaxed and heartfelt song. A beautiful and subdued end to the album if not a tiny bit anticlimactic.
- 6) Look At You**
It has seductive vocals and melody that draws you in. It's a good song, it just doesn't stand out as much as some of the others.
- 5) Crumbs**
The lyrics "cherry chaotic" in the song sum it up better than I could. Less smooth than "Look At You," but this time used effectively. It feels disordered in the best way, making a cohesive song that stays interesting.
- 4) Cry Hard Enough**
The perfect combination of Black's haunting vocals and an oppressive instrumental come together to create a cohesive piece. This is what "Doe Eyed" is trying to be.
- 3) Misery Loves Company**
This is one of the songs that uses the



COURTESY OF @msrebeccablack ON INSTAGRAM

synth-pop gimmick to a better effect creating a fun sound. It flirts on the edge of darkness, and it is a good example of the best parts of this album. It would have been a much better opening track than "Erase You."

- 2) Sick To My Stomach**
I love the background synth in this one. The lyrics are simple, but the execution is so good that I'm willing to forgive that. It's powerful in its simplicity and honesty.
- 1) What Am I Gonna Do With You**
I love pretty much everything about this piece. It's the best both lyrically and instrumentally with nothing overpowering the other. If any piece does, this one fulfills the "Let Her Burn" idea the best. It's easy to imagine proverbial flames as Black sings, embracing her inner villain, letting go of her past and completely reimagining herself as a darker and more mature artist. I adore it.

Final Verdict
If you came to this review hoping to see me eviscerate the cringy "Friday" girl, I'm sorry to disappoint. In my defense, if you played this album for me cold, not in a million years would I guess it's by Rebecca Black. The biggest problem with this album is the bottom two songs on my list, "Doe Eyed" and "Erase You." They fall significantly below the rest and my recommendation would be to just skip them. Without them the experience is more cohesive and consistent. Far from perfect, the album at times can be jarring and disjointed, but at its best it's hauntingly beautiful and deliciously dark. Far from "Friday," this is the new Rebecca Black.

FINAL VERDICT: 3.5/5 WALLYS



Review: Rihanna's SB LVII performance plays it safe but gets the job done

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25 | FEATURES EDITOR • News feeds and meme pages all across the country are flooded with reviews for Rihanna's Super Bowl Halftime Show performance. Who can blame them? In terms of visibility, it doesn't get much bigger than this 15-minute production, with more than 100 million viewers tuning in every year—each of them with their own opinions. Full disclosure: I'm not a big Rihanna fan, even if I do know the lyrics to several of her songs that made up the soundtrack to my childhood. Nonetheless, I'll attempt to give my thoughts on Rihanna's performance and how well it fulfilled its cultural, artistic and practical obligations.

Picking a Super Bowl performer is a difficult ordeal in the first place. It involves lots of tedious negotiations between the artist and the NFL, resulting in a compromise that effectively blends the performer's artistic vision and the NFL's requirements. Chief among them is the necessity of a show to be (mostly) family-friendly. This I thought Rihanna navigated well. Aside from the repeated chest-flashing from the backup dancers and opening with a scrubbed version of "Bitch Better Have My Money," the performance was, overall, pretty tame. A lot of Rihanna's brand, including her music, is built on sensual themes, but this wasn't a Rihanna concert—it was the Super Bowl.

Many of the highlights from this halftime show were thanks to the creative design. I'm certainly not talking about the unzipped puffer jackets and Pit Vipers. Rihanna's ensemble wasn't very flashy, and she only ever wore one, compared to other recent performers who managed to transition through multiple wardrobes. The stylistically simple set design—a long, thin red platform seated below five suspended platforms—was nothing extraordinary—this isn't even the first time

we've seen someone enter the arena from on high in this decade—but it produced many simple, cinematic shots. The image of her elevated high above the field, stadium full of phone flashlights lighting up the background, red robe pooling around her feet, encapsulated the performance in my eyes. Here is a certified star creating a Super Bowl-worthy atmosphere without trying too hard. While I think the simplicity served her well, perhaps it was that lack of something special that caused her performance to fall slightly short of the mark.

Of course, this is all viewed in hindsight, now knowing that the special guest we were all eagerly anticipating was on stage the whole time. Not only was it a clever way to announce one's pregnancy, it totally changed the way we look at the performance as a whole. It's no wonder Rihanna didn't move very much while on her platform. It's no wonder she didn't get down and dance like she might have once upon a time. She basically just stood there and sang, letting the music and her persona speak for themselves. In interviews all week leading up to her Super Bowl LVII halftime performance, Rihanna repeatedly remarked how nervous she was. Who wouldn't be nervous to perform for millions of people while standing atop a small, suspended platform? Anyone would, but especially when you're carrying a baby up there with you.

All things considered, Rihanna and her team pulled off a solid Super Bowl performance—and maybe the greatest pregnancy reveal of all time. Seriously, how many kids can say they played the Halftime Show in utero? While Rihanna gave us some great photo-worthy moments and lots of classic hits to sing along to, that was it. It did exactly what it should have done but—perhaps understandably—nothing more.



COURTESY OF THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

FINAL VERDICT: 4/5 WALLYS



Review: "This is Why" is depressing, but not in a good way



COURTESY OF BILLBOARD

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • After a six-year album drought, pop-punk band Paramore dropped "This is Why" last week. With some songs nailing their rebellious sound and others missing by a mile, "This is Why" underwhelmed me and left me wondering when this incredibly short album was going to be over. Beginning with the titular single,

"This is Why" starts off strong, with the anti-parent ranting that every teenager with overbearing parents can relate too. Followed by "The News," which is essentially the same track, but this time targeted at politics and the news, Hailey Williams and company start the album off on the stick-it-to-the-man vibe that defines the punk genre. Had Paramore kept this tone the whole time, this album would have gotten a 3/5 Wallys. But, alas.

From there, Paramore's pop-punk turns into a millennial rant that there is never enough time to get things done and that things are just as they are with no hope. The songs are fine on their own, but when you're expecting pop-punk, you aren't expecting the lazy complaints of a millennial about how hard life is. Especially when it's coming from an artist with a net worth north of \$12 Million, it's hard to sympathize. Maybe that's just what happens when pop-punk bands get successful.

The album does take a markedly good turn with "Big Man, Little Dignity" and "You First," which turn the angst up to 11, and it's great. Between being mad at men who face no accountability and hoping the world dies just before you do is exactly what the pop-punk genre is about. The saxophone in the intro "Big Man, Little Dignity's" intro is excellent and adds a touch of rebellion against the genre itself, incorporating a new sound.

The album middles again with "Figure 8" and "Liar," but the reemergence of the saxophone in "Figure 8" is fun. Had the album ended here, it'd be a 2.5. But the end of this album kills it.

"Crave" is good, and it's hopelessly romantic, but it's a little more hopeless than romantic. It also feels like a never-ending version of the second verse of Foo Fighters' "Everlong." Paramore finishes the album on that hopeless note with "Thick Skull," which is just depressing. Not rough break-

up depressing, but music to accompany your thirteenth reason depressing.

I was hoping that this album would get me back into Paramore, but the album is not poppy enough, not punky enough and too sad. If you want to listen to Paramore, listen to their older stuff from "Paramore" and "Riot!." Don't listen to this.

FINAL VERDICT: 2/5 WALLYS



Revamped Sons of Wabash program preps for 2023 Day of Giving

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25 | STAFF WRITER • The Sons of Wabash has recently made a resurgence on campus after its short hiatus. The program, which started in 1998, dissolved for a short period of time due to COVID but now boasts 78 students as part of the initiative.

The main goal of Sons of Wabash is to assist the Advancement Office in a multitude of different ways. The Sons are intended to be student ambassadors for the college outside of campus and connect with alumni and others associated with the college.

Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Steve Hoffman '85 also organizes the Sons of Wabash program. His biggest goal in this position is "focusing on educating the members of the Sons of Wabash." A largely important facet of this education is "Wabash men understanding the importance of engagement and philanthropy."

The main trait Hoffman looked for in each of the Sons of Wabash is the quality of student leadership. And Hoffman didn't actively recruit each and every leader on campus, but rather let the position itself attract student leaders.

"We want student leaders. And you can put a big period at the end of that," Hoffman said.

And leaders of Wabash stepped up. Out of the 78 members of the Sons of Wabash, eight of them are independent RAs, four are fraternity vice presidents and four are fraternity presidents. Many other members lead clubs and extracurriculars on campus as well.

"We want student leaders. And you can put a big period at the end of that,"

- Steve Hoffman '85

The ability to lead provides Advancement with assurance that the Wabash men who communicate with alumni and friends of the college represent Wabash well.

"These student leaders have the right characteristics that we would like working with our outside constituents," said Hoffman. "Now we feel more comfortable with students reaching out to alumni, for example, as we have the right group of

people that we can use."

This year's annual Day of Giving concerns the Sons of Wabash more than it ever has in the past. Aside from preparation for the event itself alongside the Advancement Office, Hoffman wants the Sons of Wabash to be a crucial part of spreading awareness about the event.

"Having one in ten students in the Sons of Wabash that are educated about Day of Giving, we can spread awareness like never before."

Hoffman wants this group of guys to spread the importance of the event and show the rest of the student body "why it is important to give back to the college and show support philanthropically."

The students in the Sons of Wabash program are unpaid volunteers that raised their hands to be a part of this group. Hoffman appreciates and respects all those who agreed to take on this challenge, while also noting the importance of Wabash's culture.

"It says a lot about the college that we had so many volunteers," he said. "I just don't think there are many other colleges where you get that response."

Owen Bennett '24 is one of the student leaders that stepped up to the plate for Sons of Wabash. He sees the importance of connecting the current Wabash student body with alumni.

"We're all about community and tradition here," said Bennett. "I want to instill these values of connections and community into future generations at Wabash."

Although he wants future generations to follow in the footsteps of those who came before, Bennett also wants to connect with alumni to let them know what it's like being a Little Giant today.

"Things are quite different here than they were years ago," said Bennett. "I hope to show the alumni the changes and progress our campus has made and keep them in the loop."

The annual Day of Giving is set to take place this April. Hoffman, Bennett and the rest of the Sons of Wabash certainly will be hard at work this year to ensure another record-breaking year of gifts to the college in an effort to help Wabash grow in the future.

Bringing Wabash abroad: Clayton Allen '23 and the Peace Corps

PRESTON REYNOLDS '25 | STAFF WRITER
 • Since 1961, the United States Peace Corps has trained and deployed qualified volunteers towards the goal of international development. While originally intended to improve the reputation of the United States abroad, the Peace Corps has evolved to introduce skilled workers into communities lacking education, health and legal professionals.

The Peace Corps is no stranger to Wabash college, with a long list of graduates including Matt Stockton '97, Mark Doyle '98, Jake Moore '12, Charles Hintz '13, Dylan Miller '16 and most recently Samiel Bleisch '22, who went to the Philippines for his Peace Corps mission and the music of Bob Dylan. Continuing this long tradition, Clayton Allen '23 has joined the international non-profit effort.

A native of Speedway, Indiana, Allen's effort will take him far from home to Mongolia, where he will work to develop local communities through English language lessons.

This much is straight forward. But Peace Corps jobs are driven by individuals, many times without partner volunteers, possibly miles away from another American. This means a big part of the job is figuring out what the job is. Allen cites his liberal arts education as formative in preparing for this role.

"Wabash College teaches you to forge your own path and think critically," said Allen.

Wabash was Allen's last choice, but he couldn't be happier to have come.

"The communities you discover at Wabash, whether it's in the classroom, a brotherhood like TKE, Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse or even the Sphinx Club, make our college unique," said Allen.

Allen was introduced to the Peace Corps during his internship in Washington D.C. When a Wabash alumni shared his Peace Corps experience, Allen saw it as a legitimate option for him.

"Post-grad I could have entered the workforce [and] probably gotten underpaid for a job I would hate, I could continue my education and drop a fortune on graduate school or I could do some good on Uncle Sam's dollar," Allen said.

Allen cites WDPD as one of his primary motivators in the Peace Corps.

"WDPD teaches you what it means to have the tough conversations and who needs to be a part of them," said Allen. "When I'm trying to address an issue in a Mongolian community, WDPD has trained me to think about the different actors involved; government organization, NGOs, entrepreneurs, and even just the community at large."

Facilitating English teachers under his administration and coordinating curriculum efforts are the "easy parts," Allen says. But when developing a community, facilitating discourse is invaluable.

"When it comes to developing communities," Allen said, "you've gotta get the whole flippin' community involved!"

For any underclassmen eager to make a difference, Allen recommends "getting comfortable with being uncomfortable.... [You] cannot truly thrive here without being challenged."

"Culture, humanity, peoples, we're all so similar but we like to divide ourselves in silly ways. Peace Corps is an exercise in immersing yourself in an entirely different culture," Allen said.

More than 240,000 Americans have joined the Peace Corps, serving in 142 countries. Allen is proud to be the next Wabash man on that list.

President's Distinguished Speaker Dr. Doug Tallamy shares stories of environmental work



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25
Dr. Doug Tallamy (above and left) leads a group, including trustee Mac McNaught '76 (right), on a nature walk through the arboretum Monday afternoon.

JAKE WEBER '25 | STAFF WRITER • The President's Distinguished Speaker Series returned this Monday, when Wabash College welcomed Dr. Douglas Tallamy to give a talk in Salter Hall with invitation from President Feller. Dr. Tallamy, the T.A. Baker Professor of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, gave his lecture, Nature's Best Hope, to a packed audience of students, community members and academics from as far as Chicago.

As one of the foremost entomologists in the United States, his work in environment studies and conservation have led to breakthroughs in the understanding of food webs and biodiversity within entomological ecosystems. Dr. Tallamy is known for his conservation efforts, which span from his own backyard to across the nation.

"You don't have to save biodiversity for a living, but you can save it where you live."

- Dr. Doug Tallamy

The talk began with a discussion of specialized interactions between different plants, insects and animals. The acorns of an oak tree, for example, are connected with the ants that eventually inhabit them. From here, he expanded with the reasoning of renowned biologist E.O. Wilson, saying that insects are "the little things that run the world."

Dr. Tallamy's main purpose with his talk was to spread the message that we need to preserve, protect and foster the environment in which these "little things" live because of the massive impact they have in everyday life. Chickadees, a species of bird, can consume between 6,000-9,000 caterpillars in their time as a nestling, and if their environment lacks that support structure, the chickadee population will fail.

How not to embarrass yourself... On a first date

LOGAN WEILBAKER '26 | FEATURES EDITOR • You did it. You defied all odds, and did what no man thought was possible. You—a caveman from Wabash—got a date. Congratulations! Maybe, like me, you're wondering how you even got this far. Now the date is drawing near, and you're just hoping you don't make a fool of yourself like you do every other time. But first dates don't have to be scary. If you can push past the nerves, you unlock the potential to have a really great time and connect with another person whom you like—and who hopefully likes you.

Before the date
 It all starts with picking the activity—most importantly one that the two of you can enjoy together. Having a plan set in place beforehand makes things go much more smoothly, so while it's a good idea to get your date's opinion, my suggestion is to make arrangements ahead of time. Even

at this early point in your relationship, you probably know the person at least a little bit, so use that knowledge to your advantage. Don't pick someplace only you like (that means no Cactus), but put your potential partner first and try to do something you'll both like. It's also a great idea to pick an activity where you can actually get to know each other, so definitely no movie date.

On the date

Start things off on the right foot by looking and acting presentable. Wear something nicer, put on some fragrant cologne and keep the language clean—this is a date, not a locker room. Other than that, there are endless lists of first date "no-nos," and you can find those on any teen blog. It's much easier to follow the simple rule of being sincere. I know it's cliché, but there's really nothing more romantic than being yourself and being genuinely interested in the

person sitting across the table from you. Most importantly, be respectful and make your date feel comfortable. Nothing ruins a date quicker than creeping your crush out 10 minutes in.

After the date

There's the old joke about guys only ever thinking about one thing. Don't perpetuate the stereotype. I'm not saying you have to take things at a snail's pace, but take time to learn about a cool new person. Of course, you could have the opposite problem, as so many guys do, and worry about how long to wait to send the text or ask for a second date. My advice is simply... don't sweat it. It's really easy to overthink things when a bad case of the warm-and-fuzzies is clouding your vision. Just follow your heart. Send the text, ask for the second date and enjoy the adventure!

Senior spotlight

Brayden Lentz '23 and his unorthodox zest for life

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | STAFF WRITER • In many ways, Brayden Lentz '23 is just like every Wabash student. In many more ways, he is one of a kind. The Noblesville, Indiana native had a high school experience much like many other incoming Wallys.

"I didn't do anything outside of baseball and school," Lentz said. "It was very hard to get involved. You couldn't know everybody and the doors in many ways were closed."

Coming into Wabash, however, Lentz found that getting involved was easier than ever,

and doors started to open. His classmates now know him as a double major in Classics and Latin, baseball player, brother of Beta Theta Pi, Student Senator, former Treasurer of the Student Body and campus clown. More important than his number of titles, however, is the zest with which he commits himself to all that he does.

On the baseball diamond, Lentz dedicates himself completely.

"It's forced me to balance work and life except for work is school and life is baseball," he said.

Despite the sacrifices and challenges inherent in being a student athlete for four years, he believes sincerely in the value of competing.

"It makes Wabash mean something that I compete with the letter on my chest," said Lentz.

The son of two teachers, it is no surprise that Lentz has thrived in the pursuit of a thoroughly classical education. Asking the Latin and Classics double major any question about the study of antiquity will yield a thoughtful and enthusiastic response, delivered with a twinkle in his eye. His passion for the subject stems from its multidisciplinary nature, as well its modern philosophical applications.

"It forces us to think a little deeper about religion, God and our civic duty to the state," Lentz said. "It forces me to look at the way I live my life in a new light every single day."

His passion for learning about the ancient world took him to the motherland of his field. Taking advantage of the Rudolph Scholarship, Lentz spent last summer on an academic tour of Greece, hopping from historic site to historic site. As the youngest student in his cohort and only undergraduate, he acknowledged that it was more than a sight-seeing tour.

"It forced me to step up my game academically and professionally," said Lentz.

However, his experiences brought him right to the site of legends.

"I gave on-site presentations at the site of the battle of Marathon, which was mind-blowing," Lentz said. "As the storm rolls in over the Aegean, I was talking about the



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sacrifice of the Athenian Hoplitae."

Lentz's most lasting legacy to the student body, however, will forever be his run for Student Body President in the spring of 2022. Nearly everyone just thought his campaign was an elaborate joke. Lentz agrees.

However, his grand joke was more nuanced than most realize.

"That was really a campaign of what we would call populism," Lentz said. "What started as a joke, though it continued to be a joke, we did in many ways take it more seriously than people thought we did."

Lentz intended the campaign to be a satire of the state of modern politics.

"Many times those elections were held on false promises," he said. "We tried to make promises that were either doable or so completely insane that no one would believe them."

Despite the ridiculous nature of some parts of his campaign platform, the effort as a whole exemplifies Lentz's approach to Wabash, as well as life as a whole.

"Those who went to the debate I think would recognize that we really do care about this college and we do care about the message we leave behind," Lentz said.

This ethos pervades everything Lentz does. His unorthodox but intentional approach to life has carried him through these four years, and it ensures that he will look back with no regrets.

"Don't let it pass you by. Take advantage of every opportunity," Lentz said. "In twenty years, I could say that I gave it all I had."

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Volleyball looks to replicate success with home tripleheader



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Jackson Leeper '25 hits the ball against St. Mary-of-the-Woods on February 7, 2023.

PRESTON REYNOLDS '25 | STAFF WRITER • Following a seven-game drought and an impressive three-game comeback, the Wabash volleyball team is looking to replicate their off-campus success at home. The Little Giants take on St. Norbert College on Friday, February 17, ahead of a doubleheader on Saturday, February 18, against Trinity Christian University and Marian University. All three games will be played at Chadwick Court.

On the whole so far, the season has been notably inconsistent. But Wabash's home record tells a dismal story—the Little Giants have yet to win a game at Chadwick. With an 0-2 home record, this weekend poses an opportunity to overturn the team's poor form in Crawfordsville. However, it will be no easy task. Both St. Norbert and Marian defeated Wabash in away games last season. Trinity Christian, on the other hand, are an unknown force, having never before matched up against the Little Giants.

Wabash, at least, comes into the tripleheader in good spirits. Over the weekend of February 10-11, the team played four games, winning three of them. After kicking off the weekend with an 0-3 loss to the hosts Illinois Wesleyan University, the Little Giants won three on the bounce against Wisconsin Lutheran University, Edgewood College and Maranatha Baptist University. The team hopes to continue its good form into this weekend's games.

"If we can play like we did last weekend, we should be able to compete well," said setter Zachary Small '25, who achieved an impressive assist average of 34 in last weekend's games. "However, we have a series of challenging games ahead of us." But despite the excellent weekend performances, there is still plenty of room for improvement.

"Considering that a lot of our players weren't feeling the best, our performance was pretty good," said middle blocker Jackson Leeper '25, who achieved season highs in kills and points against Maranatha Baptist. "But as a team, we're accustomed to making mistakes. We're lacking a winning mentality."

Perhaps that is the case, but the team has already made a marked improvement compared to last year. Wabash currently boasts a 5-7 record. This time last season, however, the team's overall record was 2-10.

There is a different energy on the court this season as veterans improve and new players break onto the scene. A number of experienced players, including Will Beikes '25 and Carson Meadors '24, have shown the progressive growth of the team over time.

Meadors in particular has really started to better fit the role of libero. Both Small and Leeper have complemented the performances of Patrick Volk '26, who exhibited impressive offensive skills in last weekend's games.

"We had a strong sense of cohesion on the court," said libero Luis Rivera '25. "It was a good momentum shift for us and I hope we can carry it into the weekend."

The cooperation and skill exhibited last weekend must now be replicated at home. Achieving home wins is key to the team's confidence and reputation, especially as the team continues to fight the season out. It will be exciting to see what happens in this weekend's competitions.

Swinging into spring

Baseball steps up to plate with three-game opening weekend in Tennessee

LIAM BUCKLEY '23 | BASEBALL WRITER • People often say that baseball season starts when the Super Bowl game clock hits zero. But for the Wabash baseball squad, preparation has been in full swing for months.

The weather has limited practice to the confines of Knowing Fieldhouse, but starting on Friday, February 17, the squad will suit up for their first game against the Augustana College Vikings at the campus of Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee.

The 2022 season was a 'tale of two teams.' In their first 14 games, the Little Giants went 12-2, with half of those games taking place in Tucson, Arizona, over midsemester break. But after a honeymoon start, the squad met their match against mostly conference opponents during a 25-game run that saw them win a mere eight games. They suffered season sweeps at the hands of conference rivals Wooster, Allegheny (now an affiliate member), Denison and DePauw. They also lost their last seven consecutive games of the season and were outscored by 36 runs during that stretch.

"I'm really excited to see the freshmen. We need the young guys to step up and give us good innings out of the pen."

- Derek Haslett '23

On the season, the squad went just 4-14 against the conference and 20-19 overall. So despite the overall winning record, it would be hard to call last year's performance a success. This year's team will look to build on the stellar offen-

se that posted an average of seven runs per game, while addressing weaknesses in pitching that gave up similarly high numbers.

"I'm really excited for the pitchers we have returning," said pitcher Derek Haslett '23. "We've got a few veteran guys returning that are really experienced and have pitched well. I'm also really excited to see the freshmen. We need the young guys to step up and give us good innings out of the pen."

On offense, the team will take the field without one of last year's anchors, Austin Simmers '22, who hit .356 with 31 steals while appearing in every game. Luckily, the power middle of the lineup will be shored up by Camden Earley '24 and AJ Reid '24, who hit .363 and .361, respectively. Earley expects the offense to continue as a strength.

"I think our offense is going to be solid," said Earley. "We've got nine runs through the lineup. Hopefully we will see the sticks light up for our first weekend."

This year's NCAC returning champions are the Denison Big Red, who topped Wittenberg with a 16-2 conference record while dominating at 35-11 overall. The Big Red have held the top spot in conference and overall records each year since 2019. They will be a tough opponent for the Little Giants when they face off for a doubleheader on Saturday, April 1.

The Little Giants will face DePauw twice this season, with both games occurring in a doubleheader at Wabash on Tuesday, April 4. The Tigers were 22-17 last season—just two games better than the Little Giants—but with a similar 'tale of two teams' arc that saw the Tigers scuffle early on but win 12 of their final 14 games.

Given their inverse season arcs, were Wabash's losses the product



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Kamden Earley '24 scores Wabash's first run against Wittenberg on April 6, 2022, at Goodrich Ballpark.

of two similarly talented teams peaking at different times, or of the Tigers simply being the better team? We will look to this year's matchups on home ground for the answer.

One thing is certain though: both teams will look to find consistency this season. And with it, to establish the kind of formidable squad that carried the Little Giants to the NCAA Division III finals back in 2018, where they came up short against Wooster.

"The guys put in a lot of hard work in the offseason," said Head

Baseball Coach Jake Martin. "They had a good fall and they're a close group. We're excited to line it up against somebody else and see how it plays out. I'm really proud of this group."

A total of 10 games will take place at Wabash in the month of April alone, a fact that promises fans a number of opportunities to enjoy the spring weather with America's pastime. Until then, however, fans will be bundling up to watch a vigorous roster of Wabash men step into the batter's box and swing us into spring.

This week in sports

New school records, season openers and midseason resurgences



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Artie Rogers '24 waits to receive the ball in the lacrosse team's opening game of the season against Anderson University on February 15, 2023, at Fischer Field.

BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | SPORTS EDITOR • Phew, what a week it has been in Wabash athletics! We've seen a little bit of everything these past seven days. While some teams are wrapping up their seasons, getting school records and conference honors along the way, others are just beginning their spring journeys.

Truth be told, there is so much going on that it's all become a bit mind boggling, even for the most avid Little Giants fan (or sports editor of *The Bachelor*, for that matter). But fear not, dear reader, for I am here to help. So buckle up for a breakdown of all the headlines you need to know from around the Wabash athletics department.

Swim: McCarty '23 sets new school record

The Little Giants swimming and diving team finished fourth in the NCAC Championships, a four-day meet that took place on February 8-11. Wabash finished the event with 1,114.5 points, just 10 points behind The College of Wooster in third place.

The star of the show was Caleb McCarty '23. A native of Decatur, Indiana, McCarty broke the Wabash 50-yard freestyle record with a time of 20.40, enough to

earn him a third-place finish in the event. McCarty broke the record previously set by Wesley Slaughter '21 in 2020 (20.57). McCarty also placed sixth in the "A" final of the 100-yard freestyle on the final day of competition.

Other star performers included Ethan Johns '25, who set a season-best time in the 100-yard freestyle, and Justice Wenz '25, who won the "B" final of the 200-yard breaststroke.

The team travels to the University of Indianapolis on Friday, February 17, their final competition before the NCAA Regionals at the University of Chicago on February 24-25.

Tennis: First win of season

The Wabash tennis team won its first matchup of the season on Saturday, February 11. The Little Giants played two home matches back-to-back against Millikin University and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology respectively. Despite narrowly losing out 4-5 against Millikin, Wabash turned things around against Rose-Hulman, emerging 7-2 victors.

The victory over Rose-Hulman included two doubles victories out of a possible three. There were also singles victories for Cole Borden '24, Christian Zimmerman '25,

Cole Shifferly '26, Blake Discher '26 and Eduardo Werneck '26. Werneck, a freshman from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, was the weekend's biggest winner. He beat both of his opponents in straight sets, earning him his first NCAC Men's Tennis Athlete of the Week honor.

Tennis is home again this weekend, taking on Manchester University and Capital University in a double-header on Saturday, February 18.

Volleyball: End of the drought

The volleyball team got its season back on track by winning three of its four games at Illinois Wesleyan University on February 10-11. After losing in straight sets to hosts IWU in the opening game, things looked not much to have changed. But a 3-2 victory over Wisconsin

Lutheran College gave the team hope and bucked a seven-game losing streak. On the second day, Wabash won both its games 3-0 against Edgewood College and Maranatha Baptist University.

The Little Giants found a hero in Patrick Volk '26, the 6-foot-7 freshman from Lafayette, California. Volk has recorded 60 kills with a .321 attack percentage in his past five matches, enough to earn him this week's NCAC Men's Volleyball Athlete of the Week.

The team is back home this weekend, welcoming St. Norbert College on February 17 followed by Trinity Christian College and Marian University on February 18.

Lacrosse: Perfect season opener

The lacrosse team got their season off to the perfect start on Wednesday, February 15, when they beat Anderson University 16-9 at Fischer Field.

The game was a real showcase of Wabash's young talent. Quinn Fitzgerald '26 led the team in scoring with four goals and one assist. Jake Phippen '26 and Josh Taylor '25 also made their presence known, each scoring three goals.

The Little Giants follow up this victory with two away games. Wabash travels to Monmouth College on Tuesday, February 21, before heading to Concordia University Chicago on Saturday, February 25.

Track and Field: Indoor season successes

The track and field team finished first out of 15 teams at a meet hosted by Illinois Wesleyan University on Saturday, February 11. The Little Giants scored two individual victories at the event. Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 finished first in the 800-meter run, finishing with a time of 1:54.03. Brayden Currutt '25 won the 3,000-meter run, finishing in 8:50.42.

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