

Rodney Atkins to headline National Act

Wabash to build Latino Community Center

JAMES WALLACE '26 | NEWS EDITOR • The smell of fresh carne asada has become a common marker on any given Friday afternoon at Wabash College. The men behind the magic: La Alianza. La Alianza is one of the largest clubs on campus and embraces Hispanic and Latino culture. After the club's reemergence in 2020, they are finally getting something they have been asking for since then, a permanent home.

Creating a space for themselves on campus hasn't proved to be easy, but the recent \$25 million grant provided to the college by the Lilly Endowment will fund a permanent home for the club, making this task all the more achievable. It also will create a new department focused on Latino partnership with the community.

"La Alianza has historically congregated in the International House, and last semester campus security was kind enough to offer the Ginny Hay's house as well," said Jacob Ramirez '25, current President of La Alianza. "They have always been good spaces, but having this new dedicated space around the corner is a great opportunity for us to grow."

The new house, which is situated on the northeast corner of the intersection between W. Wabash Ave and South Grant Ave, is expected to undergo renovations this summer in preparation for La Alianza's much-awaited move-in. The space presents itself as the perfect bridge between campus and Crawfordsville, as it is situated right on the edge of campus.

"I think the house will be a great spot for the fraternities to meet in the middle," said Ramirez. "Part of this house is also for the community, so it is helpful that it is in an accessible location."

The house's physical location isn't the only benefit of the future home of La Alianza. The building already has a large driveway and a back porch, and happens to be situated across from an empty lot, opening the door for potential events to help bring the community together.

"I can easily imagine food trucks, community members and students all gathering together at the new space," said V. Daniel Rogers, chairman of the Spanish department. "The new house is going to give La Alianza several different kinds of spaces to develop their program."

The house will also help the club achieve its mission of embracing Hispanic and Latino culture, through the power of food. La Alianza has historically used food to embrace Hispanic and Latino culture across campus by preparing carne asada and serving Jarritos at events year round. "The new space will include a kitchen. Food, culture, community and brotherhood all go together, so having this is important," said Rogers.

While one of the most important aspects of the grant is the building itself, the funding will also be dedicated in various ways to help rekindle the connection between Wabash and the Crawfordsville community.

"If you ask any Wabash man, they would say that the relationship between Wabash men and Crawfordsville residents is pretty shaky," said Ramirez. "This is due to a lack of trust, but with this house, we hopefully will be able to begin to build that bridge of trust."

This focus on trust mirrors previous grants provided by the Lilly Endowment and can be seen throughout what the funds have been dedicated towards. The grant will fund a new position, the Director of Latino Partnerships, who will focus on mentoring Wabash students as well as working with the community to connect Wabash with the growing Montgomery County Latino population.



Dancers perform a traditional Mexican dance at De Nosotros Para Nosotros, hosted by La Alianza, on April 1, 2023 in downtown Crawfordsville.

Hank Ruff to open April 13 performance



Recent Indiana University graduate Hank Ruff performs for a live audience. His last performance at Wabash was on November 11, 2023.

LEWIS DELLINGER '25 | GUEST WRITER • The day we've all been waiting for has arrived - it's time to reveal this year's National Act performer! Our team has poured their hearts into generating fresh ideas to elevate this year's experience and to address challenges observed in previous National Acts. After careful consideration, we've opted for a major shift by bringing in a big-name artist, changing the venue and aiming for the largest attendance in Wabash



Wabash students dance to DJ Carnage during National Act 2017 at Chadwick Court.

Without further ado,

Acknowledging the issues with packing Chadwick and creating an atmosphere that felt less like a true concert, we're taking a bold step this year. The National Act is moving outdoors to a venue that will allow students to gather for a pre-concert tailgate, bring in food and beverages to satisfy any country concert thirst and accommodate a significantly larger audience than Chadwick Court allowed.

mark your calendars for April 13th, 2024, when we'll have the immensely popular Hank Ruff opening the show. A recent graduate from Indiana University, Hank Ruff has been making waves throughout the state. After his latest EP, "Hellbender," claimed the #1 spot on the iTunes all-genre chart, Ruff is expanding his reach, playing across the Midwest and beyond, alongside country stars like Jordan Davis, Michael Ray and Conner Smith.

Hank Ruff's neo-traditional brand of country music, influenced by classic elements, is taking the United States by storm, and his journey is only just beginning. Born and raised in Southern Indiana, Hank's musical roots date back to the age of 11, playing the mandolin and eventually picking up the guitar. Collaborating with his dad in "The Dew Daddies," Ruff's catalog, including hits like "If the Boot Fits," encapsulates a blend of traditional country sounds with modern influences.

Following Hank, get ready for an artist with an impressive resume: six number one records, eight top-ten records, the most played song of the decade on Country Radio and an ACM Award. To top it all off, he's commonly referred to as the "backbone of country music." We proudly announce that Rodney Atkins will grace the stage

at the 2024 National Act here at Wabash. Rodney Atkins is as authentic as they come, embodying values of family, making the most of life and staying true in a rapidly-changing world.

Rodney, with over 14 million records sold, 1.5 billion on-demand streams and multiple number one hits, has become a cornerstone of country music. A heartfelt thank you to the National Act team - Reilly Granger '25, Connor Thompson '25, Karston Runge '25 and Patrick Countryman '26 - as well as Vic Lindsay, Juli Smith and John Banec. Their hard work is the driving force behind making this April 13th an unforgettable night.

As always, we are an open group, eager for feedback and suggestions. While we understand that musical tastes vary, we aim to make as many people as possible happy and excited for this new kind of National Act. Even with limited resources, we believe this will be an incredible evening for everyone on campus, regardless of their taste in music. Let's make it a night to remember - show up, show out and bring as many friends as tickets allow. Stay tuned for updates on tickets, timings and VIP opportunities for a meet and greet with Rodney after the show.

the way this information is reported to institutions. The department adopted a new vendor and processing system for disseminating FAFSA reports to institutions that are not yet fully functional, which is delaying this vital process even further. Institutions are expected to begin receiving this crucial information beginning in late January, though there has not yet been an official deadline released.

There have been 12 serious issues identified since the release of the new form that can prevent a student from being able to complete the application, and yet only one issue has been resolved at this time. Though the application is now available for completion 24/7, the Department of Education has more issues to resolve before true success is achieved. In addition to the delays for students to be able to submit the new form, the Department of Education is currently holding student information from institutions because of another change to FAFSA that affects

Difficulties with heating office and residential buildings is not uncommon, and poses unique difficulties. Most of Wabash's buildings are engineered with heating and cooling systems designed to mitigate average summer and winter temperatures, but extreme weather poses a more daunting task. "We hit -10 degrees plus a windchill, and so our buildings are definitely not designed for the weather that we experienced last weekend," said David Morgan, Director of Campus Services at Wabash.

Low temperatures can lead to frozen pipes, the most frequent problem Campus Services faces with extreme weather. "We almost every year respond to areas where windows have been left open and then the draft gets close enough to the pipe that then freezes," Morgan said. "The best way to reduce incidents of freezing pipes that then lead to bursts is keeping doors and windows closed and thermostats at their normal settings."

After surviving through the abnormally cold weather this past week, Wabash students and Campus Services can breathe a sigh of relief as temperatures are set to return to normal in the coming weeks.

Continued page 2

Sub-zero temperatures hit Wabash

ELIJAH WETZEL '27 | STAFF WRITER • Students began the spring semester on Monday, January 15, trekking through unseasonably cold Indiana weather to get to their classes. Freezing temperatures, ice covered roads and strong winds delayed some students' return to school, and made for miserable conditions for the Wallies who were on campus. The inclement weather also stressed the College infrastructure, posing difficulties in multiple buildings.

Over the past thirty years, the average temperature during January in central Indiana has hovered around 25 degrees. On Monday the average temperature fell far short of that average, coming in at zero degrees. There was also the most snow on the ground seen yet this winter, and wind gusts of up to thirty miles per hour created one of the most severe days of winter weather in Indiana in the last few years.

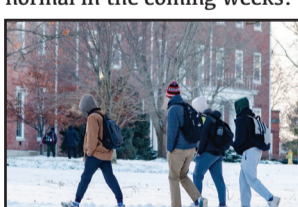
One of the primary difficulties that extreme winter weather poses to the campus community is maintaining a consistent temperature within buildings. Because of the ways that some of the older buildings like the Fine Arts Center and Center Hall are heated, certain rooms feel extremely warm and others are quite cold. Elizabeth Morton, a professor of art at Wabash was in her Fine Arts Center office when, "I [Morton] picked up my uninsulated aluminum water bottle, which was on my windowsill, and realized that it had a layer of ice on top."

"The Fine Arts Center temperatures have been crazy in this deep freeze," Morton said. "Because my office is on a corner and exposed, it has a tendency to be extreme."

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Wabash students walk to class in frigid temps on Monday, January 15.

Department of Education releases latest FAFSA

JAKE WEBER '25 | STAFF WRITER • The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) received long-anticipated changes under the FAFSA Simplification Act affecting the 2024-2025 financial aid disbursements. These changes are expected to make the FAFSA form easier to complete for many students and expand aid eligibility, however, this change has not been realized without severe deficiencies along the way.

Prior FAFSA applications have traditionally been released on October 1st of each fall, however, the new release fell

far behind this date. This year's FAFSA application did not see a "soft launch" until December 31st, and even then, the application was only available at irregular periods from 30 minutes to a few hours between maintenance sessions. "The Financial Aid Community is losing confidence each time the Department of Ed. misses a deadline or delivers these products with problems," said Associate Dean for Enrollment Management and Director of Financial Aid Alex DeLonis. DeLonis pointed to the FAFSA Issue Alerts webpage as evidence of the continuing problems

with the form. There have been 12 serious issues identified since the release of the new form that can prevent a student from being able to complete the application, and yet only one issue has been resolved at this time. Though the application is now available for completion 24/7, the Department of Education has more issues to resolve before true success is achieved. In addition to the delays for students to be able to submit the new form, the Department of Education is currently holding student information from institutions because of another change to FAFSA that affects

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Iowa Caucus and Aftermath

Voting for the 2024 primaries has officially begun

ELIJAH WETZEL '27 | STAFF WRITER • The 2024 Presidential election officially kicked off on Monday as Iowans caucused to nominate who they believed would be the best candidate to lead the Republican party in the November election against President Joe Biden. After only 30 minutes, the Associate Press declared Former President Donald Trump the winner. While this rapid declaration of Trump's win raised some eyebrows, he was declared the winner in even less time in 2020, just 25 minutes into the caucusing.

Trump led commandingly in the polls from the start of his campaign, even while campaigning at a much slower pace than his competitors. In the months leading up to the caucus, candidates campaigned fiercely for Iowans support in a state that historically has been a swing state in general elections, but is now more frequently a dependable red state.

Ambassador Nikki Haley and Governor Ron DeSantis, regarded as Trump's most serious opponents in the primary cycle, poured tens of millions of dollars more into Iowa than Trump as they sought to wrestle support away from him. However, despite

Trump spending and campaigning far less than they, Haley and DeSantis failed to capitalize to the extent they may have hoped. Both were hesitant to criticize Trump too openly during debates, none of which he attended, and never managed to inflict a serious blow to Trump in the polls.

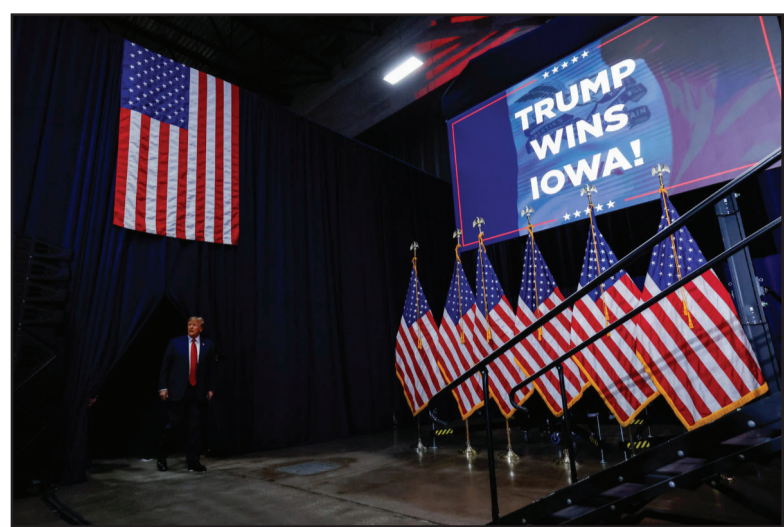
DeSantis in particular focused an extreme amount of effort in Iowa, spending the most money on ads out of any candidate in 2024, including \$35 million total on ads in Iowa. DeSantis' campaign also embarked on a monumental door to door campaign in hopes of connecting personally with Iowa's many evangelical voters who DeSantis is marketing himself to as the true champion of evangelical values and policies. DeSantis won 21% of the Iowa vote and nine delegates, enough to put him in second place behind Trump but not nearly in the position he had hoped.

With a tough run of states upcoming in which Trump and Haley far outstrip his polling numbers, DeSantis poured huge resources into Iowa in hopes of an upset win over Trump which would then boost his polling in following states. But despite con-

jecture around the continuation of his campaign, DeSantis is so far sticking it out.

Despite finishing third in Iowa, Haley will be more optimistic than DeSantis heading into New Hampshire next Tuesday. Even though Haley did not connect well with Iowa's evangelical population, which makes up a large number of the voting population, Haley received 19 percent of the vote and won eight delegates, just one delegate behind DeSantis. Additionally, she is much closer to Trump in polls of New Hampshire than she ever was in Iowa. While DeSantis's run looks to be waning, Haley will be hopeful for a win New Hampshire that could prove she is a match for Trump.

While DeSantis and Haley are continuing their campaigns behind Trump, Monday night was the death blow for two candidates' campaigns. Vivek Ramaswamy and Governor Asa Hutchinson both suspended their campaigns after winning 7% and 0.2% of the Iowa vote, respectively. Ramaswamy immediately endorsed Trump and began campaigning for him after having been complimentary of his policies throughout his own candidacy and pitching himself to vot-



COURTESY OF PBS

Former President Trump attends his Iowa Caucus watch party.

ers as the new Trump. Hutchinson on the other hand, who opposed Trump on a variety of issues and was the candidate most critical of the former president has not officially announced whether he will support Trump should he win the nomination.

The state of the primaries have not changed much for the Republican candidates. Trump is still dominating the polls, Haley and DeSantis are mostly doing

damage to each other as they vie for the rights to be a challenger to Trump, and all other candidates have mostly fallen by the wayside. Yet the GOP nomination is still up for grabs, and Haley and DeSantis will take solace in the fact that since 2008 the winner of Iowa has only once gone on to be the Republican nominee. Unfortunately for them, that one is Donald Trump.

Orr Fellowship names four Wabash men Fellows

MISCHA DZUBAY '25 | STAFF WRITER • In an effort to recruit the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs, the Orr Fellowship has selected four of our Wabash brothers following the end of the semester. The Orr Fellowship is a prestigious Indy based two-year postgraduate program which offers a salaried, full-time position with one of their host companies. In addition, the fellowship provides a variety of professional development, business opportunities and volunteer/civic opportunities.

With the goal of developing the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs, the Orr Fellowship is something all Wabash men should be considering as they approach their senior year. Congratulations to the four Wabash brothers who have been selected. Here is what this opportunity means to them and what they hope to do during their time as Orr fellows.



Nick Logan '24

"It's definitely a great feeling to not only secure a job, but a competitive one at that. I am really thankful to have such a great opportunity in my first few years post-Wabash. I hope to continue growing as a person these next two years, as well as learn valuable skills from some really knowledgeable people. I'm also looking forward to making an impact in the community through the fellowship as well. If things go well, I will hope to get the opportunity to stay on with my partner company."



Champ Mccorkle '24

"I am feeling honored and humbled to have been selected for this prestigious fellowship opportunity. It is a recognition of my hard work and potential that I do not take lightly. I plan to make the most of this experience by pursuing projects and opportunities that will allow me to develop new skills and connections in the field. Following the fellowship, I hope to secure a position that allows me to make the world a better place."



Evan Kanetkar '24

"I feel both excited and relieved to have received the Orr Fellowship. I'm excited that I get to learn and grow around like-minded individuals, including some of my Wabash brothers, and relieved that I have secured a job for at least two years after college. My plans for the Fellowship are simply to do my best, be involved, and put points on the board wherever I work."



Joe Barnett '24

"I'm really excited for this opportunity. I know several people who have had great experiences in the Orr Fellowship, so I am very excited and grateful for these next two years. I will be working for Resultant, a consulting firm focused on delivering technology solutions to a wide range of clients. I am hoping to learn a lot about the industry and become well-connected within the Indianapolis business community. I'm really looking forward to starting the fellowship alongside three other Wabash men. I can't wait to see all of them excel."

FAFSA cont'd

This is because the new form pulls more data directly from a filer's tax returns, ensuring a more accurate and faster process. Other questions eliminated include the requirement to sign up for the Selective Service and questions about prior drug convictions, as neither are considered preclusions from receiving federal aid following the changes.

This FAFSA is also expected to increase the number of students who are eligible for Pell Grants from the Federal Government. Pell Grant eligibility has expanded, as well as the maximum number of Pell Grants allocated to each state for disbursement. "One of the reasons we tolerate these changes is because Pell Grant eligibility has been expanded," said DeLonis. "Wabash is usually 25% Pell eligible, but our projections say that this change should put us at almost 33% Pell eligible without changing our current student body." Changes from the new FAFSA form are also rippling down to the State level of financial aid. DeLonis shared that while the State

of Indiana has not yet released its aid information yet, the State anticipates the number of students eligible for additional state aid will also increase this cycle.

Here at Wabash, students can expect to see delays compared to years past when receiving their financial aid information. DeLonis shared that the typical timeline for the Wabash financial aid office is to send the official financial aid packages to students from February to March, but that with delays imposed by the problem-riddled FAFSA form, the financial aid office may not ever receive most students' FAFSA information at that point in time. There will be a FAFSA lunch talk on January 31st in Baxter 101 for those who seek to learn more about the way the FAFSA has changed, or who have questions about their FAFSA form. Throughout this strenuous process, DeLonis encourages students to be patient, complete the FAFSA form and reach out to the financial aid office with any questions.

Continued from page 1

One of the less beneficial changes is removing the consideration of how many college students there are in a family from the formulation. This means that some students who previously benefited from this factor may see a reduction in the amount of financial aid provided by the federal government. However, DeLonis shared that Wabash is committed to keeping financial aid packages the same for students who do see a negative change in their federal aid. Many similar institutions are not able to make this commitment, though Wabash is able to do so because of our strong financial positions and philanthropic contributions.

Not everything coming from this change has been negative. The new FAFSA form is easier to fill out, with some students answering only 18 questions. Depending on a student's financial situation, they may be required to answer more questions or provide more information.

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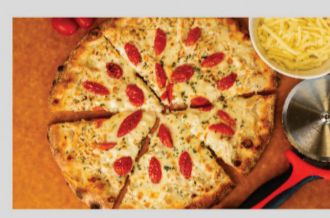


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Cousin Rick's Pick Three

RT HALL '24 | COLUMNIST • Lines and odds provided by DraftKings, accurate as of January 16, 2024. Please gamble responsibly.

year, as well as recent statistical trends. Many NFL fans have been forced to not only sit through many primetime Chiefs games this season, but also to endure the cross-promotional nightmare that has been Taylor Swift. While much of the Chiefs offense has seemingly been too distracted to perform, Pacheco's furious running style has not only made him a quality offensive option, but a great player to entrust to finish long drives. In the Chiefs' last five games, Pacheco has registered five touchdowns, only failing to reach the endzone in one of those games. Throw in the fact that Buffalo will be trotting out a linebacking core that's been decimated by injury for a cold January football game, and Isiah Pacheco seems ready to continue his scoring hot streak.



Houston (@ Baltimore) at +9.5 (Houston ATS) -115

Baltimore made me eat my words when I picked Detroit against them last semester, but I have clearly not learned any lessons. In spite of my anger as a Colts fan at the division rival Texans after they seemingly stole the AFC South, C.J. Stroud made me a believer in the Wild Card round. In addition to dismantling a highly touted Browns defense last week, the relatively inconsistent Texans defense possibly ended Joe Flacco's Comeback Player of the Year campaign forcing numerous costly turnovers. Regarding Baltimore, Lamar Jackson hasn't seen the field now in three weeks after sitting out Week 18, leaving some possibility for offensive rust. While Jackson's absence (along with much of the Ravens offense) likely contributed to Baltimore's poor showing in their regular season finale, I'm not so sure the team will perform as it has done so prior. Expect Houston to make this a closer game than Vegas thinks.



Jordan Love (Over 246.5 Passing Yds) -114

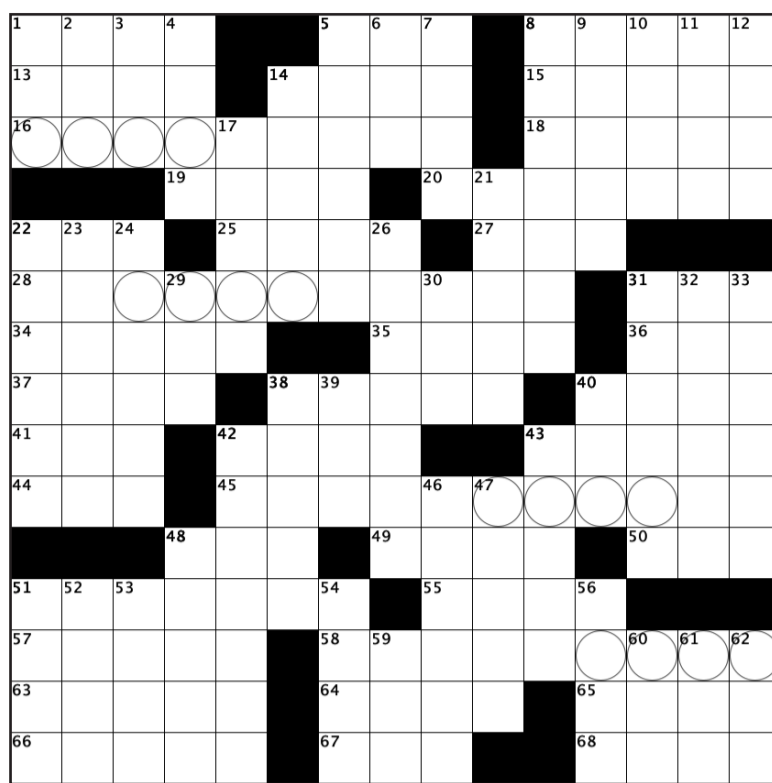
A lot of the logic for this pick follows a similar path as the Texans. A 49ers defense that rested many of their starters in Week 18 may be displaying some rust in this game. On the Packers side, Jordan Love has been obliterating this figure irrespective of the opponent. Even when the Packers offense has seemingly failed to put points up on the board, Love's performance has remained consistently positive. Since the beginning of November, Love has only failed to reach this mark three times and has obliterated it as of late. Whatever happens with the Packers on Saturday, you can be pretty certain Love will show up.



Isiah Pacheco (Anytime Touchdown Scorer) +110

Normally, I try to focus these picks on game results, but I like this pick based strongly on the film I've seen on Pacheco this

'Wintry mix' Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



Down

1. "Help!," at sea
2. Semi weight measure
3. "Orange Is the New Black" star Aduba
4. Rookie, in slang
5. Yank in the Yucatan
6. DOJ division
7. Fraction of a meg
8. Seems
9. Red ____
10. Pealed
11. "____ Upon A Time in Hollywood"
12. More important than a want
14. Weapon (and near-homophone) of Eros
17. Name on a building, perhaps
21. Comes together
22. Titillate
23. Jagger's group, for short
24. Out for the night?
26. Train, as a new employee
29. "On the double!"
30. Double ____
31. Permits
32. Queen toppers
33. The Federalist Papers contained 85
38. Both stars of "The Parent Trap"
39. Praiseful poem
40. Sixth word in the Gettysburg Address
42. Works the runway
43. Adolescent anxiety
46. Like Sapphic poetry
47. Indian wraps
48. Some British noblemen
51. ____ a 52-Across (cry)
52. 51-Across a ____ (cry)
53. Throw a tantrum
54. Came home, perhaps
56. Workers' protection org.
59. Memphis to Atlanta direction: Abbr.
60. Veto
61. Mine find
62. Say "I do"

Across

1. What the "stupefy" spell does, in Harry Potter
5. Talk and talk and talk
8. First name, often?
13. Seep
14. Aesthetically pretentious
15. 737, for example
16. *Wintry pileup, or a description of what happens visually across this puzzle
18. Sixth Vice President from Indiana
19. "____ in the U.S.A."
20. Like a phoenix from the ashes
22. Airport safety org.
25. Scrubbed, as a mission
27. Present-tense anagram of 31-Across
28. *"Well, of course"
31. Past-tense anagram of 27-Across
34. Health, in one's cheeks
35. Comedy routines
36. Fleur de ____
37. "I ____ it!"
38. I, l and e, in cursive
40. "Oh, woe!"
41. Director Ang or Spike
42. Common mixer
43. Marketplace of the polis
44. Sergio Ramos's team, on scoreboards
45. *"I won't believe it!"
48. Historical span
49. Race on television
50. Serpentine sound
51. XBB. 1.5 and Omicron, for two
55. "... Give or take"
57. Picked up on, audibly
58. *Classic holiday song fit for this puzzle
63. Glenn Frey, e.g.
64. Egyptian goddess with a repetitive name
65. Add staffers
66. Attire with A-Line and mermaid styles
67. Year-end fig.
68. Gave the boot



Scan for solution!

Cleo Washington '85 delivers keynote address commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Washington examined minority experiences in higher education in his talk titled "Accelerating gradualism in a post-Affirmative Action world." Using stories from his life as well as his experience as a father, Washington advocated for financial literacy at the individual level as a means of elevating outcomes for minority communities. After remarks on MLK Day by President Scott Feller, Washington was introduced by former MXIBS Chairman Kenny Coleman '22.



Head soccer coach named Assistant Director of Latino Partnerships

SAM BENEDICT '25 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Over winter break, Wabash College received a \$25 million grant from the Lilly Endowment for the Wabash Campus and Community Initiative. Following the announcement, Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller has been named the Assistant Director of Latino Partnerships.

“I am feeling very excited and hopeful that I can positively impact our college and community further and with a larger footprint,” said Keller. “I’m thrilled to work with the Latino community in our town and help better their experiences while also building partnerships with our college.”

In this new role, Keller will work closely with La Alianza, the Crawfordsville community and first generation students as they transition to Wabash. The \$25 million grant will be used to found an early childhood development center, help fund the campus center and improve relationships between Wabash College and the local Latino community.

“We hope the new initiative will work to foster a bridge of trust between Wabash and the Crawfordsville community,” said La Alianza President Jacob Ramirez '25. “There’s no denying the lack of trust for both sides has lingered on for years, but with initiatives such as the funding from the Lilly Endowment grant, we are able to form a much stronger relationship with Crawfordsville that creates opportunities for better insight.”

Keller has coached at Wa-



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Chris Keller (right) embraces an undergraduate Justin Kopp '21 during the Annual Day of Giving on April 10, 2019. Keller has head coached the Little Giants soccer team since 2012, in which time he has gained a reputation for passionately caring and advocating for his student athletes.

bash since 2012 and will continue in that capacity along with this new role. He is known for his commitment to students and his strong ties to the Crawfordsville community, where his wife teaches in the Crawfordsville school system.

“I feel there’s so much to accomplish as a college and as a community together,” said Keller. “What La Alianza, Dr. Jill Lambertson and others have already done on campus will be the foundation of so many more projects. We are excited to hire a full-time Director, open the Latino community center, work closely with current students’ families and Admissions to recruit more students to Wabash, build partnerships with local Crawfordsville schools amongst many other things.”

Advocacy for stronger, tangible support for Latino students has been echoing for

years. La Alianza, previously Unidos por Sangre, has continued to gain prominence on campus and become a staple of Wabash, as well as a place for Latino students to feel at home.

“Many have advocated for a physical institution for Latino students long before I came to campus,” said Ramirez. “Seeing this come to fruition shows the commitment members of La Alianza have put in, along with support received across campus. It’s inspiring to see Latinos receive an official support system.”

On the horizon, Wabash can expect a full-time Director of Latino Partnerships, another step that will only grow the administrative support for Latino students and the greater Crawfordsville community.

Senior spotlight: Liam Grennon '24 sets the standard

TY MURPHY '27 | STAFF WRITER • Coming from the city of Concord, New Hampshire and with a brief stint in Texas, English major and history minor Liam Grennon '24 has left his mark on Wabash College. What Grennon describes as a “pretty awful first visit,” blossomed into a student career full of deep connections and plenty of involvement.

Grennon is a very recognizable figure on campus as a brother of Delta Tau Delta, Treasurer of the student body, writing center fellow, Vice President of the Wabash College Democrats and many more positions. No stranger to leadership, the accomplishment he is most proud of is his tenure as the tennis team captain.

“I’ve been a part of a lot here on campus,” said Grennon. “But being part of my coach’s first recruiting class and starting at the bottom of our conference to now being in the top half of our conference is something I take pride in.”

Through grit and diligence, Grennon has helped build a team culture that has contributed to success on the court. The lessons he has learned through tennis have also benefited his influence on campus.

“We’re all students,” Grennon said. “So just being able to effectively lead in that kind of environment has been a valuable skill.”

Being in these campus positions has certainly helped give Grennon a “better sense of confidence.” This confidence is an instrumental tool in one of his other positions on campus: bringing in a new generation of Wabash men through his work in the admissions office.

“It’s an interesting balance as a student ambassador of trying to represent what it’s like to be a student here when it’s so unique,” said Grennon. “It’s hard to explain the brotherhood. My role is to get to know the person first and foremost, and then speak to some of the opportunities or resources that we have here that they might enjoy or find helpful”



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Liam Grennon '24 serves as the current treasurer of the student body, just his latest role in a decorated run of student leadership.

As a welcoming figure on campus, Grennon has done his part to represent Wabash and what it stands for, but he is ready to “pass the torch” to new students and pursue his aspirations.

Through an internship with New Hampshire’s Public Defender Office and guidance from pre-law advisor Professor Scott Himsel '85 who has been “valuable in making sense of [his] interests,” Grennon will continue his academic career in law school with hopes of becoming a lawyer. His passion for law is fueled by injustice in the field.

“Justice isn’t always served” said Grennon. “There are people who are falsely imprisoned for 30 years... and so to combat that, we need better attorneys, one that I hope I can be.”

Grennon’s caring personality will contribute to his aim to go to law school and become a lawyer.

The door on Grennon’s time at Wabash is coming to a close, but his impact has not gone unnoticed. As he reflects on the multitude of experiences that have shaped him into the man he has become, Grennon will embark into the pursuit of law with grit, determination, and an unwillingness to follow the status quo into injustice.

Hoffman '85 gives back on and off the clock



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Steve Hoffman '85 rocks on at the Chapel steps during a graduate reunion on September 11, 2021. Hoffman represents the College with pride as an administrator, broadcaster and loyal alum.

DEREK MCDONALD '27 | STAFF WRITER • Senior Major Gifts and Special Projects Officer Steve Hoffman '85 is a beloved member of the Wabash Community and an embodiment of what it means to be a Wabash man.

After a memorable undergraduate career wearing such hats as the quarterback helmet and the white pot of the Sphinx Club, Hoffman would go on to graduate in the class of 1985. From there, he accepted a position at Noblesville High School teaching biology, as well as coaching football and baseball. Seeking to continue coaching at the collegiate level, he returned to Wabash in 1991 as an assistant football coach and the head golf coach. Despite his desire to “coach forever,” he would step away from coaching in 1996 to take a job on the Advancement team. Filling many different roles within the office, he has remained a crucial senior member of the team to this day.

Despite his retirement from coaching, he remains a prominent figure in Wabash athletics, especially football. If you have ever watched a Wabash football broadcast then you have most likely heard Hoffman’s voice, helming the broadcast for many

years over his career.

Hoffman’s current role as Senior Major Gifts and Special Projects Officer plugs him directly into the wide world of the Wabash alumni network. Tasked with communicating to alumni regarding donations to the college, he travels across the country and informs graduates and other prospective donors how they can use their gifts in ways that would align with their values.

“I’ve always said I have the best job on campus,” said Hoffman. “Our alumni make my job easy. They are so generous and want to help. I engage with them and just show up and show them their options and they are always gracious.”

While Hoffman is greatly satisfied with his job, his only regret is that his role is not more student-facing.

“The students make our community the special place that it is,” said Hoffman. “While I still develop relationships with students, I do miss the close relationships developed through coaching.”

Hoffman’s community impact ranges further than Wabash or even Crawfordsville. One of his passions is officiating both football and basketball for high schools

across Indiana. With the profession suffering due to lack of officials, his contribution alone positively impacts hundreds, if not thousands of high school athletes’ experiences, as well as their communities. He has actively worked throughout his career to combat this shortage and hopes to increase communities’ interests in officiating. He is passionate about making high school athletes have the best experience by taking his job seriously and practicing fairness.

“One of the things us referees say is, ‘no matter what game it is, to these kids it is the most important game,’” said Hoffman. “We are passionate about making their experience good and fair.”

Through officiating, Hoffman loves the people he meets, the communities he interacts with and the students he gets to know. This statement alone speaks to his value of relationships and giving back to the community.

During his time as a student at Wabash, the number one lesson that he took away was to get involved.

“You have to embrace it and jump in head-first,” said Hoffman. “Be involved, get out of your comfort zone. Do something you have never done before and it will pay off.”

Hoffman proves time and time again that his character, drive and desire to give back makes him the model Wabash Man. He is somebody to look up to and talk to if you need a helping hand. A big thanks goes out to him from the Wabash community for his dedication, commitment, generosity and involvement over the years.

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MUST PRESENT WABASH STUDENT ID

A welcome letter from the staff of *The Bachelor*

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

FLORIDA MAN (DESANTIS) STRIKES AGAIN

Lo-Five to the Florida school district that banned the dictionary from schools, claiming it contains sexual content. If you wanted to look up the definition of authoritarianism... well, too bad.

DONALD'S ALL-AMERICAN

Lo-Five to Vivek Ramaswamy for dropping out of the GOP race after finishing fourth in the Iowa Caucuses. If he really wanted to win big in Iowa, he should have made Caitlin Clark his running mate.

"SECRET TUNNEL! SECRET TUNNEL!"

Hi-Five to CampServ for doing their best to clear the sidewalks so students can get to class this week. If only we attended a college run by the Chabad, we could take the tunnels to class.

AT WHAT COST?

Hi-Five to the Detroit Lions for winning their first playoff game in over 30 years. Unfortunately, Detroit had to sacrifice the Pistons to do it.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION...

Ho-Five to Jo Koy for bombing while hosting the Golden Globes and blaming it on his writers. If you're dissatisfied with your writing staff, there are some comedic geniuses looking to make a lateral move that can be reached @wabashcollegebachelor

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

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

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

The Bachelor reserves the right to edit letters for content, typographical errors, and length. All letters received become property of this publication for the purposes of reprinting and/or redistribution. Profanity may appear in the publication, but only in cases of direct quote or if profanity is necessary to the content of the story. Please do not confuse profanity with obscenity. No article or picture of an obscene nature will appear in this publication.

The Bachelor is printed every Thursday at the Purdue Exponent in West Lafayette. It is delivered freely to all students, faculty, and staff at Wabash College. All advertising published in *The Bachelor* is subject to an established rate card. *The Bachelor* reserves the right to deny requests for publication of advertisements. Student organizations of Wabash College may purchase advertisements at half the listed rate.

The Bachelor is a member of the Hoosier State and Indiana Collegiate Press Associations (HSPA and ICPA).

Bachelor readers, To start, thank you for supporting us through yet another semester of publication. Whether student, parent, alumnus, faculty or trustee, whether you read *The Bachelor* in print, on our website or on social media, we thank you for being engaged with us.

It's a new year and a new semester for students at Wabash, full of new opportunities and new faces. Our goals for this semester are ambitious — they include a second consecutive year as Indiana's best college newspaper — and to accomplish them, we've welcomed a few new faces to our staff.

Our new Photo Editor is Will Duncan '27. His is likely a face you'll see often, as he floats around campus documenting all the photo-worthy moments that happen at Wabash. If you see him, fix your hair up pretty and give him a smile.

We sit at Sparks with you, we hear you talking in the library, we know Wabash students are opinionated. Rather than post an anonymous, poorly worded, logically flawed, 255-character post to YikYak, consider taking a few minutes to write out a thoughtful, educated argument like the good Wabash men you are (in 800 words

or less), and submit it to our new Opinion Editor Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26. The Opinion section exists as a forum for you to discuss whatever it is you're passionate about: sports, politics, traditions, why Batman is better than Superman, why Marx is overtaught at Wabash, why your roommate should stop sleeping with a white noise machine or why there should be a brick path in the corner behind Baxter where students always walk anyway. Whatever the topic, you're free to express yourself in an email to hmdiemer26@wabash.edu

Taking over responsibility for the News section will be last semester's Opinion Editor, James Wallace '26. He's got his nose to the ground for breaking news, but as Wabash's only publication run by students for students, we're here to serve your needs. If you are a student leader on campus with big news, we would be thrilled to break it. Catch wind of a rumor you think someone should look into? We're your guys. Don't hesitate to contact Wallace at jpwallac26@wabash.edu with anything you think might be newsworthy.

While the faces may change, the goal is the same: *The Bachelor* will continue to be, as it has since 1908, the student voice of Wabash College. We look forward to another semester with you.

Check out the *The Bachelor* online:



bachelor.wabash.edu



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Your vote matters in the fight against climate change

John Smillie
Bradley Carlson
Jim Brown
Katie Ansaldi
Helen Hudson

Reply to this opinion at
john.thomas.smillie@gmail.com

Editor's note: Members of the Citizens' Climate Lobby and League of Women's Voters submitted this opinion in response to Matt Harvey's opinion titled "Climate politics and the myths of human immortality," which ran in the December 1, 2023 issue of The Bachelor.

We disagree with Dr. Harvey's assertion that democratic politics can not provide solutions to the climate crisis for a few reasons.

First, climate change is not a binary of solved/not solved — it is a matter of degrees and every fraction of a degree matters. While it remains to be seen if we can completely decarbonize the economy and hit net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and completely halt warming, we absolutely can reduce them. When we burn less fossil fuels, we not only slow climate change — delaying negative impacts and buying more time to adapt, innovate and build support — we enjoy immediate benefits from reduced air pollution. The benefits to human health and crop yields from lowered air pollution are so large that they are estimated to more than cover the entire cost of the energy transition. Every closed coal plant, electrified vehicle and decarbonized steel mill means more children who don't have asthma and more adults who don't have heart attacks, cancer and pulmonary disease right away. Every step towards decarbonization makes for an immediately better world.

And the best tool that most people have at their disposal to fight for a better world is democratic politics! Many climate scientists, policy wonks and even beloved science communicator Bill Nye agree that voting is the single most important thing an individual can do to fight climate change. Installing leaders who support climate policy — and making sure they regularly hear from you - can make a huge difference. We just saw this last year when the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) — the largest climate bill in world history — passed through the Senate by a single vote! The IRA is expected to accelerate U.S. decarbonization significantly, bringing us to 40% below the 2005 baseline by 2030,

and the technological and economic advances it brings about are expected to bring about even greater spillover effects around the globe — 2.4X to 2.9X the impact within the U.S.

And yes, solving the climate crisis will require some individual life changes, but not only can we enforce and mandate some — see indoor smoking bans or the fact that you can't buy a car without seat belts — but for many, we won't have to. Many of the alternatives provide better experiences than their fossil predecessors. Electric vehicles and lawn equipment are quicker, quieter and cheaper to maintain. Heat pumps heat your house more evenly and are often cheaper to operate than furnaces, and they can also cool your house. Induction cooktops are faster, safer and easier to clean than gas cooktops. A policy like the IRA can help launch these nascent technologies and put them into the hands of more people.

Furthermore, many choices are made for people because of the infrastructure around them. You drive your gas car because there's no bus lane or bike lane. You have a gas furnace instead of a heat pump attached to a district heating system, because that's what was there when you bought the house. Again, changing these things can be accomplished through democratic politics, and we're already seeing it happening in jurisdictions around the world.

The energy transition is a daunting but exciting prospect, and success isn't guaranteed. But thanks to democracy, billions around the world have a chance to use their power to fight for it. We're excited to see what we can make of it.



Citizens' Climate Lobby



Iowa is a win for both DeSantis and Trump



Jerry McBee '26

Reply to this opinion at
jdmcbec26@wabash.edu

The month of January is a special time of year in the world of politics. We have finally left behind 2023 and are nearing the presidential election of 2024. Just recently, the quadrennial electoral event known as the Iowa Caucus took place for the Republican party. The Iowa Caucus is a form of primary voting that varies from your traditional primary ballot system. Caucuses are run by political parties and not by state governments. During the Iowa Caucus, voters from the Democratic and Republican parties gather in precincts across the state to express their preference for their party's presidential candidate. The process involves a series of meetings, where participants discuss and vote for their presidential candidates. Once selected, attendees are placed into groups based on the candidates they voted for. Supporters have the opportunity to deliberate with other groups, where they can choose to convince others to come to their group or even leave their group.

The Iowa Caucus is a crucial event in the United States presidential nomination process, marking the beginning of the primary season. It plays a significant role in shaping the future political landscape for parties by providing the first official electoral test for candidates vying for their party's presidential nomination. The Iowa Caucus is not limited to a single party, as both Republican and Democratic parties participate. However, these parties participate in their own caucuses separately. Democratic Iowa Caucus will not unfold until March 5, so we will be eagerly waiting until then. The Iowa Caucus is not only significant because of its uniqueness, but also because its results can have a substantial impact on a candidate's momentum and their later success

in the presidential race. The Iowa caucus always precedes other states' primary voting times. It is often seen as an early indicator of a candidate's credibility and appeal among voters.

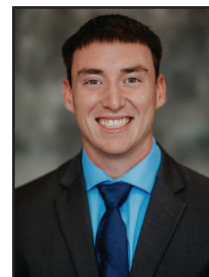
Iowa counted 40 delegates with 98.97% of precincts reporting. Former President Donald Trump won the primary by a landslide, taking 51.01% of the votes and accruing a total of 56,260. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis took a distant second place with 21.23% of the votes with a total of 23,420. Nikki Haley was close to Ron DeSantis with 19.12% of the votes and a total of 21,085. The popular Vivek Ramaswamy was not so popular at the 2024 Republican Iowa Caucus, as he only took 7.66% of the votes with a total of 8,449.

While polls may not always be accurate, they are usually somewhat telling of the state's favorite candidates in each party. It's no surprise that Donald Trump would win the primary by such a large margin in Iowa, as he has been extremely popular in the state of Iowa in recent years. This is a result of his involvement in Iowa communities and consistently holding rallies in the state. If you are a supporter of DeSantis, I wouldn't give up yet. While the margin between him and Trump may make him seem like an insignificant candidate, this couldn't be any more false. Winning 21% of the primary vote in a state like Iowa is nothing short of significant for DeSantis and his campaign.

While it is likely that Trump's popularity will continue throughout states like Iowa in the Midwest, DeSantis has stronger support in southern states than the Midwest, which may later surprise us as we see more primary results pop up over time. It wouldn't be a stretch to say that the 2024 Republican Iowa Caucus results were a win for both Trump and DeSantis and that they will continue to accrue popularity and backing across the nation.

Wally's Wall: Best room setup

Join the Club. Find out.



Ryan Papandria '25

Reply to this opinion at rlpapand25@wabash.edu



Seth Acero '25 | "The Tornado"



Julius Hearn '25 | "The (sh)room"

In the early days of September 2023, just a measly four months ago, I embarked on a treacherous yet fruitful journey that hundreds of Wabash men before me traveled: Rhyneship. I, along with 11 of the most esteemed gentlemen on this campus, was enabled the opportunity to earn my way into the most visible and historic tradition at Wabash — the Sphinx Club. For those current sophomores and juniors who are considering going out, I would strongly encourage taking the leap of faith and filling an application out.

There are too many benefits of Rhyneship to count, as I would say it was one of the most impactful and exciting times of my Wabash career. One of my favorite parts of Rhyneship was certainly the bond I developed with all of my Rhyne brothers. I had previously known many of these guys before Rhyneship, but not to the extent that I do now. We made lots of great memories together which many of us still talk about today. We not only grew together, but we also grew as individuals and leaders of the campus. As an independent, I never had a pledge class where I got to endure a fraternity pledgship. Having this experience of being a part of something bigger than myself was rewarding to say the least.

Not only did I get to know my Rhyne brothers well through those nine weeks and beyond, but I also made lasting connections with many other people on campus. I got to know all the members of the Club, but my status as a Rhyne struck the interest of many faculty and staff members, allowing me to create more connections around campus.

All the doubters on campus who ridicule the Sphinx Club and its illustrious Rhyneship are ignorant and close-minded to the fruits the experience yields. And once the enlightenment of "finding out" for an individual is achieved, their membership in the Club has only just begun.



James Szalkie '25 | "The Desk"



Shane Zabinski '27 | "The Cell"

SPORTS

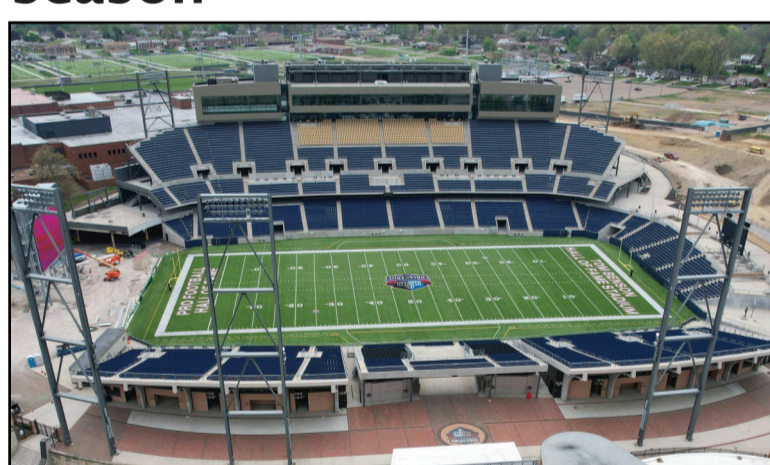
Opendorse bowl series comes to NCAC at end of 2024 football season

Long: The bowl is worth it



COURTESY OF USA TODAY

The first Opendorse Bowl Series will be held on November 23, 2024, at the Tom Benson Hall of Fame, located in Canton, Ohio.



COURTESY OF SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

The Tom Benson Hall of Fame, located in Canton, Ohio hosts the annual Pro Football Hall of Fame Game. Surrounding the stadium is Hall of Fame Village.

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR • Historic changes are coming for the NCAC in the 2024 football season. At the conclusion of the regular season four teams from the Great Lakes region will be invited to participate in the first inaugural Opendorse Bowl Series. However, there is some uncertainty as to how this event would mix with a Wabash schedule that is steeped in tradition.

On January 9, the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) announced through their website that the conference, along with the Heartland Athletic Collegiate Conference, the Ohio Athletic Conference and the Presidents' Athletic Conference had partnered with Opendorse to participate in a new bowl series beginning in 2024.

Opendorse is a company that specializes in name, image and likeness (NIL) support, helping athletes to monetize their athletic image. The company will be the main sponsor of the bowl series.

The first announced Opendorse Bowl Series will be held on November 23, 2024. The bowl event held at the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio. The games will be held be-

tween the best team from each of the four conferences to not receive a bid to the NCAA DIII Football tournament.

"This bowl game setup is something that's become more popular at the Division Three level or other conferences have done it," said Director of Athletics and Campus Wellness Matt Tanney '05. "The NCAC has considered it before, several years ago, but at that time the idea wasn't developed enough yet."

The intriguing possibility that Wabash will appear in the Bowl Series, raises a few questions about how the event might fit into Wabash's football schedule which traditionally culminates with the Monon Bell Game.

"Wabash is really unique, because we already have a bowl game," said Tanney. "We play a bowl game every year. It's called the Monon Bell Game. We're in the very small percentage of division three programs that have that opportunity. I could see this being a really big deal on some other campuses. We'll see what happens here. If we find ourselves in a spot where we would play that game, but if we've already played the Bell Game and we haven't qualified for the NCAA playoffs, I just don't know what that would mean for Wa-

bash. We'll just have to see if and when that situation presents itself."

The contest will be voluntary for teams that qualify for the Bowl Series, so Wabash will not be forced to participate if the players and staff do not want to travel to Ohio for a game the week before Thanksgiving. As of now, the plan is that the annual games will be held in Canton every year, meaning that it is unlikely for the game to ever be held in front of a home crowd at

in the program."

It is more than plausible that, with the most important game of the season behind them, the team would not see the bowl game as enough of an accolade to pursue, especially in a sport with a high rate of injury.

On the other hand, it is not difficult to imagine that a class of seniors, facing the end of their careers in a sport they have played for most of their lives, may find the possibility of playing one more game worth the trip to Ohio.

"It sounds a little bit like a participation trophy to me," said Morel. "It really would depend specifically on where our team is. If we're coming off a Bell game win, and we end up second in the league and the kids wanted to play another game, I'd be all for it. I would also completely understand if the kids said 'Hey, I'm good. I don't need to play another game.'"

"There are very few marquee Division III rivalry games like the one that we have," said Tanney. "I think it makes sense for the vast majority of schools to entertain these ideas. It's still a bit of a question mark for us."

"Wabash is really unique, because we already have a bowl game."

- Matt Tanney '05

Wabash.

Head Football Coach Don Morel expressed concerns about how much the bowl series would mean to the team after they had already played the Bell Game.

"We have won some Bell Games here and have been less excited for the first round of playoffs," Morel said. "The Bell Game is so much bigger than anything else. That will always be the emphasis

SAM LONG '25 | GUEST WRITER • Sometimes I feel that people may forget that Wabash football players are playing college football for the love of the game. We don't get scholarships like some of our buddies who were lucky enough to play at Division I Schools. We don't get a lot of bonuses in apparel and we definitely do not get special treatment from our professors. The guys who wear Scarlet and White on Saturdays take a lot of pride in the sacrifices they make to get their opportunity to play football at Wabash.

I know that the way the past two seasons have ended has left a great hole in a lot of the hearts of the seniors who played their last game of football against the team down south. Losing your last game of the year is not a good feeling.

As much as every season of ours starts out with the two same goals, winning the Monon Bell and advancing to the Division III Playoffs. I can guarantee that there are a lot of Wabash Men who play football at our school that would jump at the chance to play one last game together. Even though we never plan on being number two, this new opportunity provided by the NCAA and the NCAC will be much appreciated by a lot of gentlemen who play football in our division.

To speak only for myself, I think it would be dumb not to play in a game like this. The rumor is these games will be played in Canton, Ohio which is home to the National Football Hall of Fame. As our coaches have arranged for us in the past, if we were to make this trip there are a lot of opportunities for the players traveling to this "Bowl" style game to experience a great landmark that we have for the sport we love to play. I do not believe that we would see any players "holding out" from this game like we see in College Football games on TV. We all know Wabash Always Fights, and if I understand that correctly it will be a cold day in hell before a Little Giant backs out of a football game.

Track dominates Robert H. Johnson "Some Little Giant" Open Indoor performance promises another year of success in the spring season

NICK WANGLER '27 | SPORTS WRITER • Although the past meets have yet to include team scoring, Wabash is showing signs of great things to come in the near future. On Saturday, January 13, the Wabash Track and Field team hosted the 2024 Robert H. Johnson "Some Little Giant" Open in our very own Knowing Fieldhouse. The event hosted Marian College, Franklin College, Anderson University and Spalding University.

The Little Giants excelled at home over the weekend with 24 top-eight finishes, eight of which placed in the top-three. With this being the first event where the majority of athletes participated, it is a strong start to the season. Two first place finishes from Brayden Curnutt '25 and Joe Barnett '24 highlighted the overall performance at the meet.

With his first-place finish in the mile, Brayden Curnutt '25 was recognized as the NCAC Men's Distance/Mid-Distance Athlete of the Week for Track and Field. This is exactly what the team needs heading into team scoring events starting this week, an upperclassman who is willing to lead by example. Support from his teammates seems to be what is driving the early success of Curnutt.

"Having a group to run and train with day in and day out is monumental in getting to where I want to be," said Curnutt.

Next up on the Little Giants' schedule, the team competes Friday, January 19, where they travel to Rose-Hulman.

"It's still early in the season,

so the goal isn't to have career best performances necessarily," said Justin Santiago '25. "Instead we're focusing on continuous improvement over the course of the season and the next step in that process is having a good performance at Rose-Hulman. It'll be a successful meet if we leave knowing we gave our best effort on the day."

The focus going forward should be to stay consistent with higher placements in multiple different events. The 24 top-eight finishes came from all different types of events, including distance, throws, sprints, jumps and pole vault. Seeing success in an ample number of events shows the overall competitiveness throughout the entire team.

Despite the extremely physical nature of track, especially running, the mental side of the sport is still a distinguishing factor between the winners and the losers. Keeping focus through the pain is something the team will need to continue to do as the season draws on.

"We will focus on executing techniques and mental toughness," said Morgan.

With continued leadership from the upperclassmen and improvement from the underclassmen, this team is heading in the right direction at the right time. The meat of their season is coming up in the coming weeks, and the team needs to continue to prepare for these tougher matchups.

The upcoming meet at Rose-Hulman serves as an important one.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash track & field competed at the Robert H. Johnson "Some Little Giant" Open on January 13, 2024, on the Johnson Indoor Track at Knowing Field House.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Evan Furness '26 at the Robert H. Johnson "Some Little Giant" Open on January 13, 2024, on the Johnson Indoor Track at Knowing Field House.

The team needs to prove that they can consistently put up high finishes in multiple different events. With the way they are currently trending upward, they can do just that.

For the last decade, track has dominated the conference in-

doors. But that only happens one season at a time. The team will need to carry the same work ethic to continue their winning streak over the next ten years.

Volleyball prepares for breakout season

NATE JOVEN '26 | STAFF WRITER • A growing Wabash volleyball program, entering its fourth season, has set the stage for its first season with a winning record. In each of its previous three seasons, the volleyball team has seen tremendous improvement, winning more games each year than one prior. However, the Little Giants have yet to produce a truly successful season. The program, which has not yet finished a season with a winning record, seeks to change this fact.

"From a team perspective, getting our first winning season in program history would be a great start. We want to compete for a spot as one of the top teams in the league," said Patrick Volk '26

Another of the team's goals for the season is to qualify for the Midwest Volleyball Collegiate League conference tournament. To do so, the team must place among the top four teams in its conference.

"The top four is just a standard we want to set for ourselves, so we can push to be the best and continue getting better every day," said team captain Carson Meadors '24.

During the preseason, the Little Giants focused on developing a diverse arsenal of powerful yet controlled serves and attacks. Off the court, the focus has been building athleticism in the weightroom and cultivating a thriving team with sustainable values. As the Little Giants seek to become a well-established team, it must prove that it can consistently play well against inferior teams.

Outside of the numbers commonly associated with a program's success, Head Volleyball Coach Ashuan Baker, entering his first season as head coach, hopes to see the team improve in other meaningful ways.

"Success this season looks like a consistent team culture in all aspects," said Baker. "It will take a lot of practicing the correct behavior for our team to accomplish success by our definition. The teammate first mentality will have to marinate, and we are willing to wait."

The team returns powerhouse hitters Ricky Sessions '24 and Volk who, last season, earned 293 and 274 kills respectively. In the team's recent contest against Division II Thomas More, setter Will Beikes '25' surpassed 1,000 assists. Beikes has



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Wabash volleyball shakes hands with opponents after the Little Giants fell in straight sets to Baldwin Wallace University on April 2, 2023 at Chadwick Court.

served as the volleyball team's starting setter since he joined the squad in 2022. Together with Beikes, middle blocker Jackson Leeper '25' has developed a powerful quick attack in the middle that will surely shock opposing defenses.

"I'm looking forward to an even better season than the last," Volk said. "We have a strong group of guys, and I know we will have a good season."

In addition to the return of many prominent players, six of the team's fourteen players this season are freshmen. Bawibawi Thang '27, Chris Board '27, Zev Wolverton '27, Brandon Ruder '27, Shad Wilson '27 and Gage Martin '27 compose the freshman class.

"I'm excited to see where this team can go, because this roster has a lot of great freshmen ready to keep the program going after I graduate," said Meadors.

Two members of the new class have already proven themselves to be tremendous assets to the lineup. In the team's season opener Thang led the team with 15 kills across four sets. In the back row, freshman libero Board offered much-needed defensive support with 16 digs

throughout the match.

"The hope for our freshmen athletes is that they begin to practice their leadership approaches immediately to ensure they are just as impactful as their veteran counterparts," said Baker.

Fans of Wabash volleyball should expect to see a team that has grown significantly since last season. With both seasoned veterans and bright young players, this may finally be the breakthrough season for the Wabash volleyball program.

"We're focusing on building a culture in which we support and help each other grow as teammates and people," said Volk. "I think it will take a lot of dedication and effort on and off the court and in the weight

room. That will be the key to our success this season."

The team has played one game already this season, facing Thomas More University, where they would fall 1-3 in four sets.

Next for the Little Giants they will face Rockford University on the road on Friday, January 19. Wabash will host Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College for its first home game of the season on January 31. Then the team then begins conference play against Adrian College on February 10.

Tennis sets eyes on conference crown

AYDEN SALPIETRA '27 | SPORTS WRITER • The Little Giant tennis team returns to the court for the upcoming season eager to compete. Riding the wave of success from last season and the fall season the young team which returns all but one member of the starting six has a promising season to look forward to. With a little fundamental work and young guys stepping up, the team hopes to achieve historic highs by the end of April.

Wabash finished with a 14-9 record last season that placed them in the top-20 in the region, making them a regionally ranked team for the first time since 2018. More than doubling their total wins from the previous year, the team made the semifinals of the NCAC Tournament for the first time since 2011. At the conclusion of last season, the team graduated one senior, Alvaro Alonso-Sanchez '23. With six new members of most of the previous roster, the team looks stronger than before. This season the Little Giants are looking to pick up right where they left off.

"Our goal is just to kind of build on what we accomplished last year. We've got more knowledge, and we have a solid freshman class also coming in," said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett.

With the solid foundation of previous seasons the team looks towards winning the conference as a major goal for the upcoming season. This goal is what the team has been working for this past off-season.

"I think that conference is kind of always what our eyes are set on, it's a long season, but it's in the NCAC where it gets real," said Team Captain Liam Grennon '24.

But before the team is ready for the ultimate prize, they will have to prepare by facing some of the best teams in the region, which is why Coach Bickett has constructed a schedule packed with some exceptional opponents to make sure this team is equipped to face the best in the conference.

NCAC teams like Denison, Kenyon, and DePauw are ranked fifth, six and eighth in the region respectively. With regional powerhouses like Wisconsin White-Water, Carthage and Luther on the Little Giants schedule, the team hopes to be seasoned heading into the conference season.

"We have a much harder schedule this year," said Grennon. "Being able to hang with the tougher teams will really pay off when it comes to conference."

The major area of emphasis for the team this spring will be in doubles. The goal for the team is win two out of the three doubles contests in every match, so that the team will have less pressure on their singles matches.

"We want to become a more dominant doubles team. I think we fell short of some of our goals last year because we relied on singles too much," said Team Captain Cole Borden '24.

Coach Bickett would like to sound fundamentals propel them to more success in the doubles matches.

"I think a lot of it comes down to our double's success. Just making sure we have really good fundamentals, knowing where to be on the court, and taking advantage of the first couple balls in the rally because those are probably the most important ones," said Bickett.

The Little Giants will scrimmage Rose-Hulman at Collett Tennis Center on Saturday, January 20, before officially opening their season at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, on February 3.



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This week in sports



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

Wabash competed in the Gail Pebworth Invitational on November 17, 2023, at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR • This week in sports, basketball gets back on track with a highlight win, star athletes shine in swimming meets, Track excels at home meet and wrestling leaves opponents in the dust.

Basketball

The basketball team brought their record to 9-8 (5-3 NCAC), when they scorched Kenyon 76-50 at Chadwick court on Saturday, January 13. Sam Comer '24 and Rich Brooks '26 led all scorers as they tied for 18 points each, during the game. Brooks punctuated his performance with a highlight dunk on a fast break. The Little Giant's dominance in scoring was matched by the rebounding advantage of 52 boards to 32.

Wabash shot 30-62 in the game, which is nothing spec-

tacular. But with so many extra possessions because of Hiram's struggles rebounding and maintaining control of the ball, the Little Giants were able to put up a lot of shots.

With this win in hand the Little Giants moved to third place in the NCAC with a wide gap between themselves and second-place Wittenberg who sits at 12-5 (6-2 NCAC).

Next, the Little Giants will face Oberlin College at Chadwick Court on Saturday, January 20.

Swimming & Diving

Quinn Sweeney '27 was named NCAC Men's Swimming Athlete of the Week for his performance in the Little Giants three dual meets from Friday, January 12 to Saturday, January 13. Wabash went 1-3 as they were matched up against DII opponents Val-



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Wabash wrestling defeated Albion College in a dual match on November 9, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

paraiso University and the University of Indianapolis but managed to defeat Illinois Wesleyan University. Sweeney captured three first-place finishes in the meets. Diver Bernardo Morales '24 was honored at the senior day ceremony before the meet against UIIndy.

The swim team will compete in their final regular-season meets over the weekend, facing IUPUI in Indianapolis on Friday, January 19 before traveling to Charleston, Illinois to compete against Eastern Illinois University and the University of Evansville.

Track & Field

Track had their first home event of the season on Saturday, January 13 in the 2024 Robert H. Johnson "Some Little Giant" Open indoor track and field meet



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Nate Matelic '27 prepares to shoot freethrows against Hiram on January 13, 2024, at Chadwick Court.

Wrestling

Wabash wrestling finished first out of 13 teams at the Manchester University Spartan Mat Classic. This win put an end to a four-meet losing streak in head-to-head matches against some of the best teams in the country. Five wrestlers, Evan Burge '24, Tyson Nisley '24, Daniel Uribe '24, Chase Baczek '25 and Ray Arebalo '25, were all able to take the title in their weight classes. The team won by a wide margin, racking up 192.5 points in total.

The team returns home for the Wabash College Invitational Saturday, January 20.

BASKETBALL

WABASH: 76
HIRAM: 50

QUINN SWEENEY '27

NCAC MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

BRAYDEN CURNUTT '25

NCAC MEN'S DISTANCE/MID-DIS-
TANCE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

WRESTLING

1ST OUT OF 13 TEAMS AT MAN-
CHESTER UNIVERSITY

Basketball over break with Coach Brumett

Basketball bends but won't break as they tackle the NCAC

TREY SCHEUB '26 | STAFF WRITER • Over the winter break, the basketball team faced some tough opponents, putting their skills to the test. This week *The Bachelor* sat down with Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett to hear his thoughts on how the team did, talking about their wins, challenges and what they're planning for the upcoming games.

The break was a bit of a struggle for the Little Giants who ended with a 2-5 record in the roughly month-long stretch between semesters. The team confronted tough opponents, with matches against Catholic University and the rising Wittenberg with the second-best record in the NCAC. Brumett acknowledged the tough competition, emphasizing the significance of playing quality teams. He pointed out that facing off against Catholic University, a top 25 team, and Wittenberg, on their ascent in the NCAC, presented valuable learning experiences for the team.

When explaining why the team was having such difficulty winning games, inconsistency emerged as a recurring theme in Brumett's analysis, hindering the team's ability to meet their own expectations.

"We've been too inconsistent to perform the way we've expected ourselves compared to our expectations," said Bru-



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Ahmoni Jones '24 guards Ricky Radtke near the basket in the Little Giants' loss to Denison University on January 3, 2024, at Chadwick Court.

mett.

Despite this, Brumett applauded the team's willingness to take responsibility and hold themselves accountable, a tribute to their character.

A significant bright spot came during the trip to Wooster, where the team showcased commendable defensive effectiveness. Brumett expressed satisfaction in witnessing a

multitude of players stepping up and stringing together commendable performances, showcasing the team's depth.

Brumett highlighted the positive impact of diverse contributions, with players like Rich Brooks '26 and Nate Matelic '27 providing a benefit off the bench. He emphasized Noah Hupmann's '25 role as a rim protector as an asset for the team.

"Noah is an added rim protector, he's been really consistent defensively," said Brumett.

Brumett acknowledged the ongoing process of understanding team dynamics and individual roles, advocating for consistency while allowing players to learn and grow through their mistakes.

Looking ahead, Brumett outlined the team's focus on player

health and maintaining freshness throughout the season. The emphasis on details and consistency was highlighted, with the belief that a healthy team would have the energy and enthusiasm to perform consistently on the road.

The end goal for the season is ambitious – securing a top-three spot in the NCAC to earn the first-round conference tournament advantage. Brumett, however, remains sensible, noting that the team is prepared to face challenges on the road, having clinched the conference tournament away from home last year.

These past games have allowed the basketball team to show their toughness, progress, and determination. Now equipped with valuable lessons and game plans, the team prepares for upcoming challenges, standing together in their pursuit of success in the NCAC. Sitting at 9-8 (5-3 NCAC) with the third spot in the conference, Wabash has some work to do but are still well within reach of the conference crown if they can make the most of their upcoming games.

The Little Giants will take on Oberlin at Chadwick Court on Saturday, January 20. Then on Wednesday, January 24 they will travel down to Greencastle for their second game against DePauw this season.

McRoberts: NCAC basketball power rankings

NOAH MCROBERTS '25 | STAFF WRITER •

Denison University (10-6, 6-1 NCAC)

Three weeks into the New Year the Big Red find themselves standing atop the conference with some solid performances under their belt. This is in large part due to the efforts of all-conference big man Ricky Radtke posting 67% field goal numbers. However, with an OT loss to Wittenberg a couple weeks ago and a narrow victory over Kenyon last week they have revealed some weakness.

Wittenberg University (11-5, 5-2 NCAC)

Led by Conference Player of the Year candidate Trey Killens, the Tigers of Ohio are back in the thick of conference competition after a few down years. As mentioned prior, they toppled the Big Red to hand them their only conference loss, yet they proceeded to fall to Wooster that weekend. Getting to the free throw line early and often, most contests with Wittenberg will be close towards the end. Their high home-court performances could make it tough for opponents come tourney play if they were to host.

College of Wooster (8-8, 4-3 NCAC)

One of my more controversial picks, Wooster on the surface appears middling. They began the season with weak performances against Denison, DePauw, and Wabash before powering into the New Year with dominating performances over Kenyon and Hiram before upsetting Wittenberg. Transfer Ashton Price is one of three players averaging double digit points leading to top numbers in FG and 3PT percentage. With momentum building, Wooster will be tough to beat down the stretch.

Wabash College (9-8, 5-3 NCAC)

Starting the season with high hopes, the Little Giants have struggled throughout the season, sporting a conference worst FG% with a bottom half 3PT percentage. No one was expecting that, but equally surprising has been their elite defense posting a conference best 64.8 points against per contest. As Coach Brumett continues to experiment with offensive looks and schemes, this team still has the potential for a third straight conference title, but they have work to do.

DePauw University (9-7, 4-3 NCAC)

The Dannies never cease to confuse. They seem to lose to the worst teams in the conference with losses to Kenyon and OWU while rebounding to defeat the likes of Wittenberg and Wooster. A very young team, DePauw likely won't make a run for the championship this year, yet they have some promise for the future and will likely give teams fits for the rest of the season. We'll know more about them after a slate of tough matchups with Denison, Wabash, Wooster and Wittenberg due up before the calendar turns.

Oberlin College (9-7, 3-4 NCAC)

The squirrely Yeomen from Oberlin have graduated from perennial thorns in the side of conference leaders to semi-legitimate threats to the general conference hierarchy. Their initial punches at the top teams have fallen barely short, losing by a combined 14 points in three games to Witt, Bash, and Denison. They hold an intimidating 38% 3PT percentage in conference matchups while being top three in points, FT% and FG% as well. They will be fun to watch down the stretch.

Ohio Wesleyan University (6-10, 3-4 NCAC)

The Battling Bishops are another up-and-down sort of team. They began the season with pitiful nonconference results before being blown out in the opener by Wooster. After what started out as a seemingly lost season, they've been grasping for relevance picking up home vs. Wabash and DePauw. However, with only one win on the road this year, they will likely only cause trouble when teams visit them, which means that their long-term outlook is not particularly hopeful.

Kenyon College (4-12, 2-5 NCAC)

As the likely eight seed for the conference tournament, Kenyon seems to be primed for an Oberlin type role this season. Denison and Wittenberg have narrowly avoided upsets in recent weeks, and DePauw has already seen the L tally increase in Kenyon. With that, they've been blown out by Wabash and Wooster while barely beating the likes of Hiram. They might pick up three conference wins if they're lucky, and I wouldn't feel comfortable facing them in February with seeding on the line.

Hiram College (2-14, 0-7 NCAC)

I don't know if Hiram is good at anything, but they usually aren't this bad. They've had two winning seasons since 2015 and only have one conference tournament win in that same time frame. Over ten years ago they were roughly a .500 team, but they might be lucky to steal one win this season. If there's any hope it lies in the fact that they have an extremely young team with zero seniors in the starting lineup. Fortunately for you and I, it leaves plenty of room for many jokes in future editions.