

College prepares for final Admitted Students Weekend

With over 135 signups, fraternities aim to fill out next classes

OWEN VERMEULEN '28
STAFF WRITER

As college recruitment across the country reaches a fever pitch, Wabash is set to host its fourth and final recruitment weekend. Admitted Students Weekend II is the final opportunity prospective students have to visit Wabash and take part in the rush process before coming to campus in the fall.

Admitted Students Weekend II is the culmination of months of work from the college admissions staff and two previous recruitment weekends. This weekend is an important time for fraternities trying to build on their rush numbers and admissions who are trying to finalize the class of 2029.

History has shown that a successful Admitted Students Weekend correlates heavily with a successful recruitment overall — making this weekend crucial for the admissions team.

“We get guys that are in their last steps in defining what college they want to go to,” said Assistant Director of Admissions Corey Taylor '24. “A lot of the guys come to Admitted Students [Weekend] are really serious about Wabash. We're at around 225 deposits and we have 135 currently signed up to come for this weekend.”

This weekend is the College's best opportunity to build out the class of 2029. The admissions staff is looking to knock down the dominos that they've been setting up over the past few months. Not only this, but fraternities are looking to make one last big push for rush before heading into the summer.

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Pre-election survey trends show defining factor

See Page 4 for more!



Dueling opinions: Presidential candidates

See Page 5 for more!



ELECTION SPECIAL REPORT

PHOTOS BY JAMES WALLACE '26

News around the world

EVAN BAKER '27
STAFF WRITER

South Africa
Ahead of the Global AI Summit on Africa, Cassava Technologies, a Zimbabwean tech firm founded by telecoms billionaire Strive Masiyiwa recently announced a partnership with the world's leading AI hardware and software manufacturer Nvidia Corporation. This \$720 million dollar partnership plans to construct the first AI factory within continental Africa, deploying an estimated 30,000 graphic processing units (GPUs) manufactured by Nvidia in the Cassava data centers in Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa as early as this coming June. Shortly after, the AI revolution is set to expand operations into Morocco, Egypt, Kenya and Nigeria.

Before the investment, Africa as a whole has been lacking in the emerging AI industry, in part due to their lack of processing power. According to Zindi, of Africa's largest community of an estimated 80,000 data scientists, just 5% of Africa's AI users have access to the processing power necessary to keep up with the research and innovation seen around the world. Not only will the partnership bring the revolutionized computational power of AI to all ends of Africa, but they will be key actors in bridging the gap between African technological development with the rest of the world.



COURTESY OF CASSAVA TECHNOLOGIES
Employees of Cassava Technologies pose for a picture after securing a \$50 million investment from C5 in 2022.

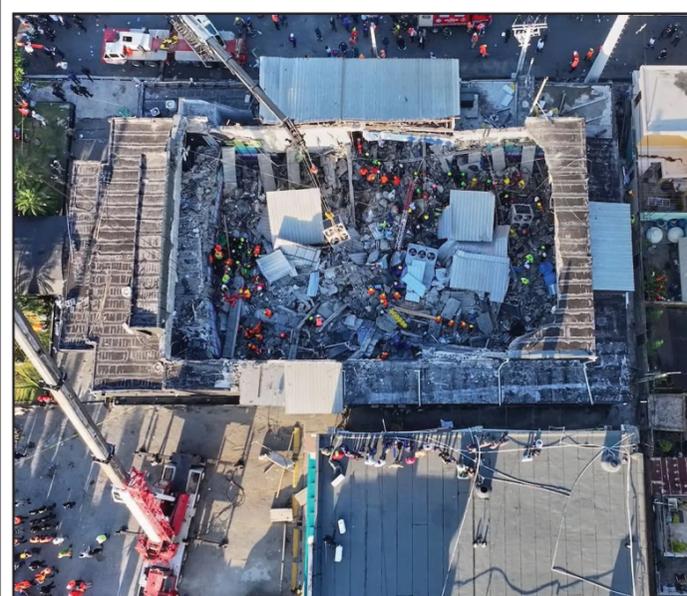
United Kingdom

This past February, Grace and Angus Davidson, a couple in northern London, became the first couple in the history of the United Kingdom to birth a child using a donor womb. This child titled the “miracle baby girl” is the first born of two children planned to be birthed using a uterus donated from Davidson's sister. According to the transplant surgeons at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford, the uterus transplant in Davidson was a success and the baby appears to be healthy.

For patients like Davidson who were born without or with underdeveloped uterus but with healthy ovaries, this groundbreaking procedure can prove to be a viable option to give mothers a second chance at child birth. Since the first successful child born from a uterus transplant in Sweden in 2014, 135 transplants similar to Davidson's have been completed and an estimated 65 children have been born. The lead utero transplant surgeon for Davidson at Churchill hospital, Isabel Quiroga, has stated that the transplant can be dangerous for both the donor and the recipient of the uterus. However, she maintained that the chance at childbirth is both “life-enhancing” and “life-creating” and that “you can't have better than that.”

Dominican Republic

Over 124 people have died after a nightclub roof collapsed in the early hours of April 8. Over 100 calls immediately poured in as dust began raining from the ceiling before the roof eventually fell minutes later. Rescue operations are underway as the Dominican Navy and special rescue teams have been enlisted to sort through the wreckage. Former Major League Baseball (MLB) pitcher Octavio Dotel — who previously held the record for pitching for 13 different teams — was one of two former MLB players to die in the collapse. The cause of the collapse is unknown at this time.



COURTESY OF ABC

Rescue workers search for survivors at the Jet Set nightclub after its roof collapsed during a merengue concert on April 8, 2025, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Dean for Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions Chip Timmons '96 speaks with a prospective admitted student and their family during the first Admitted Students Weekend on March 21, 2025.

“The focus becomes less on rushing Wabash and more on rushing each individual fraternity,” said Tau Kappa Epsilon Rush Chairman Jack Bohrer '26. “Having a strong Greek system is good for everyone on campus. Admissions wants us to rush as many people as possible

like we've been doing,” said Taylor. “That's a testament to the fraternities, the independent guys, the coaches, athletes, professors and everyone on campus for helping out. It's a group effort at Wabash. We always say that it's not just the office, it's everyone on campus.”

sold by the student body. The last two recruitment weekends have been tied with large-scale events like National Act and finals. This time, the students will have a little more free time on campus across the board. Hopefully, we'll get more guys involved and help lock down those last few holdouts.”

When prospective students arrive on campus, they will have plenty to do. Fraternity rush, Backyard Bash and time to explore campus will provide a clear look at what students can expect from their four years in Crawfordsville.

“We've had a lot of turnout and we're just keeping the ball rolling like we've been doing. That's a testament to the fraternities, the independent guys, the coaches, athletes, professors and everyone on campus for helping out. It's a group effort at Wabash.”

- Assistant Director of Admissions Corey Taylor '24

because it frees up beds and allows them to admit more students.”

While the common narrative may indicate that the admissions team is wholly responsible for recruitment, this couldn't be farther from the truth.

“We've had a lot of turnout and we're just keeping the ball rolling

Recruitment being a communal process is definitely a sentiment that is reciprocated across campus. This sense of responsibility is felt from the student perspective when discussing recruitment.

“Admissions doesn't sell this college — never has, never will,” said Bohrer. “This school will always be

Wabash students learn alongside inmates in innovative new course

SAM BENEDICT '25
SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When most Wabash students hear a line from Aristotle, they picture themselves walking the creaky stairs of Center Hall. What does it mean to “live well” and how can we achieve that life? To answer this question and others like it, Associate Professor of Political Science Lorraine McCrary decided that her class would leave the confines of Center Hall and travel to the Putnamville County Correctional Center.

McCrary’s course “Political Science 230: Freedom, Virtue and Politics” partnered with the Putnamville County Correctional Facility to combine Wabash students with a group of incarcerated individuals to form one class population. The course focuses on Aristotelian ethics and leverages selected readings, small group discussion and the diverse range of perspectives in the class to tackle difficult topics.

“I would say that the community-building aspect has been easy,” said McCrary. “I think that’s almost entirely due to the Putnamville students. They came in, they’re relaxed, they’re friendly, they’re joking. When they come into the room, they might greet each person in the room. There’s this real sense of, ‘We’re glad to be together. We’re happy.’”

The course was inspired by a program at Villanova, where McCrary taught before coming to the College. McCrary was never able to take part in the program, but wanted to find a way to incorporate that sort of an experience at Wabash. The course is taught on Tuesday and Thursday with Wabash students traveling to the Putnamville County Correctional Facility every Tuesday.

“[The course] is absolutely changing the way I see education



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUTNAMVILLE COUNTY CORRECTIONAL CENTER

Wabash students, including Blake Discher '26 and Will Medendorp '26 (pictured above), and incarcerated students from Putnamville County Correctional Center in Greencastle, Indiana. The Wabash and Putnamville students met once a week for two hours to discuss Aristotelian ethics as a group.

and the way I see myself as a professor,” said McCrary. “I hear my Wabash students say, ‘I feel responsible to do the reading because I owe it to the class.’ That’s amazing. The Putnamville students take Aristotle’s ethics, and they constantly apply it to their lives. I think, as far as I’m concerned, this gives a model for the Wabash students. This gives a model for me as a teacher.”

The course interested students for a variety of reasons, but many saw it as an opportunity to break down barriers that exist between incarcerated individuals and non-incarcerated individuals.

“I’ve had past experiences hearing about the prison system and how messed up it is, because my dad has worked with a couple of

ex-convicts before,” said Silas Mills '27, a student in the class. “Growing up, I got to talk to a lot of guys from that kind of past, and I was fortunate because my perspective of those guys wasn’t always just as convicts. They were guys who made mistakes. I wanted to see what it would look like from the inside.”

To a greater extent than any other course offering at Wabash, students have been immersed in a diverse environment that has forced them to develop well-rounded perspectives. The impact has been profound on both the Wabash students participating as well as the incarcerated students.

“[The Putnamville students] wrote us letters for this lunch talk and the letters basically said that

Wabash students coming to Putnamville gives them hope, and it gives them a way to freely express themselves in such a place of hostility,” said Nick Sommers '27, a student in the class. “We benefit from the same token in that this is a very diverse group of people — every religious background, all skin colors, all socioeconomic backgrounds. I think the experience is really helping us create our ideas of what public defense and criminal justice should be.”

Once the course concludes in the coming weeks, the students will no longer be immersed in the unique environment, but the lessons they learned will remain with them.

“The incarcerated students inspired me to be more critical of readings,” said Sommers. “I’m

in PPE (Politics, Philosophy and Economics) 200 right now, and I critique many of the readings. I probably wouldn’t have done that before this class, but because they made me feel comfortable doing it at prison, I can bring it back here [Wabash] and feel like I can freely express myself.”

McCrary hopes to continue the partnership with the Putnamville County Correctional Center and has plans to offer a similar experiential course next year that focuses on disability.

“I want to continue connecting the classroom with the world outside, bringing different people together and learning together by sharing common goals,” said McCrary.

Reamey '77 takes the ‘Hard Road’ to Broadway

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25
MANAGING EDITOR

What do you do after retiring as a senior partner with Edward Jones and co-founding a music publishing company in Nashville? If your name is Gary Reamey '77, you produce a Broadway musical, of course.

In the small Bucks County Playhouse, 90 minutes south of New York, “Hard Road to Heaven” made its world premiere last month, marking just another step in the journey to New York City.

It’s a hard road to heaven, and as it turns out, a hard road to Broadway as well.

Way back in 1983, when Dolly and Kenny were islands in the stream and Reba couldn’t even get the blues, Carnegie Mellon-educated David Spangler and country music songwriter Jerry Taylor were working on a new musical — one that aimed to blend the stories and sounds of Broadway and Nashville.

Decades after funding for the show had dried up and original co-writer Jerry Taylor passed away, Spangler had assembled a new team, consisting of Nashville songwriter Marty Dodson and playwright Willy Holtzman.

By that time in 2014 — after taking early retirement from running Edward Jones’ Canadian operations — Reamey and his wife, Joanne, had just founded SNG Music on Nashville’s Music Row.

“They asked if Joanne and I would like to produce the show,” Reamey said. “We said yes.”

Though adept at running an international investment firm and producing music in Nashville, the theater world sang to a different tune.

“I started going to New York City regularly to attend classes to learn how to be a producer,” Reamey said. “At one point in time, I was sitting in a small group with Lin Manuel Miranda as he talked through the ups and downs of producing and things he learned doing ‘Hamilton.’”

“Hard Road to Heaven” tells the story of three generations of female singer-songwriters. The show’s leading lady Jenny — played by Jackie Burns, Broadway’s longest-running Elphaba — sets out from her small southern town to make it big in the male-dominated Nashville music scene, where her good morals come in conflict with the glitz and sleaze of life on the road. In the midst of the chaos, secrets come out, feelings are hurt and the family’s bond is tested.

“In the end she realizes that money and fame don’t make her happy,” Reamey said. “What makes her happy is being in control of her own destiny and being with the people she loves.”

As a husband, father of five and grandfather of four, keeping family at the heart of the story was key for Reamey.

“Jenny’s story is important because every woman has, or will deal with many of these same business and family issues,” he said. “Her story shows that happiness is possible for all of us.”

The core of the show has remained unchanged for the last

40-some-odd years, but the words and songs within have been constantly edited and improved to tell the best story possible.

In December of 2023, Reamey and the “Hard Road” team assembled in the Big Apple to workshop the script. Crammed into a little studio space on 44th Street, Director Jackson Gay and a crew of actors and musicians — many of whom reprised their role this March — read lines, sang songs and discussed the message and trajectory of the musical. At the end of the week-long process, they held a showcase which the Reameys, as producers, used to promote the show to potential venues around the country.

Bucks County Playhouse answered the call. A barn-shaped diamond hidden in the sleepy town of New Hope, PA, “America’s Most Famous Summer Theater” added “Hard Road to Heaven” as its seventh world premiere since the playhouse reopened in 2012.

For three weeks in the month of March, more than 7,000 people poured into Bucks County to see the show, including a large cohort of Reamey’s Wabash family. President and First Lady Scott and Wendy Feller, Dean for College Advancement Michelle Janssen, Kip Chase '03 and Dan Couch '89 all made the 700-mile trip to support Gary and Joanne’s efforts.

The show the group saw in Bucks County, however, is not its final form.

“Even though we got standing ovations every night, the show is only about 85% ready for Broadway,” Reamey said. “The purpose of this out-of-town tryout was to get us closer to Broadway-ready.”

With survey results collected during the show’s run, the creative team will keep making changes before the show goes back to New York for its Off-Broadway debut.

“Each step along the way gets more expensive,” Reamey said. “Out-of-town tryouts can run \$600,000–\$2,000,000, Off-Broadway productions can run \$3–\$5 million and a Broadway production for a musical of our type can run \$12–\$15 million, so it’s better to learn as much as you can before you get to Broadway.”

“In general it takes about 10 years to get a show to Broadway,” he said. “We’re on track for that.”

After all the years of investment, it looks like a payday could be coming soon, but it was never about the

money for the Reameys.

“To produce a show, you have to love theater,” he said. “Joanne and I started SNG Music with the mission to use country music to entertain the world. This musical is an extension of that mission.”

After an Off-Broadway production, the show hopes to head to the Great White Way, and if it’s successful there, a U.S. tour could be in its future. Before too long, “Hard Road to Heaven” might even be playing in a theater near you.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LOGAN WEILBAKER '25

(L to R) David Spangler, Marty Dodson, Logan Weilbaker '25, Jackson Gay, Gary Reamey '77 and Willie Holtzman pose for a picture during the New York City workshop on December 2, 2023 at Sunlight Studios.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF TIMES SQUARE CHRONICLES

(L to R) Leah Hocking (Linnell), Jackie Burns (Jenny) and J. Robert Spencer (Hank) perform in the closing number of “Hard Road to Heaven” at Bucks County Playhouse.

Review: 'A Minecraft Movie'

A great 'release'

BEN WALLACE '25
STAFF WRITER

Where do I even begin with a movie like this? It's dominating the box office, bringing people together, and ... reviving cinema? It's far beyond even a simple Wally rating. I had one of the best times I've ever had at the theater watching this. It was so absurd, so over-the-top, that I couldn't stop laughing, and neither could anyone else in the theater.

Jack Black does an amazing job in this film and delivers exactly what was needed for this movie. He essentially just states Minecraft items for 1 hour and 40 minutes, and it is perfect. If you've been online recently, you've probably seen the memes. This movie is already insanely quotable. People in the audience were actually clapping at iconic lines from the trailer like "Chicken Jockey" and "The Nether." I'll admit it, I joined in the hooting and hollering. I've been way too deep in the Minecraft meme trenches not to. However, you will be disappointed to hear that he doesn't repeat the sayings once sped up and once slowed down for extra comedic effect. I know, I was disappointed too.

Aside from the countless memes this movie has spawned, it's actually ... really bad. The plot is painfully weak. It is basically a watered-down, oversimplified version of "The Avengers." Any time the characters were in the real world, it felt like a total slog. It was boring, and I kept waiting for them to hurry up and get to the Minecraft realm already. The dialogue was rough, and some of the side characters delivered some pretty questionable performances.

That said, I didn't exactly go into "A Minecraft Movie" expecting groundbreaking cinema. I wasn't looking for Oscar-worthy storytelling, but the one thing I did hope for, and what ultimately let me down, was the lack of lore accuracy and the missed opportunity for more nostalgic callbacks. As someone who grew up crafting, I wanted more from that angle.

When I heard this was going to be a musical, I got my hopes up. I was dreaming of maybe a nod to "Fallen Kingdom" or "Don't Mine at Night." Sure, those might be a stretch, but even some more actual mining and crafting would've gone a long way. Instead of actual Minecraft gameplay, it was more of a random wild goose chase they went on. Still, I'll give them credit where it's due; the Technoblade reference was a genuinely heartfelt moment, and I really appreciated that.

I'm not a movie critic, and I'm not here to break this film down by its technical flaws. Instead, I'm judging it based on one simple thing: how much fun I had. And I had a blast.

Sometimes, movies aren't about creating great stories or changing your view on life. Sometimes they're about the energy in the room, the shared laughs and the feeling of just enjoying something ridiculous with a crowd.

I'm confident that years from now, I'll look back on this theater experience with the same kind of fondness I have for watching "Infinity War" or "Endgame" on opening night. Not because "A Minecraft Movie" is on the same level as those in quality, but because of the vibes. The pure, chaotic joy of it all. If you can, I highly recommend seeing this in theaters while the crowds are still big, loud and fully embracing the chaos.

**FINAL VERDICT:
5/5 WALLYS**

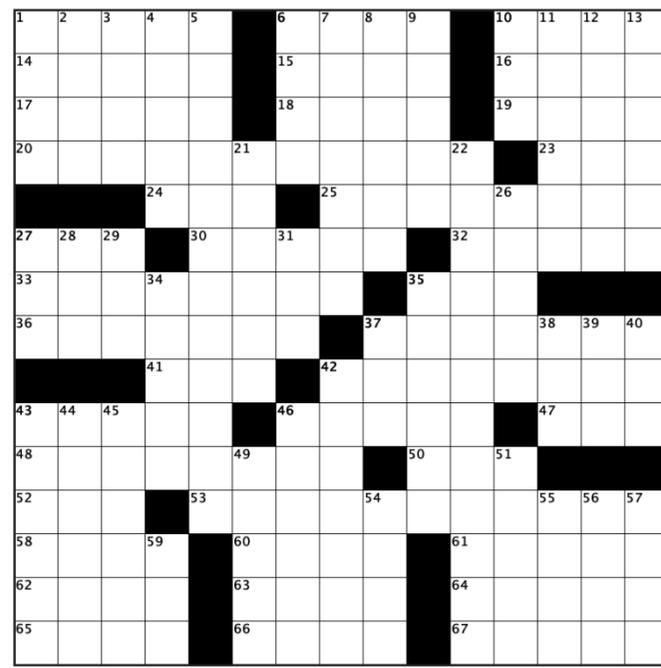


'Themeless #8'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

ACROSS

1. Like many a crossword solver
6. GI's meal
10. Yonder
14. Crayon choice
15. Islamic community
16. Nil, in a different sport
17. First word in "Kokomo"
18. Nice thing to feel
19. Hoard
20. Take to the streets for a cause
23. 23andMe material
24. "Wowwww..."
25. Subject of some delusions
27. Cockpit datum: Abbr.
30. Does clerical work
32. Added to the staff
33. Bespoke
35. Greek prefix meaning "all"
36. Many quoted in news articles
37. Like cheap drugs
41. Trans ____
42. What a carrier carries
43. Unlike chickens?
46. Bowling unit
47. Some workstations: Abbr.
48. Benchwarmers
50. Texter's "If you ask me..."
52. Break fast
53. Bypassed
58. An IEP may help a student with this
60. Skeleton part
61. Emotionally demanding
62. Highway hauler
63. Smallest of the Great Lakes
64. Wall Street transaction
65. "Shut yer ____!"
66. Quarterback's setback
67. Lech of lore



DOWN

1. Whole bunch
2. And then some
3. Reunion attendee
4. "I, ____" (2004 film)
5. Convertibles?
6. Got to
7. Left the cocoon
8. Some Super PAC ads
9. North Pole VIP
10. Ice Bucket Challenge initials
11. Desktop icon with a tab
12. Park in Manhattan, e.g.
13. Payoff
21. Maxis and minis
22. Mods
26. Setting of Hopper's "Nighthawks"
27. Had a meal
28. "Party in the U.S.A." airport
29. "Buy low, sell high," for one
31. Guitar innovator ____ Paul
34. Sabbatical, e.g.
35. Let
37. "Palo Alto" (2013) director Coppola
38. Genre for Eazy-E and Heavy D
39. Campus Greek org.
40. Pennis, for short
42. Element of many murder mysteries?
43. White meat source
44. Bibliophile
45. It will take your breath away
46. Vewy stywish hat?
49. Things one might "pick up"
51. "Carmen" or "Aida"
54. Last word of a children's game
55. Marsh growth
56. Bathtub swirl
57. Easter egg decorator
59. Party bowlful



Scan for solution!

Ralph is ready to rock... Mother style

SAM BENEDICT '25
SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the year comes to a close, a group of Wabash students is asking everyone to do one thing — get weird. So far, you've seen the brother. This spring, you get the mother.

Ralph's Mother, a student-organized concert that first took place in the 1960s before disappearing until last year, will take place on April 12 beginning at 3 p.m. at the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. Musical performances will begin at 5 p.m. with the event lasting well into the night.

"When [James] Szalkie '25 [a member of the Ralph's Brother Committee within the Sphinx Club] and I were digging through archival pieces, it was literally just weird stuff going on for the students — by the students — and recognizing that we are such a unique and wacky institution," said Matt Lepper '25 a member of the Ralph's Brother Committee within the Sphinx Club. "Why not embrace it and put it on display?"

The event will feature four student musical acts — Loosey Goosey Experience, Los Pequeños Gigantes, Wally's Creek and the Wabash Association of Musicians. Throughout the event, students can expect a few surprises and are encouraged to "get weird."

"Get out of your comfort zone and find out what's hiding out there from you," said Szalkie. "It's supposed to be a weird event. It's a little different, and people are doing things you didn't even realize they could, and maybe find some of that in yourself. Let's let loose and have a good time."

Last year, the committee's

WABASH COLLEGE SPHINX CLUB PRESENTS

RALPH'S MOTHER

@ PHI KAPPA PSI

3:00 -- 5:30	DARTY
5:30 -- 6:30	LOOSEY GOOSEY EXPERIENCE
6:30 -- 7:00	LOS PEQUEÑOS GIGANTES
7:00 -- 8:00	WALLY'S CREEK
8:00 -- 9:00	WAM

POWERED BY RED BULL

APRIL 12

first revival of the event was a success — with student bands performing, strong attendance and an audience that bought into the weirdness. This past fall, another iteration was held and saw a dip in crowd retention from start to finish. The committee's goal for Ralph's Mother has been to increase the retention rate of audience members by partnering with other organizations for a large-scale event and making sure that the musical performances bring the energy. Red Bull will be "powering" the event and the Brewing Society will also be in attendance.

"My approach to this semester has been to take advantage of opportunities that I might never have again," said Noah McRoberts '25, a performing member of the Loosey Goosey Experience. "Participating in this legendary Wabash tradition by jamming with my Wabash brothers is something I'll be telling stories about for a long time."

Paint your nails, wear that weird jacket and get weird on April 12. Ralph's Mother hasn't appeared at Wabash for over half a century, so don't miss your chance.

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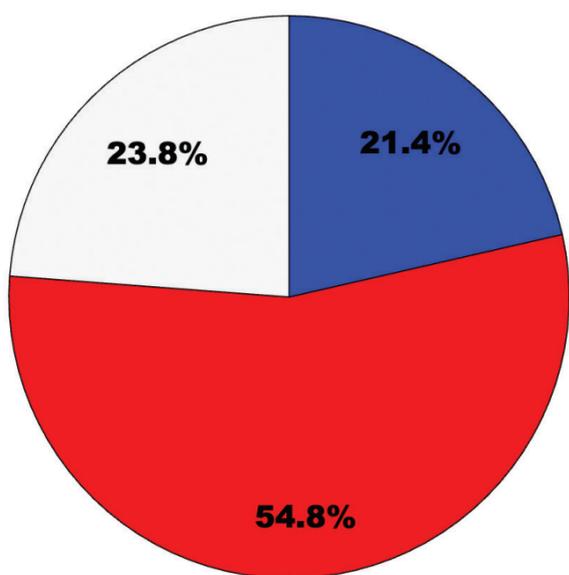
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STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

A look at the metrics: Pre-election survey trends show defining factor

Which candidate are you voting for?

- McDonald Ticket
- Pickett Ticket
- Undecided



JAMES WALLACE '26
JUNIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In a pre-election survey sent out to the Wabash voting body (current freshmen, sophomores and juniors), prospective voters were quizzed on various topics as well as asked who they planned to vote for. The trends in the responses are telling.

If the survey accurately represents the views of the voting members of the student body, Austin Pickett '26 and his cabinet already have the election won. 54.8% of respondents identified Pickett as their decided candidate in the survey, which closed on April 9, exactly a week before the final day of voting on April 16. This means that while 23.8% of voters are still undecided, Derek McDonald '27 and his cabinet will be fighting an uphill battle that necessitates the flipping of decided Pickett voters.

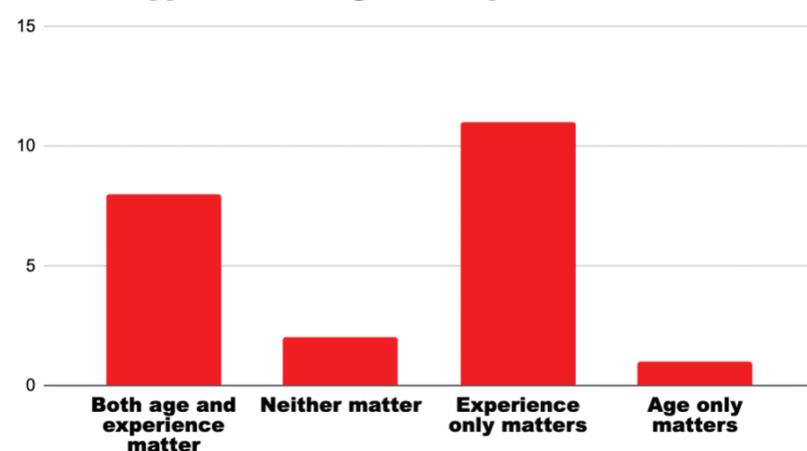
The position of student body president has historically been held by a rising senior, making McDonald's run at the position unorthodox. Both age and experience are playing an important role in prospective

voters decision-making, and the differences in Pickett and McDonald supporters is definite.

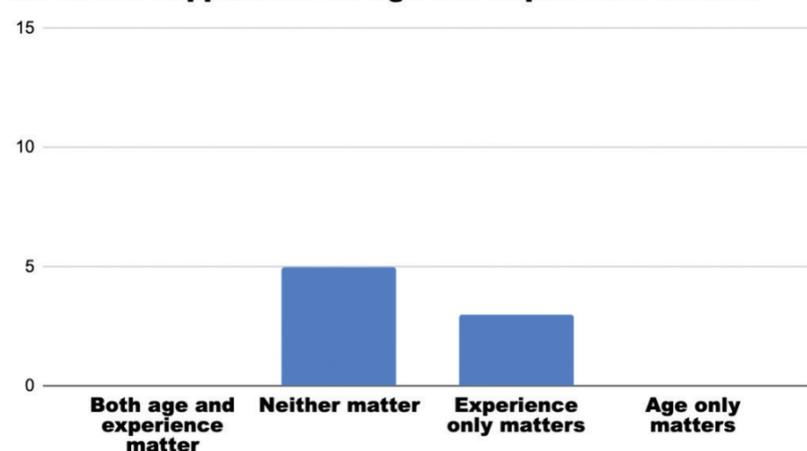
In fact, about 36% of Pickett supporters said that both age and experience matter and 50% said only experience matters. On the other hand, none of McDonald's supporters said that age or experience both mattered, or that only age mattered. 63% of McDonald's supporters said that neither mattered and 37% said that neither age or experience mattered.

So while Pickett, as a rising senior, may be in a position to feel confident in his campaign, McDonald will have to work hard to convince undecided voters to put their faith in him and may have to flip some Pickett supporters — supporters who by and large believe that age or experience plays a big factor in the candidate they choose. Voting begins on April 14 and will conclude on April 16, with the winner of the race being announced on April 17.

Pickett supporters: Do age and experience matter?



McDonald supporters: Do age and experience matter?



Who's who: A breakdown of each ticket's cabinet

Pickett ticket

President: Austin Pickett '26

- Three years of experience in Student Senate — two years as a senator (2022-2024) and one year on the Supreme Court (2024-Present)
- Brother of Phi Delta Theta

Vice President: Ayden Salpietra '27

- Member of Football Team
- Brother of Delta Tau Delta

Treasurer: Declan Chhay-Vickers '26

- Treasurer of the National Act Committee (2024-Present), Treasurer of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (2023-Present), Vice President of the Investment Banking Association (2023-2024)
- Independent

Secretary: Hugh Ford '28

- Freshman class senator and Lambda Chi Alpha DEI Chair
- Brother of Lambda Chi Alpha

McDonald ticket

President: Derek McDonald '27

- Chairman of the Mental Health Concerns Committee (2024-Present)
- Brother of Theta Delta Chi

Vice President: Zeph Johnson '26

- Member of Wabash Christian Men and Football Team
- Independent

Treasurer: Chris Board '27

- Co-Chairman of the DEI Committee and Treasurer of 'shOUT (2024-Present)
- Brother of Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI)

Secretary: Eli Arnold '26

- Student Class Representative (2023-Present) and Mental Health Concerns Committee Member (2023-2024)
- Brother of Lambda Chi Alpha

A call to senators, the cabinet and the student body



Ben Cody '26

Former Chairman of Student Senate

Reply to this opinion at bpcody26@wabash.edu

My first two and a half years at this place were spent, in some form or another, in the Student Senate. In that time, I've watched as the conversations that take place in the Goodrich Room grow and shrink. I think there's a reason behind this. And I think that reason is incredibly dumb. In my mind, conversation in senate stems from the cabinet. If the cabinet is actively speaking (outside of when the treasurer goes over his AFC recommendations), then senators and committee

chairmen tend to speak up as well. If the cabinet sits silently, so will the senators.

I think that this is a horrible practice that the senate has fallen into. Let's be honest with ourselves: The senate is the most powerful organization on campus and has the capacity to do some awesome things. In recognizing that, we also have to recognize that it is the senators, not the cabinet, that make the senate work. When there is discussion on the matter in front of the senate, it is the job of the senators to probe the cabinet, each other, the committee chairmen and the court. Sadly, however, I see the men in the room with their faces turned down into their computers doing homework or whatever else has their attention at that time. Senate is not a time to do homework. It is a time to conduct the business of the student body. Everyone in the room took an oath, and I've seen a disturbing and unfortunate trend of those oaths not being upheld. So I challenge our senators

and committee chairmen: wake up. Close your computer while senate is convened, share your thoughts and push each other. The senate can only grow and accomplish its purpose when every member of the room is actively engaged with the issues at hand.

I also challenge our future cabinet: Push the senators and committees. Change the status quo of senate. Don't let the meetings be a measly 15 minutes of awkward silence. Force those men in that room to give their thoughts on whatever issue confronts the room that night. You yourselves should also have your computers closed and only open them when an item needs to be addressed. Give your full attention to the room, and it will give you its full attention back. While it should not be your responsibility to make everyone in the room give their attention to you and the issues of the student body, it is still your responsibility to lead the group, because that is what you will have been elected to do. It is

what you will take an oath to do.

And lastly, I call on the student body. I understand how these elections can feel trivial. Some may think: "Well I've never even been to a senate meeting. What's it matter to me?"

It matters to you because it is just as much of your responsibility to hold your representatives and cabinet to account as it is for the senators and cabinet to hold each other in check. So, vote for the cabinet that will breathe life into the senate. The cabinet that can revitalize the senate, and turn it back into what it should be, is the cabinet that will make this campus better than it was before. The senate runs this campus, and it's our duty to make sure that it's done correctly. We owe it to those that came before us and to those that are coming after to set a standard of devotion and attentiveness in that room.

ELECTION SPECIAL REPORT

A year in review: The Donahue '25 presidency

TY MURPHY '27
FEATURES EDITOR

It's election time at Wabash College, and as the new student senate race heats up, another cabinet's time at the helm is coming to an end. Student Body President Anthony Donahue '25 and Student Body Vice President Jonah Billups '25 took over the senate after a highly followed election. Let's take a look back at their tenure.

"Last year, we ended with a surplus of around \$25,000 in unspent money, and this year, we'll hopefully be below \$10,000," said Billups. "One thing we wanted was to have more events on campus and a lot more things going on. We've seen that reflected in how much money we have left at the end of the year. From that standpoint, it's been pretty solid."

"A lot of people are going to have a lot of different opinions on the things they do, good or bad. You just can't really listen to it too much. Anything you do is going to get some form of criticism."

- Student Body Vice President
Jonah Billups '25

The cabinet wanted to bring back brotherhood on campus. Being strict with the budget and trying not to have a large surplus was the first step, but it was more than that — it was about giving Wabash students events to show up to. One major way they did that was by working with students and organizations.

"There have been a lot of events and in-house activities that we've looked for with groups like the DJ Club, the Loosey Goosey Experience and Jeremiah Clayton," said Donahue. "They get to showcase their talents to supportive people, and we get to use them for entertainment. It's a mutually beneficial thing, and it's good that we're taking advantage of the talent we have on campus."



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Student Body Vice President Jonah Billups '25 (left) and Student Body President Anthony Donahue '25 (right) listen to members of the Student Senate talk during a meeting on August 26, 2024, in the Goodrich Room in Lilly Library.

Along with more efficient student senate meetings, the cabinet pursued its goals for the school year. But that didn't mean there weren't any challenges along the way.

"There's a small group of people that want to do things, and those people are probably in the Student Senate," said Donahue. "If we could have leveraged the people who actually wanted to be involved more, instead of those who just wanted to build their résumés, I think we could have had more productive events."

Of course, with any student senate cabinet, not everyone agreed with every decision, and the team faced its share of criticism.

"A lot of people are going to have a lot of different opinions on the things we do, good or bad," said Billups. "You just can't really listen to it too much. Anything you do is going to get some form of criticism, and you have to learn how to take it."

But that didn't prevent them from doing what they needed to do. During their tenure, they held multiple events for the campus, from casino nights to live bands at the Chapel. But it was more than just the events they held — it was also their impact on Senate culture.

"It's been fun. Donahue and Billups bring a fun attitude to the Senate that I think sometimes gets lost," said Student Senate Chairman Zach Geleott '27. "The

Senate can be a pretty serious thing. We talk about pretty serious topics, and something I look forward to at every meeting is sitting next to them and talking with them before and after meetings because they make it fun."

As elections approach, students should watch for emails from candidates or the Student Senate to ensure they are informed before casting their votes.

Dueling opinions: Presidential candidates

Pickett '26: Education and excellence through experience

McDonald '27: Inclusivity, vocality and accountability

Throughout my three years at Wabash, I have been fortunate enough to be a member of the Student Senate in each of those years and have come to understand that the Student Senate is and needs to be more than just a place where people gather to discuss how we allocate our budget to put on campus events. Instead, it needs to be a place where we discuss the issues and changes that we wish to see on campus so that the elected cabinet can advocate on behalf of all students on campus to our administration and be the catalyst of change.

This is what we hope to bring to the table. We want to strengthen the Wabash brotherhood, community and inclusivity by breaking up the small, medium and large events across both semesters that the clubs and organizations that we fund put on so that every weekend that is an event going on at Wabash that will want to get people out of their rooms and active with their brothers. We plan on working with our committees, clubs and organizations to work to bring new events to campus that might appeal to a broader range of individuals so that there are events for everyone, whether that is musical artists, paintballing, a video game tournament, a cultural fair or anything else the student body wishes to see.

We also want to bring accountability and transparency into the Senate so everyone knows what we are deciding and can have their input. We plan on doing this by having weekly posts of the Senate schedule to let people know when committees are meeting, as well as working with clubs to post a weekly schedule of the events they are hosting on campus and linking to their Instagram pages so that everyone can learn more about the events. We plan on posting all the Senate notes so that everybody can see what was discussed in the Senate and learn how we plan to address the issues brought up to us.

Finally, we plan on having a feedback box in the library and every month going to each of the living units on campus to talk to each of you who is interested in figuring out what you have enjoyed, what we need to do better and to address any questions and concerns you have so that we can be the best advocates for you and the changes



PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26

Student Body President candidates Austin Pickett '26 (left) and Derek McDonald '27 (right) speak during the Student Senate Candidate Forum on April 8, 2025, in Baxter Hall Room 101.

you hope to see on campus by expressing your wants and needs to the faculty, administration and alumni.

I also hope to use my connections in the Mayor's Office to foster a better connection with the Crawfordsville community by making some of our events available for the Crawfordsville community so that they can learn more about Wabash and what makes it special, but also advertising events happening in Crawfordsville to allow for better integration into the Crawfordsville community in our strives to make not just Wabash feel more like home, but Crawfordsville also.

This cabinet feels that it is our duty to serve you all faithfully and loyally by being your biggest advocates across campus and ensuring that there are always events on campus to attend that can appeal to everyone's liking. We hope to provide you with educational opportunities and excellence through experience and be the advocates and public servants that you all deserve to effectuate the changes so that we can mold Wabash into what we want it to be for us all.

Our cabinet is a dedicated group of individuals who aspire to make the Student Senate more inclusive, vocal and accountable. We are a cabinet for the people. Just as the Student Senate is supposed to be a platform for the whole student body to be represented, we are focused on fostering an environment that hears and applies all voices.

Each one of our cabinet members has a unique perspective to offer to the Senate and the College as a whole. Our cabinet's main focuses include holding the committee chairman, the AFC and the executive board accountable to provide the best experience for all Wabash students, creating an inclusive environment and equal opportunities for all Wabash students through active engagement with the International Students Association, IMA, IFAC, MXI, etc. and shifting Student Senate back to its roots of giving a platform for the Wabash student body to discuss current issues and events that can be seen on campus or in the world that impact our everyday lives.

Our cabinet will build a bridge between Trustees, faculty and students so that

constant communication is being had and students' concerns are being voiced in a way that will have an impact. Our cabinet will build this bridge in a number of ways including showing up to all of the Trustee and NAWM meetings and bringing back the "Dean's President's Council" where all leaders of organizations across campus will gather with Dean Brown and be given a platform to voice their thoughts, opinions and concerns.

In terms of money allocation and events for the future, our cabinet and treasurer will use a system of confidence and accountable allocation to ensure that clubs are receiving fair funding. We will encourage early semesterly budget and layout events with dates to ensure that events are happening on campus as much as possible with the highest quality as possible. As the trend of excess funds continues throughout the past years, we hope to break this cycle by hosting more events of all sizes. There is so much potential to increase the amount of larger events and the occurrence of medium and smaller ones because as history has shown, we have the budget for it.

In a time of uncertainty with new Dean of Student Scott Brown, our cabinet is prepared to be vocal communicators to build a bridge of trust and competency so Wabash can continue to thrive and be the place that all of us fell in love with.

The McDonald-Johnson cabinet is a cabinet of dedicated individuals who want the best for Wabash College. We have great ideas in mind and hope to be able to act upon them in the 2025-2026 school year. We hope that we can foster an environment of vocality, inclusion, accountability and action on Campus! Wabash Always Fights and Wabash Always Thrives. Let's build a future together.

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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.

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

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Succulent savoriness at Sunoco



Jackson Leeper '25

Reply to this opinion at jcleeper25@wabash.edu

What up, bozos? It's your big boy, Jackson Leeper. I had to take a break last week as I had some really strange dreams. One was fighting Fuy Gieri and I was covered in barbecue sauce and pork ribs in another. It was really strange, and I have no idea where these dreams originated. Anywho, I got a review cooked up this week and it's gonna be a MONSTER.

The brothers of TKE had a faculty dinner a couple weeks back where the goat, Professor of Mathematics Chad Westphal, gave me a few suggestions. One was very peculiar, as it had a nationally ranked breaded pork tenderloin. Some of you may know what I'm talking about as this week's review is at Sunoco, the gas station. Yes, I was very skeptical when I heard this tip, so I did some further research on this place. It's nearby I-74 and Lafayette Road. Just on Google Maps, there are a crap ton of photos and reviews saying how great this place is. With this much hype, I brought on a big back companion and pledge brother, Jake Weber '25. With the stage set, let's get into the show.

I drove up and Weber noticed a sign about their critically acclaimed tenderloin. I was skeptical at the time, because I was walking into a frickin' gas station. However, I've had some great fried chicken from gas stations, so I can't dump on gas station food (except the trash sushi that's definitely old). Webs and I walked in and it was packed. There were locals and some Wabash gents too, which was perplexing. I looked around and saw two things that made me realize that this must be the real deal: a photographer from Indy Star and a picture of George W. Bush at this location. Remember that this is a gas station.

The menu is basically fried food: fried chicken, pork tenderloin, fries, onion rings and other greasy gluttonous foods. Most of the stuff cost between \$3-\$12 but you can get bulk orders of stuff (for max carnage). I walked up to a very nice lady

named Karen who took my order. I got the breaded tenderloin sandwich with just lettuce (it comes with a bunch of condiments and a garden salad), a corn dog and medium potato wedges. Weber got the sandwich as well but with all the fixins and a side of mac 'n' cheese. My meal cost \$20 and Weber's cost \$13. Our food took five minutes to make, which surprised me considering the amount of people and the type of cooking.

We sat down and dove right in. On first glance, the sandwich was huge, which is a good sign, since pork tenderloin needs to be comically large for the bun. I took a big bite and looked at Weber. We made eye-contact and laughed as we both knew that this is the best pork tenderloin we ever had. Great breading, pork was juicy and flavorful but not too fatty. It was cooked to perfection, no dryness whatsoever. I kept eating it and it was the same experience very time, no inconsistency with the sandwich. However, the crazy thing is that this sandwich is from A FRICKIN' GAS STATION. After wolfing it down, I moved onto the other items. The corndog was great as the batter was cooked beautifully. The ratio of bread to meat was perfect, meaning mostly hotdog. By the way, a corndog costs \$2 there.

I moved on to the potato wedges, which were a little disappointing. The breading was great, and it was seasoned, but they were undercooked, so I got lumps of uncooked potato. I was able to get a bite of mac 'n' cheese from Weber and that was very surprising too. Creamy, seasoned with spices, good noodles. Great mac 'n' cheese from a gas station is unheard of. After my partner and I "big backed," Karen came up and talked to us. During the conversation, we learned that everything is hand-breaded, hand-made, hand-fried. There is love and care put into this food.

After the lovely talk, I did some analysis. With the service, the food living up to the hype, the popularity that it gets and that it deserves, the great customer service, and with the reminder that it's in a gas station, I give Sunoco a 9.5/10 burbers (knowers will know), the highest score ever given from Leeper's Lunch. I NEED to go back and I will this weekend. I NEED to try everything and y'all NEED to go to this place. This gem is why Leeper's Lunch exists: finding sketchy places that are absolute treasures. Join me next week as I tackle another place!

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

BAPTIZED IN BOUTS

Hi-five to St. Peter's Anglican church in Shipley, UK, for hosting a six-man tag-team battle in the middle of their sanctuary. Does this mean that Beta will start holding mass sometime soon?

THE KEN FROM AKRON

Hi-five to LeBron James for getting his own, officially licensed LeBarbie doll. According to some reports, Ryan Gosling got a walk-on spot with the South Bay Lakers out of the deal.

INSERT SPARKS JOKE HERE

Lo-five to a New Jersey school janitor for deliberately contaminating student food with bleach, fecal matter and urine. No matter how bad things are, it's important to remember that it could be much worse.

FEDERAL FLOW FOR ALL

Hi-five to Donald Trump for signing an executive order targeting low-pressure shower heads. Now everyone's hair can be "perfect" and "gorgerous" like his.

FIGHT OVER FLIGHT

Hi-five to the ostrich who attacked former British PM Boris Johnson while he was at a zoo in Texas. In the bird's defense, His Excellency's head does look an awful lot like an egg with a nest on top.

Add music to your schedule!



Chris Board '27

Reply to this opinion at caboard27@wabash.edu

Wabash, I write this on the way to a MUS-206 field trip to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, accompanied by a complimentary dinner at Buca di Beppo. All of this could be yours too by adding music courses to your schedule! Not only can you land some pretty cool field trips and excursions, you might just find out you love

music more than you thought.

Although I am a double major with music so I may be a little biased, I have seen plenty of people try out music lessons or courses during their time at Wabash and find a fire ignited in them. People without musical experience who have taken Professor Ables' musicology and history courses have found themselves interested in how their favorite music is influenced by the patterns of the past. Professor Yun's theory courses provide a solid baseline of notation knowledge that could spark an interest in learning to read music. Dr. Hernández's musician-ship course and the Glee Club can provide excellent opportunities to travel to far away places and sing music you didn't even know existed. And finally,

Professor Abbott's courses on sound design and film show how modern films and programs create the technological music of today.

But if somehow none of those incredible courses fit your schedule, try out any one of the ensembles or music lessons Wabash has to offer! From the Glee Club to Jazz Band all the way to the orchestra and the mariachi, Wabash ensembles have such a wide variety of music to offer their instrumentalists. Music lessons are available for many instruments, and the best part is, they have flexible scheduling! You can work with your lesson instructor to find a time that fits any busy Wabash schedule.

This is not a paid advertisement to get more enrollment in music courses,

but rather an encouragement not to miss out on an opportunity that so many people have found a love for. I suggested guitar lessons to my second-semester-senior roommate, and he has loved rekindling his fire for playing music ever since. I find that so many people realize their love for music too late even though Wabash has the opportunities placed right in front of them. I heavily encourage you to check out the music course catalog to find what fits best for you. Whether that's history, notation, musicianship or the more intimate private lessons, the music department would be more than happy to see another student discover their love for music was with them all along.

Don Cole: A legacy in ink



Tanner Quackenbush '26

Reply to this opinion at tjquacke26@wabash.edu

Recently, I've been completely enamored by the history of our mascot, Wally Wabash. After seeing the beautiful, well-crafted paper mache head from the 1970s, I thought, "What came before this rendition? Who created Wally Wabash?"

All of us know Wally Wabash. He's that smiling, gung-ho guy with a letter sweater and an attitude that screams, "Bring it on." But fewer of us know the man who gave Wally his voice — his expression, charm, and ability to reflect what it means to be a Wabash man. That man was Don Cole. And what he created wasn't just a mascot — it was a mirror.

Don Cole '52 was the kind of student many of us aspire to be: Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude, first in comps. But even with all those academic accolades, he found time to pour himself into creativity. He found humor in the day-to-day. More importantly, he shared it with all of Wabash.

"Wabash is not an easy place." We say that all the time, and we mean it. But somehow, in the middle of all the chaos — the studying, the tradition, the intensity — there's always been room for laughter. For wit. For someone to step back and help us see it differently. That someone, for an entire generation, was Don Cole.

His early cartoons in *The Caveman* captured student life with such honesty that even now, more than 70 years later, they still feel authentic. You can look at one of his panels and think, "Yeah... that's still



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

Don Cole '52 designed the "Caveman" character during his time at Wabash. In a November 9th, 1956 issue of *The Bachelor* the character was given the name "Wally."

us." That's the power of someone who truly understood this place.

Then, right after graduation, the world called him elsewhere. Cole was drafted into the Army in 1952, and you'd think that would be the end of the cartooning chapter. But he didn't hang up his pencil. He took it with him and brought Wally (now cleverly redrawn as "MP Doody") along for the ride. What started as a side project became a major part of military police training. His illustrations were used in pamphlets and film strips, and his humor became a teaching tool.

That's what makes Don Cole's legacy special. It was not just the ink on paper or the laughs in the margins but also how he



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

Cole '52 inking a disguised Wally for the U.S. Army Military Police Journal. Pvt. Cole would often report back to the *Wabash Bulletin* throughout the 1950s with humorous comics.

lived out the Wabash spirit through creativity, service, and a deep understanding of people. His art didn't just entertain. It connected. It allowed others to breathe, laugh, and feel seen.

We live in a time where things move fast. Where it's easy to forget. But Cole's work stands still in the best way — it invites us to pause. To notice. To remember that we're not the first to wrestle with what it means to be here.

Wabash always fights, and, sometimes, Wabash laughs, too.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

Cole '52 made numerous variants of the original Caveman character during and after his time at Wabash, such as this well-dressed Wally at commencement.

Little Giants push conference record to 5-1 against Oberlin



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Caleb Everson '26 warms up before the doubleheader against Hiram on Saturday, March 29 in Goodrich Ballpark.

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

The Little Giants pushed their North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) record to 5-1 with a pair of wins over Oberlin. The double header on Monday, April 7 gave Wabash a second home sweep against a conference opponent.

In the first game, Wabash got out to an early 3-0 lead with three RBI singles across the second and third innings. Then they tacked on a huge four-run seventh inning to seal the deal.

Ben Henke '26 continued his team-leading season from the plate by driving in three runs on two hits.

Starting pitcher Caleb Everson '26 and closer Dylan Haslett '26 earned the win and the save. Everson struck out six batters in five and one third innings on the mound, giving up two runs on eight hits. Haslett came into the game in the eighth inning to shut down a late rally by the Yeomen. He finished the day with three strikeouts, two hits allowed and no earned runs.

Game two was a much closer affair that came down to the wire. Wabash put together six runs across eight innings, after leading 5-2 at the end of the fifth, when Camden Schiedt '25 contributed a vital two-run RBI double.

But the Yeomen struck back, putting one's on the board in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh innings, before adding two runs in the eighth inning to tie the game.

The teams entered the final inning at six apiece.

Jackson Woehr '26 earned his first win of the season by shutting down Oberlin's scoring streak in the top of the ninth inning. Woehr faced only four batters but held steady through a chaotic set of outs as an error, a fielder's choice, one walk and a wild pitch gave the Yeomen a good opportunity to secure the go-ahead run. But the team was able to hold the visitors to zero.

"I was thinking about what I needed to do in order for the offense to win the game in the bottom of the inning," said Woehr. "I was telling myself to fill up the zone and let my defense work behind me."

In the ninth inning, Scheidt and Henke worked together to get the walk-off score. Scheidt singled on the right side to reach first, then stole second on a wild pitch. Henke pushed Scheidt to third.

"The pitcher they brought in had been pretty wild throughout his entire outing, so I was looking for something in the dirt that I could potentially score on," said Scheidt. "And he eventually spiked a pitch that got away and allowed me to score."

Wabash completed the home sweep with a 7-6 final score.

"We will definitely take any win we can, especially in conference play," said Scheidt. "Obviously the goal is to score as many runs as we can and to give up as little as we can, but sometimes things don't go as planned and you just have to find ways to win. That is where our veteran presence comes into play, as a lot of guys have been in those spots before and know what it takes to win close games."

"Our team showed up in game one and did what we wanted to do: win," said Will Phillips '25, who recorded three hits and an RBI on the day. "In game two we still accomplished our goal even though it was a close game. Game two showed a lot of good things. First, our team never stops fighting even while the other team is performing well. Second, we want to win and we will find a way to do it. Conference games are always tough and it's good for our team to come out with a win in a close game."

After a Thursday, April 10 matchup against Anderson University, the Little Giants will dive back into NCAC play with a Saturday doubleheader against Ohio Wesleyan on April 12 in Delaware, Ohio.

Things just speed up from there, with the team set to play two games against Capital University on April 13 and a home game against Greenville University on April 15. On Wednesday, April 16, Wabash will play a crucial doubleheader in Springfield, Ohio, against Wittenberg, who was second in the conference last year.

In the latest D3baseball.com top-25 poll, they received a handful of votes. Pulling off a win or two against Wittenberg would definitively place Wabash near the very top of the NCAC and give them solid chances of tying for or winning the regular season title.

With a 5-1 start in the conference Wabash is shaping up to be one of the top teams in the NCAC this season.

"Being 5-1 is amazing but our team is very focused on the next game not what we have done," said Will Phillips '25. "It is nice to acknowledge our success from the past game but we just have to carry that momentum to the next."

Stats wise, the Scarlet & White have the best fielding percentage in the NCAC. It is the 29th best fielding percentage for any team in DIII. The Little Giant pitching staff ranks third by ERA in the conference. They are 74th in the nation.

"Our mentality of being on attack mode at all times has enabled us to limit walks and hit by pitches, which has led to more outcomes being in our favor," said Woehr.

It's too early to call, but Wabash has put themselves in a great position early in the conference schedule. Fans should tune in over the next week and a half, as Wabash will tackle the remaining top teams in the NCAC in short order.

NCAC gauntlet ahead for tennis

Tennis to face five teams in nine days

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

Five conference opponents, over 1,100 miles on the road and a showdown against DePauw — Wabash tennis is about to carve out its conference standing over the course of a nine-day marathon.

In their last match, Wabash challenged Denison at home in the Collett Tennis Center. Denison, a perennial tennis powerhouse, is ranked third in Division III this season. The Big Red won 7-0.

"With any team we play, regardless of national ranking, the main assessment I'm looking at is, 'How hard did we make them work for every point?'" said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. "We did relatively well on that this weekend and the more competitive scorelines against them demonstrate that."

"The growth we had from last year to this year was so clear," said Rafael Rin '27. "We were so much more competitive. Tough matches are, of course, tough, but it is good to see the improvement we had. If we had that big of an improvement in such short time, we can have even more in the next few years."

The Scarlet & White will begin their nine-day gauntlet against the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) with a trip to Oberlin on April 11. The next day, they travel to Wooster to face the Fighting Scots.

Wabash's matchups against both teams have been very competitive in recent years. And the Little Giants face each of these teams once in the conference tournament over the past two seasons. Wabash defeated Oberlin 5-4 in the 2023 tournament and Wooster 5-4 in the 2024 tournament. Both matches will have major implications for the NCAC standings.

With most other teams in the NCAC yet to break into the heart of the conference season, the standings remain mostly ambiguous. Only Denison in first and Kenyon in second have cleared the major competition so far.

"Obviously we want to get the best results we can, because that's going to impact the standings in the conference tournament," said Augusto Ghidini '26. "But no matter what happens in these upcoming matches, we need to focus on the things we can control as a team to have better chances."

"The five matches in nine days is something we're extremely prepared for."

-Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett

On Wednesday, April 16, Wabash will face DePauw in Crawfordsville. The two teams finished third and fourth in the NCAC regular season last year. With DePauw ranked fifth and Wabash ranked sixth in Region V, the matchup will determine several sets of standings.

"It's definitely a game we're excited to play, especially because we know it's going to be a tough game," said Rin. "[Last year] we were very close, and we've gotten better from last year. We feel like we can actually win against them. We will have some good opportunities, and we're going to do a great job playing against them."

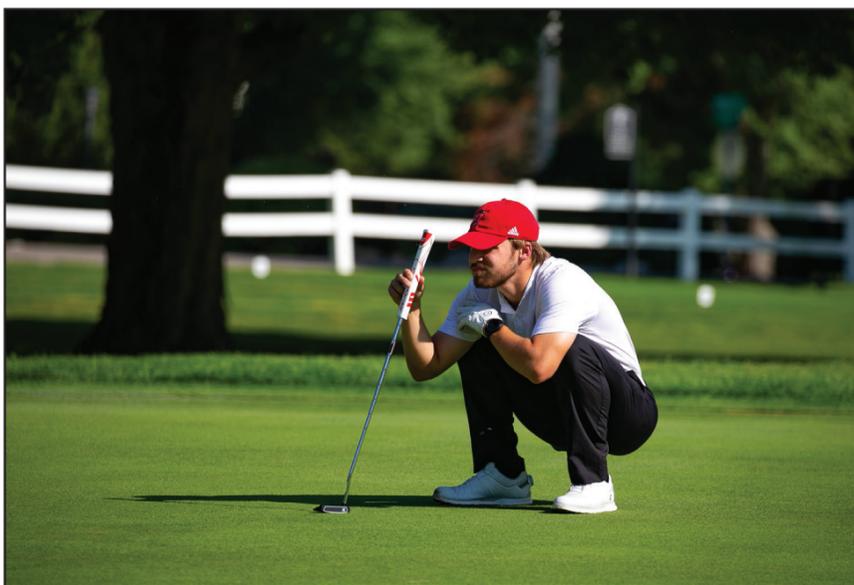
To round out the schedule, Wabash will face Ohio Wesleyan in Delaware, Ohio on Friday, April 18 before racing home to play Wittenberg the next day.

"The five matches in nine days is something we're extremely prepared for," said Bickett. "In the start of our season, we regularly play two matches in the same day, that way when we have this sequence later in the season, one match a day is not a challenge. Travel is a big factor, but our guys have done a great job all season with travelling, and I expect that to continue."

It's going to be a thrilling stretch for Wabash tennis. With a chance to possibly sweep the remainder of the conference schedule, the team could solidify this season as the program's best in a long time.

Weather not enough to stop Little Giants

Golf finishes 11th in 38-team field



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Lewis Dellinger '25 reads the green during a scrimmage against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on August 23, 2024 at Crawfordsville Country Club.

SAM BENEDICT '25
SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Despite sloppy conditions, cold gusts of wind and a deep pool of competition, the Little Giants showed they are a squad to be feared. In a 38-team tournament, the Little Giants placed 11th, with Matt Lesniak '25 finishing tied for 35th individually out of 228 golfers in the Illinois Wesleyan University Golf Invitational on April 4 and 5 in Normal, Illinois.

The first day of the tournament was played at the Weibring Country Club — located on the Illinois State University campus — and the second day was played at Ironwood Golf Club.

The team's two-day total of 602 was achieved with a strong second day score of 297. Following Lesniak's performance, Lane Notter '28 shot a day-two score of 72 to finish tied for 43rd, Sean Bledsoe '26 tied for 51st, Lewis Dellinger '25 tied for 66th and Alex Schenkel '28 rounded out the scoring tied for 194th.

"The first day we were at Weibring, it rained after about eight holes, but we hung in there, really gritted and grinded and got it done so that we shot a respectable score," said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21. "Then, at Ironwood, I was really impressed and proud of our performance because it was cold and windy, but we went out there and took it shot-by-shot. Everybody did their job."

The weather was a focal point of the tournament, creating difficult playing conditions. However, the team responded with maturity and resilience as they systematically approached the course and the elements.

In one instance, Lesniak's day-one tee shot on hole five landed yards to the right of the fairway — a shot typically found in seconds. However, because of the rain, the ground softened, and the ball was embedded and

lost. The unfortunate situation forced Lesniak to take a one-stroke penalty and re-tee — eventually leading to a triple bogey. Previous Wabash golf squads may have lost focus and allowed the unlucky circumstance to ruin the rest of the round, but Kopp's focus on mental strength and emotional balance have had a profound influence on the team's culture, and Lesniak finished strong.

"I think this year what switched for me was the maturity of my golf game, where I'm not aiming for pins — I'm going for the center of the green," said Lesniak. "I'm trying to par the course to death. If a birdie falls in here or there, or I get the occasional chip-in, I let that drive my momentum. I think the biggest turning point for me in this golf tournament was that I was able to follow my birdies up with a string of pars."

Not only have veteran leaders stepped up, but newcomers have made their presence known as well. Notter has had an early impact on the team as a freshman — contributing multiple strong performances. His consistent play has earned himself a spot in the top five as the team closes in on the conference tournament.

"Playing well last week in Illinois gives me a lot of confidence moving forward, but I can compete with the best," said Notter. "However, more than anything, I believe it gave the team a lot of confidence since we competed with, and beat, some of the best teams in the country. We will be an underdog going into conference, but we now know we have what it takes to win in May."

The Little Giants will return to action on April 14 and 15 at Rhodes College in the Cochran Collegiate Invitational. This will be their second-to-last tournament before the North Coast Athletic Conference tournament on May 2-4.

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Lacrosse claims historic win over Wittenberg



TY MURPHY '27
FEATURES EDITOR

It has been a historic season for the Wabash lacrosse team, and the accolades keep coming. For the first time in program history, the team beat Wittenberg 10-6 at Fischer Field on April 9 as they continue through their North Coast Athletic Conference play.

"This is the year where we finally get over that hump of only having one conference win every year," said attacker Quinn Fitzgerald '26. And it started against Wittenberg. So, we are very well prepared now. We've learned a lot about ourselves these last few games, and it's just about keeping momentum going for us."

It was a well-earned win for a team that has faced tough competition, including a battle against nationally-ranked Denison University where they lost 4-20 in Granville, Ohio on April 5. Despite Fitzgerald becoming third in the all-time leading scorer list, there were a lot of improvements to be made still.

"We can watch the film, we can learn from them and we have to make some quick adjustments here," said Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke. "The one thing that I really don't want that stretch to affect is the confidence of our guys."

Facing a team such as the Big Red gives you more than just film. It also teaches you what it takes to be at the top. And the team is using that to move themselves higher in the conference.

"For our guys, that's a pretty telling sign of where we need to go if we want to compete in those games," said Burke. "It sets us up pretty well having got those games out of the way between the best in the conference."

And these improvements were



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Attacker Quinn Fitzgerald '26 looks downfield for the goal while battling against a Wittenberg defender in the Little Giants' game against the Tigers on April 9, 2025, at Fischer Field.

more than noticeable against the Tigers. Fitzgerald added to his impressive season with a goal to start off the Wabash team before scoring another in the third period. After going down in the second period, the team needed some energy, Charlie Rafalko '28 delivered as he made his

20th goal of the season to end the Tigers' scoring streak. Evan Bair '28 tied the game before attacker Jake Pippen '26 took the lead with two goals. The team was firing at all cylinders to ensure they would keep momentum against Wittenberg.

"It's good to see these guys

play at such a high level because it gives you a lot of hope for the future of this program and what it's going to become," said Fitzgerald. "Because those are the guys who are going to continue on to build this thing. We lean on those guys a lot. It's really good to see them succeed."

It was more than just the team that helped propel the Little Giants to a dominant win for the lacrosse team. For only the third time in the season, the Little Giants got to play in front of a home crowd, and they were not disappointed.

"This is the year where we finally get over that hump of only having one conference win every year. And it started against Wittenberg."

-Quinn Fitzgerald '25

"Crowd momentum is a real thing, but on the field, we feel it a lot, and I think that we feed off of the crowd very much," said Fitzgerald. "Being at home was a pretty big help for us. This was only our third home game of the season. We've been road warriors this year, so it felt really good to come back home and play in front of our friends and our family."

Confidence was surely not a problem for the Little Giants when they beat Wittenberg in historic fashion. Look out for this team as they continue conference play with another game at Fischer Field on April 12, when they face Oberlin College. Then they will have a quick turnaround when they travel to face rival DePauw University on April 15. One thing for certain is that the Wabash lacrosse team will capitalize on their momentum and look to continue their historic season.

Volleyball sets season wins record with senior day shutout

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
FEATURES EDITOR

A pair of wins in their final two games tied a nice bow on the end of an up-and-down season for the Wabash volleyball team. The Little Giants finished in fifth place out of nine teams in the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League, narrowly missing out on a fourth place spot to secure their berth in the conference tournament. Their 16-10 record set a new program high.

"The most pride I have is our training culture," said Head Volleyball Coach Ashaun Baker, who is in his second year as head coach. "The level of competition in practice was ridiculous. It has come leaps and bounds since my first year. The guys have done a really great job."

Bolstered by a strong freshman class and riding the high of a 15-win season in 2024, the team opened its 2025 season with a nine-game winning streak. They blew past opponents that would have troubled teams in years past.

"There were a couple games where we would have gotten our butts kicked back then, but we were holding our own against some really good teams," said Jackson Leeper '25. "It was really cool to see that progress take form in those games. Like against Goshen [College], we got our butts kicked my junior year, but this year was the opposite. We took care of business."

The team ultimately missed out on the conference tournament after their hot start, hitting a difficult patch of form in conference. They played several top teams in the conference down to the wire, including the number one seed in the conference Mount Union, whom the Little Giants took to five sets. While the program is still in relative infancy — this season was the fifth in program history — they signaled they aren't pushovers in conference play.

"I'm sure no one ever thought that we would be in a position to do that," said Will Beikes '25, the team's only other senior. "That's probably the most rewarding experience I had this year. I like being the underdog. I like surprising



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Setter Will Beikes '25 (right) and middle blocker Jackson Leeper '25 (left) stuff the University of Olivet at the net in the Little Giants final game of the season on Saturday, April 5 at Chadwick Court.

people and shutting them up. I like people thinking we're not going to compete, because that makes me want to work harder and beat you even more."

Beikes and Leeper — who led the team in assists and blocks, respectively — have learned to cherish and appreciate the good times. They're used to the bad ones. Their first two seasons in the program, the team had a combined mark of 12-37. Their last two years amount to a 31-21 record, a stark turnaround from their first two years in the program. Their contributions were pivotal for the

team's success according to Baker. "It was really, really meaningful to have those two," said Baker. "They've done a lot to help display great leadership."

It hasn't always been easy, and at times, a team effort has been required from the now-senior leaders. "Those lows were really low," said Leeper. "Going 3-18 your freshman year is not easy, but I really relied on Beikes a lot because he's a really good friend of mine and a good teammate. So, if he's struggling, then I'm going to struggle with him. I always just kept my head forward, always perse-



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Jackson Leeper '25 celebrates a point against the University of Olivet at the net in the Little Giants final game of the season on Saturday, April 5 at Chadwick Court.



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Will Beikes '25 high fives John Schnerre '26 after the senior day match on Saturday, April 5 at Chadwick Court.

vering through the mud, the blood and the sweat and trusting it is going to get better one day. This just sucks right now. I had a positive mindset looking to the future."

Now the team's attention turns to next season, with hopes to improve upon their new record and grow the program, even with their two key seniors graduating. Beikes and Leeper hope the team will continue to build on their foundation in the years to come and remain focused on achieving each seasons' goals, as well as to be thankful for coaches and support staff.

"What I want them to remember is to be grateful and be humble, because it wasn't always that way," said Beikes. "Stay humble, keep working hard, but also be grateful for the culture that you have. Because the culture was not something we had. So even having something like that is something worth being grateful for, even though that's not something you think of being grateful for all the time."