

September 12, 2025

Little Giants slay the Green Knights

Wabash wins season opener 55-21



PHOTO BY BRAIDEN FOSTER '26

RB Cole Dickerson '28 runs through the line of scrimmage as Quinn Sholar '26 and other offensive linemen block St. Norbert defenders on September 6, 2025, in Donald J. Schneider Stadium in De Pere, Wisconsin.

SEAN BLEDSOE '28 SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday saw the Wabash College Little Giant football program begin its 2025 campaign as they traveled to St. Norbert to take on the Green Knights in a rematch from last year's shutout. The Little Giants went into the game with some question marks, but they came out with a lot of exclamation points. While the Green Knights were able to put points up on the board this time around,

they could not outscore a Little Giant offense that dominated from start to finish en route to a 55-21 win for Wabash.

St. Norbert started the game with the ball, and their opening drive was looking promising until they approached the midfield mark. Michael Meneguzzo, the Green Knights' starting quarterback, rushed to his right before losing the handle of the ball. Jerry McBee '26 recovered the fumble and allowed the

Little Giant offense to set up shop.

Brand Campbell '27 did not waste any time getting his squad into the end zone. On the second play of the drive, Campbell connected with senior wide receiver Kannon Chase '26 deep down the left sideline for a 47-yard completion, which put Wabash inside the red zone. Xavier Tyler '26 sealed the deal with a three-yard touchdown run to put the scarlet and white ahead 7-0.

Continued page 12

Pickett '26 and Salpietra '27 aim to enhance student involvement and brotherhood

EVAN BAKER '27 STAFF WRITER

Following the second full week of the semester, the Wabash Student Senate has been hard at work to keep the momentum going. Student Body President Austin Pickett '27 and Vice President Ayden Salpietra '27 have laid out their framework for this year, focusing on enhancing student involvement and brotherhood on campus. While the work of organizing funding for various clubs and activities on campus continues, the newly elected cabinet has begun its push to expand the role of the everyday student within Senate activities.

"Our goal is to move the Student Senate beyond just a place where students go for funding," said Pickett. "We want it to be a place where people can legitimately voice their concerns."

Pickett's emphasis on student involvement has led to the Student Senate cabinet enacting a "voice your concerns" section of the weekly senate meeting, where senators have a formalized opportunity to relay their opinions and the opinions of the school communities they represent to the cabinet. This way, concerns are directly heard by the cabinet and can be quickly relayed to Dean Brown when necessary. Through these actions, the cabinet seeks to create a more direct line of communication



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Student Body President Austin Pickett '26 talks with fellow students during Back to Bash on August 30, 2025, on The Mall. The event aimed to bring returning and new students together during the first weekend of the Fall 2025 semester.

between the students and the school administration.

"We're trying to be an open book here to serve the Wabash community," said Salpietra. "Students can come to us with anything they want to do on campus and can tell us any problems they might have."

In addition, the senate has begun organizing events for the semester. After an already successful Back to

Bash event on August 30, the senate hopes to continue in their forward momentum. In accordance with promoting brotherhood on campus, the cabinet has placed a special emphasis on creating more opportunities for students to become involved, specifically working to keep more students in town on the weekends.

"The campus can seem dead on many weekends," said Salpietra. "The last thing the senate wants is for the students to leave to visit other schools on the weekends."

They wish to bring all levels of the school together, both in and out of the classroom. A goal of the cabinet has been to provide more opportunities for students to meet others outside the normal groups of sports teams, fraternities and clubs. By promoting events that attract students from all different parts of campus, they hope to transcend the usual borders that separate us.

"We don't want the students to be separated on campus," Salpietra said. "We want to develop a better sense of brotherhood for all students."

Continued page 3



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Members of the Wabash Pep Band play during the club fair at Back to Bash on August 30, 2025, on The Mall.

175 Years of Brotherhood

Indiana Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta celebrates 175th anniversary

TOBIN SEIPLE '29 STAFF WRITER

This weekend marks a significant moment for the Phi Delta Theta house. 175 years ago, the Indiana Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta was established at Wabash College on November 16, 1850, just two years after the first chapter was founded at Miami University.

The Indiana Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta is currently the longest running chapter of Phi Delta Theta in the nation, has maintained its presence through the Civil War, both World Wars and the Vietnam War, as well as overcome challenges that have reshaped student life across generations. Throughout the many years of its existence, Indiana Beta has played a salient role in maintaining Wabash traditions and impacting the college with its alumni. The fraternity's values of friendship, sound learning and moral rectitude have guided thousands of men through their undergraduate years and beyond.

Many years ago, all freshmen of Wabash wore caps to signify their status, while today Phi Delta Theta is the only fraternity to continue this tradition. Its alumni include leaders who have transformed both the college and the wider world.

Bob Allen '57, who served as the chairman of AT&T, generously funded the Allen Athletics and Recreation Center we all know and love. Michael Dill '71, who boasted a successful investment career, was a philanthropist who created opportunities for Wabash students to study abroad through the Dill Grant. Additionally, Will Hays Jr. '37, a former Crawfordsville mayor, bridged the gap between Wabash and the people of Crawfordsville. These contributions stand as lasting symbols of the fraternity's influence not just within the chapter walls, but across the entire Wabash community.

Yet the fraternity's story is not just about buildings and titles. It is rooted in values that remain central to its members today: friendship, sound learning and moral rectitude. Chapter President Bryce Poling '26 explains that moral rectitude—the call to uphold the highest ethical standards—still guides their brotherhood. The brothers of Phi Delta Theta think of moral rectitude as their extended gentleman's rule.

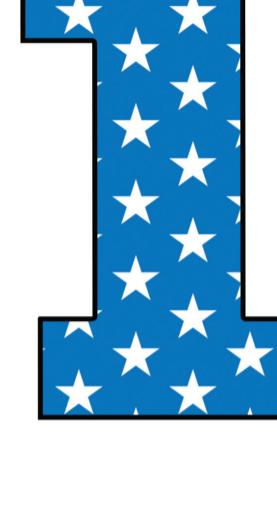
"Even if it's not your place to do it, you should always be doing the right thing," said Poling. "Sometimes that means making a tough choice in the moment, but it's about putting others before yourself and making the community around you a better place."

Beyond moral rectitude, accountability is a large part of the Phi Delta Theta brotherhood.

"Friends aren't obligated to tell you what you need to fix about yourself," said Professor of Political Science and Phi Delt alum Scott Himsel '85. "Brothers are obligated to do that."

Similarly to the culture on campus, the Indiana Beta Chapter emphasizes closeness among students. Alumni and active students alike point to the enduring friendships that carry forward long after graduation. Whether in moments of celebration or moments of grief, the fraternity fosters bonds that extend far beyond campus life.

"I've seen brothers deliver eulogies at funerals," said Associate Director of Advancement Initiatives and Ohi



Delt alumn Hugh Vandivier '91. "That kind of lifelong friendship—developed in that big white house—means a lot."

The values held by Phi Theta Delta are carried forward by traditions unique to Wabash. Chief among them are the red and green "pots"—caps worn by freshmen. Once a college-wide custom, the practice faded decades ago but was preserved with Indiana Beta.

"Everyone wanted to get rid of it," said Poling. "But we see it as paying dues to history...a little ode to what was going on before we were here."

The spirit of continuity, tradition and brotherhood will be at the heart of the 175th anniversary celebrations, which are largely possible thanks to the work of Vandivier. The Indiana Beta Chapter of Phi Delta Theta will have an informal celebration on Friday in Carmel, IN, and will subsequently celebrate at Wabash on Saturday.

The fraternity plans to honor their brother, Head Football Coach Gilbert '98 on September 13 after his first home football game as the head coach, and will hold a reception at the Allen Athletics Center.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Brothers of Phi Delta Theta cheer on pledges during the annual Chapel Sing competition that occurs during Homecoming Week on September 12, 2024, in front of The Chapel.

News around the world

GABRIEL ROBINSON '29
STAFF WRITER

Russian drone incursion in Poland

Poland triggered Article 4 of NATO following a Russian drone incursion, prompting a large-scale discussion about the drone attack. NATO fighters scrambled in Polish airspace and engaged enemy fighters for the first time in NATO history. Top European leaders have interpreted this violation of national territorial integrity as an attempt by Putin to gauge the European Union's commitment to protect former Warsaw Pact members in the Baltic and Poland. Before the Russian incursion, Poland had engaged in an extensive military hardware buildup, fortifying and

hardening border positions as well as acquiring NATO-standard hardware, including F-35 Fighter Jets, Abrams Main Battle Tanks, Patriot Missile Systems, AH-64 Apache Helicopters and HIMARS rocket launchers. Recently, it was proposed to the media that Poland could explore the idea of obtaining Nuclear Warheads. It is possible that this incursion could convince European and American Politicians to commit more equipment and funds to indicate to Russia that they are not a soft target, and that the strategic ambitions and territorial integrity will be upheld.



COURTESY OF BLOOMBERG

Officials gather to inspect a damaged house that was hit by drone debris on September 10, 2025, in Wyrki-Wola, Poland.

French government collapses

The French government has collapsed after a lengthy no-confidence vote. After struggling for nine months to resolve the fiscal crisis, former Prime Minister François Bayrou attempted to force through a bill to address the budget deficit, aiming to slash € 51 billion of government spending. France's attempts to raise the retirement age and enforce austerity measures have failed, resulting in further ballooning government debt and a projected negative credit outlook. France now has a debt burden of 5.8% of its economy, 2.8% above the

European Union target of 3%. In addition to economic turmoil, France has established a consistent pattern of political instability, with Bayrou being France's fourth prime minister within twenty months. With right-wing and left-wing radicalism rapidly growing in France, and coalition-building being foreign to French politics, it is expected that hot-button issues such as immigration, healthcare, education, retirement age and political expression will continue to dominate in a fractious environment.



COURTESY OF NPR

Former-French Prime Minister François Bayrou arrives to address the National Assembly on September 8, 2025, in Paris, France.

Israel's hurricane of strikes

Israel has directed a message to the residents of Gaza City that they must evacuate immediately, as it has publicly stated that unless Hamas releases the last 48 hostages currently held, Israel will engage in a "mighty hurricane" of war, leading with a barrage of airstrikes and increased ground offensives in Gaza City. In recent days, Israel engaged in a targeted attack, destroying a building in a Doha suburb of Qatar, believing the building to be hosting Hamas leadership. Before

the destruction of the building in Doha, Qatar, an attempt was made by Qatari officials to draw up a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, with the Qatari Foreign Minister pressuring the militant group to engage positively with the negotiations. Hamas has now reiterated its position that it will not disband until there is a free Palestinian state. It is expected that Israel will continue its offensive until all 48 hostages are released.



COURTESY OF ABC

An Israeli army self-propelled howitzer fires rounds on October 11, 2023, in southern Israel.

The market recap: Sep. 1-7



COURTESY OF THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell is expected to cut rates soon given current economic indicators.

AGUSTIN A.
ANTELO TEODOVICH '29
STAFF WRITER

This week the market saw both highs and lows. S&P and Nasdaq both hit record highs, job reports came in lower than expected and Tech and Healthcare positioned themselves for success.

Rate cut bets gain steam: What's at stake?

Just 22,000 new jobs were added in August, far below expectations and with downward revisions to previous months, according to this week's jobs report. The report bolstered expectations that the Federal Reserve will cut rates at its September meeting. Markets have fully priced in at least a quarter-point move, but Standard Chartered predicted a 50 basis-point decrease. Investors' attention has turned from inflation to labor market stabilization as a result of slowing job growth, which has increased optimism for a soft landing for the economy.

Wall Street advances amid cooling data

Dow Jones: -0.5%
S&P 500: -0.3%
Nasdaq: -0.1%
Russel 2000: +0.5%

Even though the economy showed symptoms of weakness, Wall Street hit a new record high last week. Together with the Dow's small increase, the S&P 500 and Nasdaq both hit new all-time highs. Strong recoveries by tech behemoths Apple and Alphabet, expectations that the Fed will act soon to improve banking conditions and optimism about lower interest rates all contributed to the increase. Following a stabilization of oil prices, the energy sector underperformed, but

market sentiment was generally favorable.

The big moves: Tech, healthcare and AI

This week we saw how how IT and healthcare are becoming increasingly dominant as major forces behind market expansion with the following:

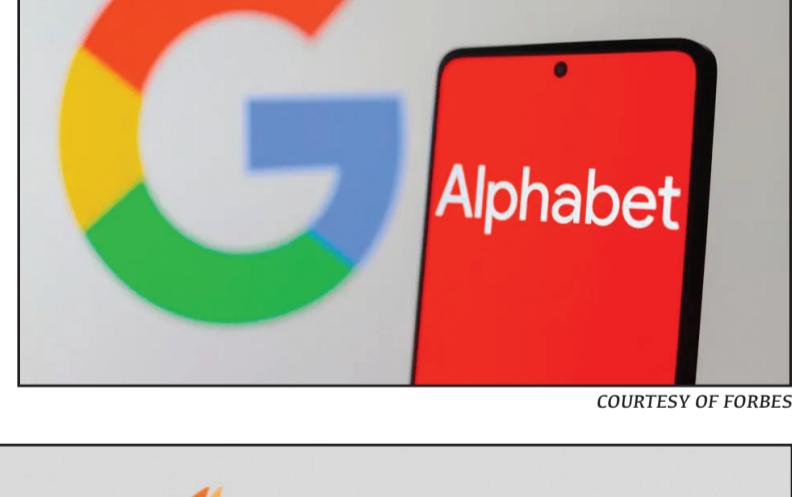
- Oracle's stock shot up more than 20%. This was after announcing a robust demand for cloud services and landing new contracts relating to artificial intelligence.
- A Medicare Advantage outlook helped UnitedHealth Group soar by more than 8%, placing it among the S&P 500's best performers.
- Tourmaline Bio's stock rose 58% in the biotech sector following Novartis' announcement of a \$1.4 billion acquisition agreement.
- Nebius Group, meanwhile, had a roughly 50% increase in value following a \$19 billion agreement with Microsoft for AI infrastructure.

Debt markets heat up

In order to capitalize on declining yields, corporations acted swiftly. In only the first week of September, companies issued around \$10 billion in high-yield bonds and more than \$56 billion in investment-grade notes. Prior to the anticipated Fed rate cut, well-known companies like Ford and Merck turned to the markets to obtain funding. Strong investor demand and businesses scrambling to lock in reduced borrowing costs are both reflected in this spike.

Looking Ahead: Inflation and the Fed

The latest test for the economy comes with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics release of the Consumer Price Index for August, with the Federal Reserve's policy meeting happening in the coming days on September 17. If consumer prices follow the same cooling trend as wholesale prices, Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell may be pushed to move more aggressively. Investors are already betting on at least one rate cut, and some are now expecting further action.



COURTESY OF FORBES

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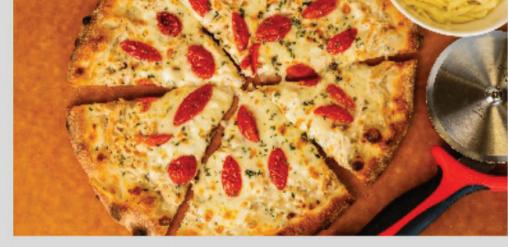
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This week at Wabash



Friday, Sep. 12

All day

Phi Delta Theta 175th Anniversary

Saturday, Sep. 13

1:00 p.m.

Football vs. Case Western Reserve

Sunday, Sep. 14

3:00 p.m.

Football @ DePauw (JV)

Wednesday, Sep. 17

12:00 p.m.

Constitution Day Dialogue with WDPD @ Forest Hall

Thursday, Sep. 18

11:00 a.m.

Mental Health Mile

Senate aims to enhance involvement and brotherhood

Continued from page 1

Furthermore, the new cabinet has been working to support the roles of committees within the senate. By promoting individual committees to take a greater role on campus throughout the school year, they support their goal of creating more transparency between the students, the committees and the cabinet.

"We're trying to be an open book here to serve the Wabash community. Students can come to us with anything they want to do on campus and can tell us any problems they might have."

- Student Body Vice President Ayden Salpietra '27

They seek to keep committees from going stale, remaining an integral part of the cabinet. One way in which the cabinet has supported the continued role of the committees is by relying on them for more ideas on

potential events and plans for the campus.

"We want to do more with our committees," Pickett said. "We plan to take in more ideas from committees to get the ball rolling for what they wish to do this semester."

This way, more students' opinions and ideas can make their way into the Senate. The events and plans this semester can more resemble the ideas of not just the cabinet, but of the commit-



Kyrese Rhodes '29 and Professor of Classics Jeremy Hartnett '96 talk during the club fair at Back to Bash on August 30, 2025, on The Mall.



Students clash on an inflatable during the club fair at Back to Bash on August 30, 2025, on The Mall.

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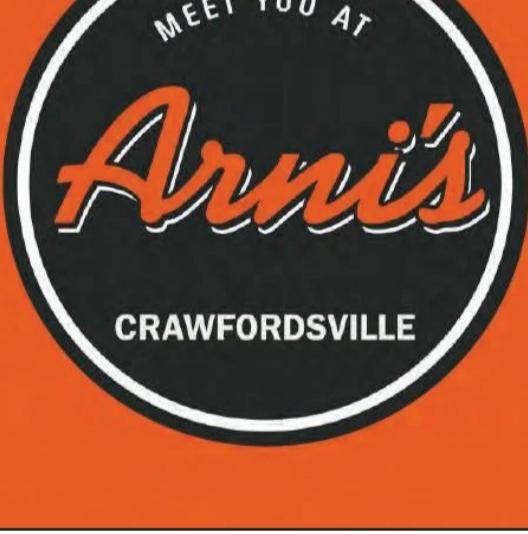
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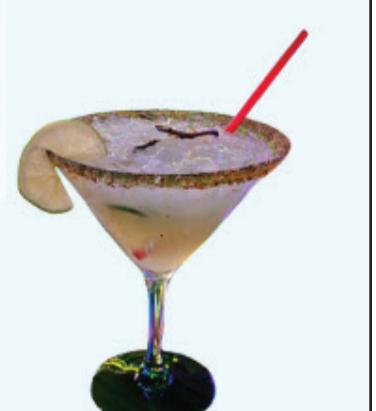
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- Friday: Chimichangas \$8.99 Molcajete Nayarita \$21.99 Fajitas \$11.99
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- Sunday: Burrito Mojado \$8.99 Flautas \$8.99



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FEATURES

Chess Grandmaster bests 30 opponents simultaneously



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '28

Grandmaster Gregory Kaidanov plays up to 30 people at a time at the Chess exhibition on September 5, in Detchon. In addition to playing 30 people, Kaidanov also played an opponent blindfolded.



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '28

An overhead view of Grandmaster Kaidanov making moves to close out his opponent. This is the Grandmaster's ninth visit to Wabash in order to engage in a chess exhibition.



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '28

One of the Grandmaster's opponents waiting patiently as he plays against other Wabash students and faculty. Kaidanov is a native of Russia, but now lives in Lexington, Kentucky.



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '28

Grandmaster Kaidanov shaking hands with Fox Seebach '29 after wrapping up a game well played. Kaidanov teaches private chess lessons and performs exhibitions all over the country. He also competes in chess tournaments nationally and internationally.

Essex Honey: A meditation on home and grief

EVAN BONE '26
OPINION EDITOR

Blood Orange, aka Devonte Hynes, has been a force in the R&B and neo-soul scene for the past 15 years or so, but besides an EP and a few songs, he has gone radio silent in the 2020s. But this past Friday his long-anticipated album, "Essex Honey", was released to critical acclaim and rejoicing fans alike. I find myself mostly agreeing with the acclaim this record is receiving. Blood Orange manages to retain some of the qualities that have defined his musical career: beautifully layered vocals, varied instrumentation and impressive collaborations with other artists. But "Essex Honey" doesn't carry the sexy, funky energy that defined much of his early work and his popular songs like "Champagne Coast"; instead, this album is committed much more to atmosphere and feeling spacey, leading to a calming and meditative listen.

The title, "Essex Honey", is in reference to where Blood Orange's hometown of Essex, just east of London. The lyrical content of this record deals with the complex emotions one feels for their home. This lyrical and conceptual focus on a specific place matches the meditative and atmospheric quality of the instrumentals.

Blood Orange fans who are used to his typical tight instrumentals with groovy drums, bass and slick guitars may find themselves most at home with the track "The Train (King's Cross)". This track's fast paced drums stand out among the slow paced and spacey tracks that make up most of the album; it even features virtuosic guitar playing near the end of its runtime. Lyrically, this track is about walking to the train and disassociating, as Hynes copes with his inability to connect with the world around him. Tracks like these carry a heavy depression in them, a common theme in Hynes' music.

Yet following the passing of his mother in 2023, Hynes seems to be making sense of new bouts with depression. Home and family are inherently connected, so this record may be as much about Hynes' push and pull with Essex as his relationship with his family.

The opening lyrics to the album and the opening track "Look At You" intro-



COURTESY OF CARBON SOUND

duce these themes powerfully as Hynes sings, "In your grace, I looked for some meaning but I found none, and I still search for a truth. Hard to look at you, hard to look at you."

These lyrics convey the struggle to pick yourself up after grief; this "you" that Hynes is referencing feels as though it can be both his mother and his home, as losing both leads him to look for some meaning to make sense of his loss.

Hynes also considers the death of his youth on this record as seen on "Somewhere In Between", where he sings, "and in the middle of your life, could you have taken some more time?"

Lyrically, Hynes keeps an abstract and poetic voice throughout the album, while meandering from grief to youth to longing. This songwriting style makes for a

These lyrics seem to indicate that Hynes feels as though he can move forward past the depression and grief expressed on earlier tracks.

"Essex Honey" is one of Blood Orange's most mature albums yet. The beautiful sonic landscape is a fitting evolution of his musical style as he drops some of the tight grooves he is famous for and picks up a spacey sound that allows for quiet, subtle moments. Instruments come and go on this record and it is a testament to Hynes' ability as a multi-instrumentalist and composer that he can fit cellos, electric guitars, flutes, synths, pianos, drum machines, harmonicas and countless more instruments in his arrangements on this record. Some of my favorite moments on this record include the magical flute and piano on "Vivid Light", the head-bumping drums and hypnotic guitar playing on "The Train", and the wailing saxophone during the outro of "Somewhere in Between". This is a record that flows seamlessly together making for a listening experience that flies by.

My only critique of this record is the fact that it seems to pass you by without you realizing. The smooth flow from song to song makes for an immersive listen but at times the lack of standout tracks makes for an album that doesn't leave me clamoring for more. Some songs barely leave an impression as they are subsumed into the larger record.

That being said, anyone looking for an album to throw on while taking a calming walk around campus or looking for solace – this is the album for you. Blood Orange's lush instrumentation and heartfelt lyrics will strike a chord with anyone.

**FINAL VERDICT:
4.5/5 WALLYS**



TA Spotlight: Anarella Alvarado



COURTESY OF ANARELLA ALVARADO

Anarella Alvarado is a Modern Language Teaching Assistant in the Spanish Department. She is from Ecuador and has come to Wabash through IES Abroad that offers study and intern abroad opportunities to college aged students.

TITUS HOOVER '29

STAFF WRITER

As the fall semester begins we welcome not only our classmates and brothers to the campus, but also several teaching assistants, including Modern Language Teaching Assistant Anarella Alvarado. She is as new to Wabash as our incoming freshmen, who – along with the rest of Wabash – are glad to have her here.

“We’re excited to have Anarella here for many reasons,” said Associate Professor of Spanish and Senior Associate Dean of the College Jane Hardy. “In part because she’s from Ecuador, and she’s the first TA we’ve had from Ecuador in fifteen years.”

Alvarado came to Wabash via a program called IES Abroad, which allows her to teach for a year before returning to her own studies in Quito, Ecuador.

“I am studying industrial engineering there in Quito, but I am taking a break to teach here for a year,” said Alvarado. “So I still have two and a half years left of my [education].”

Here on campus, Alvarado is both teaching and auditing several classes.

“This semester she’s teaching the labs for Spanish 201, which I’m teaching,” said Har-

dy. “She’s also teaching the labs for Spanish 202...so she’s working closely with all three of us [Spanish professors] and teaching labs for our classes.”

Alvarado offers a deep understanding not only of Spanish as a language, but also of the cultures of Ecuador.

“It’s nice to have a TA from another country, because part of what they bring here is not just, of course, being native speakers of the language, but also their cultural knowledge and knowledge of youth culture,” said Hardy. “I’ve been to Ecuador many times, so I know a lot about [it]...but I don’t know what college students in Ecuador like to do. So [TAs] can represent youth culture in a way that our students can relate to.”

In addition to teaching, Alvarado is auditing two courses: Public Speaking and Philosophy of Commerce.

“I really like the Public Speaking class,” said Alvarado. “I think I’m gonna learn a lot about how to speak better with any public about any topics I like. And then Philosophy of Commerce has been more theoretical, I hope to learn more.”

Outside of class, Alvarado wants to be very involved with

the community. She plans to help with the Spanish conversation tables starting soon, and also to help with the Latino Community Center.

“Those [Spanish Conversation Tables] are going to be happening every week,” said Alvarado. “It’s going to be Wednesdays at 7 p.m. ... It’s for people who want to learn Spanish, people who already know a bit more Spanish and want to practice and people who are fluent.”

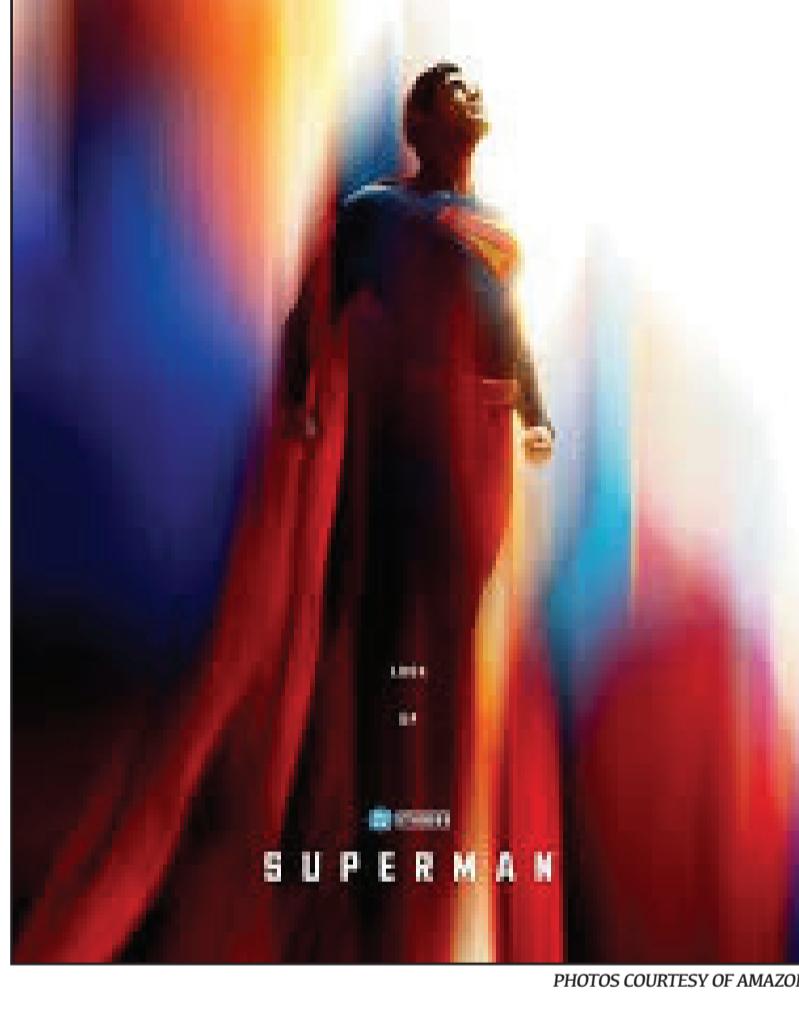
To put matters of school aside, Alvarado enjoys watching soccer, and she played it herself all her life in Ecuador. She also enjoys cooking, hanging out with family and friends, travelling and many active pastimes as well.

“I like activities in general, like all sports,” said Alvarado. “If you tell me, ‘Let’s go play tennis’, I will join you. I like just hanging out, enjoying activities.”

So remember, our very own Anarella Alvarado is happy to get involved with the community in many ways, from organized clubs and outdoor activities to just hanging out with newfound friends.

Super fantastic or super mid?

‘Superman’ and ‘Fantastic Four:First Steps’ review

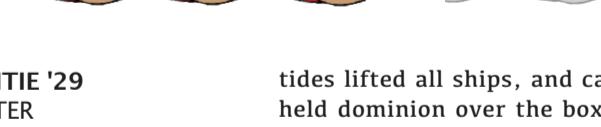


PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMAZON



COURTESY OF DISNEY

FINAL VERDICT:



NOAH MINTIE '29

STAFF WRITER

After years of receiving critical feedback and muted enthusiasm, the question of whether or not the superhero movie era is over finally has an answer. Over the summer, James Gunn’s “Superman” and Matt Shakeman’s “The Fantastic Four: First Steps” healthily profited, especially compared to previous superhero flops of the 2020s. However, the fate of the genre can not be measured in the box office.

To better contextualize the films’ significance, one must look to the past. In 2016, “Captain America: Civil War” and “Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice” bore similar premises, but took place in different cinematic universes. Fans of each franchise vigorously backed their film, arguably spawning 2016’s second most polarizing online debate. While audience and critical reception crowned Marvel as the winner, both universes were showered with attention and continued over the next several years. The rising

tides lifted all ships, and capes held dominion over the box office.

In 2025, Marvel and DC once again released two similar films. Both “First Steps” and “Superman” reboot iconic, long dormant franchises set against a stylized world. However, in 2016 it felt like two media giants battling each other for center stage. Thanks to recent box office bombs coming from both studios, 2025 feels more like both movies are fighting together to even appear relevant.

One would be hard pressed to detect this feeling in “Superman” thanks to the character’s inherent stardom, as well as the film’s nature as a reboot. This film launches Gunn’s DC Universe (DCU), a more established and fantastical landscape than the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU). Despite its very pulpy world, “Superman” grounds itself with realistic and subversive characters. Clark Kent and Lois Lane’s relationship is still rough around the edges. Superman’s international politics are the subject of online contro-

versy. Lex Luthor is a celebrity technocrat whose resemblance to real figures is too potent to be overshadowed by his fancy science-fiction technology. The DCU nicely threads the needle between fantastical and relatable elements, but “Superman” needs to be more than just a pilot episode.

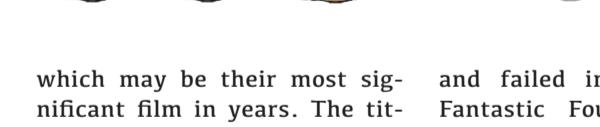
As an independent story, the film slightly stumbles. The scattershot explorations of present issues feel undercooked, there are a few too many characters, and the needless indulgence in cameos that farm internet discourse distract from the film itself. Other hits from this summer such as “F1” and “Weapons” are able to completely dedicate themselves to their own style. They are not bogged down by the requirement to establish a universe, and I would argue that they are better for it. Despite mostly being a good movie, these flaws are what stop “Superman” from saving the genre as a whole.

A few weeks later, Marvel came out swinging with “The Fantastic Four: First Steps,”

which may be their most significant film in years. The titular superhero team is one of their most iconic, as well as the last A-Listers that had not yet joined the MCU. The film itself succeeds in the way that “Superman” struggled, as the Fantastic Four are established in an entirely new universe catered to the retro-futuristic style that best suits them. This allows the film to build its own world without the weight of connecting to the greater MCU. The film also contains an all-star cast playing likable characters, great visual effects and a charming script that maintains an appropriate tone. All of the ingredients are there, yet the film did not seem to reinvigorate public interest.

Despite everything previously stated, the film lacks the proper innovation to prove that the MCU is capable of more than just treading water. Despite the good visual effects, the directing conforms entirely to Marvel’s standard output. The script balances the tone well, but its composition is still very familiar. After a string of duds

FINAL VERDICT:

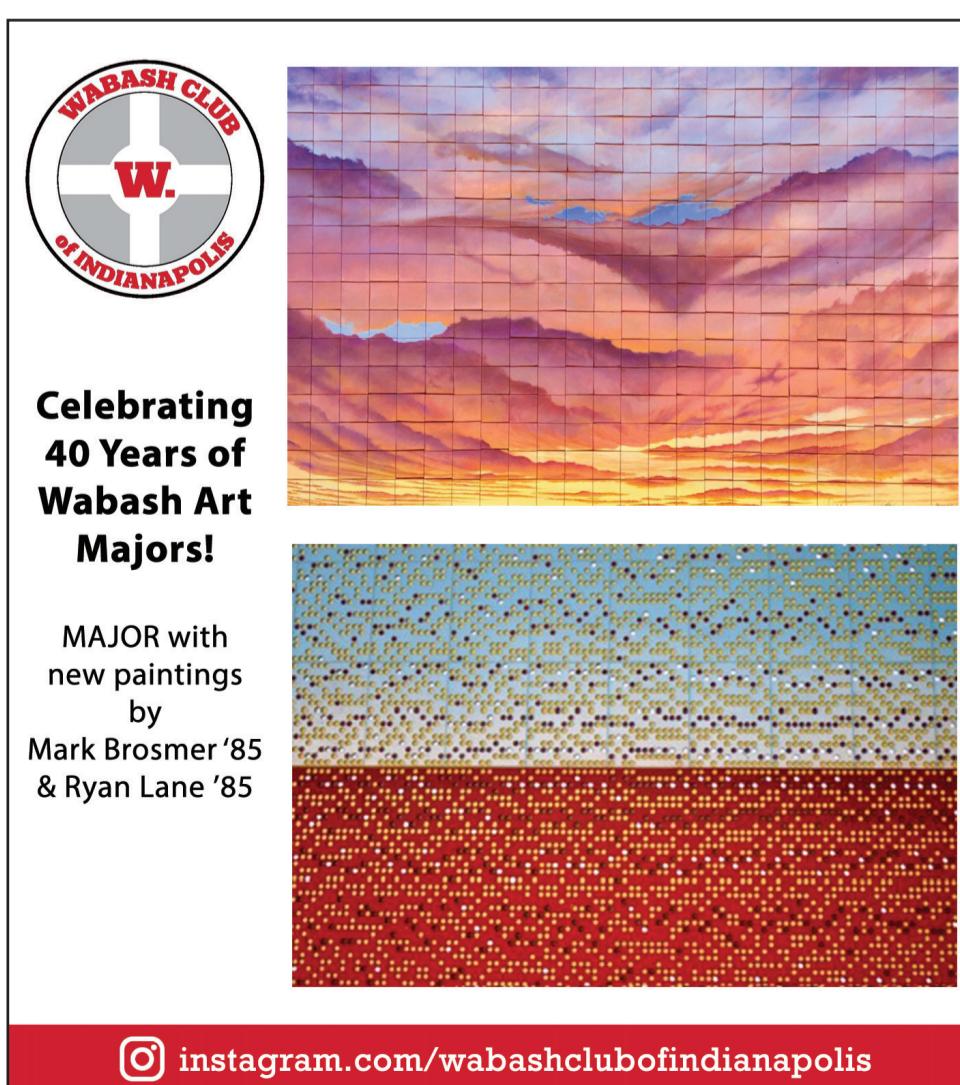


and failed innovations, “The Fantastic Four: First Steps” merely returns us to the standard of pre-2019 Marvel. The industry is evolving, and the way forward is not back. While it is also a good movie, it just does not hold a candle to Marvel’s previous domination.

So neither movie managed to recapture the superhero genre’s former flame. Honestly, it is hard to believe that anything ever will. This begs the question of whether anything ever should. The cinematic-universe monocropping of the 2010s, while very fun, is not sustainable for the art form. Reducing the top hits to only a few franchises, however good for business, commodifies the medium. Cinema is not a one-trick pony. Superhero movies will always be around, but it is likely that they will start to head the way of the western. Rather than own the spotlight, they will join the ensemble, hopefully to the effect of enhancing the whole show.

Ryan Lane '85 and Mark Brosmer '85 open art exhibit 'MAJOR'

Ryan Lane '85 and Mark Brosmer '85 were some of the first students to graduate from Wabash with an Art Major. They helped establish the major with a petition supported by Professor Emeritus Greg Huebner. Both Lane and Brosmer have made excellent careers for themselves and have come back to Wabash for many art exhibits over the years. Brosmer's art has been published in The LA Times and Lane has been a major part of the woodworking industry working as a representative for Indiana Architectural Plywood. Their exhibit is meant to challenge you to see the things that you overlook in your life.



 [instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis](https://www.instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis)

PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27



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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.

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Staff editorial: The bleeding wound of political violence

Dear members of the Wabash community,

Everyone on campus and around the country opened their phones Wednesday afternoon to tragedy. When news of political commentator Charlie Kirk's death spread across the internet, many among us, students and faculty alike, were distraught when they heard the news. We here at The Bachelor are no exception.

The events of Wednesday afternoon are just the latest in a swelling trend of political polarization culminating in violence. From the plot to kidnap Governor of Michigan Gretchen Whitmer in 2020, to the insurrection on Capitol Hill on January 6th, 2021 and two assassination attempts on Donald Trump, the list sadly grows with Charlie Kirk's murder.

What is perhaps most disturbing about this latest instance in a series of political violence is that the trend shows no immediate sign of slowing down. Next week it could be a news anchor, next month a senator.

Alarming wouldn't begin to describe how Americans should feel about these plots and incidents. Our country was founded on principles of free speech and democracy, and political violence such as this threatens these principles. Acts of political violence demonstrate a lack of faith in our democracy, our institutions and our way of life. If we are to stem the tide of these disturbing crimes, we must take a hard look at ourselves and the society we create.

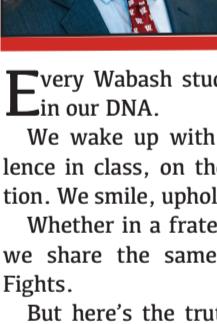
This trend of increased political violence is surely tied to the vast canyon between political parties and Americans as a whole. Older generations speak of days when Americans, no matter

their political affiliations, could speak with one another with decency and respect; today that sounds like a fantasy. Online echo chambers and the toxicity of social media have fueled this descent into hate. This complex web of hostility and dysfunction goes beyond a single individual or group. Destroying this web will require ripping out individual strands. A wave of a hand or a call for thoughts and prayers won't save us from this trap.

If we are to take solace in anything, one must be the fact that we at Wabash are equipped with the tools to curb political polarization in our own communities. The rhetorical and analytical skills we hone through our education prepare us for moments like these. When there seems to be nothing but chaos and hate, we can cut through with reason, patience and empathy. As powerless as we may feel to stop an assassination, we could help prevent the next one by approaching one another with patience and grace, rather than vitriol.

The other cause for hope that all Americans can cling to is that our nation has weathered storms of political unrest and bloodshed before. From the massacres of the Civil War to the violence targeting the Civil Rights Movement, generations of Americans have endured strife caused by hatred between countrymen. Despite the darkest days, Americans have always held onto the dream of a better tomorrow. Like our ancestors in those trying times, we may not succeed in building a better world today, but as long as we are fighting every day to leave a more peaceful world for our children and grandchildren, we will do right by them.

Wabash Always Fights: Never fight alone



Tanner
Quackenbush '26

Reply to this opinion at
tjquacke26@wabash.edu

Every Wabash student is hardworking; it's in our DNA.

We wake up with purpose, chasing excellence in class, on the field, and in conversation. We smile, uphold values, and carry pride.

Whether in a fraternity or a residence hall, we share the same drive. Wabash Always Fights.

But here's the truth: that phrase is bigger than sports and chants. Always Fighting isn't just about winning games; it's about how we face unseen battles.

We all struggle. Some battles are obvious, like pulling an all-nighter before an exam or pushing through practice when you're completely worn out. Others are quieter, like doubt, loneliness, exhaustion, and fear.

We're taught to push through, to grit our teeth and keep smiling. That toughness is powerful, but it doesn't always last. Carrying everything by yourself isn't a real strength; it leads to breakdown.

True strength endures by knowing when a storm is too heavy to face alone. It's having

the courage to say, 'I can't do this myself,' and being a brother who steps in when someone struggles.

Every day is a battle. Some fight it openly, while many do so quietly. We all carry something. Some handle it easily, some struggle, and for others, sleep is the only escape from the fight.

This September, I challenge us to slow down and take a look around. Asking "How are you?" is easy, but if we believe in brotherhood, we must go further. Have the uncomfortable conversations. Ask harder questions. Notice when a smile doesn't reach someone's eyes.

Yes, it might feel awkward, and yes, it takes courage. But when you truly reach out, you could brighten someone's day, strengthen a friendship, or even save a life. Don't wait for the perfect moment. Create one.

Wabash Always Fights. And the fight is never meant to be fought alone.

Clyde Morgan's 2020 Chapel Talk
"A storm is coming?"

"There is something phenomenal at the end of that storm; there are great things that come from rain and storms, and wind and land and dirt moving. Sunshine. Flowers. Grass... I said it takes a village, a lot of us, you can't do it by yourself, and there's nothing like somebody else getting someone else through a storm."



COURTESY OF WILL DUNCAN '27

Harrison Wainman '26 and Nate Powell '27 run with smiles during last fall's Mental Health Mile. Next week during chapel hour, the Wabash community will gather for this fall's Mental Health Mile to raise awareness for mental health struggles.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY

OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

EGG FOR AN EGG...

Lo-Five to fraternity freshman for egging almost every fraternity and an academic building. It's bad enough tuition is going up, have y'all seen the price of eggs recently?

INDIANA JONES

Hi-Five to Daniel Jones for a historic debut as an Indianapolis Colt. With every drive ending in a score, Danny Dimes is on as inevitable a roll as a giant boulder.

CROSSWORD DROUGHT

Lo-Five to The Bachelor for not having any crosswords. We're working on it, we promise.

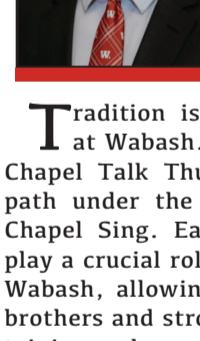
EDGE OF YOUR SEAT

Hi-Five to Phi Delta Theta for 175 years on campus. With a history like that, we'd expect you to keep better tabs on items as large as your senior bench.

ONE STEP AT A TIME

Hi-Five to the upcoming Mental Health Mile. Take care of yourself gents.

Defending tradition



Aidan Mason '26

Reply to this opinion at
agmason26@wabash.edu

once called Rhynes, a term now reserved for Sphinxes-to-be.

The other shenanigans of freshman, like stealing composites, also unite our campus. Having an Amnesty Day shows that all thievery is in good faith, allowing the fraternities to stay united in a casual, friendly way. It also allows us to unite in jest, such as the recent appearance of the Phi Delt bench on the mall (last time I mention us, I promise). Fundamentally, it is all in good fun, letting freshmen be wild and have fun in their first, and arguably most stressful years of college and pledgeship.

Even some professors and faculty have traditions exclusive to their discipline. The chemistry department, for example, has an honor society dedicated not only to recognizing outstanding students in the field, but also to honoring some of the legendary chemistry professors from times before (ask Professor Emeritus Zimmerman in Hays 231 about Dr. Hovey, Doc Howell and Big Ed for a helluva story). Speaking of legends of the college as well, we have living legends as well that have watched many eras of Wabash pass by like Professor Emeritus Zimmerman and Dr. Blix, who taught both me and my father, class of '94. Take some time and ask them about all the traditions and moments in Wabash they have seen, as they have seen more Wabash than most of us have been alive.

Some traditions have fallen away and disappeared with time. Rhynes carrying bricks for their air raids in the 90s, all the freshmen wearing pots, red overalls instead of the current Sphinx Club stripes, and, perhaps most infamously, sheepskin diplomas have all aged out or been taken away from us. Perhaps one day they will return, perhaps not.

It would be impossible to list and describe every tradition here at Wabash. We have so many (but never too many) that contribute to the campus culture and sense of connectedness. I would encourage everyone, if they only have one takeaway from reading this, to explore Wabash history, the Archives and professor's minds to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for our traditions. In doing so, not only do you become more of a "Wabash Man," but you also become better equipped to fight for these traditions when they become threatened.

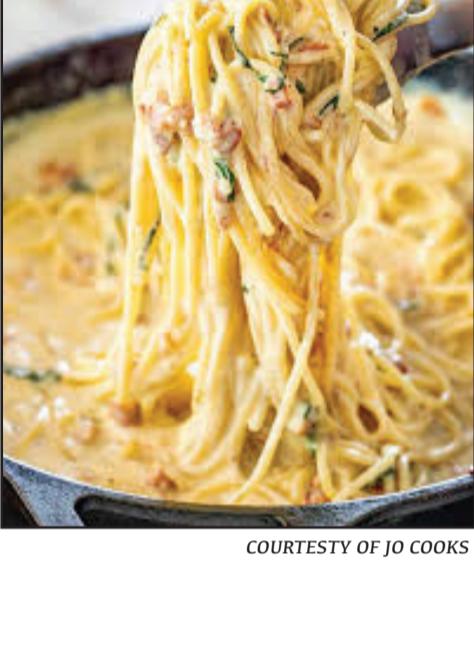
Don't mess with carbonara

Morgan Govekar
'26

Reply to this opinion at
magoveka26@wabash.edu

In my free time, I love to cook. My favorite cuisine to cook is Italian. The dishes are simple, elegant, and centered around carefully selected ingredients, skillfully matched by the precise execution of technique. A dish that is reflective of this elegant dance is carbonara. Carbonara revolves around simple ingredients: egg yolk, pepper, a short and hollow pasta, pasta water, a mix of Parmigiano Reggiano and Pecorino Romano and a cured pig cheek like guanciale.

These ingredients alone are humble, meticulously aged and ordinary. When prepared correctly, these ingredients come together to create a dish that is rich, salty and well-balanced, accompanied by a contrast in texture from the crunch of the rendered-down guanciale



COURTESY OF JO COOKS

and the bite of al dente pasta. However, there are always a few critiques of this humble Roman dish. Where is the protein? Can I add chicken? A vegetable? To which there is a straightforward answer: don't mess with carbonara.

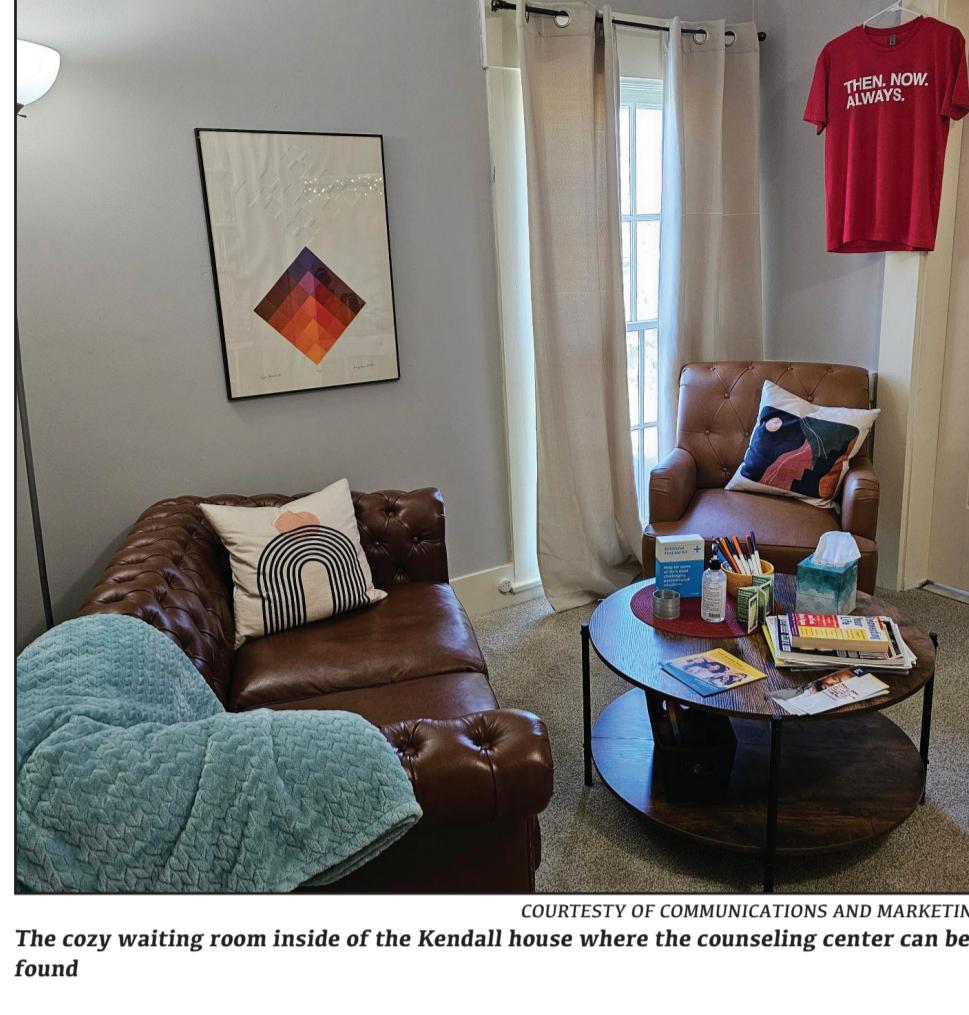
I know what you are thinking at this point: who cares about some egg and bacon pasta? Let me tell you why you should care. As I already said, carbonara is a simple dish pulled together with quality ingredients and technique. Carbonara is like your life. If you start to add too many ingredients or get too experimental with carbonara, the dish falls apart and you're left with a scrambled-up mess on a plate. The simplicity and consistent execution of the dish are what make it great.

In life, especially at Wabash, we are often told that we must do everything to be able to say we have accomplished something. However, what is left are half-baked efforts failing to reach their full potential. Clubs that get their feet off the ground for one year, leadership positions only filled by a title, and much more. My call to Wabash this year is simple: do less to do more.

We only have a limited 24 hours in a day, much like how carbonara has a limited amount of ingredients. However, how we use those hours and ingredients is up to our discretion. We can act carefully and meticulously to create something we are proud of, or continue to create half-hearted efforts that we are never fully proud of. Find what makes you passionate, what you can't shut up about to that D***** girl on a coffee date and what you can walk away from feeling accomplished.

Choose how you want to build a legacy and dance the elegant dance, like learning to master carbonara; it will take time. But time is our most valuable resource. How and who we give our time to is limited, and so should be our reach. Don't just give your time at Wabash the good ole college try, let's start giving it the good ole Wabash do.

Belonging at Wabash: Grace and patience



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The cozy waiting room inside of the Kendall house where the counseling center can be found



Evan Bone '26

Reply to this opinion
ecbone26@wabash.edu

Wabash prides itself on being an "and" school. At Wabash we push ourselves in the classroom and on the football field. We give presentations and speeches for all of campus to hear and we participate in philanthropic clubs. Three years ago, when I arrived at Wabash, I soaked in this narrative that being at Wabash meant doing more than you thought possible. I saw this narrative play out in the campus leaders around me; upperclassmen in TKE demonstrated commitment to the betterment of their fraternity, pushed themselves academically, engaged with campus and built deep personal relationships. In retrospect I am glad to have had examples of being an "and" student around me. Coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic and into college, I found it hard to imagine myself taking on responsibility around campus and in my fraternity. I was used to sitting behind a computer screen for classes, but being thrown into the fire that was freshman year at Wabash instilled in me high ideals of being an "and" student. In a very child-like sense, I wanted to be like my mentors.

I ended freshman year with a fire in my belly. In love with my fraternity, my pledge brothers and the wider Wabash community, I began to feel as though I was a part of something truly great. But as I began my sophomore year I had extreme bouts with anxiety. One of my closest pledge brothers transferred to another school. Being away from home led to a deep feeling that I was disconnected with my family, especially as loved ones faced complex struggles. At times, the promise I saw in my academic development faded, as I felt bogged down by busywork rather than motivated by my intellectual development. My sophomore year was plagued by sleepless nights. I stared at the ceiling until 4:00 a.m. contemplating whether the choices that led me to Wabash were the right ones. It didn't help that my room did not have working air conditioning and Crawfordsville was hit with a heat wave to begin the semester. I recall vividly telling my uncle Craig that I was unsure if Wabash was really for me as we watched a Wabash soccer game. Now that memory rings with intensity but feels ridiculous. I've come far from those sleepless nights and that crippling anxiety, but the growth came from places, people and things I would never expect. Ultimately by going to the counseling center, returning to my habits before Wabash and building friendships I was able to make it through a rough patch I thought wouldn't end.

Despite my troubles with sleep and anxiety, I spent the first quarter of my sophomore year pushing myself to join new clubs and organizations. I wanted to be that "and" student that I looked up to. My anxiety and sleeplessness killed any enjoyment and meaning I could find in the new clubs and organizations I was attempting to join. So I stopped pushing myself to such an extent and asked

Wally's Wall: Favorite spots

What are your favorite locations around campus? To relax, to study, to hangout or whatever else!

Matthew Skinner '29

Library second story where the cubby places are is a really nice place to focus in my opinion.

Jackson Bohrer '26

Wouldn't you like to know weather boy!

Evan Bone '26

My favorite spot to relax is just outside the TKE backdoor in my hammock. Love to grab a book, throw on some jams and kick up my feet.

Noah Mintie '29

I like to study in Center Hall. Its quiet and the atmosphere just fits.

Nick Green '27

The lofted desks at the back of the library are my favorite place to study.

Quinn Sholar '26

Petty's Patch in the arboerum. Great place to relax in nature.

Owen Vermeulen '28

The third floor of Lilly Library. No one is ever up there and it's quiet.

for help. I began going to the counseling center. There I received the advice to return to some habits that bring me comfort. I went on walks around campus, as I would in my neighborhood back home. I listened to new albums every week, a hobby of mine that went by the wayside while lost in the rigor of Wabash. I journaled consistently. Seeking help in the counseling center didn't give me a magical answer to all of my problems. Instead, it allotted me time that was meant to be about me where I was able to think through life without feeling so much pressure. Admittedly, almost all of this pressure was coming from myself, but high expectations for oneself is a distinctive quality of Wabash students. We all want to be that ideal "and" student. I was dying to be him and to make a difference around campus. But before you can try to make a difference in your community, make a difference within yourself.

Undoubtedly I lost opportunities by focusing on myself for most of my sophomore year. But by doing so my anxiety depleted. I gained hours of sleep back. I no longer questioned if I belonged at Wabash. The grief I felt in losing a close pledge brother overwhelmed me, but I found solace in developing the relationships I still had. It wasn't until my junior year that I truly felt as though I found my place. Sophomore year was an awkward phase of development. I wouldn't wish walking into English 314: Theory and Practice of Peer Tutoring off four hours of sleep on anyone, but these difficult and uncomfortable times often lead to brighter days. I struggled to find my place and sense of comfort, but by putting the ideal of the "and" student to the side, I was able to belong at Wabash.

If you're a student who holds themselves to high standards but find yourself full of doubt, anxiety and fear, do not fret too much. Give yourself grace and time. Put yourself first for the time being rather than your ideal of being the "and" student. Remember, we are a process not products. Who you are today isn't who you will be tomorrow. Whether you're a freshman full of grand ideas for a new club or a senior hoping to make the most of your final year, don't forget that you come first and that lofty ideal in your head is just that: an idea in your head. Don't let your ideals make you believe you've failed, because "when day is done," you are not.

'Tis but a scratch

by Drake Green '28



"Moneyball" reminds us to live

Elijah Wetzel '27

Reply to this opinion at ejwetzel27@wabash.edu



I love the movie "Moneyball". You don't have to be a baseball fan or really even a sports fan to enjoy it. Brad Pitt plays Billy Beane, the general manager of the low-budget Oakland A's, who have just been devastated in free agency and look to be set for a dismal season. The season's outlook completely flips when Beane hires Peter Brand (played by Jonah Hill), a Yale economics grad who looks at players as statistical composites rather than in classic, good-ol'-boy baseball scout terms. In Brand's philosophy, which quickly becomes Beane's strategy, the A's don't need star players who can blast home runs and do everything on the baseball field; they need guys who get on base. Using this playbook, the A's set the Major League record for consecutive wins, and did so by finding value where other teams didn't: a pitcher with an unconventional throwing motion, an aging star past his prime and a former catcher with elbow damage.

"Moneyball" is a hilarious movie and an inspiring sports story starring some terrific actors. But it is more than a great film. I believe it is also a crucial reminder. It reminds us to look beyond the surface, not just to go throughout our day and think about trendy people and things in popular ways because that is what we are told to do, but to aspire with clarity and attentiveness to the multitudes the sweetest of life's fruits contain.

Our ability to be influenced by other people is a tremendous gift. Powerful people capable of mercy are convinced, young children are shaped into generous and humble adults and people unite for noble causes all because of the human mind's capacity to receive the admonitions, advice, teaching and arguments of its fellows. But as we know, influence is not always good. The powerful coerce, children join in on bullying and tragedies occur when mob mentality spreads amidst a crowd. Today we also absorb subtler forms of influence. Companies profile us and send us notifications designed to lure our attention to our devices so that we can consume their product. Social media posts and YouTube videos entertain and advertise products simultaneously; ads for clothing and apps are intermixed with pictures of friends and family. Increasingly, we hear about, analyze and discuss current events in online echo chambers where our opinions and views start and end in the same place. I believe to live in this state is not to live at all. It influences us to turn off our minds, to accept all we hear as the truth; "abdicate the burden of patient, critical thinking," the

message seems to be, "and be satisfied by the comforts that modern techno-consumerism can offer." I worry that we are becoming estranged from our own brains and that our capacity to create and critique independently is flagging.

Is there a better alternative, some way we can be more present in our daily lives and awake to the world around us? For Billy Beane and baseball, mathematics and statistics was that alternative. It tore down the conventions that were blinding the baseball community from what was really happening on the diamond. But what can we do when we need to cut through narratives that obscure something orders of magnitude more important than baseball, namely where to find truth, value and worthwhile ideas?

I believe one thing we can do is to collect and share great stories that move people. The best stories can produce tears and prompt many great numbers of people to action. Are we searching for those stories, are we receptive to them when they come about and do we have an eagerness to share them with other people? If I'm honest I don't spend nearly as much time digesting and professing great stories as I do watching TV or browsing online. My hunch is that my experience is not unusual. We readily accept that the quality of food that enters our bodies correlates to the quality of our bodies' biological output. Are we ready to act on and accept that the quality of the ideas and stories we consume is similarly impactful to our emotional and intellectual outputs? I think we must if we want to live the best lives we are capable of.

One more thing we can do is to spend more time in nature. Can you remember the last time you looked up at the sky at something other than a building, or maybe just at the sky itself? Or the last time you waded in a creek or stream? Maybe those things are too romantic or homely to have any bearing on modern peoples' lives. Or maybe not. I think we can learn something about ourselves by soaking up, or being soaked by, the Earth's beauty. To observe nature is to observe complexity. Even the smallest of creatures are startlingly elaborate. Absorbing nature strips away our self-consciousness and our self-importance. It gives us an accurate perspective of our lives and imbues us with thankfulness, for it is a wondrous thing that our lives, microscopically short in the vast cauldron of time, should contain meaning and joy. It is not a coincidence that many of the best writers to ever search for what it means to be human — Walt Whitman and John Keats, to name two — incorporate nature frequently in their work.

This list is not exclusive; definitely, there are other things that point us toward lives of flourishing. But some things inspire us to flourish better than others do, and some things maybe don't at all. It is my hope that we will autonomously choose to pursue the better things more often than we allow ourselves to be influenced otherwise.

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SPORTS

Rugby completes weekend sweep against White River Rugby Football Club

EVAN STONIS '26

STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College Rugby team traveled to Carmel, Indiana this past Saturday to face off against the White River Rugby Football Club to open up their fall season. The Little Giants ended the day 2-0 as they secured a 10's match victory with a final score of 26-7 and a 7's match win with a final score of 24-5. In both matches, the Little Giants took an early lead due to their controlled and aggressive play.

Head Rugby Coach Kelly Romano's leadership was front and center with her high-energy presence on the sideline keeping the team's momentum going, even when fatigue began to set in.

"Show out and be active when we have home games because I think rugby has such a unique atmosphere. You can't really compare it to football or soccer or anything else."

- Rugby Club President Silas Mills '27

"It's cool to be able to get this kind of intense competition early on," said Wabash Rugby Club President Silas Mills '27. "I think Coach



Rugby Club President Silas Mills '27 passes the ball to James Rusher '27 as he gets double-tackled by two White River players.

Romano really helped us with that. She's really emphasized setting that tone early on. As soon as we go out on the field, we're ready to hit, and the first team that goes out and lays that first big hit is the team that generally is going to have more success in the long run."

Alongside Coach Kelly's leadership, the team's effort was punctuated by both major milestones and individual performances. Isaac Reilly '26, who scored two tries in during the games, was highlighted for his two-way ability, consistently delivering on both the attack and defense.

"He's probably our most consistent player on the team," said Mills. "He always puts up a really

solid performance in every aspect of his game."

Meanwhile, junior James Rusher '27, who made his first return to the rugby pitch since his freshman year, ignited the passion in his fellow teammates through his determination.

"He came out, and he just had a great day," said Romano. "You could tell he loves the sport, and that energy never left."

Looking ahead, Wabash is set to face a tough stretch of matches, which includes Indiana University Indianapolis, Indiana University Bloomington, Ball State University and Taylor University. The team's leadership scheduled high-level opponents to emphasize the demand for exemplary performances from the team, no matter who is trying to stop them.

"Those are all pretty big teams that Wabash hasn't had the chance to compete against in recent years," said Mills. "Going in and treating every game not caring about how good you might think the opponent is and taking that same intensity into every game is what's going to separate us from the other teams."

With early-season momentum building after their weekend sweep, Mills gave a message to the fans on how they can offer their support to Wabash Rugby.

"Show out and be active when we have home games because I think rugby has such a unique atmosphere," said Mills. "You can't really compare it to football or soccer or anything else. And the more people that show up, the better we can foster a larger community for rugby."

As Wabash continues its fall season, they hope to build a strong foundation to piggyback off of as they head into spring 7's, eyeing a bid back into Nationals.



PHOTO BY GEORGE SHAGLEY '26

Head Rugby Coach Kelly Romano instructs the rugby team as they begin warmups before their two matches against the White River Rugby Football Club on September 6, 2025, in Carmel, Indiana.



PHOTO BY GEORGE SHAGLEY '26

The Little Giant Rugby team debuted new jerseys for the season during their Fall opener against the White River Rugby Football Club on September 6, 2025, in Carmel, Indiana.



PHOTO BY GEORGE SHAGLEY '26

The Wabash Rugby Team embraces as they prepare to take on the White River Rugby Football Club on September 6, 2025, in Carmel, Indiana.

Underclassmen lead Redpack to sixth place finish in first event

CARTER MCCALL '29

STAFF WRITER

The Redpack took their first steps into the 2025 season on Saturday, traveling to Shelbyville, IN to compete at the Sodexo Grizzly Invitational, hosted by Franklin College at the Blue River Cross Country Course. The group started off the season finishing sixth overall with 143 points in a competitive early-season field.

The meet gave Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary and his squad an early read on how summer training paid off as well as how the team can continue to grow over the long haul of the season.

"It was good to get a solid baseline for where we're at as a team right now," said McCreary. "We are an extremely young group. Six of our top seven [runners] were either freshmen or sophomores, so I expected us to walk away with a lot to build on."

"The great thing about this group is that they all lead within different groups of our team. The name of our game is development this year."

- Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary

Sophomore Johnathan Loney '28 led the charge, finishing 17th overall with a time of 16:29.81. He was followed closely by fresh-

men Jack Loftus '29 and Tyler Kerzee '29, who placed 20th and 23rd with times of 16:37.05 and 16:37.87. It was a strong showing from the freshmen class, and their performance should turn some heads with the impact they made this weekend.

"We really focused on pack running this race," said Loney. "One standout was that our top three guys only had an eight-second spread and were within the top 25. This is the type of group effort we are looking for."

Sam Carpenter '29 added to the depth by finishing in 39th place with a time of 17:20.25, and Alex Orihuela '28 closed out the scoring in 60th place with a time of 17:37.83.

Egan William '28 and Carter Norris '27 rounded out the top seven for the Redpack, finishing in 65th and 68th with times of 17:46.00 and 17:48.27.

"Johnathan Loney, Haiden Diemer-McKinney, Carter Norris and Thomas Price have stepped up for our young team," said McCreary. "Each of them brings a unique background in terms of experience and style. The great thing about this group is that they all lead within different groups of our team. The name of our game is development this year."

The Little Giants will look to continue improving and growing as they travel to the Gil Dodds Invitational hosted by Wheaton College in Warrenville, Illinois on September 20.

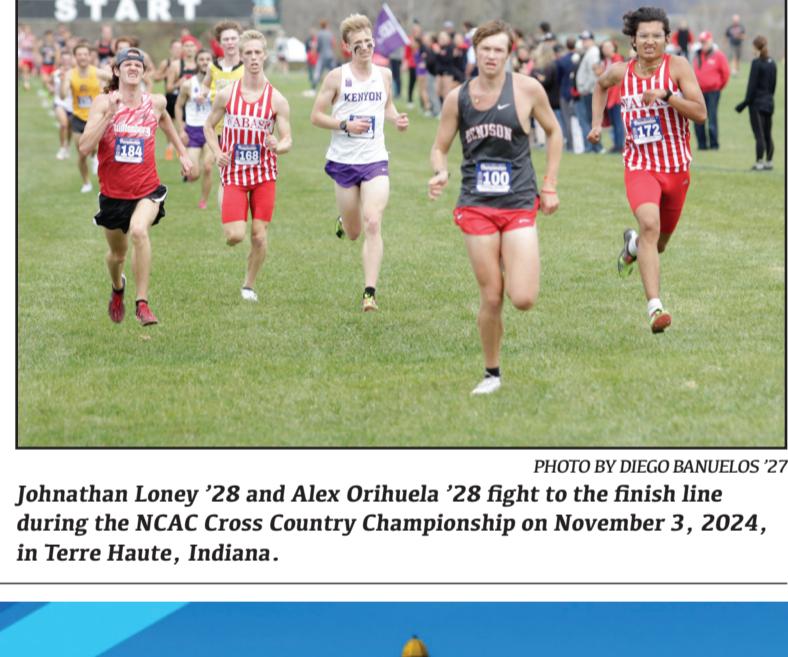


PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27
Johnathan Loney '28 and Alex Orihuela '28 fight to the finish line during the NCAC Cross Country Championship on November 3, 2024, in Terre Haute, Indiana.



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Soccer lets two matches slip, team falls to 3-3

ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28
STAFF WRITER

The Little Giant soccer team traveled to Pennsylvania over the weekend to take on Chatham University and Saint Vincent College. The squad ended up splitting their weekend series 1-1 by blanking Chatham 4-0 and just coming up short against Saint Vincent with a final score of 1-2. Once they returned home to Fischer Field, they let their match against Anderson slip out of their hands in the second half.

"We've had a tough last two losses, but we outplayed both teams. We hit the post four times and missed a penalty the last two games. The guys are playing well"

- Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller

After the seven-hour bus ride to Pennsylvania, the team started a little slow against Chatham. They created a lot of good opportunities but couldn't capitalize until the 42nd minute when Daniel Tkachuk '29 sent one into the back of the net thanks to an assist from Alfredo Campos '27.

The second score came from Ethan Simmons '29 in the 51st minute, and Captain Jose Escalante '26 followed suit five

minutes later courtesy of a pass from Tkachuk for Wabash's third goal of the game. The fourth and final strike came from Angel Vazquez '26 in the 70th minute due to an assist from Escalante.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Brady Reiter '29 sends the ball down the pitch during Wabash's match against Anderson University on September 10, 2025, at Fischer Field.

Bearcat territory as they had 23 shots on goal to Saint Vincent's 11, but nothing seemed to go in favor of our guys in scarlet and white. The hosts from Latrobe scored goals in the 37th minute thanks to Iverson Agyei (assisted by Ben Bethke) and in the 57th minute because of Daniel Maddock (assisted by Jose Hurtado).

The Wabash man who was responsible for cutting into the deficit was Simmons, who scored in the 75th minute. The Little Giants had multiple opportunities to tie it up in the final 15 minutes, but Saint Vincent held strong.

"I thought overall we had decent performances on the weekend," said Simmons. "In the first

game we struggled a little in the first half to capitalize on chances, even though we had most of the possession. Then in the second half, the game got stretched out a bit. We were able to capitalize and put away some chances. That was a full team effort with everybody contributing to that win. In the second game, I think we all felt like we were the better team, but we weren't able to put away some of our early chances and they did."

After that, we were chasing for the rest of the game, and they did a good job of maintaining the lead."

Once back on home soil, Wabash squared off against the Anderson University Ravens, but the result left a sour taste in the mouths of many as the Little Giants dropped the match 1-2.

Wabash got on top thanks to Tkachuk, who scored in the 49th minute off a pass from Ben Church '28. Minutes later, the Ravens tied the game up with a goal from Brendan Hall, assisted by Wesley Lewis. The dagger to the heart came in the 62nd minute when Miles Tucker assisted Wesley Lewis for the game-winning score. In the remaining time, the Little Giants fought valiantly, but nothing found the back of the net.

"We need to eliminate small mistakes in defense and get a good bounce. The team can dominate but not win. That's the beauty and ugliness of soccer."

- Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller

"We've had a tough last two losses, but we outplayed both teams," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "We hit the post four times and missed a penalty the last two games. The guys are playing well. We need to eliminate small mistakes in defense and get a good bounce. The team can dominate but not win. That's the beauty and ugliness of soccer."

The Little Giant soccer squad will have a full week of much-needed rest before traveling to Hanover College next Friday, September 19.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Bryce Kinnaman '27 and Danny Tkachuk '29 embrace during Wabash's match against Anderson University on September 10, 2025, at Fischer Field.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Alfredo Campos '27 handles the ball during Wabash's match against Anderson University on September 10, 2025, at Fischer Field.

Double tennis invitationals shows promising start to the year

PHILIP HARVEY '29
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College tennis team participated in their first two invitationals of the year this past weekend at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and DePauw University. The busy schedule gave every player plenty of court time, and many players rose to the challenge, setting an encouraging tone for the season ahead.

Cole Shifferly '26 advanced deep into the No. 1 singles flight, winning out in the consolation bracket to finish in fifth place. He also teamed with Tharakesh Ashokar '26 in the No. 1 doubles draw, where the pair battled to the consolation finals before finishing sixth overall.

match and pulled off the title, earning the third-set tiebreaker 11-9. Ashokar also contributed individually in the same flight, reaching the semifinals and finishing fourth overall.

Edmon Neto '29, showed early promise in the No. 3 singles draw. Though he dropped his first match, he rebounded to win through consolation play and placed fifth.

Eduardo Werneck '26 reached the semifinals of the No. 3 singles consolation bracket, then paired with Faustino Dimuro '28 in the No. 3 doubles draw. Together, they rolled through their semifinal match with a 6-0 win before finishing runner-up in the consolation final.

At DePauw, the Little Giants carried their momentum forward. Mathew Haas '29 finished third in the No. 5 singles flight and also earned third place in the No. 2 doubles draw alongside Neto. In perhaps the highlight of the weekend, Rafael Rin '27 placed fifth in the top singles flight and, together with Augusto Ghidini '26, captured the championship at No. 1 doubles.

"I feel like we kept believing even when things were hard. We did a great job of adapting to certain situations."

- Rafael Rin '27

Murilo Guarnieri '28 made one of the weekend's most impressive runs in the No. 2 singles bracket. He surged into the championship

face Oakland City University and Rose-Hulman in the next two weekends. Coach Daniel Bickett sees the upcoming matches as valuable tests.

"They will be good opportunities for our guys to get out and see how we are progressing," said Bickett.

The Little Giants will host Oak-

land City tomorrow at Crawfordsville High School with the first serve being tossed up at 2 p.m. EST.

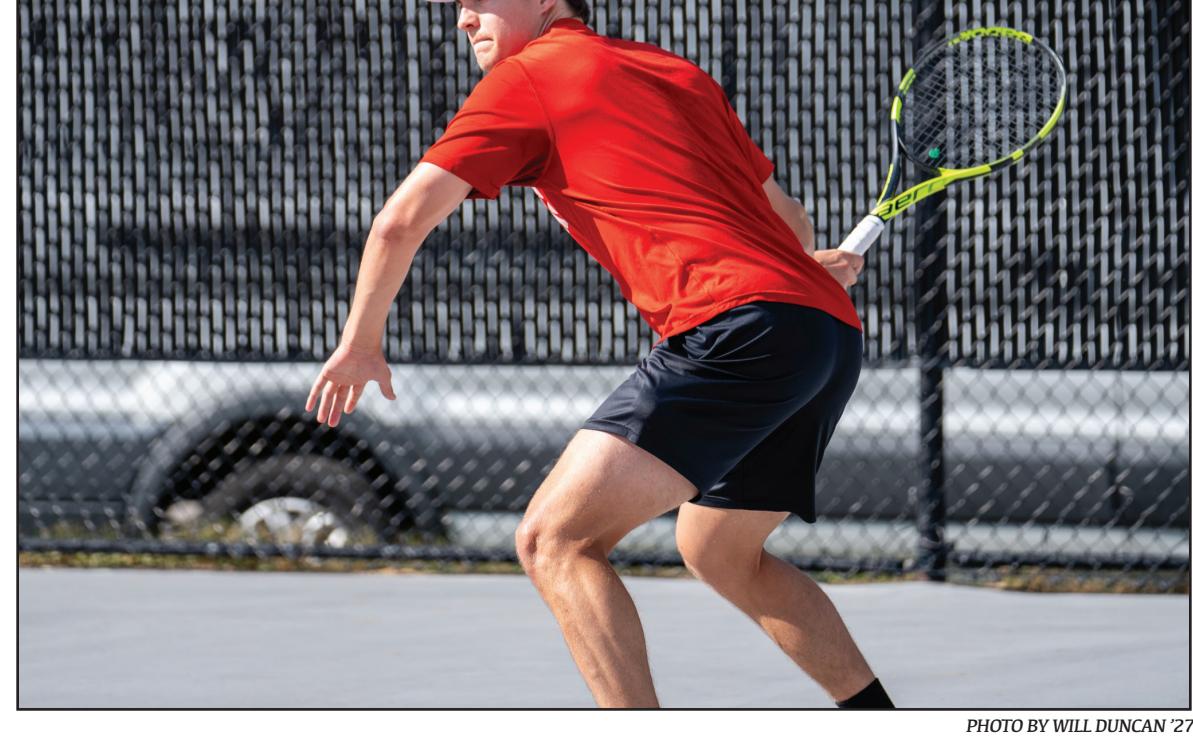


PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Cole Shifferly '27 prepares to send a ball back over the net during practice on September 2, 2025, at Collett Tennis Center.

Little Giants slay Green Knights

Continued from page 1

Three possessions later, Wabash's defense forced a three-and-out, but the Little Giants were unable to handle the punt return, giving St. Norbert possession deep in red territory. The turnover allowed the green and white squad to tie up the game at 7-7.

"Overall, I thought the wide receiver core had a solid day. We had some mistakes, but we still took advantage of St. Norbert's young secondary and made them pay when they sent pressure."

- TJ Alexander '26

Campbell only needed just over two minutes to respond in emphatic fashion. After the first two plays saw the offense pushed back four yards, Campbell completed a 16-yard pass

to TJ Alexander '26 to move the chains. The next snap resulted in another massive chunk play, a 63-yard touchdown toss from Campbell to fellow junior Carson Chadd '27. Suddenly, Wabash was back on top 14-7.

Early on in the second quarter, however, the Little Giants had another turnover in their own territory, which allowed St. Norbert to tie the game up once again at 14-14.

After a second issue concerning ball security, Wabash buttoned things up and scored three more touchdowns. At the halfway point, the Little Giants earned a 35-14 lead going into the locker room, but Coach Gilbert expected more out of his squad.

"We had a special teams turnover and an offensive turnover," said Gilbert. "If we just took one of those out there, it would have felt a lot better. All in all, I was happy that our team had to struggle and overcome a little bit. That's good for the development of our team."

Coming out of the



Cooper Rudolph '27 celebrates with Konner Chase '28 after Chase's touchdown during Wabash's season opening game on September 6, 2025, at St. Norbert College

PHOTO BY BRAIDEN FOSTER '26

break, it was apparent the team had no intention of taking their foot off the gas pedal, if not pressing down on it harder. Wabash lit up the scoreboard another four times throughout the duration of the second half and only allowed the Green Knights to add seven points in the remaining 30 minutes of play.

In the end, Gilbert's team earned 537 yards of total offense. Campbell had a remarkable start to his season as he led the team in passing by completing 15 passes on 20 attempts for 305 yards and four touchdowns. 10 players rushed the ball, but Tyler carried a majority of the burden with 12 rushing attempts for

39 yards and one touchdown. Nine different receivers made catches, but Alexander was the most prominent target for Campbell as Alexander made six catches for 67 yards. Sharing the love was most certainly the strategy for the offense, and it goes to show the depth at the wide receiver position.

"Overall, I thought the wide receiver core had a solid day," said Alexander. "We had some mistakes, but we still took advantage of St. Norbert's young secondary and made them pay when they sent pressure. As far as depth goes, I think this is the deepest wide receiver room we've had since I've been here."

Looking forward to this weekend, Wabash will host Cast Western Reserve University, a team that Wabash holds a 3-1 advantage over in the all-time record. The last time these two teams met was in 2008, when Gilbert was the defensive coordinator for the Little Giant program. In that matchup Wabash came out with a

20-17 victory, and with Gilbert at the helm, he knows that it won't be an easy matchup.

"They're very sound, and they don't make a lot of mistakes," said Gilbert. "This is a true spread offense, and they really stress you out. Last year, they finished 22nd in the country in scoring and 6th in passing, so they're tough to defend. Defensively, I think they're pretty physical."

Campbell expects this weekend's game to be a huge turning point in terms of improvement for the offense.

"I think we need to tune up penalties for sure," said Campbell. "We had a couple of false start penalties that we have to get rid of. They say that the biggest improvements are from week one to week two."

The Little Giants will look to tack on another tally mark in the win column against the Spartans this Saturday at Little Giant Stadium at 1 p.m. EST.



Brody Rucker '26 kicks the ball off during Wabash's season-opening game on September 6, 2025, at St. Norbert College.



Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98 talks to his team after their win on September 6, 2025, at St. Norbert College.

PHOTO BY BRAIDEN FOSTER '26

The Bledsoe '26 breakdown – NCAC football Week One power rankings

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
SPORTS EDITOR

What else can I say other than: THANK YOU FOOTBALL GODS. Week One did not disappoint, especially because Wabash won. There were also some interesting results with our NCAC foes as they battled other non-conference opponents, so let's check in and see what happened to the conference rankings.

#1 DePauw

The Dannies started off their season with a shutout win against the Fighting Engineers from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. The School Down South put up 40 points thanks to the likes of Caden Whitehead, who had a big game as he rushed for 106 yards and three touchdowns. Their win also aided them in maintaining their No. 14 national ranking according to D3football.com, but in all honesty, I'm not too impressed (nor should you be). To put it lightly, they beat up on some nerds.

Rose-Hulman finished with a 5-5 record last season, and they got worse this season. They pay \$70,000 a year to study the pythagorean theorem.

Play a football school!

travel to Baltimore, Maryland to take on the No. 3 team in the country, Johns Hopkins University. Blue Jays vs. Blue Streaks...I know what a Blue Jay is, so I'm going with them! Get a real mascot John Carroll!

#3 Wabash

While the Little Giants did not win by a MILLION, they still came out of

#4 Denison

The Big Red stay in my four spot but just barely. They played an Allegheny squad that went 1-9 last year and only beat them 35-24. It was a rather lackluster performance from a team that hopes to compete for a conference championship this year. You could give them the benefit of the doubt because it was the first game

result was 26-7. This shows me that

OWU may have figured something out with their offense. The last time the Battling Bishops scored more than 50 points in a game against an actual team was back in 2021 against Kenyon (I'm not counting their games against Oberlin, and you know why). It was a statement win for OWU, and it definitely made me rethink my

#7 Kenyon

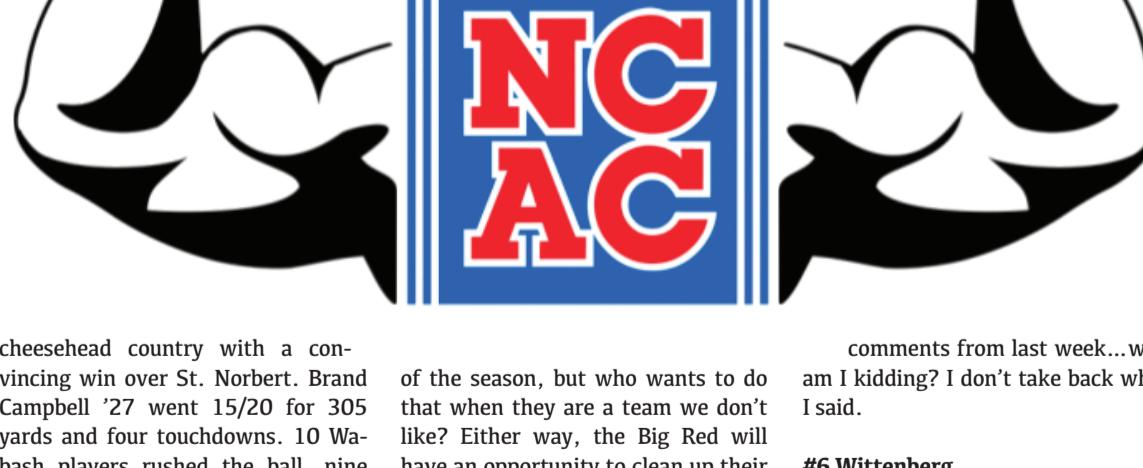
The Owls lost to a team that they beat last season, the Bluffton Beavers, but they kept it pretty tight as the final score ended up being 20-17. I won't lie...there isn't much that sticks out to me with this Kenyon team as they probably had the most mild game out of all the NCAC teams this week. Come back next week to see if much changes with them.

#8 Wooster

I am convinced the Fighting Scots of defense read my power rankings article last week because, boy, did they flip a switch. Their quarterback, Michael Boyle, went 23/35 for 362 yards and four touchdowns, and their star receiver, Tate Journell, caught eight passes for 177 yards and two touchdowns. The Scots actually put up 35 points, BUT they lost to Wilmington, a team that went 1-9 last year hahaha. The sad thing is that it wasn't even a close game. The Quakers dropped 59 points on Wooster's dome! The Scots may have figured out what to do to move the ball down the field, but they do know that defense wins games, right?

#9 Oberlin

"Be nice to Oberlin," said Brent Harris, the Athletics and Campus Wellness Communications Director. Brent, I am sorry for what I am about to say. How do you let Calvin score 88 points? Sorry. Bottom of the barrel. I forgot. Apparently the Yeoman aren't just our punching bag. Calvin is only in their second season as a football program, but they understood the assignment. Next time, they should ease up though because we need some room to leave our W-sized bruises.



cheesehead country with a convincing win over St. Norbert. Brand Campbell '27 went 15/20 for 305 yards and four touchdowns. 10 Wabash players rushed the ball, nine receivers made catches and five of them scored touchdowns. Spreading the wealth was the name of the game for the Little Giants in their 55-21 victory, but I am keeping us at the third spot because of our momentary struggles with ball security as well as the two teams above us being nationally ranked. Wabash will have a good chance to prove themselves against a formidable and physical squad from Case Western Reserve University on Saturday at Little Giant Stadium.

of the season, but who wants to do that when they are a team we don't like? Either way, the Big Red will have an opportunity to clean up their act against an Alma College team that looked strong last year with an 8-2 record. Beware, Big Red! You've got some competition behind you.

#5 Ohio Wesleyan

Instability at its finest. I know what you may be saying. "Sean, how are you putting Ohio Wesleyan over Wittenberg?" Well, hear me out. Ohio Wesleyan played a struggling Otterbein program and stomped all over them like a three year-old child stomps on an ant hill. This year's final score was 65-28, but last year's

comments from last week...who am I kidding? I don't take back what I said.

#6 Wittenberg

Oh, Wittenberg. Karma is a pain in the butt, isn't it? I understand that Baldwin Wallace finished last season at 7-3, but how can a coach vote you as the top team in the conference when you can only go on to score two garbage time touchdowns against second and third string guys on the depth chart? The Tigers have a chance to redeem themselves this weekend against a Washington and Lee team that has had a promising last couple of seasons. Get a win this weekend, and you may sneak into my top five. You've got to earn it, though!