

September 19, 2025

## Second annual mental health mile sparks conversation

EVAN BAKER '27  
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash Mental Health Committee, alongside the Sphinx Club, Malcolm X Institute and La Alianza, hosted their annual Mental Health Mile to raise awareness for mental health and remember the Wabash men who have taken their lives before us. September marks the beginning of National Suicide Prevention Month, a month set apart to recognize the millions of Americans who have lost their lives to suicide and encourage those struggling with mental health problems to seek help and conversation with others.

The mental health committee – Hayden Lewter '26, Andrew Weeks '27 and Tristen Myers – has been spearheading Wabash's efforts to spread awareness of mental health concerns through the event.

"The purpose of the event is to draw awareness to supporting mental health on campus," said Myers. "We want our community to participate in a direct call to action together."

The past few years have been a great success for the committee. It has had hundreds of students attend the Chapel Talk and stay for the mile, as well as elicited meaningful conversations about mental health that otherwise may not have happened. Additionally, the mental health mile has not just been successful with the students. Rather, the mile has been popular among all members within the Wabash community. Even local families from around Wabash have come onto campus to spread mental health awareness.

"This year, we are expecting close to 400 people to turn out to the event," said Lewter. "Students, faculty, staff, their families and even members of the community have all come and celebrated mental health awareness with us. It's very impactful to us that this event has been such a huge success every year."

However, this year's event was different from past Mental Health Miles. For starters, the chapel talk that normally precedes the mile will no longer happen. Rather, students will meet in the chapel and then immediately begin the mile. Following the mile, there will be a community lunch where students can continue their discussions with the people from before or with new people at the lunch.

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## Latino Community Center prepares for dedication ceremony



PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

The Latino Community Center will be dedicated on September 26, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. on the corner of S Grant Ave and W Wabash Ave.

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26  
MANAGING EDITOR

A major milestone is rapidly approaching for Wabash and the Crawfordsville community. After years of preparation, the Latino Community Center will finally open its doors on Friday, September 26, with an open house at 3:00 p.m., followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony and dinner. The building, situated at the corner of Wabash and Grant, will serve as the crossroads of the student body through La Alianza: Unidos Por Sangre and the Crawfordsville community.

**"My teachers were teaching us, 'this is your community, take ownership of it, engage it.' We're so lucky to be in this country, but so much of what we do once we're here, is based upon the work you put in."**

- Director of Latino Partnerships Julio Enriquez Ornelas '08

With the Latino Community Center still yet to open, many people may not know the difference between La Alianza and the Latino Community Center (LCC). La Alianza is the student-run Latino culture club aimed towards finding brotherhood and providing the members with new cultural, social and service opportunities, while the LCC works with the club and aims to foster relationships between the club and the community.

"The LCC is aimed to reach out to the community by granting students resources to carry out community service projects," said La Alianza President Julio Cobos '27. "The LCC and La Alianza are two separate organizations but they work together continuously to create a welcoming

environment for students, staff and community members, no matter their race or ethnicity."

The LCC will be a place to bridge Wabash's campus with the Latino Community here in Crawfordsville. It will be a place where anyone is able to go, for organized social events, service projects or even just to meet up and study.

"I hope it becomes a place for people to gather and socialize," said Director of Latino Partnerships Julio Enriquez Ornelas '08. "Whether it's just meeting for a project in the dining room

space for us, because I always felt like we were adapting to different spaces, but we were never really at home," said Enriquez Ornelas. "[I have] been able to come back after having been a professor at Millikin, and then returning to Wabash to take up this work that 20 year old me had imagined."

Ornelas also recalled the impact his education prior to Wabash influenced his attitude towards community-building.

"Long before community partnerships, and long before all this talk about going into the community, I first graduated from high school and came from a community that was working towards making our community better," said Enriquez Ornelas. "So, for example, we were facing challenges in our community. But rather than simply feeling hopeless about it, my teachers, even since first grade, were teaching us, 'this is your community, take ownership of it, engage it.' We're so lucky to be in this country, but so much of what we do once we're here, is based upon the work you put in."

The first event that Wabash can expect from the LCC is the dedication ceremony, which will begin at 5:00 p.m. on Friday the 26th after the open house. Moving forward, the Center will host networking events like Tacos with Alumni and social events like Spanish conversation tables, which is an opportunity for both students and the local community to hone their Spanish language skills and build fellowship. La Alianza can now leverage the institutional support of the LCC to hold many of the same events Wabash has come to know and love.

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## Wabash and Crawfordsville communities merge in Day of Service

PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28  
STAFF WRITER

On September 17, 2025, Wabash participated in its second Montgomery County Day of Service. Wabash, along with the City of Crawfordsville, Montgomery County Community Foundation, Crawfordsville Chamber of Commerce, the Montgomery County Leadership Academy and the United Way, hosted 17 different community service projects throughout Montgomery County.

A total of 37 Wabash faculty, staff and students participated in the Day of Service. They were spread out across eight different projects throughout the county. In total, over 200 people volunteered at the 17 different projects.

Wabash's participation in the Day of Service is part of a larger initiative to grow the college's philanthropic footprint in the greater Crawfordsville area.

"Contributing to our local society and economy is important because we do have a huge base of people here that we should be getting involved in the

community," said Campus Events Coordinator & Community Partnerships Coordinator Leann Parrish. "We're trying to make steps to make that happen."

The projects are very similar to the projects freshmen complete during orientation, but the Day of Service is open to all students, staff and faculty and aims to create a lasting impression on community organizations and on the Wabash community.

"The goal in sending people [to philanthropy projects] is, once you experience volunteering with this organization, you might be more likely to go back again," said Parrish.

Several Wabash students participated in the Day of Service and had positive experiences with the event.

"It felt good to help give back to those that have given to me throughout my time in Crawfordsville," said Liam McAllister '26.

Student participation in the Day of Service was spearheaded by the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies. Their work at Crawfordsville District



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Evan Furuness '26 (left) and Will Armstrong '27 (right) clean bookshelves on September 17, 2025, in the Crawfordsville District Public Library.

Public Library is one of the first steps in increasing philanthropy activity from the student body.

"The work we did wasn't world saving, but may start a ripple effect," said Jake Pasch '26. "The hope is to keep increasing the scale of these events. The coolest part was seeing the genuine appreciation on the employees' faces. They definitely needed the help."

The Montgomery County Day of Service was held in memory of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and focuses on unity seen in many communities in the days following the attacks.

"We're taking that sense of community and bringing it to our community and trying to share our resources," said Parrish. "Wabash is just a piece of this beautiful puzzle of

community that's coming together to do a lot of good."

The Day of Service is an annual event and will take place again on September 16, 2026. To sign up for participation in future community service events, contact Parrish at [parrishl@wabash.edu](mailto:parrishl@wabash.edu).

## College returns to normal campus capacity

Admissions moves past smaller Covid-era classes

ANTONY SANTAGATA '29  
STAFF WRITER

With the school year underway and the Class of 2029 having officially begun their time here at Wabash, it is worthwhile to take a look at what housing the Class of 2029 ended up in, as well as looking into the future of admissions. The past two classes here at Wabash have both been particularly large relative to the last four years at Wabash.

"We had a couple smaller classes in there due to Covid," said Senior Associate Director of Admissions and Director of Pre-College Programs Tyler Wade '12. "Bringing in bigger classes helps bring the college back into a better balance."

But with COVID no longer having an impact on current class sizes, members of the Wabash community are unsure of whether or not these relatively larger classes will continue. However, the admissions office has a clear cut plan.

"We are looking to have a four-year average enrollment of 260 students per class," said Dean for Enrollment Management & Director of Admissions Chip Timmons '96.

The most recent Fall census at Wabash has a count of 908 students, with max capacity being somewhere around 920 students.

"The challenge for us is to keep enrolling classes that have the college's total enrollment at that 910-920 number," said Timmons.

With housing being a concern in recent years given these larger classes, it is important to analyze where new freshmen ended up around campus. Within the class of 2029, over 60% of freshmen joined greek life, marginally up from the historical 59% that the Interfraternity Council has reported in years past. Lambda Chi Alpha led the way with the largest freshmen class of 23 freshmen, while other houses – such as Sigma Chi, Delta Tau Delta, Phi Gamma Delta and Beta Theta Pi – have also brought in large classes.

"Being at 60% is ideal," said Timmons. "Under-enrolled fraternities put strain on independent housing, because there are some living units that just don't have the space."

"We need to have more fraternity students than independent students," said Wade. "We just don't have the independent housing capacity. Provided houses continue doing a good job, there's no reason that number should change."

Covid made it particularly difficult not only for admissions, but also for fraternity rushing due to prospective students not being allowed to do overnight visits and traditional recruiting events not being able to occur. With Covid now in the past, there is no longer anything holding back admissions and fraternities looking to rush. Because they both have similar goals, the dynamic between greek life and admissions is one that works well when the two organizations work together when students visit campus. But it is essential that fraternities take the weekend seriously.

"I think sometimes fraternities can treat big visit programs as annoyances to be managed, as opposed to opportunities to get guys interested in Wabash," said Wade. "One of the things we always struggle with is trying to recruit independent students to host prospective students when they come and visit campus."

Because fraternities play such a critical role in giving prospective students a good experience when visiting, it is important that houses across campus take visit programs seriously.

"I would encourage people to think about what it was like when they were going through the college search process as a high school senior," said Wade. "Try to remember those things and recognize that while there may be some extra guys in the house for a couple of days, [we] should be making sure that they have a good time."

## Deadly protests, autonomous submarines and education crisis

### News around the world

DAGIM HUNTINGTON '29  
STAFF WRITER

#### Over 72 dead in Nepali protests over censorship

Nepal banned 26 major social media and messaging platforms – including Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, X and others – on September 4, 2025. The reasoning behind the bans? The platforms hadn't complied with the government's requirement to register locally and to appoint a legal representative and compliance officer within the country.

However, this seems to have backfired, with many small business owners and digital workers who relied on social media to promote their professions left without the useful tool. Nepali citizens and businesses spent about NPR 2.76 billion (USD \$ 19.5 million) on advertising and digital services via platforms like Facebook, Google and more. This resulted in the government collecting approximately NPR 415 million in tax revenue.

Nepali citizens felt that the government had a dictatorial hold on their speech, leading to protesters flooding the streets of the capital city Kathmandu with banners, signs and cell phones, all calling for the resignation of former Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli. As the situation escalated, demonstrators started throwing stones, bricks and makeshift barricade materials at authorities, and police responded with batons and tear gas.

Just five days later on September 9, former Prime Minister Oli resigned from his position, leading to the ban on social media platforms being lifted. As of September 14, the death toll has been reported as 72 deaths and over 2,100 injured according to Reuters.



COURTESY OF AP

A protestor shouts slogans at Nepali politicians on September 9, 2025, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

#### Australia unveils "Ghost Shark" submarines

Submersible technology has evolved ever since the first submarine was invented early in the 17th century. In recent times, however, sonar has been at the forefront of technological advantages. Some researchers are saying that we are now in an age where sonar detection has "pin-pointed accuracy," due to breakthroughs such as quantum sensors, advanced sonar arrays and new AI that can process large amounts of data. As part of the AUKUS pact – an alliance between Australia, the United Kingdom

and the United States – Australia has decided to finance a \$1.1 billion investment to manufacture autonomous underwater drones, dubbed "Ghost Sharks," to battle with the new issues facing oceanic stealth. The investment into autonomous drones now is reflective of reports that claim that there is more than a 75% chance that oceans will become transparent enough to make submarines almost useless in the stealth sector according to The Conversation.



COURTESY OF CBS

Australian Minister for Defense Industry Pat Conroy and Defense Minister Richard Marles, stand in front of a "Ghost Shark" on September 10, 2025, in Sydney, Australia.

#### Global education crisis: Out-of-school children

UNICEF earlier this year published a report of how climate crises have negatively affected nearly a quarter of a billion children's academic lives in 85 countries, due to climatic hazards like heatwaves, cyclones, floods, storms and droughts. The statistics show that one in seven school-attending children globally are being kept out of class due to climate hazards. Some of the most impacted countries include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Mozambique, Pakistan and the Philippines.

Climate change is increasing in its damage toll each year and the frequency of major weather disasters also increases, which leads to damages to schools around the

world that may not be able to withstand the extreme conditions. For example, in Afghanistan, the country experienced severe flash floods that damaged or destroyed over 110 schools in May, which has disrupted education for thousands of students.

The learning loss is detrimental to young students who want to break the barrier of their social status. If many children miss out on their education it inevitably leads to reduced economic opportunities individually and nationally.

## Latino Community Center prepares for dedication ceremony

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"Posada and Day of the Dead celebrations have been typically La Alianza events, but now that we have this LCC funding, it's more La Alianza tapping into that resource," said Cobos. "So La Alianza is doing the planning, and the LCC is providing those resources and making sure that it's a good event for the community and the students."

Since the LCC covers the financial and logistical side of community outreach, old programs will be expanded on, but new plans are already set in motion to serve the community. Part of the LCC's outreach strategy is to volunteer in the education system, taking advantage of the Center's support and serving the Latino community in local elementary schools.

"Another big thing they're doing is a partnership with Hose Elementary, which is kind of like a mentorship program with guys from the LCC going to an elementary classroom," said Cobos. "Specifically, those classrooms that are filled with Spanish speaking students that are having trouble transitioning from Spanish to English."

Part of the impetus behind the LCC is not only the growing Latino population at Wabash, but also the growing Latino Community in Crawfordsville.

"I don't know if people are aware, but there's been a large surge of the population that is Latino," said Cobos. "That community is still growing, and it's very huge. I've had the pleasure of going to Latino owned businesses, and I've seen that there's a large amount of people that go there that speak Spanish. It speaks to the fact that there is this growing population, but they also need help, they need support."

Another new addition that accompanies the LCC is the Community Scholar program. These are students that are taking an active part in the LCC, running various outreach projects. Community scholars spearhead projects such as the school volunteering campaign, Spanish conversation tables and the Los Pequeños Gigantes Mariachi band. The current Community Scholars are Cobos, Carlos Cantu-Trevino '29, Julio Cruz '28, Alejandro Cruz '27 and Max Brumett '29.

Brumett, for example, is leading an effort to help Latino high school students with college applications.

"He's in charge of youth development, that role is mainly giving the resources to high school students to be able to apply to college," said Cobos. "He led a school project where he helped Latino students fill out the FAFSA and Common App in order for those students to actually go to college."

Between opening a physical space for the student body to socialize and increasing institutional support for community service, the opening of the Latino Community Center begins a new chapter in Wabash's history. From the College's founding in 1832, Wabash has always worked to strengthen its relationship with the Crawfordsville community. As the Latino population grows both on campus and in town, the College has adapted and developed new ways to serve all members of the community.

## Second annual mental health mile sparks conversation

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"Students will be able to walk the mile and then eat and hang out to continue the conversations following the walk," said Lewter. "This way, our goal is that students will continue spreading the message of mental health awareness even after the event has ended."

In addition, the Mental Health Committee has emphasized the importance of motivation during the walk. Along the mile path, the committee has placed many motivational signs and symbols for students to read while walking with their friends. The signs not only intend to direct the physical route of the mile, but they also serve to encourage the students to continue spreading the message of mental health awareness now and months after the event has ended.

"The path will be the same as previous years," said Lewter. "However, we intend on having more motivational signs as you're walking through to continue encouraging you to move on and keep pushing to improve the mental health of the Wabash family."

Overall, this year's Mental Health Mile is set to be a profound experience for all members of the community. In this year's Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, by bringing students together, encouraging them to be vulnerable in their mental health struggles and having students offer support for their brothers, the Wabash community is taking the necessary steps to break the stigma around mental health and promote a safe environment for all students to flourish.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Students participate in the Mental Health Mile on September 19, 2024, on The Mall



# You Are Not Alone.





Thanks to everyone who participated in the Wabash Brothers Memorial Mental Health Mile yesterday. Take care of yourself and each other.

instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis

## Fed cuts rates

The market recap:  
Sep 10-17

AGUSTIN A. ANTELO TEODOVICH '29  
STAFF WRITER

This week the market was focused squarely on the Federal Reserve, as it delivered its first rate cut in 2025 amid concerns over inflation and labor weakness. After the announcement, markets showed both optimism and caution as investors sifted through the signal behind the move.

#### Fed cuts by 25 basis points: What it signals

On September 17, the Fed lowered the federal funds rate by 0.25 percentage points, bringing the target range to 4.00%–4.25%. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell described the move as a "risk-management cut," citing a weakening job market and persistent inflation as key risks. One dissenting vote came from newly confirmed Governor Stephen Miran, who backed a larger 50 basis points cut. The Fed also released its statement that emphasized monitoring incoming data closely and adjusting further if needed.

#### Index performance: mixed reactions

Dow Jones: +0.6%  
S&P 500: -0.1%  
Nasdaq: -0.3%  
Russell 2000: +0.2%

Markets responded with mixed signals. The Dow ticked up modestly, while the Nasdaq and S&P 500 slipped slightly. Small-caps, reflected in the Russell 2000, eked out a gain. The rate cut was seen as dovish, but some investors worried that inflation remains stubborn.

#### The big moves: Key winners and losers

Americans rushed to refinance their mortgages as rates fell, with mortgage applications surging notably this week. Corporate boards and funds were watching closely how the Fed's projections included two more cuts in 2025 and only one in 2026. Many were encouraged by the Fed's forward guidance, even as Powell emphasized that these projections are conditional.

#### Global market: Fed's independence under scrutiny

Political tension around the Fed deepened. The issue of replacing Fed Governor Lisa Cook was raised, prompting warnings from global observers about threats to the central bank's independence. Bundesbank President Joachim Nagel cautioned that political interference could undermine U.S. economic stability. The dollar strengthened post-announcement, and U.S. Treasury yields rose as markets absorbed both the rate cut and inflation risks.

#### Looking Ahead: Inflation, jobs and policy path

Investors now have their eyes on upcoming inflation data, labor market indicators and consumer spending. The Fed's statement makes clear that any further easing will depend on how inflation behaves and how labor market softness evolves. With inflation still above target and job growth flagging, markets are betting on at least one more cut by year-end. The key questions: will inflation cooperate, and will the Fed hold its nerve amid political noise and global uncertainties?

## Abbotts '85 LaFollette Lecture speaks on music and love

EVAN BONE '26  
OPINION EDITOR

After four years as a student and 31 years as a professor at Wabash, Professor of Theatre and Music Department Chair Michael Abbott '85 will retire at the end of the academic year. Wabash has been where Abbott developed his intellectual thirst as a wide-eyed undergraduate, and where he has built a legacy of commitment to his students. With such a deep connection to our college, one must wonder how Abbott hopes to wrap up his time at the college.

On Thursday September 18th, Abbott gave this year's LaFollette Lecture titled "The Last Mixtape." The LaFollette Lecture always stands out amongst the plethora of talks and campus events as a truly special gathering. With Professor Abbott retiring at the end of this academic year, this lecture carried even greater weight. A time-honored tradition, the LaFollette Lecture is given every fall semester by a faculty member with the broad yet profound prompt of addressing the connection between their discipline and the humanities. The lecture is accompanied by a wonderful dinner.

The planning and organization of this tradition starts with the selection of the lecturer. This process is handled by the Charles D. and Elizabeth S. LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities. Professor of Classics Jeremy Hartnett '96 currently holds this position. Professor Jeremy Hartnett's selection process includes speaking with faculty, deans and ultimately making the decision himself.

"All students know about Bill Placher because we read his stuff in EQ," said Hartnett. "He held this chair awhile back and one of the things he said was, 'I want to pick somebody whose mind is interesting and can think beyond the strict limits of their discipline.'"

The LaFollette Lecture is the epitome of liberal arts education, making this event a joy for faculty and students alike. Lecturers are asked to look beyond their discipline and to allow the audience into their headspace.

"It's your chance to give a lecture that doesn't have to have a thesis statement and a distinct argument," said Hartnett. "It can really be prose or a poem. And over the last 15 years it's often been accompanied by visuals as well."

The form of the lecture is varied. All that is certain is that audiences will leave with a full belly, their perspective challenged and their



PHOTO BY EIJAH GREENE '25

Professor Michael Abbott '85 performing in the spring 2025 production of "12 Angry Men".

heart moved.

"I'm thinking about who's going to have the talent to be an interesting mind that I think the college would benefit from hearing more," said Hartnett. "Who's going to be the person who can say something profound, give us a look into their life and like after you leave a really good movie, leave the crowd thinking."

In tune with the prompt, Abbott's lecture addresses the humanities while peeling back personal layers. The result is an emphatic lecture sure to resonate with the Wabash community and beyond.

"Really what a mixtape is, for me, is it's very carefully put together, it's a very intentional thing. It has a recipient" said Abbott, "You give it to someone. That's the way I think about music, and the function of it for me personally, but in education, we as teachers try to give our students a version of the topic and ourselves. We give them what matters to us and what we find beautiful and important."

While music and theatre are Abbott's stomping ground, his lecture aimed to strike a chord with everyone by looking into the love in education.

"If you accept that teacher-student relationship, that's a kind of generosity," said Abbott.

"I'm going to take this thing that you love and I'm going to try and understand it through your eyes. There's a lot of love involved in that."

Love is central to Abbott's lecture. The love, empathy and care in education may go unnoticed for people stressed out by deadlines and responsibilities, but Abbott's lecture demonstrates that at the core of this relationship is a loving bond.

With this being Professor Abbott's last year, students and faculty alike look to celebrate his impactful career throughout this year. The 45th LaFollette Lecture is the culmination of this celebrated career.

"I've been in the music department for a few years, so that's kind of half of it for me, just the normal charge," said Abbott. "But the other half really is about saying goodbye and thank you."

The '85 graduate has left a strong mark on this college and "The Last Mixtape" looks to address this enduring legacy while speaking to our shared humanity. In conversation Abbott reflected on the process of creating his lecture.

"I had this original thought when they first asked me to do it," said Abbott. "Now I'm going to talk about some things I've always wanted to say and some are critical of Wabash. I

have such a deep relationship with this place. And not everything is positive, and I have a set of critiques...The lecture kind of took on its own life, and it took me away and carried me towards things that I think are more enduring, important and resonant."

Academic administrative coordinator of the Fine Arts Center, Julia Phipps, handles the logistics of the lecture and dinner. Phipps communicates with the lecturer in the summer to get a grip of the faculty member's vision for the lecture. Phipps loves being a part of the lecture and dinner.

"The big value for me is that the LaFollette Lecture is what college is about," said Phipps. "You could be a chemistry, computer science, economic or Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) major but you still need the humanities in your life to be a well-rounded human, a gentleman and a responsible citizen."

Phipps assists the lecturer every year with developing the poster, her favorite part of the process. She sees her role as being an asset to the lecturer to bring their vision to life. Her deep relationship with Professor Abbott made the development of this lecture personal for Phipps, but every LaFollette Lecture is special in its own regard.

"Michael cast me in a play, and then I got the job as Academic Administrative coordinator of the Fine Arts Center," said Phipps. "I am grateful to Michael for giving me that opportunity, so I want the lecture to be just right for him. But I feel that way for everybody. I wanted it to be just right for Crystal Benedicts last year. I wanted it to be just right for Amanda Ingram and Derek Nelson."

The LaFollette Lecture is one of Wabash's greatest traditions. It unites faculty and students in the humanities as they reflect on a compelling lecture and seniors connect with the faculty members who have defined their college experience. "The Last Mixtape" puts a moving legacy into perspective while celebrating the humanities and the love at the heart of education. Professor Abbott will surely be missed in retirement, but he leaves Wabash with the greatest gift of all: an open heart.

## 'The Long Walk' never fully hits its stride



COURTESY OF SCREENRANT

NOAH MINTIE '29  
STAFF WRITER

Not long ago, young-adult dystopian movies were all the rage. "The Maze Runner," "Divergent," and especially "The Hunger Games" dominated cultural discourse before fizzling out as the 2010s marched on. Now genre alum Francis Lawrence is back for round two with his new film: "The Long Walk," which is at the very least a testament to the potential of dystopian storytelling.

The film follows Garraty (Cooper Hoffman) and 49 other young men as they volunteer for a brutal marching ritual that celebrates a dystopian America. Each walker is to tread a steady 3mph until only one remains. The technology and setting evoke the late twentieth century, but the event's purpose is to remind the public of hard work's virtue, a contemporary concern. It is a sentiment which the authoritarian Major (Mark Hamill) claims will motivate a lazy country which is long past its prime.

One of "The Long Walk's" more thematically intriguing elements is the exploration of a fictional American culture. Each walker speaks from a unique perspective, and their snippy remarks morph into extensive debates which contextualize their lives as they progress. Beyond the dialogue, the sets tell the story of a sparsely-populated and impoverished country. Callous onlookers suggest

that this is a place completely desensitized to all violence. When a walker stumbles (or god forbid - stops), the stoney faces of onlookers are juxtaposed with the film's gruesome violence.

The danger cuts deep into the viewer, but not as deep as it could. One of the film's most persistent issues is its inconsistent script. Lots of interesting ideas are at play, yet the dialogue is a little too functional for its own sake. Copious unnatural exposition is crammed into the character's lines, especially in the first act. This leads the viewer to form an emotional distance with the characters, crippling the stakes. The film eventually corrects this issue, but by then it more heavily relies on the walkers' plight to boost engagement. By the climax the characters come back around and the resolution hits hard, but it could have hit harder if the beginning of the movie spent more time developing the characters' humanity.

The directing is also disappointingly pedestrian, rarely gifting the viewer with a memorable shot or sequence. Even the harsh beams of orange light which activate at nightfall cannot make the visual language the least bit dynamic. The script runs shallow, the visuals are consistently drab and for a brief moment the heartfelt performances are the only thing hooking the viewer.

Even so, for a movie exclusively about people walking, "The Long Walk" is skillfully paced. The runtime never weighs on the viewer, especially because the editing is mostly fluid. The sound design is exceptional, making the empty fields and roads seem desolate. My favorite sonic detail was the footsteps getting more sparse yet remarkably persistent as the walkers' numbers dwindled.

The plot makes bold strokes towards the film's end, helping it avoid the predictable fates of many other movies in the dystopian genre. As I've already alluded to, "The Long Walk" peaks in the second and especially the third acts. This is mostly because who will survive the titular walk seems obvious at first, but becomes more unclear as the story unfolds.

Holistically, "The Long Walk" misses its more ambitious marks while still bringing something worthwhile to the table. I speculate that the themes will age nicely, but the movie's generic presentation will not be enough to spotlight them. The film grazes memorability, but never fully grasps it.

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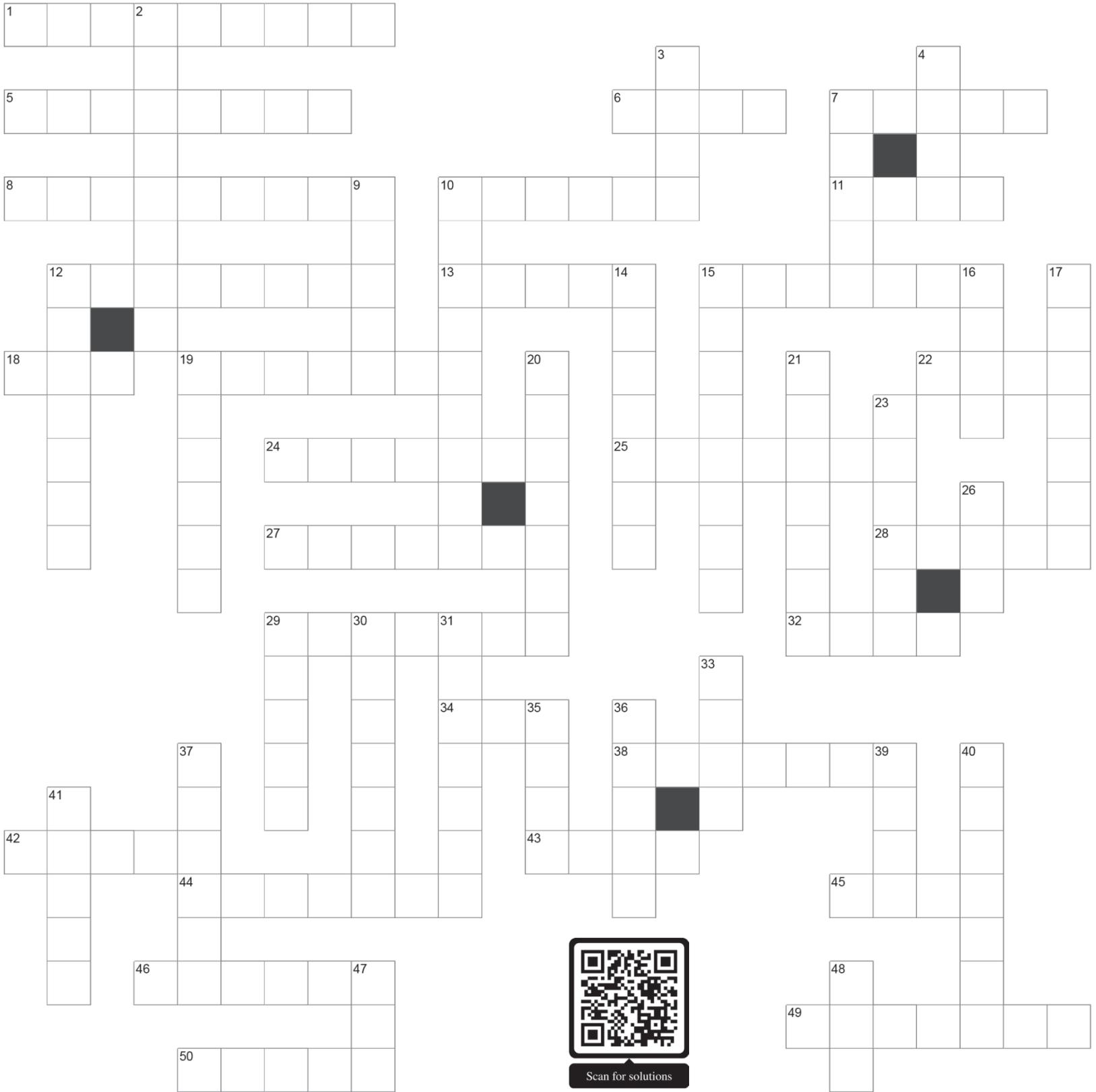
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**FINAL VERDICT:  
3.5/5 WALLYS**



# 'Fall, football and school'

Crossword by Tanner Quackenbush '26



**Across**

- 1. Six points in football, or landing a plane
- 5. Assignments done outside of school
- 6. Feeling of autumn, with warm sweaters and fires
- 7. A group of students
- 8. Month when autumn begins and school starts
- 10. Color of autumn foliage, shining brightly
- 11. Furniture for a student's work
- 12. Animal gathering nuts in autumn, quite popular on Wabash campus
- 13. Popular autumn fruit, a classic teacher's gift
- 15. Autumn activity, often seen at an apple orchard
- 18. Writing instrument used in school
- 19. Official who enforces football rules
- 22. Corridor in a school, busy between classes
- 24. Start of a football game, like a new school year

**Down**

- 25. Autumn month known for Halloween
- 27. Orange gourd, a symbol of autumn and fall festivals
- 28. Points in football, or a test result at school
- 29. Quarterback's changed play call at the line
- 32. Unit of measure in football
- 34. Creative subject taught in school
- 38. Football player on the line of scrimmage
- 42. Thin ice layer on late-autumn mornings
- 43. School subject involving numbers and calculations
- 44. Autumn's gathering of crops
- 45. Look at and comprehend the meaning of
- 46. Color of many autumn leaves and pumpkins
- 49. Period of a football game, 25 cents
- 50. Writing surface seen in a classroom

**Down**

- 2. Nut that falls from trees in autumn
- 3. Offensive team's possession and is a single play in a series of four chances
- 4. Throwing the football, opposite of failing
- 7. Popular autumn drink, often made from apples
- 9. Measuring tool used in school
- 10. Teacher's record of student marks
- 12. Warm garment worn in chilly autumn weather
- 14. Scoring area on a football field
- 15. Break in a football game
- 16. Formal test at school, often at term's end. Also seen as oral and written in your senior year
- 17. Collective term for autumn leaves
- 19. List of players on a football team
- 20. Team trying to score in football
- 21. Place at school for books and research
- 23. Tool to correct mistakes made in pencil

**Down**

- 26. Misty autumn weather, sometimes seen on fields
- 29. Small nut, a delicious treat for squirrels
- 30. Team trying to stop the football offense
- 31. Warm covering
- 33. Kick in football to give up possession
- 35. Group of football players, or a school project unit
- 36. Defensive rush in football, a quick attack
- 37. To collect
- 39. Written record taken in school
- 40. Learner in a school
- 41. Description of autumn air, perfect for football
- 47. Conclusion of a football game or school day
- 48. Vehicle for school transport

## The Bledsoe '26 breakdown – 2025 Chapel Sing power rankings



There's something that they do every year that guarantees victory. Yeah?

**#2 Lamba Chi Alpha (Chops on top?)**

Ah, my favorite house on campus (as a GDI). I love these guys, and they're so nice to me. The question is: how are they going to beat Beta? I don't think it'll happen. There's nothing wrong with silver. The first loser doesn't hurt anybody...maybe just your souls.

**#3 Sigma Chi (iiiiiiiiiii)**

You know, if Lavar Ball's boys went to Wabash, they would've pledged here. Because Lavar likes the number three. Three boys. Three L's. And Lavar knew what I would be thinking in 2025, so he knew that I would have Sig Chi finishing third this year. Adding to the L's Lavar.

**#4 Delta Tau Delta (rah rah redundancy)**

Rah rah my butt. You guys keep me up at night when you guys have your pledges singing the song in the pit way too late. Not to mention, you guys stopped your pledges from singing when I went out to watch and listen on my porch. How rude! I don't know what you guys have to hide. Literally the whole campus can

hear you. I would put you guys lower, but your pledges actually sound somewhat decent.

**#5 Phi Kappa Psi (live ever, die never)**

I am convinced the Phi Psi house puts something in the systems of the pledges that makes them not perform well on the day of Chapel Sing. Does anyone have any knowledge of what that substance might be? Pedialyte maybe?

**#6 Phi Gamma Delta (nerds)**

If there is a fraternity that has guys that know the song bar for bar, it's Fiji. They know how to spell every word, how many words go on each line and the proper punctuation for the whole song. While they know a lot, they haven't quite figured out how to sing the song with true Wabash pride.

**#7 GDI ('till they die)**

I think they done Chapel Sing, but I always think it's fun watching and supporting my fellow independent brothers battle it out against the gross and smelly fraternity boys. The GDI's never win because the Sphinx Club has so many fraternity guys that hate GDI's. So this ranking is not a lack of belief in my boys, it's just my prediction of where we get wrongfully placed.

**#8 Tau Kappa Epsilon (D&D)**

Okay, these guys are genuinely nice people,

but also, they rarely crawl out of their basement...wait, I'm sorry...dungeon. They have pretty much memorized every spell in the book, but they lack some memorization of the song. Sucks to be below the GDI's, right? Do something about it!

**#9 Theta Delta Chi (Loosey Goosey)**

It's so disappointing to see such a musically inclined house towards the bottom of the list. I love Deacon, and I love "Free Bird". But can we please get a vocals coach in the house? If you guys do that, you could creep your way up my list.

**#10 Phi Delta Theta (Senior Bench?)**

Can you guys even show up without your Senior Bench? I mean, seriously that's such an embarrass...oh wait! I know why your bench was on the mall! You guys wanted to get the best seats in the house as early as possible just to see your freshmen finish second-to-last. I understand it now!

**#11 Kappa Sigma (more pledges please)**

I was told to include Kappa Sigma on this list, but like...do they actually have anyone participating this year? I seriously have no idea. I never walk to that corner of campus, but rumor has it that the house has been taken over by freshmen GDI's.

SEAN BLEDSOE '26  
SPORTS EDITOR

Oh, Chapel Sing. Where clueless freshmen and other Wabash men who haven't gotten their "W" engrain themselves further into the brotherhood. I feel like I am the most objective person to write this article because I am not in a fraternity and I have not gotten my "W" as a GDI. Also, I'm just the power rankings god, so I know what I'm talking about. Anything anyone else says is wrong. I am right.

**#1 Beta Theta Pi (protect the steps)**

It's no shocker that the Betas top the list.

## BACHELOR

301 W. Wabash Ave.,  
Crawfordsville, IN, 47933

X: @bachelorwabash  
IG: @bachelorwabash

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

James Wallace • jpwallac26@wabash.edu

### MANAGING EDITOR

Nathan Ellenberger • nvelleb26@wabash.edu

### OPINION EDITOR

Evan Bone • ecbone26@wabash.edu

### FEATURES EDITOR

Owen Vermeulen • ohvermeu28@wabash.edu

### SPORTS EDITOR

Sean Bledsoe • smbledso26@wabash.edu

### PHOTO EDITOR

Will Duncan • wjduncan27@wabash.edu

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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## Have We Been Double-Crossed?



Lucas Martin '26

Reply to this opinion at  
ljmartin26@wabash.edu

While reading *The Bachelor*, it is exciting to see familiar faces stepping out of their comfort zones to achieve great things. I, along with so many others on this campus, thoroughly enjoy sipping a nice cup of roasted bean and flipping through the pages of our beloved school paper. But on September 10, I grabbed the paper, read the articles and noticed something sincerely gut wrenching. My favorite part of the whole thing... disappeared!

"Surely this was a fluke, right?" I thought to myself after realizing what was missing. So naturally, I waited for the next edition to be printed and laid out for the students. When I got my hands on a copy, I hastily flipped through the entire paper two or three times looking for the word cross puzzle but could not find it. This shook me to my core. Others and I may have felt Double-Crossed in the moment, but I have faith in *The Bachelor* to bring this back, I really do. In all honesty, the reason I am writing this opinion piece is to voice my concerns and bring this issue in front of anyone who may have forgotten.

For six semesters I have gone through the school paper to see what was new and what witty humor it would provide. This whole time, although, it never crossed my mind that the mastermind behind these puzzles would graduate and what I took for granted could disappear so quickly. The crossword was essential on a Friday morning. My friends and I made it customary that we gather for a cup of coffee, throw on some Marvin Gaye, and rack our brains for solutions to the word cross. So, I ask as Marvin might say, "What's Going On" editors? "Mercy Mercy Me."

With all that has been said, it is apparent that somebody needs to step up and fulfill the responsibility of creating a weekly word puzzle. To all the freshmen and sophomores on our campus, I urge you to take a look around and attempt to realize that many of the great events and clubs that we have on campus are here because someone cared for something enough to make it happen. Be the person who makes Wabash better somehow. I do not care if the crossword puzzle is not as good as the ones before because that man was a beast anyways. All that I ask is that some serious conversation is had about this topic and it is brought back to the school paper. I will not rest on this issue until it is resolved!

They say you never truly appreciate something until it is stripped from you. Now I understand this saying more than ever and pray that a brave Wabash man can step up and recover this. You would be my hero.



PHOTO BY EVAN BONE '27

Lucas Martin '26 works on a crossword puzzle featured in an older edition of *The Bachelor* in his room in Beta Theta Pi.

## HI-FIVES

### FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

#### SPECIAL TEAMS, SPECIAL PLAYERS

*Hi-Five to the Bronco's special teams unit, specifically, thank you to #92 of the Broncos for leveraging the longsnapper and giving the Colts their first 2-0 start since 2009. #SuperBowlBound*

#### UNDER THE LIGHTS

*Hi-five to Case Western for finishing out the game this past saturday. A week after CWRU was gifted a free three points to finish in a tie, they didn't forfeit and accepted defeat from the Little Giants. We don't accept any moral victories here.*

#### A BONAFIDE SCRUB

*Stephen A. started his own political talk show this week. Stick to sports bro!*

#### SUPER SIZE IT

*Hi-five to the Crawfordsville McDonalds. After two lightning delays, the football team was forced to move their game against Case Western to Crawfordsville high school, but they were some hungry boys! 100 McDoubles and 100 McChickens will do!*

#### UH OH, STINKY

*Hi-five to the Sphinx Club for giving us Rhynes. Our skies are finally protected once again by smelly junior Rhynes.*

## My National Act



Julia Phipps

Reply to this opinion at  
hippsj@wabash.edu

If you've been around the Fine Arts Center for the last few months, you've heard me wax poetic about the upcoming Visiting Artists Series concert by Carbon Leaf. We are unbelievably lucky to have a band of this caliber coming to the College on September 23, and you get to see them for free!

A lot of people have been asking me where I discovered Carbon Leaf, or when I first heard their songs, and like any great favorite band story, I do not remember. I definitely heard them for the first time post-9/11 and pre-college, and I became obsessed with the tune "Life Less Ordinary" while I was a hopeless romantic at TCU. I credit that song with my now-husband asking me on our first date about ten months after I played it for him during a discussion of favorite songs, and him thinking "wait, does she want me to live a life less ordinary with her?!" and eventually asking me out. (The beginning of our relationship is a much longer story that I do NOT have time for in this opinion, but if you're curious, you can ask me.) Later, I made a friend in Austin, TX, who had also heard of my obscure favorite band from Virginia, and he brought me a thumb drive with the entire discography at that time. I added all the songs to my iTunes and discovered the depth and breadth of over 30 years of musicianship. I've seen them in concert twice now, once in Austin and once in Indy, and I highly encourage you to attend the concert in Salter Hall on the 23rd.

Carbon Leaf has a huge discography of different kinds of music, but all of them have incredible instrumental moments and beautiful, thoughtful

lyrics. The first album "Meander", feels like a nod to O.A.R. and the Dave Matthews Band. I don't have anything from their early music in my Spotify liked songs, but starting in 2001 with the album "Echo Echo" they really started to come into their own. The lead single on "Echo Echo", "The Boxer", was their first hit - not a cover of the Simon & Garfunkel tune, but the winner of the 2002 New Music Award from the American Music Awards. Carbon Leaf has been a true indie band since 2010, recording all of their own albums (and rerecording their early music in order to keep the rights) and touring practically nonstop.

I have a significant liked-songs-playlist on Spotify of Carbon Leaf tunes. Here's some of my favorites, in no particular order, and feel free to email me for more recommendations. "Pierce My Heart" is so good on a long drive or when you're feeling a little weary. "All of My Love" is possibly their most romantic tune. "Dear" has a beautiful intro and a soft build that leaves you yearning for true love. "Sad and Alone" is the official drinking song of my D&D character. "Let Your Troubles Roll By" is a gentle reminder to stop worrying about the future and features one of the best lyrical moments in their whole catalogue. You should listen to "She's Gone (For Good This Time)" before the concert, because they almost always expect the audience to sing along with it - and it's so fun! The new music they're touring with is just as good, and my favorite from the new album is "Love For Sale", or maybe "Monday Night in Germantown". Their music is poetic, lyrical, and fun to listen to. It may not be your jam, but it's definitely mine, and I would love to see you at the concert!

Carbon Leaf has an incredibly loyal fanbase and the tickets for this event will almost certainly sell out before Tuesday, so you should not expect to be able to just walk up and have a seat like you normally can in Salter. Reserve your free ticket at Wabash.edu/boxoffice as soon as you can!

## Say hi to everyone



Kyle Foster '27

Reply to this opinion at  
kafoster27@wabash.edu

Wabash is a place where different people from different backgrounds come to receive a higher form of education. An education not only within our majors and minors but across the spectrum. Often classes can be difficult and can keep us away from things we enjoy doing or interacting with others. Whether that be several classes in the morning or a long biology lab in the afternoon.

Often these are followed by athletics, club meetings, homework and studying. Once we are done with all of this, people just want to take a break and play video games, watch a movie or flat out go to bed. However, I believe that as Wabash students we should go the extra mile, dig deep to get all our work done and find time to interact with others on a deeper level.

I believe Wabash provides each and every one of us with a unique opportunity to not only get to know one another but understand who people are on a fundamental level. Through different fraternities, houses, clubs and organizations, opportunities to delve into our interests and find what makes us tick come up.

These organizations often help us with a basic understanding of who a person is and allows us to break the barrier of getting to know new people. I believe

that this shouldn't be the end of the road, but rather the beginning. We, as Wabash men, should push past the foundations of relationships and get to know one another. But how does someone even meet someone new or get past the "embarrassment" of introducing yourself to someone new? How do we find the courage to go out for a club or organization on campus?

There is a simple solution to this often irrational fear a lot of people have. I believe that one of the greatest things about Wabash is how people say hi to others. People greet others who they have never met before while walking around campus or in classes. I believe that this sets the precedent for our culture and the type of people we want to be.

If you have never been to a larger campus, I can tell you firsthand this culture doesn't exist. People are often buried in their phones, music, or flat out ignore others. This gives us an opportunity over other institutions to not only meet new people constantly but to break past the ever so "fearful" part of introducing yourself to another person. This also provides us with a useful set of skills in life where most other colleges won't provide. It allows us to form relationships with people from different backgrounds and places we have never been before.

These skills and experiences will also allow us to know who people are but also why they are the way they are. If we, as a culture, can understand one another and know how to meaningfully interact with each other, we can be leaders a step above students from other institutions. We can make changes not only on this campus but around the world after we walk under those arches on our last day as students.

# Instagram Reels or TikTok: The Greatest Debate Mankind Has Ever Faced



Neil Johnson '27  
Reply to this opinion at npjohnso27@wabash.edu

Many may argue that TikTok is the superior vice to Reels, as 2019 is often deemed the peak of the 15-second video era. I will be the first to admit, 2019 was indeed the glory days. But when I use TikTok now, it seems that people are trying too hard to make quality content. While on Reels, the videos are grimy, specifically for my indulgence. Let's not forget how spot on the Reels algorithm is. When I feel like watching UFC fight clips or even relatable memes, Reels is so responsive within the next 6-7 videos (lol). But Reels often can hit me with the most unpredictable videos. One second, it's "Let's get Sendy," and the next it's "A Barbershop Haircut That Costs a Quarter." And it gets me. Every. Single. Time.

There are downsides to both, though. That is my egregiously high screen time. It has even gotten to the point that I must block Reels and TikTok if I want to even think about getting any homework done (this doesn't work at all, by the way; I know the code). But isn't that the point? To escape reality for a few hours. It's a way to enter the brains of the greatest minds of our generation.

Overall, TikTok and Reels both have their advantages and disadvantages, with Reels taking the cake for me. But at the end of the day, both platforms are controlling our lives. So, it's probably best not to use either. But if you must, I urge you to join me on the Reels wave and continue to funnel billions of dollars to Mark Zuckerberg and Co.

Imagine this: you just finished a long day of classes, studying and practice so you decide to plop down on the couch and get on your phone. Your boys are all doing the same: sprawled out along the couches in your chill room. Now, the most profound Little Giants would say, "You know what, I don't need to sit here and scroll endlessly for two hours."

However, I presume most Little Giants are like me and decide that now is the perfect time for a good doom-scroll. Now, you must decide which app to use: TikTok or Instagram Reels? The age-old question. Both contain incredible videos full of brain rot, comedy sketches and most importantly, positivity. It is extremely taxing to decide. I, however, propose that Instagram Reels clearly beats TikTok by far.

The sheer number of giggles that my body produces because of Reels should be considered illegal. As I scroll to a new reel, my dopamine skyrockets as I anticipate the creative masterpiece I will soon witness. This scroll, dopamine hit and scroll again tends to continue for what seems like forever. Now that I am writing this, I am starting to think I may be addicted to Reels.

## Wally's Wall: Best part of autumn

What are you most excited for this autumn?

**Sean Bledsoe '26**

I am excited for the leaves to change colors on campus. It is literally one of the best things I have ever seen in my life.

**Brady Largent '26**

I'm looking forward to the biggest event of my life. Wicked: For Good.

**William Cunningham '29**

CHAPEL SING!

**Shad Wilson '27**

Drinking mass quantities of apple cider.

**Bryce Kinnaman '27**

When thinking about autumn, I'm most excited to throw on shorts and a sweatshirt each morning, breathing in the crisp air as I walk to class.

**Jackson Bohrer '26**

I'd have to say that I'm most excited to hear the bell ringing at Wabash again.

**Landon Huber '27**

I am most excited about carving pumpkins and sweater weather!

**Nicholas Green '27**

I am most excited for the leaves to change color. I love the oranges and reds of the arboretum before it gets too cold.

**Michael Cruzado '27**

I am most excited to see the leaves change color. It is not something that I am used to seeing back home. In Arizona we are not afforded the privilege of experiencing such a beautiful sight. Although my home state may have some beautiful mountain scenery, there is something about seeing all of the different shades of orange and red leaves hanging from the trees that holds a special place in my heart.

## Request for opinions

Have a hot take on campus culture? Or maybe you're enjoying a new hobby and want others to join in? If so write an opinion for The Bachelor!

Contact [ecbone26@wabash.edu](mailto:ecbone26@wabash.edu) or [jpwallac26@wabash.edu](mailto:jpwallac26@wabash.edu)

## When Rhynie no air raid

by Drake Green '28



## Golf finishes in second at Forest Hills in frustration

WILL DUNCAN '27  
PHOTO EDITOR

The Wabash College Golf Team had their best finish of the season at this past weekend's tournament. The team traveled to Richmond, IN on September 13-14 to compete in the 4th Annual Forest Hills Invitational, and ended up placing T-1 with Spalding University. Both teams put up a two-round score of 621 (+61), with the Little Giants' rounds ending up at 310 and 311 to match the Golden Eagles' rounds of 313 and 308. Spalding would go on to secure the tournament title in the five-man playoff.

**"The most important part is their self-belief and their ability to go out and compete."**

- Head Golf Coach  
Justin Kopp '21

The Little Giants had many notable individual performances throughout this tournament. Sean Bledsoe '26 led the team, placing

5th overall with rounds of 77 and 75 for a total score of 152 (+12). Liam McAllister '26 and Charlie Seaburg '29 both tied for 7th at 154 (+14), with McAllister competing for the Little Giants' "A" team and Seaburg running with the "B" squad.

One of the biggest themes of the weekend was the course itself. Known to be a little worn down and unkept, the golfers agreed it was one of the more challenging courses they've played in their collegiate time. Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21 echoed the teams' displeasure of the course.

"Every player on the team that played this course had their fair share of bad breaks," said Kopp. "We definitely lost a lot of shots because we weren't able to shake the 'course-caused errors,' and we let it affect us."

Mason Pierle '28 also commented on the state of the course.

"The hole locations specifically were in extremely difficult spots which made putting for me extremely difficult," said Pierle.

Despite his struggles, Pierle also had a top-ten finish, placing

9th at 156 (+16), after opening the tournament with a 75.

"I figured out early on in my second round that the course was less about finding fairways and hitting long drives...it was really about hitting greens and putting the ball in the correct spots," said Pierle.

Other notable performances included Coen Bauschek '28 at 157 (+17, T-13), Alex Schenkel '28 at 166 (+26, T-41) and Zane Huber '28 at 167 (+27, T-46). The "B" team tied for 7th in the standings shooting 644 (+84).

"We all know we are very close to playing well and putting up some impressive scores consistently," said Kopp. "I am very confident that our team's constant effort on and off the course will lead to good results this season. The most important part is their self-belief and their ability to go out and compete."

Wabash's next chance to compete will be this weekend, September 21-22, at the Donald Ross Invitational hosted by John Carroll University.



COURTESY OF ASSISTANT GOLF COACH BRUCE KOPP  
**Liam McAllister '26 drains his par putt on the 18th green during the Forest Hills Invitational on September 14, 2025, at Forest Hills Country Club.**



COURTESY OF ASSISTANT GOLF COACH BRUCE KOPP

**Mason Pierle '28 looks down the 16th hole during the Forest Hills Invitational on September 14, 2025, at Forest Hills Country Club.**



COURTESY OF ASSISTANT GOLF COACH BRUCE KOPP

**Finn Carteaux '29 gives a smile and thumbs-up on the 18th hole during the Forest Hills Invitational on September 14, 2025, at Forest Hills Country Club.**



COURTESY OF ASSISTANT GOLF COACH BRUCE KOPP

**Sean Bledsoe '26 hits his approach shot on the 18th hole during the Forest Hills Invitational on September 14, 2025, at Forest Hills Country Club.**

## Clark Tinder '20: Leave it better than you found it

CLARK TINDER '20  
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

Wabash, many of you may or may not know but my last day as a staff member was September 13. Deciding to leave was not easy, as Wabash has been a home to me for nearly a decade.

I moved into the Lambda Chi Alpha house in the fall of 2016 as an absolutely clueless freshman. I graduated four years later, sitting at home in the middle of the pandemic. Then, after finishing my master's work at Ball State, in the fall of 2022, I received a text from then Assistant Basketball Coach Patrick Sullivan about an open position in the athletics department. Without much hesitation, I applied. Within days, I was interviewing, signing paperwork and looking for places to live in Crawfordsville.

Returning as a staff member has been nothing short of amazing. Be-

ing able to start my professional career at my alma mater is a dream come true. I was able to come into a job that supported me and let me grow. Much like my days as a student, I was surrounded by a support system that was there to catch me when I failed. The students I had the privilege to work alongside with were the best part of this job. I relied on them daily — students like Jacob Bishop '23, my first worker I met in the equipment room who set a gold standard for every employee to follow, and Zach Waldon '24, who became a true partner in executing home events. There are too many to name, but if I ever approved your time card, just know it was a pleasure being your boss. And please, on behalf of every supervisor here, do not forget to clock out.

When I think about leaving, a theme that keeps coming to mind is: you are leaving it better than

you found it. That's what I've tried to do here. That is why I know now is the right time for me to embark on a new journey. I feel like Wabash Athletics is in a better place than I found it three years ago. It is not an op-ed by an alum if it does not offer a challenge of some sort. And my challenge is simple: leave your living unit, your club, your fraternity, your sports team and, most importantly, Wabash better than you found it. Adopt this mentality in everything you do on campus. If you focus on leaving Wabash better than you found it, your four years here will be transformational — not just for you, but for every Little Giant who follows in your footsteps.

Wabash has given me more than I could ever repay. A world-class education, brothers for life and a home away from home. For that, I will always be grateful. Wabash, I will see you soon. Wabash Always Fights.

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PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Former Assistant Athletic Director for Operations Clark Tinder '20 speaks to one of his workers during a football game against Case Western Reserve University on September 13, 2025, at Little Giant Stadium.**

# From delay to dominance: Little Giants' fourth quarter fight seals 2-0 start

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26  
STAFF WRITER

The storm clouds rolled in, the lightning flashed and for a moment, and it felt like Wabash's home opener might be remembered more for delays than football. What started in one stadium and finished in another stretched across a long seven hours of waiting and adjusting. But when the dust finally settled, the Little Giants prevailed in a 38-28 classic over Case Western Reserve, giving Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98 his first home win.

What was supposed to be a crisp Saturday afternoon at Little Giant Stadium quickly turned into a marathon of perseverance. The first lightning delay pushed kickoff back an hour, and after play finally began, another round of storms forced action to stop again midway through the third quarter with 13:45 on the clock.

After discussion within the athletics department, the solution was to move the game across town to Crawfordsville High School, marking the first mid-game venue change for Wabash since 2000 against Wittenberg. For Coach Gilbert, this new turf was familiar ground, as he coached against Crawfordsville during his high school days at North Montgomery, making Saturday's detour a full-circle moment in his coaching journey.

"Our guys weathered the storm literally," said Gilbert. "We maintained pretty good focus during the delay. We blocked out distractions and really came out ready to play once we moved the game to the high school. Our guys hadn't eaten for eight hours. We were hungry!"

Wabash found a way to thrive where Case Western had already faltered. The Spartans endured weather troubles just a week earlier when storms halted their game at Rowan University, leaving them with a rare 17-17 tie. This time however, there would be no stalemate as the Little Giants delivered Case their first loss of the season.

**"Since Gilbert took over, we have planned for situations like the one we faced on Saturday. I believe this gave us the edge, allowing us to stay focused and battle until the very end."**

- Brock Robertson '26

Before the unprecedented situation arose, the action in the first half was fast-paced. Wabash wasted no time striking first, as quarterback Brand Campbell '27 found receiver Luke Adams '27 in stride for a 20-yard touchdown just over four minutes into the contest. Case Western answered with a pair of rushing scores to flip momentum, but Campbell responded by muscling his way



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Cole Dickerson '28 (left) and Brand Campbell '27 (right) stare down Case Western defenders after Campbell scored a rushing touchdown during the Little Giant victory on September 13, 2025, in Little Giant Stadium.**

across the goal line from two yards out to even the score at 14.

Running back Xavier Tyler '26, the NCAC's reigning rushing champ, powered in from five yards to restore the Little Giant lead with 3:16 to play in the first half. In a rare twist, Case Western broke out a wishbone look, marching the offense 75 yards to tie the game at 21 heading into halftime.

When play finally resumed in the second half, it seems both teams were still shaking off the rust from the delay. The third quarter ticked by without a single point, but that

silence was only the calm before Wabash's storm. The Little Giants' defense flipped the switch by dialing up blitz after blitz, halting Case Western's rhythm and piling up four sacks in the fourth quarter alone.

"We knew we needed to get after them, and that's what we did," said safety Brock Robertson '26. "We focused on what we could control, and though it wasn't pretty at first, we found a way to get it done."

On the other side of the ball, the offense matched that intensity. Leaning on its backfield, Wabash pounded the Spartans' front 14

times in the final quarter. Running back Cole Dickerson '28 bulldozed his way into the end zone, while Campbell connected with TJ Alexander '26 on a four-yard touchdown pass to cap a decisive 17-point frame. The Little Giants turned a back-and-forth contest into a statement win to start their 2025 campaign 2-0.

"I was happy with our energy and focus throughout the second half," said Gilbert. "We definitely still made a couple of mistakes, but I thought the effort and energy was substantially better. We put Case [Western] in some really tough spots. Our de-



PHOTO BY BRAIDEN FOSTER '26

**Quinn Sholar '26 shifts over to block a defender during Wabash's home opener against Case Western Reserve University on September 13, 2025, at Little Giant Stadium.**

fense rose to the occasion, and our offense got cooking in the fourth quarter."

Campbell completed 19 of 30 passes for 208 yards and two touchdowns, but the unexpected spark came from his legs, as the second-year starter tucked the ball 13 times for 66 yards and another score. With a mix of design and instinct, Campbell used his situational awareness to turn broken plays into essential gains.

The duo in the backfield delivered once again, as Tyler grinded out 68 yards and a touchdown while Dickerson chipped in 71 yards and a score of his own. Out wide, Adams put together a breakout game with six receptions, 94 yards and a touchdown, all career highs.

**"Our guys weathered the storm literally... [They] hadn't eaten for eight hours. We were hungry!"**

- Head Football Coach  
Jake Gilbert '98

"I knew I needed to step up, and all spring, I worked as hard as I could to become our go-to guy," said Adams.

Defensively, Robertson led the charge with seven tackles and a quarterback hit, while four Little Giant defenders tallied a sack. Wabash's collective effort summed up to 420 yards of offense to Case Western's 284, an 11-for-18 conversion rate on third downs and a massive nine-minute edge in fourth-quarter time of possession.

"I was just so happy with the whole team's resilience," said Robertson. "Since Gilbert took over, we have planned for situations like the one we faced on Saturday. I believe this gave us the edge, allowing us to stay focused and battle until the very end."

The Little Giants now shift their focus to Wooster this Saturday, September 20, a matchup that also marks the college's 25th year competing in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC). Wabash rolled past the Fighting Scots 55-19 on the road a year ago, and after their strong finish in the home opener, they're eager to put together another offensive showcase.

"I think that our wide receiver room is one of the deepest rooms in the country," said Campbell. "I believe that we can put seven or eight guys out there and feel comfortable with each and every one of them."

"As a unit, our offense plans to continue to build on this game," said Adams. "The more games our offense gets under our belts, the better our offense will be. We have plenty of room for improvement."

Wabash has claimed victory in 17 of the last 19 meetings with Wooster and will look to make it four straight when the two conference foes clash Saturday at 2 p.m. EST.

## The Bledsoe '26 breakdown - NCAC football Week Two power rankings



SEAN BLEDSOE '26  
SPORTS EDITOR

Week Two came and went with some electric games, both literally and figuratively. It was the last week of non-conference games, and the results divided the NCAC's record board a little bit, but now real blood will be spilled in Week Three. I can't get too ahead of myself, though, as I must tell you where conference teams stack up against one another in my power ranking eyes.

### #1 DePauw (2 - 0)

The Dannies made their way south on Saturday (even though I didn't know you could go further south than hell) to play the Centre College Colonels. So much for the opposing team having any sort of authority over the Tigers as the team dressed in black and gold took a 35-14 victory. In all honesty, I was expecting the Tigers to take a bigger bite out of the Colonels because I know absolutely nothing about Kentucky boys playing football. The team still stands as the No. 14 team in the country according to D3football.com, but this result could be a sign, Little Giant Nation, that the Tigers have some weaknesses... who am I kidding? We know they

always have an achilles heel: their beloved Tiger statue. They always whine when someone messes with their "thing." Just protect it. It isn't that hard. We promise not to throw red paint on it this year...maybe (we at The Bachelor do not condone these actions).

### #2 John Carroll (1 - 1)

It absolutely pains me to do this, but I'm keeping the Blue Streaks here in the second place spot, despite their loss on Saturday. For me, it was because of who they played: the No. 3 team in the country, Johns Hopkins University. It was actually a competitive game with the final score being 13-27 in favor of the Blue Jays. Even with the loss, the Blue Streaks remained in the top-25 at the No. 21 spot according to D3football.com. Saturday will mark the Blue Streaks' first game as a member of the NCAC playing against another conference opponent. I'm not quite sure if this weekend's matchup can be called a game because they are playing the Yeomen of Oberlin. If y'all don't score at least 80 points, there is something wrong with your football program. Let the battle of the confusing mascots commence! Also, can someone please email me at sbledsoe26@wabash.edu to inform me what a Blue Streak is? Help a brother out.

### #3 Wabash (2 - 0)

What a gritty performance by my brothers in scarlet and white this past weekend! In a game that lasted way too long, Wabash came out victori-

ous against a stout opponent in Case Western Reserve University. With the game pushed back an hour due to mother nature's electrical problems, the Little Giants were eager to play. The two teams came out hot, both scoring 21 points in the first half, but only one minute into the second half, the sky decided to cry on top of the electrical problems. This delay forced Wabash to relocate to Crawfordsville High School due to lack of daylight and field lights, but they felt right at home as they crushed the Spartans. Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98 picked up his first "home" win, and I could not be more excited for him and his team. The Little Giants will travel to Wooster to play the Fighting Scots on Saturday, and hopefully the Scots embrace their roots and go back to playing golf after their beatdown.

### #4 Denison (1 - 1)

The Big Red dropped a tough matchup over the weekend to Alma College, a team that has received multiple votes to be in the top-25. Throughout most of the first half, Denison hung in there, and they even had the lead at one point. But as the end of the second quarter came around, they choked harder than the Atlanta Falcons with their 28-3 lead in Super Bowl LI against the New England Patriots. The Scots put up 34 unanswered points from the late second quarter until the beginning of the fourth quarter. They have their bye week this week to regroup, but then they come to good old Crawfordsville to take on the Little Giants next week.

Not sure if the Big Red will get the lead, but if they do, I'm sure Wabash will be fine.

### #5 Ohio Wesleyan (1 - 1)

OWU was in a similar spot to Denison over the weekend as they played Maryville (Tenn.), another team that has received plenty of votes to be in the top-25. The Battling Bishops ended up losing 24-48, but unlike the Big Red, they scored a little more consistently. OWU will host Wittenberg this weekend, but look out Bishops! The Tigers are coming for your fifth place spot. Please, OWU, I'm begging you to win because I'm annoyed with both Tiger teams in the NCAC, and I don't want to put the ones from Ohio any higher on this list.

### #6 Wittenberg (1 - 1)

Okay, you guys won. Good for you - I don't care. You still don't move up in my rankings. I know what I said last week, but strength of schedule favors Denison and Ohio Wesleyan over you guys. You have a chance this weekend to beat OWU, so don't blow it. You don't get any more of my attention this week. Bye.

### #7 Wooster (1 - 1)

You Scots may have won, but you guys don't fool me! You beat a team that went 1-9 last year, and you only won by 14 points. You guys put up 59 points against a dumpster fire of a team in Week One, so why couldn't you do it again this week? Do I need to make another soccer joke? That seemed to get you guys in the end-

zone more often. Alas, the Little Giants will come marching into your MacLeod tartan plaid-colored (that's a mouthful) town tomorrow, and we will beat you guys so bad that you choke on your blowstick from your bagpipes.

### #8 Kenyon (0 - 2)

Oh, Kenyon. Now you have done enough to receive my wrath. Week One wasn't too bad, but when you play a Wisconsin-Eau Claire team that went 2-8 last season and lose to them by 29 points, you deserve none of my respect. They probably got tired of your annoying "hooo" sound, so they decided to silence you. I can't help but think that DePauw will do the same thing tomorrow. I have a recommendation: shut your beaks and take the loss quietly.

### #9 Oberlin (0 - 2)

I'd say it was a successful week for Oberlin as they...oh wait...are you kidding me? You guys played Hiram? You're joking right? Hiram led the conference and y'all still wanted to see if you could possibly get one win this season. Karma came back to bite you Yeomen in an instant! You lost, but at least you scored 21 points and did not end up on the CBS Sports HQ Instagram page showing the most insane scores from the weekend of college football. There is always a bright side....for the conference: your drought of not scoring any points starts on Saturday. Can't wait to see how long this one lasts.