

## 'shOUT flags stolen off the mall again



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Members of the Wabash community planting LGBTQ+ flags as part of the Rainbow Road tradition that 'shOUT does to honor LGBTQ+ History Month.

OWEN VERMEULEN '28  
NEWS EDITOR

Under the cover of darkness on the night of October 9, an unknown number of individuals stole LGBTQ+ flags off the mall. These flags were placed by 'shOUT – creating “Rainbow Road,” a tradition that commemorates LGBTQ+ History Month. A member of 'shOUT was walking across the mall when he noticed that the flags around the flagpole and near Pioneer Chapel were missing. The flags were replaced by members of 'shOUT the next day. On October 11, a number of the replanted flags had been

uprooted and knocked over.

David Leal '26, the current president of 'shOUT, is deeply frustrated by these acts of hatred towards the LGBTQ+ community and hopes that the perpetrators would reflect more sincerely about what it means to be a Wabash man.

“To those individuals, I ask you to reflect deeply,” said Leal. “What is it about a small flag that stirs such hatred or discomfort within you? What drives you to act on that hatred in the darkness of night, when no one is watching? As someone who has met people like you before, I understand that differences

in beliefs and thoughts exist. But Wabash challenges us to be gentlemen, to think critically, to engage honestly and to congruent discomfort through conversation, not destruction.”

The Wabash administration – which students know tends to stay in the background unless necessary – feels the same as Leal.

“This is not acceptable and this is not what we want from our students,” said Dean of Students Scott Brown. “A gentleman will not tolerate bigotry in his community because a gentleman protects and preserves what is special in his brother. Because every brother is special.”

The attack on members of the LGBTQ+ community is not a unique one – in fact, this instance marks the second year in which pride flags were taken from the Mall, and it doesn't stop there.

In fall 2024, however, all of the flags were taken from the Mall and thrown away into the dumpster behind the Beta Theta Pi and Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternities. Preceding that, on two separate occasions homophobic slurs were spray painted at the Delta Tau Delta fraternity. However, for the brave few, these events only inspired unity.

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PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

The pride flags that created “Rainbow Road” only stayed fully intact for four days, but relative to last year, the damage was less severe.

## College partners with Montgomery County to offer free STI testing

PHILIP HARVEY '29  
STAFF WRITER

According to the Montgomery County Health Department, one in two sexually active students will get an STI before the age of 25. Furthermore, most of these people do not even know they are infected according to that estimate.

“This is a place where you have no barriers to getting healthcare... just walk in.”

- Nurse Practitioner Chris Amidon

The Wabash Student Health Center hosted the Montgomery County Health Department with free testing for gonorrhea and chlamydia on October 21 in the Malcolm X Institute in an effort to quell these alarming numbers, with plans for another event on November 8. These two events are in addition to the free testing that is always available at the Student Health Center.

Wabash and Montgomery Country both want to emphasize – with these events – the health concerns they believe sexually active students should have. The college has offered STI tests for a long time and has plans to continue to do so in the future.

One of the problems that needs to be addressed is knowledgability of an infection. Many men might

not know that they have an STI, particularly because men and women's bodies suffer different effects from STIs. This can create the illusion to some that nothing is wrong, whereas in actuality there are tragic complications.

“For students that have STIs, it can have an influence on your future fertility,” said Nurse Practitioner Chris Amidon. “A lot of times men don't have symptoms of STIs, so we've certainly had people come in who said, ‘Oh, I just thought I should get tested’ and they found they have chlamydia.”

Wabash wants students to avoid the danger of being an asymptomatic carrier. Students who are asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic are still entirely capable of passing it onto partners they care about who could go on to have severe complications.

“The bottom line is that if one cares about one's partner, one wants to be tested,” said College Physician Dr. Bob Einterz '77. “Men will, by and large, oftentimes be completely asymptomatic with an STD, particularly something like Chlamydia. But chlamydia can cause significant discomfort and infertility in women.”

Another goal the Health Center seeks to achieve is normalization of testing for STIs. The events at the MXI are actually in response to student surveys expressing their nervousness over coming into the Health Center.

“If people were just anxious about coming in here at all, we thought we

should just have a completely different location,” said Amidon. “It's discreet up there.”

The Health Center believes nobody should be too ashamed to make proactive, intelligent and healthy decisions.

“Everybody should be tested for gonorrhea and chlamydia who are sexually active because those are the two most common infections,” said Amidon. “They [CDC] do recommend that everybody take an HIV test at least once in their 20s. That's a general recommendation.”

The Health Center can prescribe and recommend treatment in line with this idea. They also offer the HPV vaccine, which they emphasize is a disease that causes cervical cancer.

The message the Health Center wants everyone to know is an uplifting one.

“The bottom line is that if one cares about one's partner, one wants to be tested.”

- College Physician Dr. Rob Einterz '77

“We want to make people realize that it's really easy to get it done,” said Amidon. “This is a place where you have no barriers to getting healthcare, two free options you can just walk in and take advantage of. We just want people to do it.

## Football picks up two crucial wins against OWU and Kenyon

SEAN BLEDSOE '26  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Little Giant football team thumped both Ohio Wesleyan and Kenyon with two impressive 40+ point performances, securing a 6–1 record before heading into a fun and festive bye week.

On Saturday, October 11, Wabash hosted the OWU Battling Bishops at Little Giant Stadium where the home team emerged with a 44–27 victory. The Bishops entered the game with hopes of snapping a three-game losing streak, and they were determined to fight to the very end.

“I think we've played great at times, and we've played sloppy 10 percent of the time.”

- Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98

Ohio Wesleyan and Wabash traded three-and-outs to start the game, but during the Bishops' second offensive possession, C.J. Jackson, the starting OWU quarterback, threw a pass that was telegraphed by Wabash's Tanner Crouch '28. Crouch's interception led to a Brand Campbell '27 rushing touchdown to put the Little Giants up 7–0.

On just the fourth offensive mission for Ohio Wesleyan, they decided to make a change at the quarterback position. Chanden Lee, the quarterback who transferred from Wooster to OWU over the summer, came in as the signal caller. The change under center would prove to be a crucial turning point for

the visiting team. On just his second pass of the game, Lee threw a 79-yard touchdown pass to knot the game up at 7–7.

The second quarter would prove to be the highest-scoring and most electric quarter of the day as the teams would combine for 27 points in the 15-minute frame. Wabash struck first thanks to a touchdown pass from Campbell to TJ Alexander '26 and a field goal from Brody Rucker '26 to put the men in scarlet and white up 17–7. The Bishops responded with a touchdown of their own, but Wabash would go on to top them with another touchdown and field goal to put them up 27–14 heading into the locker room at halftime.

As the second half unfolded, Lee did everything he could to keep his team in the game as he threw for 337 yards on the Little Giant defense, but every time the Ohio Wesleyan offense produced points, Campbell and the Wabash offense responded. In the end, Wabash emerged victorious to improve to 5–1.

One week later, the team hopped on buses to head to Gambier, Ohio to battle it out with the Kenyon College Owls.

Wabash spent little time getting on the scoreboard. Sam Ringer '26 returned the opening kickoff deep into Kenyon territory down to their 34 yard-line, setting up Campbell and company in a good spot. On the very first play from scrimmage, Campbell found Luke Adams '27 for a touchdown reception. Only 19 seconds went by and the Little Giants found themselves up 7–0.

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## IU fires director of student media, Indiana looks to redistrict and more

This week's local news

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28  
STAFF WRITER

These past two weeks have been anything but dull in local news. Here's a breakdown of some of what you missed recently.

### IU fires Jim Rodenbush after failure to comply with censoring directive

On October 15, Indiana University fired its director of student media, Jim Rodenbush, after he refused to comply with a directive to censor an upcoming print edition. Rodenbush was given a directive by the Media School to include no news in the October 16 Homecoming edition of the student newspaper. The Media School ordered the paper to focus only on “infor-

mation about Homecoming” and to leave out all other news. IU's media school does not want to let the student newspaper have editorial independence and has demanded oversight in its publication, according to the student editors of the newspaper. IU has said that they are firmly committed to free expression and editorial independence of the student newspaper.

### Second draft of education reform presented to State Board of Education

A second draft of an accountability system for Indiana schools was presented to the State Board of Education by Indiana Department of Education officials on October 15. The proposed grading system assigns points to students based on their academic mastery – measured through test scores – and gives them additional points for other knowledge, skills and

experiences that state education leaders say students need for future success. That includes earning workforce credentials and developing skills such as work ethic, communication, and collaboration. The blend of academic and skills-based elements in the proposed accountability model is the biggest change from previous models.

### Vice President JD Vance made second Hoosier appearance to sway state officials into redistricting

On October 10, Vice President JD Vance made his second appearance in the Hoosier State this year to meet with top state officials to try to convince them to call a special session to pass new congressional maps. State officials say it was a productive session with the Vice President, but have been aloof when asked if there will be a special session. According to those familiar with Governor Mike Braun '76, it seems likely that a special ses-

sion will be called in November around the time that state legislators will be in Indy. If the district maps are redrawn, it is likely that both Congressmen Frank J. Mrvan (D) 1st and Andre Carson (D) 7th are drawn into safe Republican districts. Statewide redistricting is not wanted by a vast majority of Hoosiers, according to a recent poll 53% of Indiana registered voters don't support the move, compared to 34% in favor.



# 'shOUT flags stolen off the mall again

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Earlier that day of October 9, Chris Board '27 and Brady Largent '27 gave chapel talks in honor of LGBTQ+ History Month. In Largent's Chapel Talk, "Tolerance v. Acceptance," he talks about his tumultuous experience during these events and the response of the Wabash community to the Delta Tau Delta incident.

"I was relieved that other people were there to stand with us and back us when we needed it," said Largent. "Members of the Wabash community stood with us to send a message: we want more. We want acceptance."

These acts have done nothing to deter the LGBTQ+ community of Wabash. After the slurs were spray painted on the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, students organized a silent protest in Lilly Library. When the flags were stolen off the mall last year, faculty donated their personal LGBTQ+ flags to replace the ones that were stolen and students stayed out on the mall to guard them. This year, in similar fashion, students sat on the mall throughout the night to

protect the remaining flags.

In spite of homophobic sentiments being a point of contention at Wabash, this year, the story does not appear to be about hatred. It seems to be about the resilience of 'shOUT and the wave of support that Wabash students and faculty have shown them.

Chris Board, a member of 'shOUT, found a lot of comfort in the week. He was surprised at the flags being stolen but not for the reason that you might expect.

"We were expecting something to happen to be honest," said Board. "The fact that it was so much smaller this year makes me feel a lot better. Stealing flags off the mall is not going to silence anyone. The amount of support outweighs the amount of hate and that is so important to me. Those people have to steal stuff undercover and be hidden, versus being outspoken. I find so much comfort knowing that I have people who would stand by my side and support me and support 'shOUT."

This event seems to have taken many students back to the roots of what Wabash preaches:

an open brotherhood where people can embrace their differences and find support.

"'shOUT isn't here to create separation on campus," said Board. "They're here to be a part of that brotherhood that Wabash had flaunted to them on their visits here. Putting those flags out [on the mall] is our way of saying that we love this brotherhood as much as you do. People taking away those flags just means they're not following the rule they signed up to follow, and that just disrespects the brotherhood and the community."

This event seems to have done nothing to distract students from their original message. In fact, it only seems to have increased the vigor with which they send that message.

"I am here for you," said Leal. "'shOUT is here for you. Our faculty, staff and students are here for you. The majority of this campus stands with you. Do not let this moment of ignorance distract you from a month of celebration, reflection and pride. Together, we continue moving forward. Stronger, louder and prouder than ever."

# Economic data blackout continues, markets hold steady and more

AGUSTIN ANTELO '29  
STAFF WRITER

This week, the market found itself navigating between signs of economic softness and lingering inflation risks. While indexes held near highs, concerns over banking credit stress and data delays weighed on sentiment. Tech and safe-haven assets diverged in strength as investors readied themselves for the next policy pivot.

## Economic data blackout & policy uncertainty

The ongoing government shutdown continued to delay key releases such as the September jobs report and CPI figures. With official data missing, the Federal Reserve's latest Beige Book, released on October 15, provided a window into the economy: activity hasn't changed and employment is broadly stable, but there are growing signs of strain among middle-income households and in some economic sectors. At the same time, a Reuters poll showed long-term U.S. Treasury yields are expected to stay elevated despite rate-cut hopes, due to inflation, deficits and weaker data visibility. The result: markets are operating in a fog, left guessing where the next Fed move will land.

## Index performance: steady with caution

Dow Jones: +0.5%  
S&P 500: +0.3%  
Nasdaq: +0.7%  
Russell 2000: -0.2%  
Major indexes posted modest gains overall. The Nasdaq led on strength in large-cap tech stocks, while the S&P 500 edged higher. The Dow climbed as bank shares rebounded somewhat after earlier stress, but small-cap companies in the Russell 2000 lagged as investors favored larger names amid uncertainty.

## The big moves: winners and losers

**Big winners**  
• Gold:  
Gold rose to \$4,209.49 per ounce on October 15, up ~1.6% on that day and having accumulated a ~60% gain year-to-date.

• Large U.S. banks:  
Shares of Morgan Stanley climbed 4.7%, and Bank of America Corporation jumped 4.4% on strong earnings for the week.

## Big losers

• Regional banks:  
The KBW Nasdaq Regional Banking Index fell 2.3% in the week after troubles at some regional lenders surfaced.

• U.S. small-cap equities:  
The Russell 2000 Index slipped ~2% on October 22 as investors moved away from smaller, riskier stocks.

## Debt markets and yields

Yields on long-duration Treasuries remained elevated despite short-term rate cut expectations. The disconnect reflects market worry that easing may be slowed by inflation pressures and weak data. Corporate bond issuance slowed slightly, with investors and issuers alike awaiting clearer signals from policymakers.

## Global & policy backdrop

Global markets traded cautiously. European and Asian equities slipped amid renewed fears of credit stress in banking systems and weak macro data. A stronger U.S. dollar and rising gold prices signaled a tilt toward risk hedging. Meanwhile, trade tensions with China re-emerged, adding another layer to the risk-off sentiment.

## Looking ahead: Eyes on the Fed & data resumption

The key event ahead is the Fed's policy meeting on October 28. With inflation still above target and labor markets showing signs of deterioration, the committee's next move is highly anticipated. Markets are pricing in another rate cut, but the lack of new data complicates things. If the jobs report or CPI release surprises after the shutdown, the Fed could adjust its pace or message accordingly. Earnings season also looms, and companies guidance will be important in gauging how much policy support the economy may need.

# This weekend at Wabash



## Friday, Oct. 24

12:00 p.m.

MXIBS Men in Pink:  
Breast Cancer Awareness

## Saturday, Oct. 25

8:30 a.m.

Moot Court Preliminary Rounds

## Sunday, Oct. 26

5:00 p.m.

Newman Center Sunday Mass

# Israel-Hamas ceasefire collapses, Napoleon's jewelry stolen and Japan elects first female prime minister

## News around the world

PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28  
ONLINE EDITOR

## Israel-Hamas ceasefire violated

Less than two weeks after peace talks between Israel and Hamas began, the ceasefire in Gaza was broken after Israel launched deadly strikes resulting in the death of 45 Palestinians. Israel has also temporarily paused humanitarian aid efforts to the Gaza area following calls from Israeli politicians for a response against ceasefire violations. Israel claimed that Hamas killed two IDF soldiers, but Hamas has denied launching any attacks against Israeli troops.

The U.S. has sent two envoys and nearly 200

troops to Israel on Monday to help mediate negotiations under the fragile ceasefire. Israel plans to begin using concrete barriers and poles to help separate areas in Gaza and more clearly designate which areas are under Israeli control. The U.S. has warned Hamas that their actions will not go without consequences.

"They have to be good," said President of the United States Donald J. Trump. "And if they're not good, they'll be eradicated."



Vice President JD Vance meets with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on October 22, 2025, in Jerusalem, Israel.

## Napoleon jewels stolen from Louvre



Empress Eugénie's diadem of pearls was one of the many items stolen on October 19, 2025, in the Louvre in Paris, France.

Eight pieces of jewelry were stolen from the Louvre in Paris, France, the most visited museum in the world and the home of the Mona Lisa. The pieces, which belonged to Napoleon and his wives, were stolen in broad daylight at 9:30 a.m. CEST on October 19. The heist lasted just seven minutes as the thieves used angle cutters to enter and exit

through a window before speeding off in multiple vehicles.

This incident comes amidst complaints of strained security staff and deteriorating building conditions from Louvre staff. No one was injured as a result of this heist. The thieves have still not been caught and their exact motive remains unclear.

## Sanae Takaichi named first female prime minister in Japan

Japan made history this week as Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Sanae Takaichi, a conservative politician with plans to strengthen the Japanese military and improve relations with the U.S., was elected as the first female prime minister on October 21. In Japan, the prime minister is elected by a vote within parliament (or the National Diet in Japan), where parties nominate representatives to run for prime minister. Unlike the U.S., there is not a direct vote for the prime min-

ister in Japan, although the representatives in the National Diet are chosen via direct vote.

Also, unlike the U.S., Japan has more than two major parties represented in the National Diet. While the LDP is the largest party currently, they do not hold enough seats to form a majority. Takaichi gained enough support to win the election after the LDP formed a coalition with the Japan Innovation Party, which was enough to gain a majority.



Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi speaks on October 21, 2025, at the Prime Minister's office.



## From Pueblo, Mexico to Crawfordsville, Indiana

### TA Spotlight: Abigail Villegas

TOBIN SEIPLE '29  
FEATURES EDITOR

Most individuals who arrive at Wabash in the Fall know what to expect – tradition, a busy schedule and of course, an all-male student body. Funnily enough, Spanish Teaching Assistant Abigail Villegas not only found out she would be at Wabash a mere 20 days before the start of the semester, but she was unaware Wabash is an all-male school. Although the path to Wabash was abrupt, she has thoroughly enjoyed her Wabash experience thus far.

"I'm ashamed to say, I didn't know it was a male school until I arrived," said Villegas. "But I'm really happy to be a part of this community. It's completely different from where I came from...It's been a nice experience."

This semester, the Spanish department welcomed Villegas, a graduate of Benemérita Universidad Autónoma De Puebla. After finishing a degree in teaching English, she worked at a bilingual middle school to teach both English and Spanish, before receiving

the Fulbright Scholarship to be a Spanish TA at Wabash. Villegas has also involved herself on campus and has embraced every opportunity that presented itself at Wabash, an effort praised by her supervising professor.

"She has gotten very engaged with the Wabash community," said Associate Professor of Spanish Jane Hardy. "That's what we most hope for in our TAs, that they get involved in activities and become a part of campus."

Abigail herself confirmed her active participation, attending many events such as Chapel Talks and sports matches, the latter reflecting a unique element of American culture that contrasts with her home.

"I went to my first game of fútbol americano," said Villegas. "I'm still figuring out how it works... but I like the sports culture here."

Her engagement reaches beyond campus involvement as she is currently auditing two courses: EDU-370-01 Public Schools and their Communities and EDU-314 Theory and



COURTESY OF ABIGAIL VILLEGAS

Abigail Villegas is a Spanish Teaching Assistant from Pueblo, Mexico, with a degree in teaching English from Benemérita Universidad Autónoma De Puebla.

Practice of Peer Tutoring. Outside of school, Villegas enjoys taking walks

throughout Crawfordsville, reading classics, dancing, swimming, singing and

watching K-Dramas.

However, her primary role and reason for her fellowship is to teach Spanish. As a TA for Spanish 101 and 103 labs, her role is to provide hands-on practice and

**"She has gotten very engaged with the Wabash community. That's what we most hope for in our TAs, that they get involved in activities and become a part of campus."**

- Associate Professor of Spanish Jane Hardy

cultural immersion.

"For our 100 level language classes, our students meet three days a week with a faculty member," said Hardy. "Then they get an additional hour with the TA in small groups."

These labs, which the professor noted are more accurately called tutorials, are for students to get oral practice and review in a fun

and engaging way, such as through games and conversations. Abigail's labs reflect this goal.

"During the labs, I try to reinforce what the teacher tells the students," said Villegas. "I also try to include a cultural view of Mexico."

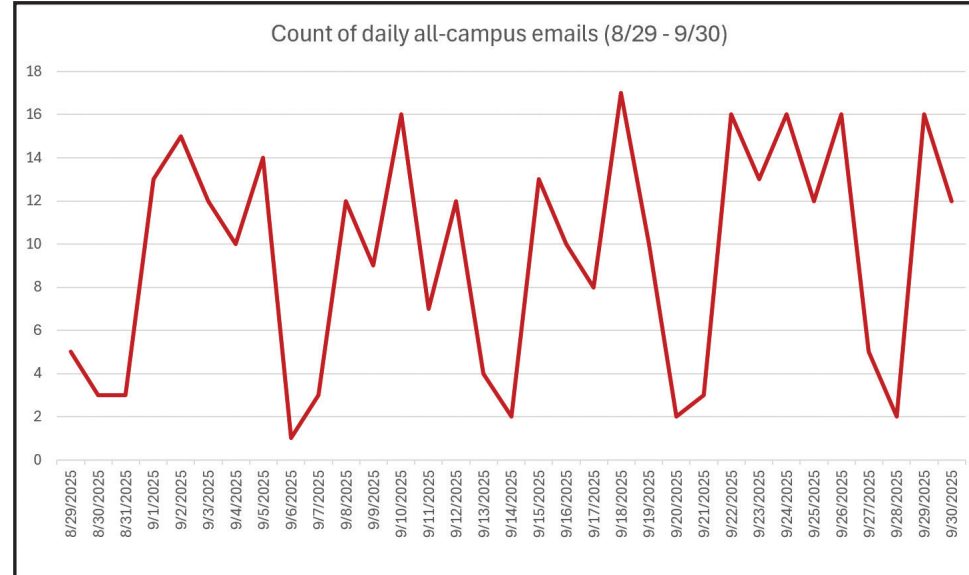
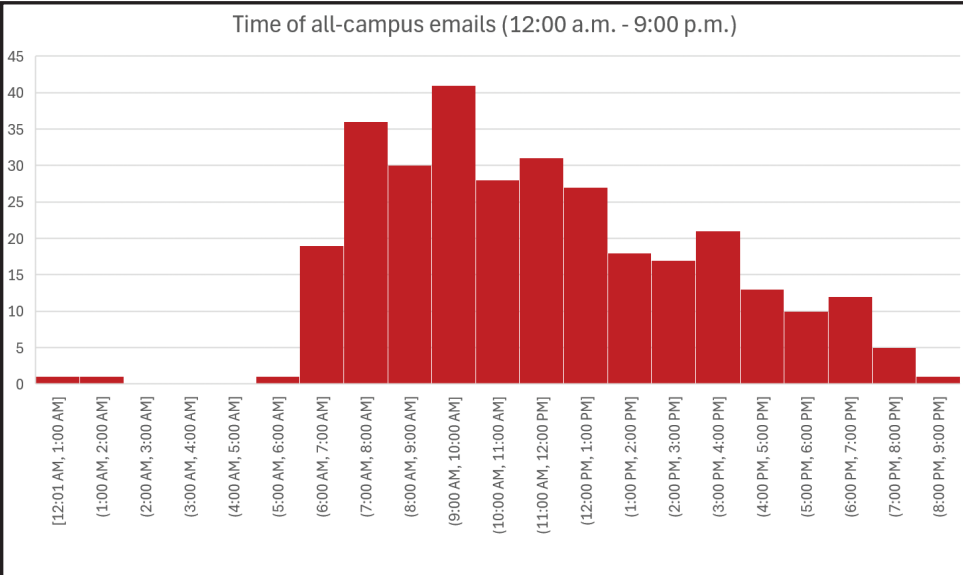
Every class, Villegas brings her culture to life with concrete examples. She has discussed her life in Puebla and recently cooked a nopal cactus salad in class. This past week she discussed Día de los Muertos, one of the most important celebrations in Mexico.

Villegas has done exactly what the program is designed for according to professor Hardy.

"TAs teach students about their home cultures," said Hardy. "They really enrich our program, because they bring their own culture here with them."

Ultimately, Villegas and her fellow TAs do more than support our students; they provide invaluable perspectives that complement the Wabash community.

## The email problem



GRAPHICS BY NATE JOVEN '26

The graphs above show the trend of when all-campus emails are sent. The histogram on the left indicates how many emails were sent at given times of day over this period. The chart on the right shows the number of emails per day that went to all students over a one-month period.

NATE JOVEN '26  
STAFF WRITER

It is easy for anyone at Wabash to email everyone. Students. Freshmen; sophomores; juniors; seniors. Everyone. By addressing an email in any of these three ways, anyone at Wabash can easily send the dreaded 'all-campus email' to all students. It is very rare for undergraduates at a higher education institution to have this ability. While there is incredible value in our ability to contact one another so effortlessly, the abuse of this awesome freedom fills our inboxes with emails that we do not want to see.

On average, Wabash students received 10 all campus emails per day in September. The daily flood typically began around 8:00 a.m., relying on students' tendency to wake up and check their phones. Students received the most emails around noon. This lunch rush capitalized on the one hour during the school day when all students are out of class and free to check their emails. After noon, the number of emails decreased throughout the day. In the month of September, however, the only hours of the day when students received no all campus emails were between 2 a.m. and 5 a.m.. Students received all campus emails every day in September. Unsurprisingly, few emails were sent out on Saturdays and Sundays. However, students could expect about three each of those days.

These numbers do not include any emails sent to a single person, class, grade level, sport or club. This dataset is composed only of the 304 emails sent to every student on campus. The issue with receiving so many

emails targeted at everyone is that students might miss an email targeted individually to them.

Professors often communicate instructions for their classes via email. Students communicate important, often time-sensitive information via email. It becomes a problem when these emails are hidden among notices for callout meetings or lunch talks. Students, faculty, and staff are all responsible for blasting inboxes day and night with a myriad of messages.

### When you email everybody, it feels like you are emailing nobody

If the purpose of an email is to inform as many students as possible about something, then an all campus email admittedly serves its job well. However, many of these emails are not simply intended to inform students. The goal of most all campus emails is to bring students to events. These emails should not be sent to every single student's inbox when very few students actually engage with them.

Wabash's current emailing standard is clearly problematic. There are better ways to distribute the same information. In fact, a better system already exists. From the Student Life page on the Wabash College website, Engage is "a comprehensive platform where you can find information about clubs, events, and more at Wabash College." This is true. Clubs and committees are already required to upload information about their events to Engage. Much of the same information

that crowds student inboxes already exists on Engage. If students truly want to clear their inboxes, it is important to shift the standard to Engage as the location for event information.

Another possibility could be to consolidate many of the similar event emails into a single bulletin. If event coordinators are hellbent on their information appearing in inboxes, the student body could coordinate a single weekly email that details upcoming events. This would not only reduce the number of emails students receive, but it would also direct students' attention to a more regular location where they could receive the same information.

A second option would be to move information for all of campus out of the email and into the physical world. There are currently public bulletin boards in Detchon, Baxter and Lilly Library. Use them. Hopefully the bulletin boards that currently exist can be utilized more in the future. Admittedly there is literally a big hole in the middle of campus, but with the addition of the new community center comes more opportunities to take communication out of the digital realm and into the physical world.

As a final-perhaps radical-solution may be to simply talk to each other. When you email everybody, it feels like you are emailing nobody. Taking the time to invite a peer in person is an easy change that promotes brotherhood and greatly enhances the chance that they will listen.



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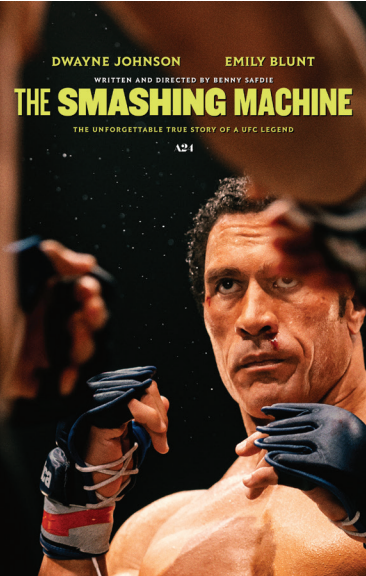
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# 'The Smashing Machine' lightly brushes greatness



COURTESY OF IMDB

NOAH MINTIE '29  
FEATURES EDITOR

Another biopic drama starring A-List actors has just hit the screen with a solid thud. Directed by Benny Safdie (directing without his brother Josh Safdie for the first time), “The Smashing Machine” tells the story of the UFC icon Mark Kerr (Dwayne Johnson) at the height of his career. The film wanders through many of his personal struggles, with a partic-

ular emphasis on his tumultuous relationship with Dawn Staples (Emily Blunt). The film offers poignant and raw character interactions that rank as some of the year’s best, but to get there the viewer is first dragged through a lot of fluff.

Indeed, the two-hour runtime chaffs against the viewer’s attention on more than one occasion. The character of Mark Coleman (Ryan Bader) sports a rather one-dimensional “best friend” archetype, yet he is still given many scenes that try digging into character depth that does not exist. Additionally, even though the scenes between Dawn Staples and Mark Kerr are the heart of the film, they tend to drag on long enough to lose potency. Midway through the film, a training montage that adds nothing to the themes or central drama putters on for minutes on end. These moments are not boring, but they loosen the script enough to kill the enthusiasm of many viewers.

Thankfully Dwayne Johnson and Emily Blunt are always there to obscure the zig-zagged pacing. Their performances may appear at first to be typical Oscar bait, but the tropey tears and yelling eventually give

way to a surprising nuance. Particularly from Johnson, the performance feels artificially real. To clear up the oxymoron: it is clear that he is in a movie, as the script is all theme and the dialogue reflects that. Even though nobody would ever really talk like Mark does in the film, his performance still feels authentic. If there was a world where people sounded like introspective screenwriters, they would sound like Mark. He brings a foreign yet believable energy that powers the whole film. There is one scene in particular, early in the film, where Mark experiences a paradigm shift in his career. A long take then follows him as he wanders around, searching his environment for some way to rationalize what happened. He eventually collapses onto a chair in hopelessness, the perfect capstone to such a heavy-handed and heartbreakingly sincere performance.

For such an impressive performance to emanate from Dwayne Johnson, of all people, will no doubt dominate the discourse surrounding “The Smashing Machine.” After years of playing samey musclemen in box office disasters, Johnson’s ambition comes as something of a

shock to the system. While I would argue that Johnson’s inevitable Oscar nomination is deserved, such a hyperfixation on just one role in an entire movie says something about the film in general. The editing and the score are great, but not great enough to steal the spotlight from Johnson’s performance for more than a second at a time. Unfortunately, the directing also lacks nuance. If you have seen a decent biopic drama in the last few years, replace the two leads with Johnson and Blunt’s performances, and you have seen “The Smashing Machine.”

So, two great performances do most of the heavy lifting, but I have only addressed one so far. That is because Emily Blunt operates her Dawn Staples performance in a more conventional way. Dawn’s character

is layered, appearing in her first few scenes as little more than a stereotypical girlfriend. As the film progresses, the layers peel back and the cracks start to show. The camera becomes a window to her mental health crisis, and here Blunt’s acting lives up to her last name. It is very strong, but nothing particularly new by her standards.

“The Smashing Machine” runs laps around most of modern Hollywood’s output, but it still lacks uniqueness in concept and execution. It is a testing ground for subversive performances set against a relatively safe template. The predictable biopic template needs to either evolve or dissolve in order for the film to take that extra step towards greatness.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
3.5/5 WALLYS**



## WDPD sponsors Fall Break trips to opposite sides of America

Over Fall Break, members of WDPD traveled to two conferences on opposite sides of the country. Students had the opportunity to attend the SNF Ithaca National Student Dialogue in Newark, Delaware – a program aimed at connecting students from around the nation to discuss challenges such as misinformation, polarization and rebuilding trust in institutions. Others also had an opportunity to travel to San Diego, California, to attend Building Next-Gen Leaders: Empowering Students to Navigate a Divided World, a discourse surrounding how colleges can shape their students into the next generation of leaders.



COURTESY OF CRISTIAN CANTU '26



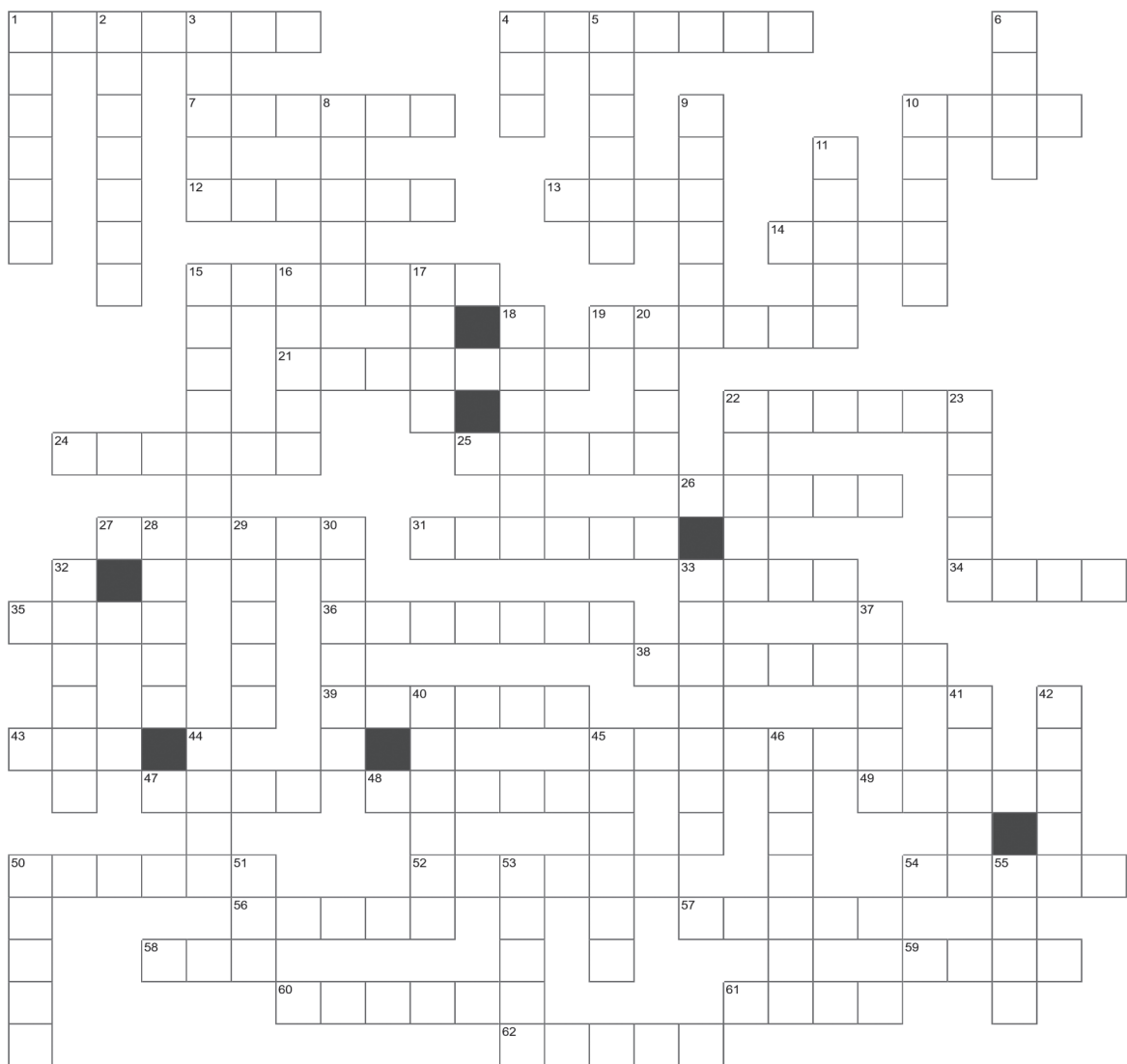
COURTESY OF ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28



COURTESY OF CRISTIAN CANTU '26

## 'Music'

Crossword by Tanner Quackenbush '26



### Across

1. Pleasing combination of musical notes
4. King of Pop Jackson
7. Rapper from 8 Mile
10. A short musical composition
12. Queen of Soul, Franklin
13. Hip-hop mogul
14. The pulse of music
15. Enduring music from a his torical period

19. Soul music label from De troit in the 1960s
21. Modern pop and R&B super star
22. 80s legend of funk, rock, and pop
24. The patterned recurrence of a beat in music
25. Genre from African American spirituals, influ enced rock

26. Rhythm and Blues, for short
27. Pop superstar Swift
31. Music with religious themes
33. Genre often passed down through oral tradition
34. Genre mixing gospel with R&B, focused on emotion
35. Jazz great Ellington
36. Music period from 1600 to 1750

38. The Fab Four, 60s British rock legends
39. Jamaican genre
43. Widely popular genre, often with catchy melodies
45. Queen of Pop in the 80s
47. A record or CD
48. Classical music composition
49. Jazz trumpeter Armstrong
50. Wonder, a Motown icon
52. Singing in a musical perfor mance
54. Fast-paced jazz style from the 1940s
56. Music for movement
57. A list of popular songs
58. Soul singer Cooke
59. Genre that emerged in the 1950s, seen as rebellious
60. Instrument central to rock and blues
61. New Orleans genre with improvisation at its heart
62. Percussion instruments

### Down

1. Genre born in the Bronx
2. Pop and R&B singer
3. Dramatic art form born in Florence in 1597
4. Channel that defined 80s pop
5. Music for a choir
6. A group of musicians
8. Symbols representing musi cal sounds
9. Classical composer from Vi enna

10. Electronic instrument for sound generation
11. Band led by Freddie Mercury
15. Genre with roots in folk and mountain practices
16. A collection of musical re cordings
17. A legendary music figure
18. Series of musical notes
20. Soul legend Redding
22. Keyboard instrument, prominent in classical and jazz
23. The King of Rock and Roll
28. Soulful British singer of the 2010s
29. Words of a song
30. Plant, Led Zeppelin's vocal ist
32. Blending of musical styles
33. Mercury, Queen's frontman
37. Heavy rock subgenre
40. A strong rhythmic pulse
41. Ancient wind instrument
42. Danceable 1970s genre, of ten electronic
44. Guitar legend Hendrix
45. Reggae icon Bob \_\_\_\_\_
46. Grunge band from the 90s
50. Jazz style that developed into big band music
51. Electronic Dance Music, for short
53. Three or more notes played together
55. Baroque composer, known for complex works

Scan for answers!







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

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

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

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

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

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

# Stand up for student journalism



Digital archivist,  
Matthew Meyer

Reply to this opinion at  
meyerm@wabash.edu

Recent efforts by Purdue University and Indiana University against their student newspapers have made me feel anger toward the schools from which I graduated, but also proud to see student journalists adapt and continue delivering news. They serve as a valuable reminder of the important work college newspapers provide to their communities.

For those who don't know, in June, Purdue announced it would no longer deliver The Purdue Exponent on campus, requested The Exponent remove Purdue from its name and took away their parking spaces in a university-owned garage adjacent to The Exponent's offices. No specific reasons were given, but it is another episode in the long saga that started when The Exponent became fully independent of Purdue in 1969. Meanwhile at IU, the director of student media was fired last week after he refused to comply with the university's mandate not to put any news in the homecoming edition of the Indiana Daily Student. Following that, IU then announced the IDS would no longer offer a print edition, which resulted in The Exponent printing its own special edition and hand delivering it to Bloomington in glorious defiance of IU's administration.

Now you might be asking yourself, what's the big deal? On a personal note, I'm a proud alum of The Exponent. From 2014-2016, I was a copy editor, city editor and finally editor-in-chief. At times the work was grueling. Being editor-in-chief was a 6-day, 50-hour job while also being a full-time student, but it was also a valuable experience for learning how to create information and deliver it to students. I made life-long friends, learned valuable skills I continually draw upon in my career and most importantly felt like I belonged as a liberal arts student at a STEM uni-

versity. To put it mildly, seeing Purdue and IU try to thwart their newspapers, which have been publishing since 1889 and 1867, respectively, has been both confusing and maddening.

Sometimes we think we're insulated from the world in little Crawfordsville, but as often happens, that is not the case. Broadly speaking, Purdue's actions affect us at Wabash, as our long-running newspaper, *The Bachelor*, is printed by The Exponent, which is one of three college papers in the country that still has its own press. While Purdue's latest spat with The Exponent may not directly threaten *The Bachelor*, it should still be viewed with rightly deserved suspicion. Any attempt to stymie student journalism should be denounced as censorship and an attack on students' rights to freely access information, something we see with alarming frequency.

Wabash students, do you know what makes student journalism so vital on college campuses? Answer: it is YOUR voice. Got an uplifting story you think will inspire your fellow Wabash brothers? Or maybe you want to offer your thoughts on the upcoming Monon Bell Classic. Then consider publishing your stories in your student newspaper! And do you know what's also great? If you don't agree with what's in the newspaper, the beauty is that you can respond! Newspapers, including *The Bachelor*, are a blank canvas for everyone to tell their story, and when that happens, we are a stronger community that thinks critically and accepts the diverse perspectives that make up Wabash College.

With two of Indiana's largest student newspapers facing threats from their respective universities, I urge Wabash students, faculty, staff and alums to support student journalism, including *The Bachelor*. Students have been given a valuable resource for connecting with others and being engaged with their surroundings, and our efforts now will ensure future students have that platform to share their stories and further strengthen the robust Wabash College community.

# HI-FIVES

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

### NOT A DANNIE CONFERENCE NO MORE

*Hi-five to the John Carroll football team for finally putting D\*\*\*uw in their place. We can't wait to do the same on November 15. SKO BASH!*

### WHAT DID HE SAY????

*Hi-Five to ESPN for bringing back Inside The NBA after TNT dropped the beloved show. The NBA season wouldn't be the same without Charles Barkley "bangin' dudes inside."*

### GENTLEMAN'S RULE VIOLATION

*Lo-Five to the individual that spilled Blue Lotus in the second floor Lilly Library bathroom. At least you only spilled a blue liquid...right? RIGHT?*

### CRANIAL CATASTROPHE

*Lo-five to the Kenyon defensive player that gave Brand Campbell '27 a concussion. Don't lead with the crown of your helmet and learn how to tackle properly!*

### NO-CROWN PRIZE

*Hi-Five to the professional thieves that stole a priceless amount of crown jewels from the Louvre. Unfortunately, these thieves can't defend themselves with "it's tradition."*

# The love Wabash deserves



WDPD Director,  
Chris Anderson

Reply to this opinion at  
andersoc@wabash.edu

You are doing yourself a disservice if you miss an opportunity to hear Kim King preach. He can share the word from the pulpit or from behind his desk, but his message two weeks ago on Sunday at the Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church spoke directly to all of us. It moved me deeply because it put words to what I've been wrestling with over the last few weeks. That is, how we should live together amid turmoil.

His central theme was simple, but profound: Love is inherently messy as is community building. It's messy because we each bring complicated, conflicting values to the table as we try to chart a collective future. Love and community are never fully resolved because it's a continual negotiation with one another and with ourselves.

I have witnessed this truth unfold many times across our campus. We all love this institution, though each of us loves it in our own ways and despite its flaws. Yet when we gather to talk about brotherhood and belonging, we sometimes hold back. Out of care for one another, we avoid real disagreement, mistaking harmony for love and collegiality for community. But in doing so, we miss the deeper work of being honest, vulnerable and truly present with each other. Love and community are not about avoiding tension. They are about humanizing one another, engaging sincerely and remaining connected even when we differ. We are too afraid of the mess or as Brother King rebuked, "too determined to keep things tidy."

On the night that someone removed the flags from the mall, it was an

attempt to make a point without engaging in conversation. To advance an idea without the messy work of community. That act, to me, reflected a larger cultural impulse to avoid discomfort, to seek control instead of connection.

But Wabash, at its best, resists that impulse. Every student here makes a conscious choice to forgo the familiar path of co-ed education in exchange for something different. Something that asks more of us. Yes, generous aid, small classes and the Wabash network draw us here. But brotherhood keeps us here. And brotherhood, like love, cannot survive if we insist on keeping things neat.

If we want to preserve the brotherhood we cherish at Wabash, we must stop trying to keep our community tidy. Real brotherhood is built in the hard, messy work of love and accountability.

To truly love, as our faiths and ideals call us to, is to love completely. We strive to accept that people will fall short and that we should forgive but still hold one another accountable. We need to stay in the conversation even when it hurts, sometimes because it hurts. It's the same kind of love that allows us to say, "I'm disappointed in you, but I still want the best for you."

I know leaders from across campus have shared messages of support and admonishment over what happened with the flags. I want something more. I want you to feel discomfort as you share your ideas, as you accept criticism, as you wrestle with your values and beliefs. I want you to make a mess as you navigate what this brotherhood means, who it belongs to and how to love everyone in it even through disagreement.

That's the love this place deserves. Not the polished, easy kind, but the kind forged in the friction of disagreement, the vulnerability of failure and the shared hope that we can become something better together.

# Wallies in the wild



Jackson Grabill '23

Wabash is not easy. Between comprehensive exams, balancing rigorous academics and athletics and long Midwest winters, Wabash is an immense challenge. So why accept this challenge? Why not follow your friends to other schools with big tailgates, social events and, yes, girls? What is the point? What is the benefit of being a Wabash man?

Among the many reasons why Wabash is worth it — great professors, friends for life and (maybe) the best undergraduate education in the country — the best reason might not be one that is readily apparent in your four years at the College — the Wabash alumni network.

The Wabash alumni network is the best resource you have. Access to the thousands of Wabash men in the world who are always ready to extend a helping hand is exceptionally valuable and a resource which sets Wabash apart from every school in the country.

But your role as a Wabash man does not begin when you graduate. It begins the moment you step on campus. It is never too early to begin connecting with Wabash alumni who are doing things that you find cool or interesting. Wabash alumni are eager to help in any way they can. Connecting with alumni, especially as a current student, could open opportunities that you may not even foresee when you initially reach out. The power of Wabash alumni is not just some abstract idea. From internships and professional opportunities to friends and mentors, I have experienced firsthand how alumni can open doors.

While at Wabash, I spent a summer working in Louisville at an internship in which a Wabash alumnus connected me. In addition to the transformative experience of working at Legal Aid Society, I was also fortunate to spend that summer living with another Wabash alumnus. I left that summer with not only a clear idea of my professional goals, but also with great friends and mentors who have lasted well beyond that summer. And the best part is that this is by no means an isolated incident. Wabash men everywhere likely have some version of this story from their own lives.

The accessibility and eagerness of Wabash men is fantastic. But what makes Wabash a special place boils down to one simple ethos: pay it forward. The reason why so many Wabash alumni are great resources is because they were once in your shoes — and they haven't forgotten that fact. For most of them, a Wabash man who came before them extended a helping hand or served as a helpful resource. Nowhere is this more evident than on the Day of Giving. Every year, Wabash, with an enrollment of under 1,000 students, comes together to raise well over one million dollars, with high participation from all generations of Wabash men, including current students. Meanwhile, other schools with much larger enrollments and alumni bases, such as the school down south, can manage only a fraction of this.

So, take some time during your four years at Wabash to connect with some alumni who are out in the world doing interesting things. And after you graduate and step into the real world, remember the many Wabash men who have paved the way before you. It is our obligation as Wabash men to continue to pay it forward, just as the generations before us have done.



# The empty moments in life: Build community not your resume



Owen Vermeulen '28

Reply to this opinion at [ohvermeu28@wabash.edu](mailto:ohvermeu28@wabash.edu)

Wabash students are always chasing their next big goal: an “A” on an exam, a summer internship, a title in an organization. We have all come to Wabash, rather than an easier institution, to push ourselves for self-improvement and community building. But sometimes we are blinded by the shiny significance around these titles and achievements rather than seeing the true value of our difficult journeys. That value lies in how pursuing our unique passions can contribute to building the community we share.

Many of us here at Wabash have probably accumulated quite the list of extra-curricular activities in our time here, but why do you get so involved? I’m someone that believes the “why” behind an action is the true tell of a character. Are you so involved because you believe that you’re helping build a community or is it simply tacking things onto a resume. Don’t get me wrong, having or wanting an amazing resume is nothing to be ashamed of, however, that shouldn’t be why you get involved in something.

You shouldn’t go after a leadership position just because you want one for your résumé. You should find something that you truly enjoy being a part of. You should get involved in something because that’s where you feel the strength of the Wabash brotherhood the most.

Wabash is a wonderful school with great qualities and amenities, but it was family that brought me to Wabash. My grandfather, David Hadley, taught Political Science here for 40 years and he was dean of students in the 90s. My oldest brother Jake, graduated from Wabash in 2021. He was the president of the Wabash Pre-Law Society, Junior Peck Medialist and the Editor-in-Chief of the Bachelor...but was also an independent, for better or worse.

My point is that family is what drew

me to Wabash. This makes Wabash more than just a school for me; it is my community. When people think of community, they talk about it as if it’s something that you just find. You don’t find community, you build it. And how do you build community? You chase your passions rather than titles.

Growing up I was always taught the danger of seeking leadership positions with the sole focus of building a résumé. My dad always told me that you shouldn’t become a leader because you’re getting something out of it, you should become a leader because you love something enough to put more into it. I was always taught that if all you do is focus on reaching the top, you miss all the amazing moments that happen in between. When you remove the struggle of the journey, you also remove the satisfaction of the destination.

I see too many people make the mistake of foregoing the journey to reach the destination faster. Don’t. Sometimes you set off with a destination in mind and you end up somewhere completely different; sometimes you reach your destination and you find it completely empty and unfulfilling. My dad told me that moments we look forward to are all too often empty and don’t always meet your high expectations. If all that you look forward to is what’s next and not what’s around you, all you’re left with is the empty moments in life. But the people you meet and the memories you create along the way is what makes life meaningful.

Life is about love, and love is about giving yourself up to something bigger than you. Not everything that you do at college has to be related to what you want to do for a career. We all came to Wabash for a reason. We could have gone to a big state school to fade into the masses and get our degree, but instead we chose Wabash. We came to a place where we can make our own community. College should be about exploring and finding what you love, you can figure out how it all fits on a résumé later.

# Wally’s Wall: Best part of Fall break

Noah Mintie '29

I enjoyed struggling to explain Chapel Sing to my friends and family. “Why were you singing again?” “For how long?” “Why were there W’s on the shirts?”

Colin Krekeler '27

My favorite part of spring break was going to the pumpkin patch with my girlfriend. The weather was beautiful and it was just a great day!

Michael Cruzado '27

My favorite part of break was taking a lot of naps and planning events for my club.

Evan Bone '26

I loved going on walks around my neighborhood back home in Indy. The falling leaves and wonderful weather allowed for some meditative walks. Also watching college football with my dad was a blast.

Brady Reeves '29

My favorite part of fall break was how I was able to go home and see my family. It was great to see them again.

Lucas Martin '26

We are so back #WAF #keepit100

Gabrien Smith '27

Reading in a hammock.

Titus Hoover '29

My favorite part of break was driving back and forth and seeing the trees’ leaves change color throughout the drive.

Quinn Sholar '26

The football team beat WHO? The Owls.

Danny Borges '29

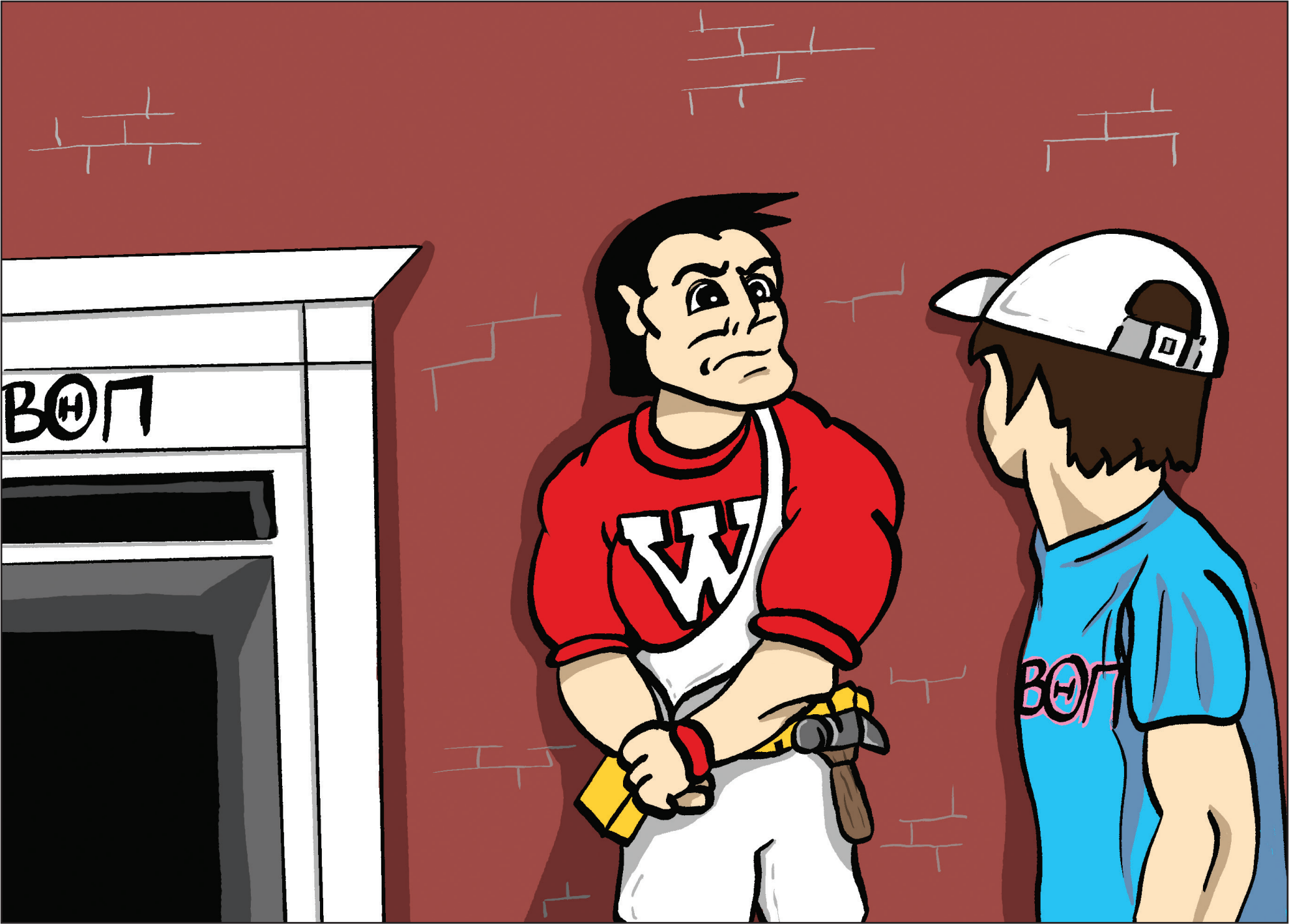
My favorite part of this past fall break was when my fraternity brothers and I took our couch outside and spent the day hanging out, enjoying the weather.

## Request for opinions

Have an opinion on campus culture or a hot take to share? Write an opinion piece!

If interested, contact [ecbone26@wabash.edu](mailto:ecbone26@wabash.edu)

## ‘Where’s the Beta door?’ by Drake Green '28





# Soccer struggles through the meat of the conference schedule

CARTER MCCALL '29  
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College soccer team has faced one of its most challenging stretches of the season, but the Little Giants have shown no shortage of heart.

Their road trip started in Wooster, Ohio on October 11, where the Little Giants outshot the unbeaten Fighting Scots but ultimately fell 2–1 after a late goal in the 79th minute.

Wabash (6–10–0, 2–4–0 NCAC) held the edge in shots (16–14) and corner kicks (8–0) but couldn't find a second equalizer in the closing minutes.

Wooster (9–0–4, 1–0–2 NCAC) struck first in the sixth minute through Aris Christodoulou. However, the Scots were reduced to 10 men five minutes later due to a red card. The Little Giants pushed forward and dominated possession but went into halftime still trailing 1–0.

Bryce Kinnaman '27 leveled the score in the 66th minute, finishing a cross from Alfredo Campos '27 for his fourth goal of the year. Wabash seemed to seize momentum, but Wooster's Taylor Uszacki broke the deadlock 13 minutes later, scoring what would go on to be the game-winner.

Goalkeeper Colin Sutter '28 made three saves, while forward Francisco Perez '29 led Wabash with seven shots.

Just a few days later on October 15, the Little Giants returned home for a Wednesday night clash against Ohio Wesleyan University, one of the conference's perennial powers.

Wabash again found itself in a tight, hard-fought match, but yet another late goal in the 83rd minute handed the team a 1-2 loss.

**“The conference is so close this year. We know we can go toe-to-toe with any team in our conference, so we need to capitalize on chances and be more clinical in front of the goal”**

- Bryce Kinnaman '27

Ohio Wesleyan (6–3–4, 2–1–0 NCAC) opened the scoring in the 18th minute off a corner kick header from Callum Wiggins, but Perez brought the home crowd to life in the 34th minute. He buried a 30-foot free kick into the left side of the net for his first goal of the season, leveling the match at 1–1.

The teams traded chances throughout the second half before OWU's Matt Boyd found the winner on a rebound in the final minutes. Wabash outshot the Bishops 13–11

and held a 6–2 edge in corner kicks, but couldn't convert any late opportunities.

These two close losses are an unfortunate representation of the type of season that the Little Giants have had.

“I think that a tipping point would actually come earlier in the games,” said Sutter. “If we put away early chances and limit the number our opponents get, we as a team would feel more confident in that final stretch and be able to close the games out.”

The frustration of back-to-back close losses quickly turned into a celebration three days later. On October 18 the team celebrated Senior Day. The Little Giants put together one of their most complete performances of the season, rolling to a 4–0 win over Oberlin College at Fischer Field.

PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Before kickoff, the team honored Myles Bernat '26, Jose Escalante '26, Niall Gavin '26 and Angel Vazquez '26 for their dedication and leadership. Moments later, the Little Giants gave them a sendoff to remember.

Kinnaman headed home a cross from Danny Escobedo '29 assisted by Ethan Simmons '29 in just the ninth minute to open the scoring. Just a minute later, Kinnaman returned the favor, setting up Simmons' third goal of the year from 12 yards out.

Perez added a third in the 54th minute with a perfectly bent free kick from 22 yards, and Colton Hughes-Suiters '29 capped the scoring in the 75th, firing home his first collegiate goal after collecting a loose ball in the box.

Wabash outshot the Yeomen 17–3, including 10 shots on goal, while limiting them to zero shots on target. Sutter earned his first career shutout, not needing to make a single save thanks to an organized back line.

“We have great senior leadership,” said Simmons. “Our captains are both seniors and have been a source of composure and confidence even when the team has struggled. We also have two other seniors, Angel Vasquez and Jose Escalante, who have really stepped up and led by example even when things weren't going our way.”



Just days later, on October 21, the Little Giants hit the road again, this time falling 0-3 to Kenyon College at Mavec Field in Gambier, OH.

Kenyon (5–3–6, 1–2–2 NCAC) grabbed control early, scoring twice in the opening 12 minutes. Moustapha Gassama converted a penalty kick in the 10th minute before Lucas de Alarcon doubled the lead three minutes later with a goal of his own.

Despite the rough start, Wabash regrouped and created several chances to get back into the game. Alfredo Campos '27 and Carson Prather '29 each fired shots on target in the first half, and the Little Giants pressed hard in the second.

Blake Horn '29 tested the Kenyon goalkeeper, but the Owls sealed the result in the 71st minute with a goal from Joaquin Sanchez-Korenfeld.

Sutter turned in another busy performance with seven saves, facing 20 total shots.

The Little Giants close out their home schedule Saturday, October 25 with a 1 p.m. EST match against John Carroll University at Fischer Field. The contest marks the first-ever meeting between the two programs and the final home appearance for the Wabash seniors.

While the season's results have been mixed, the effort and energy remain constant, something the coaching staff sees as the foundation for long-term success.

“The conference is so close this year,” said Kinnaman. “We know we can go toe-to-toe with any team in our conference, so we need to capitalize on chances and be more clinical in front of the goal.”

As the season winds down, the Little Giants' goal is simple: stay sharp, stay together and keep fighting the Wabash way.

# Redpack pace their way to 13th at Augusta Interregional

CARTER MCCALL '29  
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College Redpack turned in a solid performance on Saturday, placing 13th out of 32 teams in the Blue Race at the Augustana College Interregional Invitational held at Saukie Golf Course in Rock Island, Illinois.

Competing against some of the best Division III programs in the Midwest, the Little Giants totaled 460 points, edging out Ripon College (468) and Bethel University (474) to secure a top-half finish in the large and competitive field.

Host Wartburg College claimed the team title with an impressive 38 points, followed by Wisconsin-La Crosse (92) in second and Washington University in St. Louis (120) in third. The meet featured deep competition, providing Wabash with valuable experience as the team prepares for championship season.

Leading the way for the Little Giants was Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26, who placed 70th overall with a time of 27:12.90 on the 8,000-meter course. This was Diemer-McKinney's first race of the season, and he set the tone for how his final season will shape up.

“It was fun to get back out there on the grass,” said Diemer-McKinney. “Any opportunity in which I can contribute to the success of the team is one I want to take advantage of.”

Jack Loftus '29 continued to impress in his debut season, finishing 94th in 27:31.20, while Johnathan Loney '28 crossed the line in 128th place at 27:50.40. Both runners maintained steady pacing through the middle miles of the race to hold off late surges from rival squads.

Rounding out the top five for Wabash were Samuel Carpenter '29 in 151st (28:04.10) and Thomas Price '26, who capped off the scoring lineup with a personal-best 28:44.70 to place 217th. Price's performance highlighted

the Little Giants' depth and determination as he trimmed significant time off his previous season best.

Adding support in the top seven were Angel Perez '27 (248th, 29:15.00) and Austin Jewell '27 (315th, 30:20.80). Both contributed strong efforts to push the team's overall average lower and gain valuable large-race experience.

The Saukie Golf Course course presented rolling terrain and gusty winds, testing runners' endurance and race strategy. Wabash's ability to adapt and maintain composure in the later stages proved key to their success. The race also served as a preview of regional-level competition with several nationally ranked teams in attendance.

Saturday's showing continues a steady progression for Wabash, which has been sharpening its lineup heading into the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships.

With a strong mix of veteran leadership and emerging young talent, the Little Giants appear poised to make noise at the conference meet. Diemer-McKinney and Price have provided steady leadership for the squad, while underclassmen like Loftus and Carpenter continue to close the gap on the team's front runners.

“This weekend proved that we're capable of plugging ourselves into the conference race,” said Diemer-McKinney. “Knowing we can find the contenders, match them and hunt them down when the time is right. We've been building all summer and fall, now it's time to put the conference on notice.”

As the season reaches its final stretch, Wabash's balance of experience and youthful energy gives the team confidence that more breakthroughs lie ahead.

The team will compete next on Saturday, November 1, at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Johnathan Loney '28 runs on the track during the Annual Alumni Run on August 24, 2025, at Little Giant Stadium.**

# Swimming and diving starts season with two competitive meets

WILL DUNCAN '27  
PHOTO EDITOR

After weeks of practice and preparation, the Wabash College Swim and Dive team opened up their season on October 11 at the Dan Ross Indiana Intercollegiate, hosted by Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, at the Morgan J. Burke Aquatic Center. This meet featured teams from all over Indiana, including Division I teams such as Indiana University (IU) and Ball State, as well as many others in Divisions II and III.

With fierce competition inside the natatorium, Wabash placed an impressive eighth overall in their opening meet. The Little Giants scored 60 points within the team standings, placing ahead of Indiana Wesleyan University (58) and Rose Hulman Institute of Technology (54). Purdue went on to win the meet, capturing 518 points. The team had many notable races, but none shined brighter than the 200-medley relay team headlined by Alijah Hall '29, Lew Sams '29, Owen Thomas '29 and Nate Marshall '29. The four freshmen combined for a time of 1:41.42, placing them 16th overall. In the individual events Mason Gilliam '28 led Wabash in the 200-meter freestyle, finishing with a 1:48.67.

“Before every race I think about what I need to do to win the race for my team,” said Gilliam. “Every meet is different, but that level of adrenaline and competitive spirit always pushes me to do my best.”

With a strong first meet performance in the back of their minds, the team then hosted the 2025 Indi-

ana DIII Invitational at home in the Class of 1950 Natatorium. However, even with home pool advantage, the Little Giants would fall just short of winning the tournament, placing just behind rival DePauw. The Little Giants totaled a final score of 635, to DePauw's 881.5. Ryan West '28 led the way for Wabash along with newcomer Sams. These two combined for four individual victories. West swept the backstroke events, winning both the 100 and 200-yard backstroke. West attributes his personal success with the transition in the training methods of the Little Giant Swim and Dive team, which have intensified relative to years previous.

“The team has changed the way in which we do practices this year,” said West. “There's much more specialization, which many people have

expressed interest in. I have implemented them into my race technique, and it has already begun to pay off.”

In addition to these impressive individual performances, the team showed remarkable depth as numerous different swimmers across the board would contribute to the teams scoring. Overall, the early success and promise has only added to the already blooming team chemistry.

“Getting behind those blocks and seeing my brothers cheer me on is such an amazing feeling,” said West. “Other teams try and replicate our passion and fail after the first time.”

The Little Giants' next competition will be their first duel meet of the season at home against Rose Hulman. The action will kick off Friday, October 24, at 7 p.m. EST in the Class of 1950 Natatorium.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**A member of the Wabash College swim and dive team swims in their meet against Centre College on October 27, 2024, in the Class of 1950 Natatorium.**

# The Wally Watchlist

SEC showdown and Rodgers faces Packers

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26  
STAFF WRITER

This weekend has multiple entertaining SEC matchups but the one to sit down and watch is Ole Miss @ Oklahoma. In the NFL, Aaron Rodgers will take on his former team for the first time since leaving Lambeau Field as a Packer.

**#8 Ole Miss (6 – 1) @ #13 Oklahoma (6 – 1)  
12:00 p.m. EST on ABC**

A week after his first true road start, Ole Miss quarterback Trinidad Chambliss faces another hostile environment as the Rebels travel to Norman, Oklahoma, looking to bounce back from a tough loss between the hedges at No. 5 Georgia. The Rebels' offense has been clicking with weapons like running back Kewan Lacy and receiver Harrison Wallace III, but will face their stiffest defensive test yet — an Oklahoma unit that leads the SEC in points allowed (9.4), total defense (213.0 yards per game), and sacks (28). Defensively, the Rebels will need to tighten things up after surrendering over 40 points to Georgia.

After a tough loss in the Red River Rivalry, the Sooners responded impressively with a 26–7 win at South Carolina, fueled by a strong defensive showing. Returning from a serious hand injury, signal-caller John Mateer looks to regain his pre-injury Heisman form and allow his dual threat ability to keep the Rebels' defense on its heels. Both teams enter 6–1, but only one will emerge as a sure playoff contender. Expect a physical, emotional battle in Norman between two squads eager to make a statement.

**Green Bay Packers (4 – 1 – 1) @ Pittsburgh Steelers (4 – 2)  
8:20 p.m. EST on NBC**

It's the reunion football fans have been waiting for — Steelers quarterback Aaron Rodgers faces the Green Bay Packers for the first time since his departure in 2022.

Despite their combined 8–3–1 record, both squads enter with more questions than their records suggest. The Steelers, fresh off a Thursday night loss against the Flacco-led Bengals, have serious defensive concerns — a tough look for the league's highest-paid defense, which couldn't stop anything Cincinnati threw their way. Meanwhile, the Packers have impressed early but remain inconsistent away from Lambeau. They've gone 1–1–1 on the road, with a thin +1 point differential, and those opponents combining for a modest 7–13–1 record.

As Carrie Underwood reminds us, we'll be “waiting all day for Sunday night” — a clash between two storied franchises searching for an identity in front of the football world.



# Football picks up two crucial wins against OWU and Kenyon

Team looks to get healthy during the bye week

Continued from page 1

Kenyon responded on their opening drive as Drew Morgan, the Owls' quarterback, led the offense on a 7-play drive stretching 75 yards which eventually found the endzone. The extra point attempt was blocked, however, so Wabash retained a 7-6 lead. Those six points would be the only points the home team would score in the first half.

The Little Giants, however, went on a scoring barrage to round out the first quarter due to the legs of Campbell, who had two rushing touchdowns from five yards and 21 yards out. The Wabash defense would maneuver their way onto the scoreboard as Jerry McBee '26 sacked Morgan in Kenyon's own endzone to force a safety.

As the second quarter got underway, Wabash forced a Kenyon three-and-out deep in Owl territory, and the Kenyon punt only traveled 10 yards, which put the Wabash offense inside the red zone. On the first play of the offensive foray, Campbell took the snap and faked the handoff to Xavier Tyler '26 before running outside the pocket and towards the sideline. As Campbell got outside the numbers, a Kenyon defender launched himself upwards while leading with the crown of his helmet to hit Campbell square in the face mask. The hit looked nasty, but a targeting penalty was not called by the officiating crew. Campbell continued the possession (which resulted in no points), but he felt like something was off. After going through an evaluation, the team determined he was concussed.

The next time the Little Giant offense appeared on the field, Jackson Gilbert '28 was the man under center. The offense would not score in the second quarter, but Kenyon would make a crucial error on a punt attempt, snapping the ball over the head of the punter and through the back of the endzone. This mistake gifted Wabash another two points



Quinn Sholar '26 lifts Cole Dickerson '27 after their rushing touchdown against Ohio Wesleyan on October 11, 2025, at Little Giant Stadium.

and made the score 25-6 heading into the mid-game intermission.

Going into the second half, there may have been some question marks about what the Wabash offense would look like, but the team was in a great mindset.

**“They’ve got to be the best 2-5 football team in America. I think they’re very talented. When I watch the film, I’m thinking this team is the same and as good as us.”**

- Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98

“We needed to remember that a quarterback is not our offense,” said Quinn Sholar '26. “It takes 11 people to make our offense work. Even though Brand is a key factor, we had to encourage and motivate and stick behind the next man up after Brand’s injury.”

The second half saw Gilbert at the helm, and he handled the field general job in perfect fashion. He would go on to convert six out of his 10 passes for 101 yards and two touchdowns. In the end, the men in scarlet and white would find themselves with a 46-12 victory, propelling them to a 6-1 overall record.

“I think we’ve played great at times, and we’ve played sloppy 10 percent of the time,” said Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98. “We have areas to improve, and I’m glad that we do. I felt like we played great against Kenyon. We were definitely dominant on special teams, and our offense continues to score at a very high clip, gaining lots of yards. Then defensively, we’ve had too many self-inflicted wounds. We just have to get more disciplined.”

Coach Gilbert has changed the tone of what discipline looks like within the program when it comes to preparation for each game. His Little Giant squad may have been favored in the two

games against OWU and Kenyon, but they approached both games with a unique mindset.

“One thing that we harped on at the beginning of the season is that when it gets to Bell Week, the whole atmosphere changes,” said Sholar. “The level of prepa-

ration and seriousness changes. The thing we talked about was treating every week of the regular season like Bell Week so that when it comes time for Bell Week, we’re not unfamiliar with the preparation we put into a team.”

Wabash will have a slight reprieve this week as the team will not be playing a game tomorrow since it is their bye week, but it has been a crucial five days so far as players have been able to rest up and get healthy before the remainder of the season.

The Little Giants will play host to the Wittenberg University Tigers next Saturday, November 1, and Coach Gilbert is giving a ton of credit to the red and white Tiger squad despite their poor record.

“They’ve got to be the best 2-5 football team in America,” said Coach Gilbert. “I think they’re very talented. When I watch the film, I’m thinking this team is the same and as good as us. They just have not been able to put it together on the field. It’s shocking to me. Humbly, I think they are a very good football team from a talent standpoint.”

Wabash will enjoy their week-end off, but it will be back to the regularly scheduled program on Sunday as they look to move to 7-1 on the campaign.



Brand Campbell '27 and Luke Adams '27 celebrate after their touchdown against Kenyon on October 18, 2025, at McBride Field in Gambier, Ohio.

## The Bledsoe '26 breakdown – NCAC football Week Seven power rankings

### SEAN BLEDSOE '26 SPORTS EDITOR

Oh my goodness! It has been too long since I got to talk some trash about the other NCAC schools. The great thing is that I have two weeks worth of content to roast these scrubs about. There have been some massive shake-ups in my power rankings, so take a look at where everyone stands!

#### #1 John Carroll (6 – 1)

NEW NUMBER ONE ALERT! Thank you Blue Streaks! I was getting tired of putting the dumb Dannies at the top of my power rankings. Their heads were getting too big, and I didn't even think that was possible because we all know how arrogant those clowns are. Anyways, I digress. You guys have had an eventful last couple of weeks on the road as you have tackled both the Tiger teams in the conference. You traveled to Wittenberg and left no room for remorse as you dropped 44 points on their domes. And then you travel to the dreary town of Greencastle, battled through a two-and-a-half-hour lightning delay, and scored a last-minute touchdown in the pouring rain to tame those disgusting black and gold Tigers. What a two week span. Saturday's win catapulted you guys to No. 13 in the nation according to D3football.com, and that improvement deserves my number one spot.

#### #2 DePauw (5 – 1)

Welcome to the one-loss club, Dannies! It's about damn time. You have finally been humbled, and it was even on your home turf. I hope the Blue Streaks defaced the ugly Tiger face in the middle of your field because it's only fair. You hosted a pregame hype session on our "W" two years ago before the Bell Game and stomped all over it. You don't know anything about respect. You guys stayed in the top-25 at No. 17 in the D3football.com national rankings, but beware because Denison could look to knock you out this weekend. We shut them out, but we all know how pesky the Big Red can be for the top teams in the conference.

#### #3 Wabash (6 – 1)

I know what you're probably thinking. "Sean, why are we not number two and why is DePauw still above us. We only lost to JCU by three points, but DePauw lost to them by four points." My answer is plain and simple: DePauw played a more complete game against JCU. We, on the other hand, struggled out of the gate, but we finished strong. Regardless, the Little Giants came out with two crucial wins over the last two weeks. The win against OWU was not the prettiest one, but at the end of the day, a win is a win. And then the win against Kenyon was one where we were able to spread the wealth offensively and have a strong defensive performance to secure a 46-12 victory.



The great thing for this Wabash team is that we have a bye week this weekend, so everyone can be fully rested and healthy for Wittenberg next weekend. Let's take care of ourselves and finish this season strong, boys!

#### #4 Denison (4 – 2)

Who's a good boy? Yes, you are! You reclaimed your fourth place spot that carries absolutely no weight at all because there is not a chance you guys win the conference. You beat Wooster 28-7 in the land of Scots, and then you proceeded to turn your game against Wittenberg into a shootout. You guys combined with the red and white Tigers for 979 yards of total net offense as well as 10 offensive touchdowns. What a game indeed, but I wish you had that offensive

production against Wabash a couple of weeks ago...I'm just kidding. The bad news for your average football program is that you have yet to play DePauw and John Carroll. The only thing I have to say is good luck. You host the clown school from Greencastle, and I genuinely hope you win because I just love seeing the Dannies lose.

#### #5 Wooster (4 – 3)

Did you think that you could really pay me in UK pounds to stay in the top half of my power rankings? While I thoroughly enjoyed Edinburg this summer, I do not accept pounds now that I am back in the states. You had an embarrassing loss to the Big Red, and then you



barely beat an OWU team that didn't even have their true starting quarterback (who used to be your starting quarterback). You guys do have the meat of your schedule left as you still have to play John Carroll and DePauw. You take on the Blue Streaks tomorrow, but don't worry! I heard if you play your bagpipes in a thunderstorm, lightning won't hit you. You should try it!

#### #6 Wittenberg (2 – 5)

How on Earth do you guys gain more net offensive yards than Denison, and still not beat them? I seriously don't understand. What I do understand is how you got your butts handed to you by John Carroll the week prior. THEY are the best

team in the NCAC right now. NOT you! Get that through your thick skulls! Maybe if you had some more money in your pockets, there's a chance you guys could pay for a better head coach...or better players...or both really. Get a grip down there in Springfield, Ohio. Anyways, I am left wondering if you will have a game tomorrow. You're supposed to play Oberlin, but I haven't heard if they have canceled yet or not. Either way, it's pretty much a bye week. You better use it to get prepared for the demolition you will be facing when you come here to Crawfordsville next weekend.

#### #7 Ohio Wesleyan (1 – 5)

You Bishops have had a rough couple of weeks.

You came to Crawfordsville, and while you had some signs of hope with your transfer quarterback from Wooster, it wasn't enough to win. I am a little disappointed in you guys, though, because I did say we would pray for you after the game, but you decided to make the depressing walk back to your locker room with your heads bowed down at the ground. It's safe to say that y'all needed the prayer because the following weekend you played a Wooster team that you could have easily beaten if one of your backup quarterback didn't complete under 50% of his passes and if you didn't fumble the ball three times. But alas, you guys just really freaking stink. Start sending your prayers for next season because this one is done for your team.

#### #8 Kenyon (1 – 5)

Alright, Owls. Prepare for the hell I'm about to send your way. First off, you guys beat Oberlin 57-2, and you made it on the first graphic of CBS Sports' post about fun college football scores. The moment I saw this post, I audibly cackled because of two things: first off, you gave up a blocked PAT to OBERLIN of all teams, secondly, your entire fanbase showed up in the comment section, but @seanyb3.golf had to humble you by saying, "Kenyon acting like they're tough when it was their first win of the season, and Oberlin could barely field a team lol." Someone told me to, "Chill out," and "let 'em live," but you know what...NO! You Owls are one of the laughing stocks of this league, and Wabash further enforced that statement this past weekend by kicking the crap out of you by 34 points. After the utterly embarrassing safety from the week prior against the Yeoman, you gave up back-to-back two-point scores to the Little Giants. That has to be a record for the most two-point scores given up in the span of two weeks. Alright, I'm done crapping on you pathetic birds.

#### #9 Oberlin (0 – 6)

Speaking of pathetic, let's talk about you fools. You guys scored your first points in four weeks against Kenyon two Saturdays ago, and it wasn't even a touchdown or a field goal. Kenyon was so bad that they let you score a PAT block on them. You Yeoman didn't even have a game last Saturday, so I have nothing to roast you about...oh wait, yes, I do. I hope you guys used the bye week effectively and held tryouts on campus to see if you can get your roster size from 22 players to at least 25. Can't wait to see the injury report after your game against Wittenberg tomorrow. I'm setting the over/under at 19.5 for the number of players left on the active roster.