



DECEMBER 5, 2025

Phi Kappa Psi vandalized with homophobic slurs



PHOTO BY MICHAEL CRUZADO '27

The basement wall in the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity house was covered in golden spray paint with derogatory phrases on December 1, 2025.

JAMES WALLACE '26
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For a campus riddled with tradition and checkmark events like Chapel Sing and National Act, current seniors have experienced an infamous "tradition" that has been a marked part of their experience at Wabash — homophobic slurs being spray painted on fraternity houses.

On December 1, brothers of Phi Kappa Psi walked downstairs to find their house trashed and vandalized. Their greek letters were covered in gold spray paint and phrases like "HAVE FUN CLEANING," "F*** you," "Arizona" and "I'm a p***y" marked the walls.

But notably, the culprits also sprayed "F*****t" and "F*g" on the walls.

"It was noon on Monday, and I walked downstairs and saw a mess on the floor, spray paint on our [Greek] letters, and the F-slur painted on our wall," said Phi Kappa Psi President Michael Cruzado '27. "I assume it was some form of retaliation for [stealing] composites, but I don't know for sure."

"We have opened an investigation and will hold any and all individuals accountable to the Gentleman's Rule," said Dean of Students Scott Brown.

Rivalries between fraternities on campus often see freshmen new mem-

bers, particularly at the beginning of the Fall, stealing fraternity composites and other memorabilia throughout their new memberships. Ordinarily these are harmless acts of mischief, but sometimes individuals go too far.

"Stealing composites has been a tradition, but we're trying to steer away from it," said Cruzado. "Composites are expensive, and they are a symbol of fraternity history. But it's always been, 'Give them back and don't damage them.'"

With homophobic slurs being a part of the vandalism, it is easy to lump this recent Gentleman's Rule violation in with the targeted attacks that current Wabash seniors have witnessed during their time here.

"The situations in the past were definitely targeted at certain individuals in a house," said Cruzado. "I feel like this was just a retaliation with the use of derogatory words, rather than being targeted at an individual's sexuality. But it is still a case of bigotry and lack of education."

But regardless of if the slurs were used as a targeted attack towards any individuals or just as part

of a more general retaliation, the use of homophobic language and vandalism are violations of the Gentleman's Rule.

"Wabash entrusts its students with the Gentleman's Rule," said Interfraternity Council President Kyle Foster '27. "Vandalism and slurs of any kind cross the line without question. We as a student body need to be better."

"I want to ask those who did this to ask themselves: Would a gentleman break into another person's house?" asked Brown. "Would a gentleman vandalize, but also use a homophobic slur... What was your goal? Is this what you want for your legacy here at Wabash?"

But regardless of the underlying reasons and ongoing investigations, Cruzado is hopeful that those responsible will learn from their mistakes.

"The people who did this know who they are," said Cruzado. "They're never going to step forward out of the shadows, but I hope they can reflect on their actions and grow as people. That's what Wabash is here to do, take boys and turn them into men."

Bringing The Beatles to Wabash and Wabash to Britain



COURTESY OF PROFESSOR ROBERT ROYALTY

Class takes a picture in front of The Beatles Statues in Pier Head in Liverpool.

PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28
ONLINE EDITOR

Over the Thanksgiving recess, students in the course "The Beatles: A Cultural History," taught by Professor of History Robert Royalty, traveled to Liverpool and London in the United Kingdom. The students and faculty on the immersion trip got the opportunity to visit various Beatles landmarks as well as explore English cities and culture for themselves.

As the title suggests, this course is not just focused on studying The Beatles' music, but also the political and socioeconomic landscape in the UK while The Beatles were writing and recording music, what influenced The Beatles' music and the influence The Beatles have had on music since they released their last album in 1970.

"We read about the cultural history of what was going on in England, Liverpool and London and tied that into what The Beatles were doing and into their lives" said Silas Mills '27. "A lot of our discussions helped demonstrate how they all fuse together."

Students agreed that this course provides unique value to the liberal arts education at Wabash. The combination of a pop culture icon with the sociopolitical history surrounding The Beatles brings the different aspects of a liberal arts education to life.

"Being able to go abroad and connect everything that we learned to real life plac-

es makes it less enigmatic," said Lucas Carpenter '26. "The experience makes everything tangible. Having the opportunity to see that and walk a mile in The Beatles' shoes was really amazing."

Learning about The Beatles through a cultural and historical lens is also valuable for the students. The perspectives of The Beatles through history and vice versa emphasize the mutual influences each had on the other and demonstrate that both are heavily intertwined.

"There's so many different parts that have built our society, and you would never think that one specific band could have such a big impact," said Zade Kalesperis '27. "It emphasizes how big of an impact one particular thing can have. It's an interesting perspective."

The real highlight of the course, with good reason, was the trip overseas. The students made the most of their time abroad and took advantage of the opportunity to see tourist attractions as well as sites that are namesakes of Beatles songs.

"Each day we did something special such as a tour or a site visit," said Owen Smith '27. "When we were in Liverpool, we took a bus tour through special places such as Penny Lane, Strawberry Fields and the childhood homes of John Lennon and Paul McCartney."

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PHOTO BY MICHAEL CRUZADO '27

The vandals sprayed homophobic slurs in the Phi Kappa Psi house on December 1, 2025.

170 prospective students expected to visit campus for Scarlet Honors Weekend



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Admissions staff helping sign in prospective students for Scarlet Honors Weekend on December 6, 2024, in the Allen Center.

PHILLIP HARVEY '29
STAFF WRITER

Scarlet Honors Weekend is a long held tradition of the college. This year is no different: Wabash will host 170 prospective students this Friday and Saturday for Scarlet Honors Weekend, up from 145 students last December. Families will see a variety of panels meant to show what attending Wabash means. The weekend is a way for potential Little Giants to dip their toes into everything Wabash offers and its unique culture, especially in academics, extracurriculars,

athletics and, of course, Greek life.

Students choose classes to sit in on, make preliminary course selections and attend social and extracurricular activities that help them understand the rhythm of a typical day on campus. Unique to Wabash is the overnight component of the event — primarily in fraternity houses — before students leave Saturday morning, something that often becomes the most memorable part of the visit.

Attendance at Scarlet Honors Weekend is one of the strongest predictors of

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A short time but a great legacy

Kashon to start new veteran-focused role



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Nick Kashon has many connections to the College, most recently working in the Safety and Security Office.

TOBIN SEIPLE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

"Nick is a great guy," said Senior Director of Safety and Security and Dean of Student's Office Eugene "Buck" Waddell. "He is very much a Wabash family man through and through."

Over the past year, Wabash was honored to have Nicholas Kashon as a Dean of Student's Office and full-time Campus Safety Specialist. He began in a part-time position, but grew enamored with the job and decided to pursue it full-time.

He has worked consistently from 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM, or as he put it,

"I got to see the students outside of class," said

Kashon. "I got to see how they behave when they are not in the classroom."

Although this was his first time at Wabash in an official capacity, his roots run deep with our Alma Mater. Kashon grew up familiar with Wabash; his mother served as an office administrator with the Dean of the College for 15 years. Additionally, his son grew up a stone's throw away from the College, ultimately graduated from Wabash with a degree in Biology in 2017 and was a runner for the track & field team for all four years.

"One of my favorite things is that I have a photo of him at 6 months old in a Wabash

sweatshirt," said Kashon. "It was ironic when, 18 years later, he was wearing Wabash sweatshirts."

Sticking with the familial appreciation for Wabash, Kashon relished his time as a Campus Safety Specialist.

"I have been able to meet a lot of good kids and great students," said Kashon. "I got to know some of them quite well, especially the ones that worked late hours at the Allen Center and Hays Hall because they're stuck there and I'm stuck here."

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Inflation cools, Fed has clearer picture and more

AGUSTIN ANTELO '29

STAFF WRITER

Inflation cools and markets steady: Why does this matter?

This month inflation continued to ease with the Fed's preferred measure showing the slowest pace in almost two years. Investors saw this as proof that higher rates are finally working. With inflation trending down and borrowing conditions becoming easier, expectations grew that the Federal Reserve will hold off on any major moves in December. Lower inflation helps consumers and businesses, and it gives the Fed more room to support the economy if needed.

Markets end the month mixed

After a quiet month on Wall Street, markets closed November with only small changes:

Dow Jones: +0.3%

S&P 500: +0.1%

Nasdaq: -1.5%

Russell 2000: +0.6%

These moves showed a split in the market. Large-cap stocks finished slightly higher, but the Nasdaq fell as big tech names struggled all month. At the same time, small-cap stocks bounced toward the end of November thanks to lower bond yields and optimism that rate cuts will continue next year.

The big moves: Tech, retail and energy

Amazon rose after reporting strong early holiday shopping numbers. Nvidia saw another solid month with continued demand for AI chips, although gains were smaller compared to earlier in the year. Oil companies struggled as crude prices moved lower throughout the month. Shares of ExxonMobil and Chevron fell as traders reacted to softer global demand

and the possibility of more supply coming from OPEC.

Fed pause talk grows

Throughout November, Federal Reserve officials signaled that another rate cut in December is not guaranteed. They pointed to progress on inflation but said they want to see more evidence before making another move. With major inflation and jobs data back on schedule after earlier delays in the fall, the Fed now has a clearer picture heading into its final meeting of the year. Investors took these comments as a sign that the Fed may wait until early 2026 for its next step.

The global market: Holiday demand and energy pressure

European markets rose after inflation in the eurozone cooled faster than expected. Japan also posted gains as a weaker yen helped exporters. Oil prices fell by around 1-2% for the month, while gold stayed near record highs as investors continued to look for safety. These global shifts reflected steady consumer demand but ongoing uncertainty around growth heading into the new year.

Looking Ahead: December's key reports

The next important test for the U.S. economy will be the November jobs report and the upcoming inflation release. If hiring slows and inflation continues to ease, pressure will build for the Fed to move again early next year. Investors will also be watching holiday spending numbers to see how strong the consumer remains. With inflation lower and markets steady, December will determine whether confidence carries into 2026.

Bringing The Beatles to Wabash and Wabash to Britain



COURTESY OF PROFESSOR ROBERT ROYALTY

Students recreating the famous "Abbey Road" album cover outside Abbey Road Studios in London.



COURTESY OF PROFESSOR ROBERT ROYALTY

Students visited Penny Lane in Liverpool. The subject of one of the Beatles most popular songs "Penny Lane".



COURTESY OF PROFESSOR ROBERT ROYALTY

Posing for a picture with the King's guard marching in the background.

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Aside from The Beatles, the class got the opportunity to explore Britain on their own time. For some, this included visiting historically significant British sites, interacting with locals and taking advantage of London's culinary scene.

"The very best part of being in London was meeting the locals," said Carpenter. "They were really excited to meet Americans and they were all very nice and curious about the way we live. Having those conversations was pretty meaningful to me."

"I was able to go into Westminster Abbey, see Big Ben and walk across the London

Bridge," said Smith. "The food there was really incredible as well. I had a lot of great dishes and tried something new every single day."

Professor Royalty is nearing the end of his last semester of teaching classes at Wabash before retiring. Now teaching his seventh immersion course, he was especially proud of the students in this course and praised how well they took advantage of the time abroad. The students were also very appreciative of Professor Royalty's teaching and give him a lot of credit for their great experience in this course.

"Having Dr. Royalty is probably the best part," said Carpenter. "It's really nice having a professor who clearly loves what they're teaching and has a smile on their

face when they tell stories."

Above all else, the students in this course strongly encourage all Wabash students to take an immersion course during their time at the College. They create unforgettable experiences and forge strong bonds with your fellow classmates on the trip.

"It's one thing to go on the tours and learn about the Beatles, or just London and Liverpool in general," said Smith. "But the time that we get to spend as classmates in a different country and to figure out the world a little bit is such a special and unique experience. I think everyone should make an effort to try at least one immersion course if they can't study abroad."

Prospects expected for Scarlet Honors Weekend



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Scarlet Honors Weekend unites campus to help give prospective students a good experience overnight at Wabash.

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"According to Wade, less than 10% of prospective students stay with independent hosts. Lambda Chi Alpha is hosting 31 and Phi Gamma Delta is hosting 20. The goal is to provide a more authentic experience of campus life than traditional day visits. Wabash is rare among colleges in offering an overnight stay at all, and admissions staff believe that authenticity is a major reason the event consistently impacts decisions."

Showcasing the vibrancy of Wabash culture and helping high schoolers find where they might fit is another part of the weekend, and Greek life plays a large role. However, the college emphasizes fraternities broadly rather than any single house. Student leaders share that sentiment.

"My goal is to have houses push for encouragement of joining fraternities overall, and not only their fraternity," said Interfraternity Council (IFC) President Kyle Foster '27. "Wabash is a fraternity in itself. Pushing fraternities and pushing Wabash culture go together."

The IFC will have a new table at the activities fair this year where council members or individuals nominated by their houses will speak to incoming

freshmen and answer questions about the system as a whole.

"To me, a successful weekend looks like getting a lot of those undecided guys to choose Wabash," said Lambda Chi Alpha rush chair Ben Church '28. "Hospitality and the authentic brotherhood of our campus are the way to do that."

At the activities fair, clubs and student organizations will line Knowling Fieldhouse so families can get a snapshot of how students build community outside classes and residence halls. The college has used the same core model of panels and student-led interactions for the past several years.

For Wade, Foster and the many student hosts preparing for the weekend, the goal is simple: make each visitor feel like they belong.

"We try to remind students what it felt like when they were high school seniors visiting campus," said Wade. "No one wants to feel like a burden. We want our guests to feel welcomed into the Wabash family from the moment they step on campus."

As prospective students head into classrooms, wander the activities fair and settle into fraternity living rooms on Friday night, the hope is that they begin to picture themselves here — not just as visitors, but as future Wabash men.

THE SCARLET MASQUE PRESENTS

BOILER ROOM SIX
A TITANIC STORY BY TOM FOREMAN

December 12 & 13
7:00PM
Experimental Theater

Starring Alex Schmidt, Directed by Xavier Cienfuegos

FEATURES

'Pluribus' review: A peaceful apocalypse



FROM THE CREATOR OF BREAKING BAD

PLURIBUS



COURTESY OF IMDB

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26
MANAGING EDITOR

"Pluribus" is the latest brainchild of Vince Gilligan, the showrunner behind "Breaking Bad" and its equally lauded spin-off, "Better Call Saul." While Gilligan's first two shows defined prestige television

with their nuanced and grounded depiction of criminal antiheroes forged by a surrounding world that's even more corrupt, "Pluribus" is a marked departure from this trend. Instead, "Pluribus" presents a post-apocalyptic mystery that is wholly original. "Pluribus" is at its

best when the mystery is left intact, so this review will capture what makes the first five episodes of this unique show tick while avoiding spoilers.

The first two elements that make "Pluribus" stand out are the visual style and pacing. The visuals are sharp, among the best on television today. The wide framing is very flat and the camera moves rarely, but this allows the intentional meticulous motion of actors and objects in the frame to captivate the eye. The aesthetic is deliberately sterile, so that the bold framing and synchronized action have an undeniable slickness.

The other striking quality of "Pluribus" is the pacing. The show is quite slow, which some viewers may be turned off by. However, this is not to say that nothing happens in the show. The show is not dialogue-heavy, but this means that many of the events are portrayed primarily through meticulous visual action. Therefore, Gilligan et. al recognize that this methodical approach needs a bit of breathing room to work. You could multitask, check your phone and chitchat during an episode and still catch all the things you absolutely need to know. However, you would miss out on the rich detail that the showrunners pack into the world of "Pluribus."

"Pluribus" also has a seemingly bottomless reserve of great actors, or at least extremely well-cast actors. The countless extras collectively project an unsettling, menacing serenity, which gives life to this mysterious alternate reality.

The only big name on the cast is Rhea Seehorn as the protagonist:

romantasy author Carol Sturka. Her character fights a lonely battle to discover the mysteries of her peaceful apocalypse, and reacts in ways that perhaps many of us might. Seehorn, most well known for playing Kim Wexler in "Better Call Saul", is a very fine actress that is well-suited to portray the tortured but determined investigator, and she has excellent physical acting in the many scenes of slow, silent sleuthing.

However, some of the dialogue she has to read is just not good. Many of her lines are the kind of forced, snappy quips that you would hear out of a sidekick in a mediocre Marvel movie. Carol Sturka's dialogue too often breaks the immersion of "Pluribus" and reminds you that you are watching a show made in the streaming era. Even though the show includes several moments of genuine levity, her limp barbs clash with the rest of the show's masterful tone and deflate moments of real tension and drama. If this was just an issue with a minor, comic relief character, it would be forgivable—but it's the main protagonist! While this is a major problem, the fault lies with the script and not with Seehorn's performance. Even

the best actors could not fix this dialogue.

On a broader, thematic note, "Pluribus" is one of the most timely shows on the air today. The last five years have produced anxieties about global illness, our reliance on technology and the proper balancing of individuality versus community in the human experience. While it tells an entirely fictional story, observant viewers will likely pick up on these themes that resonate with the lived experience of the 20's.

Between its indirect address of contemporary and relevant themes, and its stylishly sterile, digital visuals, "Pluribus" is perhaps the perfect show to represent the 2020's. Yet in an age where attention spans are shorter and shorter, it manages to slow things down and reward viewers' patience with a clever premise and thoroughly intriguing mystery. Despite a distracting issue with the script, "Pluribus" is one of the better new shows in a long time, a show that is as entertaining to discuss as it is to watch. New episodes come out Fridays on Apple TV, with the season finale on Friday, December 26. Watch it so we can talk about it.

FINAL VERDICT: 4/5 WALLYS



A short time but a great legacy

Continued from page 1

Those same students, however, also occasionally cause problems.

"I know the students are intelligent because they got into Wabash," said Kashon. "But how can one person lock themselves out of a room? Or how can you break into fraternities and steal their composites? The students are young, have not seen anything and are just having fun. In my experience, a lot of dumb decisions come from a lack of life experience so it makes sense."

Buck Waddell had the pleasure of working closely with Kashon over the past year.

"Nick coming back home just fit right," said Waddell. "He knew campus. He knew how our student body acted, raising a couple of sons and having one that was a Wabash grad. He's a great guy to work with."

Waddell also appreciated him for not only keeping campus safe, but also for connecting with and mentoring students.

"He's very much a guitar lover, if you heard his Chapel Talk," said Waddell. "There are guys around here that would call him up and want to do a jam impromptu session at night, which was great. He's a heck of a foosball player too...several guys around here knew that and would challenge him and get



COURTESY OF NICHOLAS KASHON

Nicholas Kashon (left) sits next to his fiancée Nicole Spires (right). One of Kashon's sons graduated from Wabash with a degree in Biology. thoroughly whooped."

"There are so many current veterans that need help. He's the guy. It's just a privilege to see him do that."

"I was appointed by the county commissioners to be the new veterans service officer, which entails helping veterans in Montgomery County fill out veterans benefits, whether it's for medical reasons, mental health reasons, helping them with their VA loans for housing, just navigating the entire Veterans Administration System for local veterans, helping them get the benefits they deserve or making sure they're on the right track," said Kashon. "It's probably more office work than I have ever had to deal with in my life, but I'll make a smooth transition."

"He will be sorely missed, but what he is going to do in this county as a veteran service officer is great. There are so many current veterans that need help. He's the guy. It's just a privilege to see him do that."

-Director of Safety and Security Eugene Waddell

"Again, great employee," said Waddell. "I wish he could stay, but man, where he is going is where God is calling him and where he is needed. We're very happy for him, and he will be missed. He's not leaving, he's going to still be part of our part time staff if we need him for athletic events. But, man, we are so happy that he is going to be Montgomery County's veteran service officer."



COURTESY OF JOURNAL REVIEW

Nicholas Kashon (left) was appointed the next Montgomery County Veterans Service Officer on November 10, 2025. He will succeed Joe Ellis (right).

New Committee Alert

ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28
STAFF WRITER

Some may say there are too many clubs out there already, but this one claims to present new opportunities for students' careers even after leaving our beautiful campus. This organization is entirely run by Wabash students and is advised from an admired alumni Matthew Brooks '24. Coming back to Wabash after receiving his masters at Notre Dame, Brooks has dived back into CIBE as a program manager and now is guiding this project as he wants all students to live the experience that only a few have access to.

"I serve as an advisor to the committee," said Brooks. "My job is to support the student chairmen, help them design programming informed by real market needs, and connect them with resources across the Wabash community and beyond. In my work with the CIBE, I see firsthand how transformative structured professional development can be. So personally, I want to create more opportunities for students who are interested in business and entrepreneurship. If you have expressed interest in the CIBE, this was created for you to have access to similar opportunities."

But Brooks believes that this program is more than an opportunity, he knows that it is an essential tool for students across campus.

"Professional development isn't a switch you flip on when you need an internship or job," said Brooks. "It's a steady practice—like sharpening a blade you'll rely on for the rest of your career."

The Professional Development Committee is a place to "help every student build that mindset," but many people are wondering what this organization looks like. The committee is a student-led group

built to expand the professional capabilities of the entire campus.

"Each week it will offer workshops, hands-on activities and conversations with alumni and industry leaders—practical touchpoints that help students discover what they want to do after Wabash and the steps required to get there," said Brooks. "It is built by students and for students, which means its programming will evolve with campus interest and market trends."

Student leaders share similar hopes for what the committee can become. Brady Redelman '28, who manages the connection with the Investment Society as its secretary and event coordinator, said he hopes the committee becomes "a student-led Career Services." This position will be held by some people who work on CIBE and have the community awareness and brotherhood sense to share this with their peers.

"The main practical actions this organization wants to provide are easier access to funding and more outreach to get more people involved in the different events," said Redelman. "I hope this makes it easier for the different clubs to work with each other and draws them to more career development events."

The Professional Development Committee's first event will take place on December 8 at 12:15 PM in Baxter 101. They invite everybody, regardless of their major and their projected career plan, into all the clubs that have business connections, and will hopefully change these to be better funded with a greater overall direction.

"If you want to understand your strengths, explore industries, build skills, or simply get a clearer sense of what comes after Wabash," said Brooks. "This is your place to start."

Welcome to Wabash, High School Seniors!



We're not just
one of the country's
top alumni networks.
We're a Brotherhood.

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

THE BACHELOR | BACHELOR.WABASH.EDU | 3

'The Fearless Flyers V' review: Olympic level subdivision



COURTESY OF BANDCAMP

The Fearless Flyers pose for their fifth album cover.

PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28
ONLINE EDITOR

For what was supposed to be a side project for the band Vulfpeck, The Fearless Flyers have turned into a funk music sensation and recently released their fifth studio album, "The Fearless Flyers V." The band is made up of Cory Wong on small guitar (standard six-string), Mark Lettieri on medium guitar (baritone six-string), Joe Dart on big guitar (bass) and Nate Smith on drums. Together, The Fearless Flyers form a rhythmic powerhouse that covers three distinct pitch ranges with enough technical mastery and pure musicianship to blow any listener off their feet.

"The Fearless Flyers V" is a short and sweet album, clocking just over 28 minutes across eight tracks from start to finish. The album is headlined by each member's mastery of rhythm and the band's immaculate chemistry. The heavy use of syncopation throughout the album creates a listening environment where there is never a dull moment. The melodies one guitar plays are beautifully complemented by the other two and all of that rests on top of a very solid foundation set by Smith's drumming – just like a jigsaw puzzle fitting together perfectly.

Tracks like "Coastal Postal," "Exotic" and "Anaheim" are great examples of each member's playing being perfectly intertwined.

Another aspect of this album that sets it apart from the others in The Flyers' library is

the expanded use of Lettieri's baritone guitar. Lettieri really steals the show on this album and transformed himself from a supporting role in the band to a role where he's on the same melodic level, if not outshining, Wong and Dart.

"Coastal Postal" and "Exotic" are almost entirely dedicated to these jazzy and soulful baritone guitar lines. The heavy use of baritone guitar is a rarity in the music; and especially funk music world.

The baritone guitar on this album is a rare instance where a mid-range "voice" takes the limelight, and the way it is done on this album should be a benchmark for how mid-range instruments can be supported by both high and low range instruments. "The Warped State of..." is another

down and emphasized by a signature Joe Dart bass fill – creating a section that fully encapsulates the identity of The Fearless Flyers.

The Fearless Flyers took their strength of rhythm mastery and revitalized their style on "The Fearless Flyers V." They took their subdivision, syncopation and harmonies and brought them to slower tunes that may not be immediately stereotyped as "funk." They elevated their control of different sonic ranges to a whole new level – one that separates them from any other band I have heard before. What started as a side project based on some visual gimmicks has quickly turned into a unique funk band that has gone viral for very good reason.

4 BACHELOR WABASH.EDU | THE BACHELOR

The Fearless Flyers play their song "Exotic" live in August 2025 during their tour in Italy.

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What started as a side project based on some visual gimmicks has quickly turned into a unique funk band that has gone viral for very good reason.

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BACHELOR

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

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

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

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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).

Wallies in the Wild: Battle tested



Matthew Lepper '25

Wabash can propel you to the top of mountains you never thought possible. Wabash can also chew you up, spit you out and grind you into the asphalt with the heel of its boot. Throughout my four years at our great institution, I experienced both bookends of this dichotomy on numerous occasions – and I think that's the point.

Each day at Wabash brings new, unforeseen challenges. Said challenges are typically so unique to the scarlet-ridden halls of this place, a Wabash man can sometimes feel that these are "Wabash-only" challenges. Now that I've seen the other side of graduation, I can assure you that obstacles you think are niche and specialized carry immense value and application to the world outside of Wabash.

Don't get me wrong, there are plenty of experiences a Wabash man incurs that are truly "Wabash-only:" Chapel talks, air raids, the Bell Game and the list goes on. You'll only find these experiences and the unique energy surrounding them in the context of Wabash College. This is a good thing; it keeps the Wabash experience unique and something to reminisce upon fondly. However, the aforementioned "Wabash-only" challenges you face bolster your strength and ability to excel in the years ahead, you may just not be able to see it yet.

I'm currently in my first year of a thesis-driven master's program at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Things are new and exciting. I jumped into a busy field season in May, began teaching two intro-biology lab sections, and I'm nearing completion of my first round of graduate-level courses. However, the looming anxiety of executing a thesis project is nearing ever closer. The process was (and still

is) completely new to me; selecting a thesis committee, hours of literature review, defending just the proposal of my thesis in front of my committee, executing multiple seasons of data collection and etc. The thought of juggling this thesis work on top of all my other obligations began to crush me early on. How on Earth could I ever manage all of this? Seemingly just before the mental weight of these thoughts came down in a crashing blow, something triggered in my mind.

Where and how did I spend the majority of my nights at Wabash? How many clubs and committees did I run at one time? How many hours of my senior winter break did I spend combing over every minute detail of my academic journey? How much of my essence was poured into trying to make Wabash a better place than when I first arrived on campus?

Memories flooded. I recollected the magnificent highs and brutal lows I experienced at Wabash. Most importantly, I realized that I've been here before. I never thought that I would be able to pass comps; I never thought that I would be able to raise money and donations for a local food pantry; and I never thought that I would be able to emerge from a placard and a raggedy pot into a set of stripes. I never thought that I could do any of the things I did at Wabash...until I just did them.

In this moment of retrospection, I realized that Wabash had rendered me battle tested. The challenges that were "Wabash-only" for me have laid the groundwork for me to excel in my post-Wabash career. Whether you can see it or not, the same is happening to you. Each night spent pulling hairs in the library, stressing over extra-curricular obligations or pondering where you'll end up after graduation – it all has a purpose. You're actively being battle tested. Once the day comes where you hang up your graduation apparel and turn to the big wide world ahead of you, know this: You've been here before. You're battle tested and you're a damn Wabash man ready to make your wildest dreams come true – nobody can take that away from you.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

I'M NOT LIKE THE OTHER GUYS...

Hi-Five to everyone that had *Claire* on their Spotify Wrapped. She's definitely going to see that on your Instagram story and fall in love with you!

"I AM SO BLESSED TO PLAY IN SOME SNOW"

Hi-Five to the camperv crew for shoveling and salting all the sidewalks after last weekend's winter storm. While a camperv Hi-Five is rare, they earned this one.

A THANKSGIVING MIRACLE

Lo-Five to everyone involved in the Chiefs-Cowboys Thanksgiving game. While we were all thankful to see the Chiefs finally be the ones screwed over by the refs, why did it have to be the Cowboys...

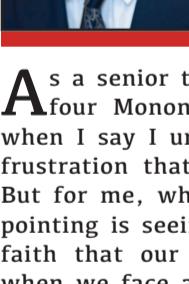
BETTER GET A (OAKEN) BUCKET

Hi-Five to the Indiana Hoosiers for walking into West Lafayette and turning Ross-Ade into a home stadium. In the words of Coach Cig: "Purdue sucks - but so do Michigan and Ohio State!"

MASTER BAITER

Lo-Five to the folks at Oxford Dictionary for making "rage bait" the word of the year for 2025. It's like they do asinine things like this just to annoy me.

We are spoiled by our sports



Ben Cody '26

Reply to this opinion at
bpcody26@wabash.edu

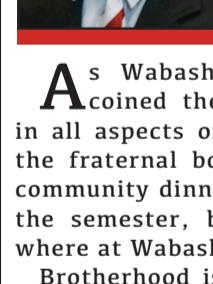
As a senior that has now witnessed four Monon Bell losses, trust me when I say I understand the pain and frustration that those losses brought. But for me, what is even more disappointing is seeing the absolute lack of faith that our student body exhibits when we face adversity. On Saturday, the student section was thinning out at halftime. YikYak was blowing up with calls for Coaches Gilbert and Olmy's jobs, and was filled with trash talk about our own players.

I think we, as a student body, don't realize how good we have it. The football team has not had a losing season since 1990. But, as soon as things begin to take a turn for the worst, it seems we lose faith. The basketball team has been phenomenal for the last half decade. Our lacrosse team is improving every year. Our track team has dominated the conference for a long time. In my view, we have it so good that we have forgotten how to act when faced with



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Wabash fans cheer on the football team during the 131st Monon Bell Game on November 15, 2025.

The importance of philanthropy



James Rusher '27

Reply to this opinion at
jmrusher27@wabash.edu

As Wabash students, we have coined the term "brotherhood" in all aspects of our daily life. From the fraternal bonds we share to the community dinners hosted throughout the semester, brotherhood is everywhere at Wabash.

Brotherhood is not just an on-campus thing that encourages us to make strong connections with those around us – it is also something that should be carried beyond the confines of our beloved home and into the community that surrounds us.

Brotherhood is the act of striving for a better community, and it encourages us to reach out and lift up those around us. The Crawfordsville community has been very influential in both the founding of Wabash and its continued period of survival. This is why giving back to the community is so important. To continue the success of both



PHOTO COURTESY OF PROFESSOR BRADLEY CARLSON

The Environmental Concerns Committee and NICHEs Land Trust clean up nature reserve.

Here's what to read if you don't like to read

Elijah Wetzel '27

Reply to this opinion at ejwetzel27@wabash.edu



I grew up loving books. I was lucky that my parents read to me before I, myself, could read and that we didn't have cable television, because reading became my go-to entertainment option almost by default. I call that lucky because of how terrific reading can be. The odds you'll wonder at learning something new, feel an emotion you've never felt quite so vividly before or just simply be entertained when you pick up a book are probably only surpassed by the odds of good conversation with great people over a meal. I still enjoy reading books and try to make time to read for personal enjoyment beyond the texts I have to read for class.

But I understand that not everyone enjoys reading, that it can feel dull and almost like a chore. Dyslexia and other learning disabilities make reading especially difficult for some people and could discourage reading in children that have them. For some, perhaps bad memories of the discomfort that came from reading aloud in class during school means reading is more painful than relaxing. Or maybe you can't find a genre you enjoy, prefer other forms of entertainment or don't feel like you have the time to read books as thoroughly as you'd like to. When you add classes, sports or exercise, clubs, community service, work searches and all the other obligations of college life to your calendar—you may feel like reading is impractical.

I disagree; I believe reading should be one of the last things we scratch from our calendars to make room for other things. For one, I think most people have more spare time during the day than they think. Instead of looking at your phone when you have a spare moment or need to relax, what if you read? Second, we would do well to try a greater variety of genres. Maybe you feel like you need to read a certain kind of book, or even particular books, because you're a man or because you're interested in economics. Resist feeling compelled to read a certain way because of one part of your identity; to not read a certain genre or book because it's not popular among your demographic profile is to surrender your individualism to social and cultural pressure. This ties into entertainment too. If you stick to familiar kinds of books, chances are that reading will eventually seem stale. It is important to read diversely for many reasons, but perhaps most importantly, it is simply more entertaining! Only reading non-fiction books is like only watching action movies; there are plenty of good options, but you're actually missing out on enriching art and will probably get tired of watching movies sooner. Variety is the spice of life.

Maybe most tangibly, reading is extremely important for your health. Reading reduces stress, relaxes your muscles and lowers your heart rate. If you read before bed instead of using your

phone you'll get better sleep, which neurologist Chris Winters has referred to as the best performance enhancing drug in the world. Reading also reduces your risk of developing dementia and other forms of cognitive decline. If you want to lead a longer and healthier life, the evidence suggests reading is your best friend.

So, given all its benefits, I encourage you to read avidly and widely. But if you want to read more but don't want to commit to a book right away, or if you don't enjoy reading quite yet but want to make it more of a habit because of its benefits, what should you read?

I believe the short story is an overlooked form of writing perfect for people looking to read more because they have a number of characteristics that make them more accessible and manageable compared to novel-length books. First, they don't require the reader to make a commitment they may not fulfill; short stories are aptly named — many don't have more than 15 pages. Second, they introduce readers to authors, giving the reader a sense of the author's themes and style in just a few pages. For example, a person may never read Leo Tolstoy's gargantuan novel War and Peace because they figure that it is not worth the time and effort. However, if that same person starts by reading some of Tolstoy's short stories, they could be so gripped that they end up reading "War and Peace," a work and author they otherwise would have missed out on. Third, short stories are lucid and usually quicker than the plots of books, which make them ripe for discussion and analysis. Points are usually expressed best with brevity. Short stories often make powerful assessments and arguments about life that are harder to tease out from books, and their propensity to provoke new thoughts in you will make you more creative and wise. Fourth, short stories make for great small group discussion. If you want to be a better listener, questioner, learner and empathetic person, seek out good conversation. As AI continues to develop at a rapid pace, the professional world's demand for people with advanced personal skills will rise. Discussing short stories in a small group is a great way to develop those attributes, not just give lip service to them.

Fifth and finally, short stories, I believe, give you a better chance to stick with a consistent reading habit. Beyond how engrossing they are, I think short stories make you feel like you're reading a lot because they often have many of the elements of a novel in far fewer pages. When you taste the accomplishment of finishing what you were reading more often, there's a better chance you will keep reading because your brain wants more of the emotions that feeling of accomplishment gets you. Chances are short stories will help you develop a reading habit better than many books.

Reading won't be everyone's favorite thing. Hey, maybe it won't even be something that you enjoy at first. But don't let excuses about time or a monolithic view of literature prevent you from reaping the benefits of reading often. Short stories encapsulate some of the best parts of literature in a manageable and exciting format and are a perfect fit for people who don't enjoy reading.

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Wally's Wall: What Are You looking Forward to this Holiday Season?

Jackson Bohrer '26

Chocolate chip cookie and a large glass of milk.

John Schnerre '26

Christmas Music nonstop for the next month.

Tobin Seiple '29

I am most excited to pursue hobbies like cooking and hunting, meet and shadow alumni and give presents to my family on Christmas.

Nicholas Green '27

I am looking forward to returning home warmer weather and celebrating Christmas with my family!

Paul Hawksworth '28

Spreading the Christmas cheer around campus and eating great Christmas meals with friends and family.

Colin Krekeler '27

I look forward to seeing all the Christmas lights and decorations put up all around!

Bryce Kinnaman '27

Snow football! Wrapping up in as many layers as possible and playing tackle football with friends and family!

Hutcheson Norris '27

I am excited to roadtrip my new car for the first time this Christmas. I will end up driving 30 hours over 1,960 miles between here, Memphis, TN, Richmond, VA and back here.

Matthew Skinner '29

I'm looking forward to getting sleep and spending some more time on hobbies.

Noah Mintie '29

Catching up on all of the movies that I've missed so far this year, and then making my big end-of-year ranking.

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

'Coming back to Wabash after break'

by Drake Green '28



- Develop skills for leadership in a public or non-profit career

- Online and Hybrid Master of Public Administration Degree Program

- Courses focus on management and policy



INDIANA STATE
UNIVERSITY



SPORTS

Basketball drops two straight to No. 5 WashU and DePauw

CARTER MCCALL '29

STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College basketball team has opened its season determined to prove the preseason polls wrong, starting the year with an explosive offense, disciplined execution and the emergence of several young playmakers. Picked lower than they believed they deserved, the Little Giants responded with a commanding 3-0 start, immediately signaling that they are far more dangerous than early rankings suggested.

Even in the November 24 road loss to No. 5 Washington University-St. Louis, Wabash showed it can compete with nationally elite programs. Across the three-game swing, the Little Giants demonstrated the depth, toughness and upward trajectory that indicate they may outperform every expectation once NCAC play continues.

Wabash's most complete performance came in a 92-74 win on November 19 at Franklin College, where the Little Giants controlled the game for more than 35 minutes and overwhelmed the Grizzlies with pace, pressure defense and a balanced scoring attack. Luke Ellspermann '29 delivered a breakout game, pouring in 18 points by shooting 7/11 from the field using slicing drives and a making transition three that ignited a 22-7 first half run.

Josh Whack '26 matched Ellspermann with 18 points of his own, hitting two timely second half threes and scoring in transition to silence Franklin's comeback attempts. Colton Stowers '29 added 17 points and six rebounds, while Deric Cannady '29 scored 11 off the

bench. The reserve unit had an impressive night as the guys off the bench contributed 29 points.

The impressive performances from the freshmen on the roster has been rather noticeable, and Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett has been pleased with their efforts so far this season.

"They [freshmen] are really coachable," said Brumett. "They work really hard, and that transition has allowed our older guys to probably play a little bit more freely."

The momentum carried into Monday's matchup at No. 5 WashU, where the Little Giants showed resilience despite falling behind 0-11 early on. Their bench provided a spark and powered Wabash back into the game with a flurry of midrange scoring. Nate Matelic '27 had a balanced effort as he scored 14 points, shooting 6/10 from the field and 1/3 shooting from beyond the arc. Wabash managed to cut the deficit to four points, but the Bears had an answer for every Little Giants run in the second half.

"We didn't stop the bleeding fast enough," said Brumett. "Once we got down that much, we couldn't find things that were consistently working well enough to get us back ahead."

Ellspermann continued his hot start to the season, scoring 22 points and leading the team in offensive contribution. Gavin Schippert '26 battled inside against an extremely tall WashU lineup as he tacked on eight points and snagged 10 rebounds.

The Wabash faithful packed into Chadwick Court on December 3 for the home rivalry game against DePauw University. Wabash came into the game

riding a six-game winning streak over the Tigers, but the team from down south ended up breaking that streak with a 89-79 win over the Little Giants.

Wabash opened the game in impressive fashion, scoring the game's first basket and stringing together an 8-0 run to take an early 18-6 lead. The Tigers responded with a scoring surge of their own thanks to the likes of Joe Smith and Caleb Washington who ignited their team with a 9-0 run. DePauw continued to push back, and they had a 36-30 advantage over the scarlet and white at halftime.

The Tigers increased their lead to 14 points early on in the second half, but Wabash fought back courtesy of Stowers and Schippert, who combined to trim the deficit to single digits. Schippert scored three consecutive baskets during a stretch that brought Wabash within five points at 59-64 with just under 10 minutes remaining. Wabash made a few pushes in the final minutes, but each run was topped by a quick DePauw basket to kill any momentum.

The Little Giants shot 47.6% from the field and struggled at the foul line, going 14/29. On the flip side, DePauw shot 61.8% from the field, including a blistering 75.9% from the field in the second half.

Matelic led Wabash with 18 points, shooting 8/11 from the field. Ellsperman added 16 points and 6 rebounds. Schippert and Stowers added 15 and 12 points respectively.

Wabash looks to bounce back as they return home for another NCAC contest on December 6 against the Oberlin Yeomen.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Nate Matelic '27 fires a mid-range jumpshot during Wabash's game against DePauw on December 3, 2025, at Chadwick Court.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Gavin Schippert '26 prepares for an inbound play in Wabash's game against DePauw on December 3, 2025, at Chadwick Court.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Colton Stowers '29 drives into the paint in Wabash's game against DePauw on December 3, 2025, at Chadwick Court.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Deric Cannady '29 looks to set up the offense during Wabash's game against DePauw on December 3, 2025, at Chadwick Court.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Rich Brooks '26 shoots a three pointer during Wabash's game against DePauw on December 3, 2025, at Chadwick Court.

Wrestling drops dual to No. 13 University of Chicago, competes well at Concordia Open

CARTER MCCALL '29

STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College wrestling team stepped into a hostile environment on November 22 for a nationally ranked showdown against No. 13 University of Chicago, trading momentum throughout the night before ultimately falling 24-14. The dual featured intense individual battles, key momentum swings, and a glimpse of what the Little Giants are capable of against top-tier competition.

The meet opened in dramatic fashion at 125 lbs., where Wabash dropped a sudden-victory thriller to fall behind 0-3, but the Little Giants didn't take long to respond. At 133 lbs., All-American James Day '26 set the tone with an aggressive, high-pace attack, controlling Chicago's Jackson Rustad for an 11-2 major decision that erased the deficit and energized the traveling Wabash team.

Chicago countered with wins at 141 and 149 lbs. as both were

tightly contested bouts, and Chicago built a 10-4 advantage. The swing at 157 lbs. helped Wabash regain ground, however, as Andrew Ross '26 notched a 7-2 decision that kept the Little Giants in the fight.

"One thing I really admire about this team is their dedication to grow each day and having an open mind to make necessary adjustments to elevate their wrestling."

- James Day '26

Wabash appeared ready to make its run after Chicago added a major decision at 165 lbs. Stepping into a pressure situation at 174 lbs., Jaylen Young '28 delivered one of the standout performances of the night. Young pushed the tempo from the opening whistle, securing a 13-4 ma-

jor decision that cut the Chicago lead to just 14-11 and shifted the momentum back toward Wabash.

But Chicago responded in the upper weights with the deciding surge of the dual, earning technical falls at both 184 and 197 lbs. to create an insurmountable gap. Despite the score, heavyweight Maximus Forrester '29 closed the night with authority, controlling Chicago's Edward Perry in an 8-2 victory that punctuated Wabash's competitive effort.

The Little Giants also shined in the extra matches following the varsity session. Isaac Ash '29 dominated his 133 lbs. contest with an 18-2 technical fall, Branson Weaver '29 secured a third-period pin at 149 lbs., and Michael Cain '29 earned a composed 6-1 decision at 165 lbs.

A week after the emotional and high-energy dual in Chicago, Wabash returned to competition at the Concordia (Wisconsin) Invitational, earning five top-six finishes while focusing on development and matchup opportunities.

"I think we came into the Concordia Invite with a desire to compete hard and a desire to win," said Head Wrestling Coach Jacob Fredricksen. "I believe most guys did that and that's what we ask from them when they step on the mat with a Wabash singlet on."

Andrew Punzalan '28 (125 lbs.), Day (133 lbs.), and Young (174 lbs.) finished as tournament runners-up. Punzalan recorded four impressive wins on his march to the finals, and Day dominated the early rounds with four technical falls, outscoring his opponents 65-1. Young added three strong victories of his own before falling in his championship bout.

At 184 lbs., Michael Taheny '29 finished fourth after a major-decision win in the consolations, and Ross capped the Wabash scoring with a sixth-place effort at 157 lbs.

"One thing I really admire about this team is their dedication to grow each day and having an open mind to make necessary

adjustments to elevate their wrestling," said Day. "I think the team showed a lot of growth from the Chicago dual to the Concordia Open."

"I think we came into the Concordia Invite with a desire to compete hard and a desire to win. I believe most guys did that, and that's what we ask from them when they step on the mat with a Wabash singlet on."

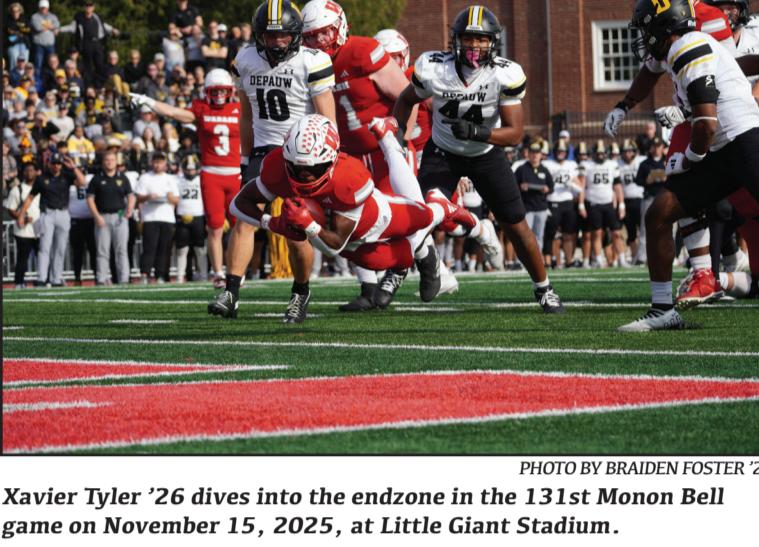
- Head Wrestling Coach Jacob Fredricksen

With three competitive weekends now behind them, the Little Giants shift their focus to their dual against Trine University tonight, where the program will also honor its senior class.

Football captures ForeverLawn Bowl title after falling short in Bell Game

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
SPORTS EDITOR

For the fourth consecutive year, the Little Giants lost the Monon Bell Classic. On November 15, 2025, Wabash fell to the DePauw Tigers 20-41 at Little Giant Stadium in the 131st meeting of the two schools. The class of 2026 is one of the few graduating classes in Wabash history to have never hoisted the historic trophy.



Xavier Tyler '26 dives into the endzone in the 131st Monon Bell game on November 15, 2025, at Little Giant Stadium.

The Little Giants started the contest looking like a well-oiled machine with a strong 13-play opening drive that lasted just over five minutes and stretched 78 yards, resulting in an Xavier Tyler '26 rushing touchdown. The Wabash defense came up with a big stop on the Tigers' first offensive possession, forcing a three-and-out and getting the ball back with a 7-0 lead.

But on the Little Giants' second offensive foray, Brand Campbell '27 threw an interception near mid-field, and the Tigers took advantage of the turnover by tying the game up at 7-7. From there, the momentum shifted, with the Tigers scoring 21 additional unanswered points before the end of the first half.

The Little Giants continued to battle it out through the end of the game, but never regained enough momentum to catch up to the Tigers' commanding lead. DePauw had every answer to stop the efforts of the home team, securing a victory and the Monon Bell once again.

The highly anticipated matchup did not have conference championship implications on the line as John Carroll captured the NCAC title with an undefeated conference record, but there was an at-large bid for the NCAA DIII National Tournament at stake. By winning, DePauw secured a first-round bye and a second-round matchup against the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Even with the heartbreaking loss, Wabash's impressive performance on the campaign earned them the chance to play in the second annual ForeverLawn Bowl host-

ed at the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio.

"We were obviously devastated [with the Bell Game loss], but the reality is, at some point, you have got to get up off the canvas and you have to face life again," said Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98. "You don't get a choice. You also have to face the music when you haven't done well. Our guys needed to get back together and heal

November 22. The Polar Bears boasted an 8-3 overall record (7-1 record in the Ohio Athletic Conference) coming into the contest, and their only loss in conference play was to Mount Union, the perennial powerhouse that sits as the No. 2 team in the country according to D3football.com. All signs pointed to this bowl game being a competitive one, and the two teams did not disappoint.

Ohio Northern started the game with the ball, but Wabash swiftly forced a punt and gained possession of the ball. The Little Giants did not score a touchdown on their opening drive, but Brody Rucker '26 provided a 3-0 lead through a made field goal. ONU scored a touchdown on their next offensive possession to take a 7-3 lead over the Little Giants – just the first indicator of how much the lead was going to change during the matchup. But Wabash responded to the Polar Bears' touchdown with a point scoring barrage.

Jackson Gilbert '28, who made the start at the quarterback position due to Campbell suffering a concussion in the Bell Game, first connected with Kannon Chase '26 for a 16-yard touchdown reception. Gilbert then found Luke Adams '27 on a deep, 36-yard pass down the right side of the field which resulted in another touchdown. Gilbert reconnected with Chase in the early moments of the second quarter for Wabash's third consecutive touchdown, giving the Little Giants a 24-7 lead.

The Polar Bears responded with back-to-back touchdowns of their own to close out the first half, but the Little Giants headed into the locker room for the mid-game break with a 24-21 lead.



Kannon Chase '26 flexes after scoring a touchdown in the ForeverLawn Bowl game on November 22, 2025, at the Tom Benson Fall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio.

There was very little action in the third quarter in terms of points, but ONU squared the game up at 24-24 courtesy of a 26-yard field goal.

"The biggest thing right now for me is that I want to increase toughness and really put our guys through a laborious off-season that demands that from them."

- Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98

The Polar Bears struck early in the fourth quarter to grab a 31-24 advantage. The rest of the quarter was looking like ONU was going to hold strong over the Little Giants, but Coach Gilbert had other ideas. In the final two minutes, the Wabash offense went on a 13-play drive that was capped off by a 23-yard touchdown pass

from Gilbert to Nick Witte '28 to pull the deficit to one point.

Instead of putting out his field goal unit, Coach Gilbert kept his offense on the field for a two-point conversion attempt. With the game on the line, Gilbert found Rowen Durbin '27 to secure the last-second comeback victory and the ForeverLawn Bowl trophy.

"I asked Coach Casey Gillin, 'Do we have a good two-point play?'" said Gilbert. "He told me, 'Yeah.' I said that we were going to take it down, score, go for two and win. That's what I told the offense and the defense on the sideline, and that's what happened."

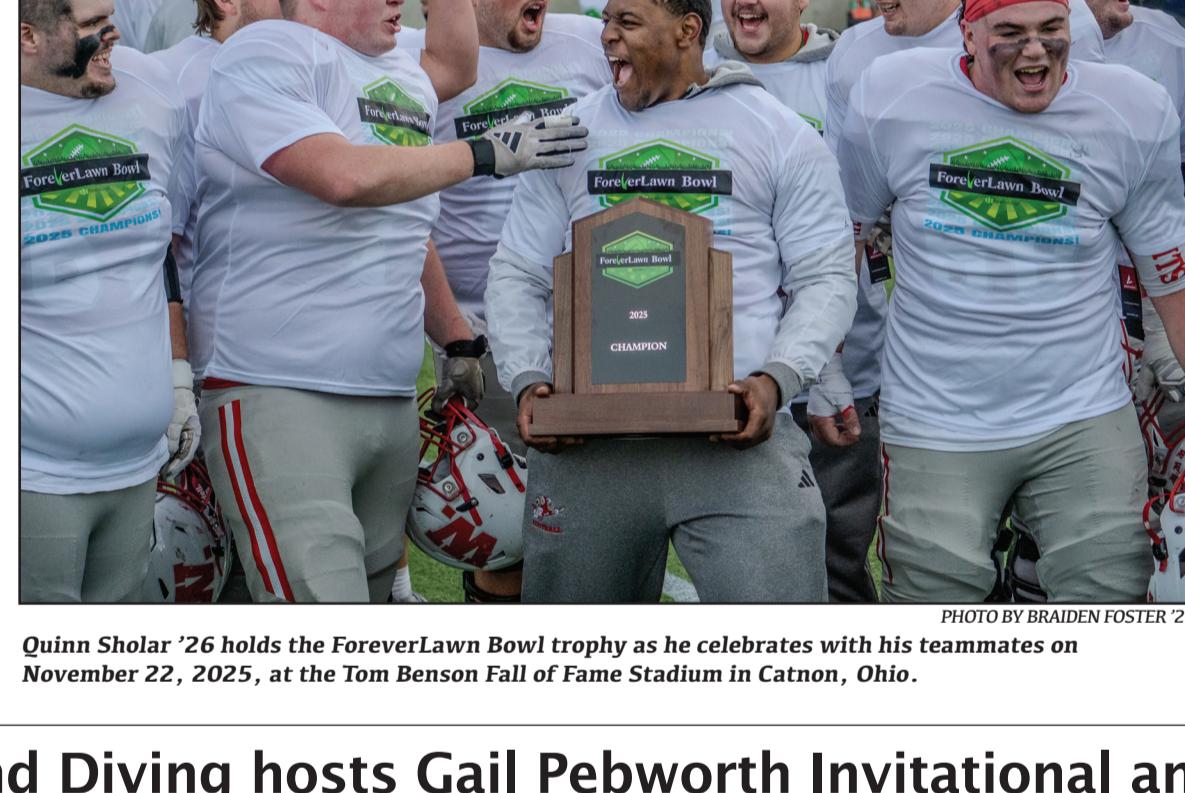
"I haven't seen more of a 'Wabash Always Fights' drive in my life," said Sholar. "We overcame two penalties, and then we overcame three fourth downs. It was crazy. I was holding Gatorades, and when he threw the ball, I threw my hands up and Gatorade was flying around."

For the senior class, the Bowl game victory meant a tremendous amount as it was a fitting send-off for their Wabash careers.

"At the beginning of the season, the senior class sat down and talked about what it looks like to have a successful senior year," said Sholar. "For all of the senior leaders to hop on board with the new coach, the new culture, and start to change the scene of Wabash football, that gave me the utmost respect for those guys."

The Little Giant football program will enjoy some much-needed time off before getting back on the gridiron for the 2026 campaign where they hope to secure an NCAC title and bring the Monon Bell back to Crawfordsville.

"Our season starts now," said Gilbert. "We just have to compete well and develop our guys. The biggest thing right now for me is that I want to increase toughness and really put our guys through a laborious off-season that demands that from them."



Quinn Sholar '26 holds the ForeverLawn Bowl trophy as he celebrates with his teammates on November 22, 2025, at the Tom Benson Fall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio.



A member of the Wabash Swimming and Diving team swims in a backstroke event in a dual meet against Rose-Hulman on October 24, 2025, in the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
SPORTS EDITOR

The Wabash swimming and diving team hosted the 2025 Gail Pebworth Invitational from November 21-23 at Crawfordsville High School Aquatic Center. DePauw captured the invitational title by scoring 1,532 points. Ohio Northern finished second with 1,294 points and Wabash followed closely behind in third place with 1,126 points.

Mason Gilliam '28 captured a victory in the 500-yard freestyle on the first day of the competition with a time of 4:39.90. Ryan West '28 added another race win in the 200-yard individual medley, finishing the race in 1:51.62, two seconds ahead of the runner-up. Quinn Sweeney '27 finished the 50-yard freestyle in 21.24 seconds, earning a third place finish.

The most commanding win of the night came from the Wabash 400-yard medley relay team of West, Sweeney, Lew Sams '29 and Nate Marshall '29 as they finished with a time of 3:25.13. At the end of the first day, Wabash was in third place with 301 points behind DePauw (412) and Ohio Northern (332).

The second day of the competition witnessed West pick up right where he left off from the first day. He contributed a win in

the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:03.69. He added a second individual victory for the second day in the 100-yard backstroke, finishing in 50.44 seconds. Sweeney also added to the Wabash tally by winning the 100-yard butterfly in 50.58 seconds. Sweeney and West teamed up with Sams and Marshall once again in the 200-yard medley relay to finish third with a time of 1:33.37. After the relay, Sams finished third in the 100-yard breaststroke in 58.28 seconds. In diving action, Fox Seebach '29 secured a third place finish on the 1-meter board with 289.55 points. At the end of the second day, Wabash remained in third place with 647 points behind DePauw (894) and Ohio Northern (752).

The final day of the invitational started with Gilliam winning the 1,650-yard freestyle in 16:06.58. West swam the 200-yard backstroke in season-best fashion, finishing 1:48.84 and winning the event. Nicholas Plumb '27 finished in the runner-up spot in the 200-yard backstroke with a season-best time of 1:53.73. Sweeney earned a personal record in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 46.99 seconds, wrapping up a third place finish. Sams rounded out

the podium finishes for the Little Giants by swimming the 200-yard breaststroke in 2:07.46, earning a second place finish and a season-best time.

"I think the third place finish was hard to see, especially since we won it last year, but we still had a good meet," said West. "So I think that was important to look at during our time off."

The Little Giant Swimming and Diving team will travel down south to Greencastle to take on the DePauw Tigers in the annual dual meet tonight. Although the Tigers have had the advantage over the Little Giants when competing in the same events this season, the team remains optimistic.

"DePauw definitely seems to have the upper hand on us, but we are not worried about how they are going to perform later in the season compared to us," said West. "During the Gail Pebworth Invite, they only won one individual event while we won several. For this dual meet, we just have to make sure to win our events and get the second, third, fourth, and fifth place spots. It will be challenging, but they don't want it like we do."

The dual meet is scheduled to start at 7 p.m. EST in the Charles P. Erdmann Natatorium.