



United States in military conflict with Iran



COURTESY OF LONG WAR JOURNAL

Iraqi forces have been heavily involved in the United States' war with Iran as they have suffered attacks from both sides.

HUTCHESON NORRIS '27
STAFF WRITER

Following Operation Midnight Hammer last June, President Donald Trump ordered another series of strikes on key Iranian targets on the night between February 28 and March 1 code-named Operation Epic Fury. Since these strikes began, Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) has reported 243 different attacks across Iran totaling over 3,000 deaths, both civilian and military.

The administration and President Trump have been unclear about what exactly is happening in the conflict. Initially, Trump asserted that it was merely an excursion to prevent another war, but went on in the following days about winning the war by a lot. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth was combative with reporters on March 13 when asked about any particular details of the conflict.

"We will keep pushing, keep advancing, no quarter, no mercy for our enemies," said Hegseth.

A cabinet level official threatened war crimes against another sovereign nation on national television. These commands, if carried out, would be a direct violation of 18 U.S.C. 2441(c) (2) as no quarter is outlawed under Article 23 of the Annex to the Hague Convention IV, which that US code explicitly mentioned by name. Hegseth's command of no quarter could put him in hot water with international human rights agencies and future U.S. administrations.

"From a human-rights perspective, the central issue is civilian protection: when war aims are unclear and senior officials use language such as 'no quarter,' it might create the conditions in which serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law become more likely," said Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science Ryan Liou. "I would not confidently predict U.S. prosecutions, but I would expect demands for independent investigation, reparations and international accountability."

In addition to human rights concerns, everyone has felt the effect of this war. The price per barrel of oil has jumped from

\$67.02 to \$98.46 as of March 18, 2026. This price represents the current per barrel value of futures contracts.

"Futures are basically a contract for delivery at a future date," said BKT Assistant Professor of Economics Eric Dunaway. "When you buy a future, you're anticipating it to be worth more by the time it's delivered. When people trade futures, they're never actually expecting the commodity to show up. They're just holding it until they can sell it off to someone else."

These contracts primarily function for logistics companies to normalize their fuel costs against the volatility of the market. The lurch in price centered around Iranian control of the strait of Hormuz, a roughly 60 mile wide waterway between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. Roughly 20% of the world's oil supply flows through the strait. Although only a small fraction of oil that the US purchases flows through the strait, domestic markets spiked in response to Iranian threats to bomb the strait. Since oil has a relatively consistent demand, any changes in the global supply will drastically impact the price of oil everywhere.

"People who were getting that oil are now bidding higher for the oil that would be coming to us otherwise," said Dunaway. "If you're an oil producer you don't really care who you're selling it to. You just want to go where the best price is. So it's all connected. It doesn't

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Day '26 and Waters '27 become All-Americans

Three Wabash wrestlers compete at DIII National Championship; Day '26 places second



PHOTO COURTESY OF KODIAK CREATIVE

James Day '26 raises his arms in excitement after winning his semifinal match to advance to the championship match at 133 lbs. at the DIII National Championship on March 14, 2026, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

CARTER MCCALL '29
STAFF WRITER

Wabash wrestling has an illustrious history of national qualifiers and national champions, and three Little Giant wrestlers added their names to the history books as they stepped onto the national stage this weekend. Inside the roaring arena at the Alliant Energy PowerHouse in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, James Day '26, Jaylen Young '28 and Titus Waters '27 represented the scarlet and white.

Although Young suffered an injury during the first day of competition, Day and Waters fought their way through one of the most demanding tournaments in college wrestling, capturing All-American honors and carrying the Little Giants deep into the spotlight at the 2026 NCAA Division III Men's Wrestling National

Championship Tournament.

Day's relentless march to the 133 lbs. national championship match and Waters' hard-fought climb through the heavyweight bracket became defining moments for the Wabash program; the kind of performances that transform a long season of work into a weekend the program will not soon forget.

Day opened the tournament with a commanding 8-1 victory over Wyatt Unser of University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, dictating the pace from the start.

"After the first match, I started to feel much more comfortable," said Day. "The nerves seemed to melt away, and I found myself having fun and appreciating the moment instead of focusing on the pressure of what would be my final wrestling competition."

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WDPD receives Pericles Grant



COURTESY OF CHRIS ANDERSON

Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse fellows Henry Chilcoat '27 and Eli Backus '27 facilitating a conversation for the Grants for Growth event.

ANTONY SANTAGATA '29
STAFF WRITER

Many college programs make their living off of grants and gifts. Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) is no different. WDPD recently received a "Pericles" mini-grant that will sustain and grow its work.

WDPD trains students to design, facilitate and report back to community partners over difficult conversations that they need to have using a particular model of small group interaction called deliberation. This process formalizes and trains people to approach discussion from impartial facilitation. WDPD finds community partners who are interested in having tough conversations. These topics can range from how to spend \$5 million to address a budget shortfall or how to best address a mental health crisis within the community.

The Pericles Project, which issues the Pericles grants, seeks "to bring together colleges and universities to make civic learning central to what higher education does and who students become." The grants seek especially to bolster historically underrepresented groups so that all students can experience civic engagement and build the skills to be leaders in their communities. Wabash was

not the only institution to receive the grant.

"20 or so similar programs received it, most of them focused on community bridging. Campus and community work along with civic dialogue were important aspects," said WDPD Director and Visiting Instructor of Rhetoric Chris Anderson. "We felt like we were a good fit because we had had previous deliberations in the community where recurring issues came up, things like housing and transportation."

Although these are relatively small \$1,000 grants, they help WDPD get going in the right direction of covering issues that have come up in previous deliberations and eventually working towards solutions. Providing reports to community members, whether that's people in city or county governments or nonprofits in Crawfordsville and Montgomery County, is another foundational aspect of the work WDPD hopes to accomplish with the Pericles grant.

This past November, the U.S. Department of Education scrapped much of its grants programming. However, because those were federal dollars that were allocated, they still had to spend them.

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Wabash in the age of AI

Sitting down with senior staff

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26
MANAGING EDITOR

The following is the third installment in a series by The Bachelor focusing on artificial intelligence at Wabash College.

Wabash College is at a historic crossroads. With total surrender to artificial intelligence (AI) down one road and stubborn refusal to adapt to AI down another, Wabash must navigate a treacherous and complicated path to not only survive, but thrive in the AI age.

In light of this critical moment, The Bachelor sat down for a conversation with President Scott Feller to paint the big picture of how Wabash will continue to grapple with AI in the future. As part of the discussion, Feller analyzed the results of the student survey on AI published by The Bachelor last month. The survey took the pulse of the student body, asking undergraduate Wabash men not only how they used AI, but how they felt about its implications on their future.

"I was surprised at the level of anxiety," said Feller. "I had assumed that young people had more tolerance for technological change than someone like me. I think they're not that different from me in terms of seeing both opportunities and worries."

Dean of the College Todd McDorman also commented on the

wide range of responses the survey yielded. Particularly, McDorman was struck by the sheer diversity of opinions students held on the development of AI technology.

"The students are thinking about AI like the faculty are, and what I mean by that is that you see a diversity of perspectives from the students," said McDorman. "I can't put a percentage on the faculty, but it felt to me like it did roughly correspond with what I'm hearing from the faculty."

As an authority on academic policy and administration, McDorman provided a unique perspective on students' suggestions for integrating AI into the curriculum. A recurring suggestion from many students was a dedicated course on AI. While McDorman was open to this possibility, he suggested that such a class would not be a core requirement of the curriculum.

"I'm confident that people will have options," said McDorman. "Learning about AI will be accessible more than I would say we're going to have an AI-specific requirement. Are students in the fall going to come back and see a course that everyone has to take? I would say no."

Another large theme from the student survey was the student body's positive or negative predictions regarding AI in society at

large. While Feller expressed both optimism and concern, he offered thoughtful reasons why Wabash should have hope in the AI age.

"My hope is that we don't see that AI is some kind of replacement for liberal arts learning, but in fact makes the case for it," said Feller. "Perhaps we'll find that the jobs that go away are ones that don't require very much critical thinking, creativity or human judgment. In my utopia, the folks who take their education seriously are immune to this AI displacement."

While Feller maintains grounded optimism for the role of the liberal arts in a world increasingly dominated by AI, he did not shy away from the very real difficulties that AI presents not just to Wabash, but all colleges and universities. A multitude of factors — the emergence of AI, the aftereffects of COVID-19 and an impending college enrollment cliff — all contribute to what Feller described as a perfect storm that higher education must navigate.

"If AI came on fast and surprised us, the enrollment cliff is the opposite," said Feller. "We know that next year, the number of high school graduates is going to decline. We knew this 12 years ago when they enrolled in kindergarten. If this had hit at a moment when colleges knew that there'd be more students wanting to come to college, you could probably weather that storm, but we know that we're going to have fewer students coming to college."

The simultaneous emergence of all of these obstacles means that the sustained success and fiscal security of colleges and universities across America is an increasingly uphill battle. However, accessible AI tools are also helping Wabash's race to stay ahead of the curve. Feller acknowledged that AI has been a powerful tool to optimize his own work in Center Hall. While he described himself as a moderate AI user, he noted how AI can complement his data analysis skills honed by years of experience as a professor of chemistry.

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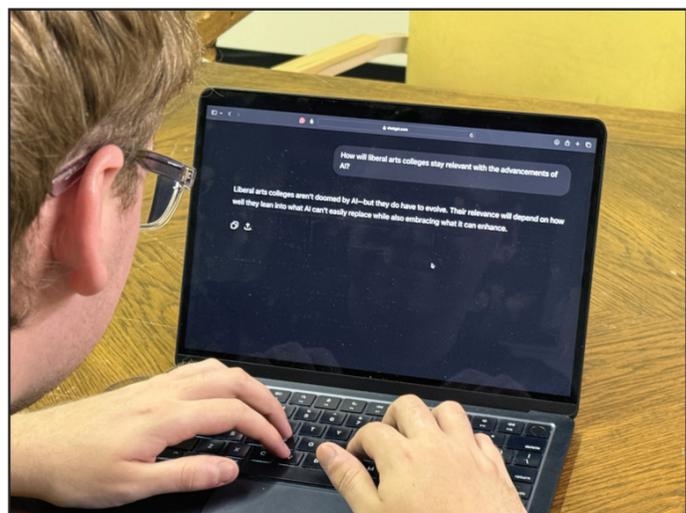


PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

While student attitudes on AI are mixed, Wabash is faced with the need to adapt to new technology while retaining its core mission.

WDPD earns grant

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“So last minute they basically said, ‘Hey, we’re actually going to give this money away to a bunch of programs that do a bunch of different things,’” said Anderson. “They organized them under these strategic priorities from the Trump administration, and one of them was focused on civil discourse on college campuses, and this is something WDPD definitely engages with.”

WDPD applied for this grant along with an organization called the Community-Engaged Alliance (CEA) whom they got connected with through Leann Parrish, who works heavily with them. CEA is interested in finding ways their organization can connect college campuses across Indiana. WDPD works with them to find ways in which CEA can model their program, teach their program and use their fellows to train others on college campuses elsewhere.

Through this connection, WDPD applied for a large \$4 million grant over five years. The grant writing program, by nature, involves a lot of no’s before you can get to a yes.

“This was a really good first stab at writing a grant of this size, working with Matt Salzman in our grants writing office and the folks at CEA to put together a pretty solid package,” said Anderson. “Ultimately we ended up coming a little short.”

Although WDPD did not get the grant, this partnership with CEA and completed application are a

large step in the right direction, as the door has now become fully open to the possibility of future successes and possibilities for the already thriving program.

WDPD has many important future events and plans coming up as well. They have already had an event this semester on housing, and on Thursday, the day this paper will be coming out, they will be having an event on talent retention in Montgomery County. The last conversation they will be having is going to be about childcare.

“There’s a lack of childcare centers around here, and that’s going to be a big topic that we address there,” said WDPD Fellow Henry Chilcoat ’27. “We have our conversations, we run the events, get food and get all the notes we need from the participants, and then we’re writing external reports for each one of the projects and sending it to community partners, sending it to the mayor’s office and other organizations that would be interested in knowing people’s feedback on this.”

The future is bright for WDPD, and the community and campus are benefitting from its work. WDPD is not just looking to maintain its activity, it wants to grow.

“If you’re interested in doing the kind of work we do, or really just learning more about the program, I encourage you to reach out to me or Professor Anderson, or really anybody who does it,” said Chilcoat. “I’ve been doing it for two years and it’s a lot of fun.”

Military conflict in Iran causes sports shakeup

JERRION ROSE ’29
STAFF WRITER

In February 2026, the U.S. military along with the Israeli government launched a joint attack against Iran, which has now successfully killed the government’s supreme leader, the defense minister, the head of the revolutionary guard corp and other top ministers. The conflict has shifted the geopolitics within the Middle East, but it also has drastically affected the sporting world, a common arena of soft power and politics.

In Qatar its highly experienced Equestrian Horse Racing has been put on hold. Races take place less than 10 miles from where Iranian missiles are being intercepted by the U.S. The U.S. has ordered the American racers and horses to return to the states. However, public flight transportation to the U.S. has been cut off in Qatar. Other countries are sending in their own planes to rescue its citizens. The United States believes the Americans are choosing to stay in Qatar. Despite the threat, the community continues to train and develop the horses. They have been putting all of their energy

into the wellbeing of the animals. At this moment riders are sitting ducks, but they will continue to support each other. Races will be rescheduled to dates later on in the year.

In a similar situation, Euro League basketball matches were cancelled. The Maccabi Tel Aviv versus Hapoel Tel Aviv and Partizan versus Dubai matchups will not happen in Serbia because of rising concerns due to the uncertainty and latent threat within the region. Some players have also been unable to travel home because of travel restrictions. With travel bans placed on players, it’s difficult to travel through the U.S. and Iran conflict safely. Players living in Iran could be in possible danger with chances of escaping growing slim.

Out of the various sports affected by this political matter, the soccer world has faced the most upheaval.

In Saudi Arabia, Saudi Pro League side Al Nassar had planned to face Al Wasl in the quarterfinals of the Asian Football League Champions League Two tournament. The game had to be postponed due to the conflict, sidelining Al Nassar forward and internation-

al soccer legend Cristiano Ronaldo. In addition six Iranian women’s soccer players were granted asylum in Australia after they expressed fear at the prospect of returning to Iran. The players have been legally recognized as refugees who cannot return to their home country based on political circumstances. Players refused to sing the national anthem before their Asian Cup match in North Korea a few days after the United States began war with Iran. The players were labeled as traitors by the Iranian government. Fearing for their safety, six out of the 23 players will be leaving Malaysia for Tehran and return to their families. Furthermore, tensions have been developing between the United States government and FIFA, soccer’s international governing body. The Iranian national soccer team is scheduled to play Mexico at the World Cup in Los Angeles and Seattle. U.S. President Donald Trump warned the Iranian players not to play on US soil.

BKT Assistant Professor of History Noe Pliego Campos teaches a course on FIFA and its impact. He explained the FIFA’s perspective, whose ostensible goal is to spread soccer all over the world. However, when conflicts arise, Pliego Campos wonders if FIFA is doing enough.

“What are you doing, [FIFA], to protect Palestinian players who are being murdered, who are being disabled, who are not going to be able to play soccer in the way they previously did?” said Pliego Campos.

As of now matches are continuing to be postponed and players are being forced to make an evacuation plan. Most of the world is on stand by as the United States continues to wage war in Iran. And as the conflict drags on, sporting events and athletes will continue to wrestle with the turmoil.



COURTESY OF F1

Due to the conflict in the Middle East, Formula 1 has been forced to cancel both the Bahrain and Saudi Arabian grands prix.

A look inside Wabash’s unusual credit system

ELIJAH WETZEL ’27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Wabash is many things. “Typical” is not one of them. The College and its students often take a certain pride in some of the quirks and peculiarities that differentiates Wabash from many of its peers. But every coin has two sides, and not all of Wabash’s unusual traits are unambiguously good. The College’s unconventional credit-awarding system is one such trait.

Wabash awards one unit of credit for almost every class. No more, no less. That policy was more typical when it was adopted a few decades ago, but now most colleges and universities award varying numbers of “credit-hours” for courses. Wabash’s system is not unique, though. Kenyon College, for example, and other institutions in the Great Lakes Colleges Association, use a system exactly like or comparable to Wabash’s. At credit-hour institutions, most classes correspond to three, four or five credit hours depending on the time investment and rigor of the course. Often, students at credit-hour institutions end up taking more classes in order to qualify as full-time students. An advantage of the Wabash system is students are able to drop classes and remain full-time, a designation often critical to retaining state and federal financial aid.

“Our model is designed for four classes, and even if you drop down to three, you’re still full time,” said Registrar and Associate Dean of the College Jon Jump. “So, it allows for greater engagement with the material, greater engagement with faculty and more time to do extracurriculars and athletics, the things that are sort of the hallmark of our experience compared to some other schools out there.”

Students who study abroad also benefit. Most courses students take abroad are worth three credit-hours at credit-hour granting institutions. That means five courses abroad is essentially a normal workload. With the Wabash system, five abroad classes equals five credits, which is above the average course enrollment needed per semester to graduate in four years. Going abroad actually helps many students get more credit. If Wabash were ever to shift to a credit-hour system, Jump believes that benefit would likely evaporate unless other policies were changed in order to accommodate it.

The downsides of the Wabash system include many students majoring in STEM fields end up spending far more time in lectures and labs com-

pared to other students to receive the same number of credits. Jump suggested that part of the philosophy behind that policy structure lies in Wabash’s liberal arts character. If lab courses counted for more credits, STEM majors could reach 34 credits — the number required for graduation — far easier than non-STEM students. Carson Granger ’29, the chair of the Student Senate’s Academic Policy Committee and a pre-medical student, does not see that disparity as a major issue.

“With some majors, and STEM guys especially, you just know what’s coming at you,” said Granger. “You anticipate the heavy workload, and it always pays off in the end. It comes down to doing what you love. If you really enjoy the major and you enjoy what you’re learning and the teachers that you have in your field, you have to take it and roll with it.”

Transfer students might also face issues because of Wabash’s credit system. Jackson Hughes ’26 transferred into Wabash after taking five courses at Anderson University. He only received credit for three of those classes. While he has changed majors and is on track to graduate on time, the difficulty he faced transferring his credits over almost stopped him from coming to Wabash in the first place.

“I think Wabash’s system is nice because of how simple it is; however, the problems it presents are not worth the hassle in my opinion,” said Hughes. “There’s also the fourth hour nonsense. I personally do not understand why we do not just change the credit system and scheduling — though I understand there are plans to change the scheduling — to not require that.”

It’s important to note that students who transfer into Wabash are not denied credit for a course based on the number of credit hours it is worth. The courses do, however, need to be of a liberal arts nature. Whether most students are aware of that distinction for transfer credits is unknown.

While portions of the faculty are in favor of moving to a credit-hour system, support for that transition is by no means unanimous. A switch from the current system, if it were to happen, would not be swift.

“If the faculty voted to make the change at the end of an academic year, I think there would have to be at least one full year of implementation and pre-work,” said Jump. “And maybe more.”

So, for the foreseeable future, Wabash’s quirky credit system is here to stay.

Wabash in the age of AI

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“I try to look at a lot of trends in higher education, a lot of trends in the economy,” said Feller. “I’ve found it has helped me become more efficient at accumulating information. I can do all that stuff. I have a lot of Excel spreadsheets that do these things, but it just speeds things up.”

In adapting the liberal arts to the modern world, Wabash’s administration intends to continue engaging with AI. A potential path forward would likely include institutional access to powerful AI tools, which students and faculty alike could take advantage of.

“One approach is to use an AI platform that connects to multiple AI models and charges based on usage,” said Director of Information Technology Services Brad Weaver. “These platforms can be more cost-effective and avoid locking us into a single vendor.”

Weaver noted that the College is exploring a test-run of one of these platforms, namely LibreChat. This multifaceted tool could have various applications in teaching, learning and administration.

However, such a strategy is neither simple nor easy. An important factor that many may often forget is the technological infrastructure required for AI integration. Developing AI infrastructure would require overhauling systems like logins, monitoring cost and establishing safeguards to protect users.

“Behind the scenes, there are infrastructural considerations that aren’t always visible,” said Weaver. “Providing institutional AI access

isn’t just about turning on a tool. These pieces take time and coordination across multiple areas of the College to ensure we can support faculty, staff and students in using these tools effectively.”

One of the more serious concerns about institutional AI raised by senior staff is the protection of user data. Every school in America deals with sensitive data, which is protected under federal law by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Thus, any institutional AI platform would need to comply with this law in order to keep users safe. For example, Wabash would need to develop policies that prevent students’ data from being used to train public AI models.

“Brad Weaver and I probably worry about your data a lot more than you do,” said Feller. “I think we’re going to get to a place very soon where you’re going to worry about your data as much as I have been.”

Offering safe and effective institutional AI will certainly be complicated. Thankfully, solutions don’t need to be executed overnight. Furthermore, Wabash has access to external resources that could provide critical help to this project.

“This is one reason I’m grateful to the Lilly Endowment, because I think all of these things are going to take time and money,” said Feller.

This year, the Lilly Endowment is offering a grant intended to help Indiana schools navigate the evolving landscape of AI. If secured, Wabash could net as much as \$5,000,000 that could go towards tech infrastructure, as well as facul-

ty training and co-curricular opportunities for students.

The future of AI at Wabash and beyond is not set in stone. Continuous developments in technology and policy create a landscape that demands flexibility and a constant willingness to adapt. Thus, the Wabash administration remains aware that the only guarantee is uncertainty, regardless of how ideal or grim the future may seem.

“The end is not written,” said McDorman. “Drawing grand conclusions is both difficult and probably misguided.”

Despite the uncertain future created by AI, Wabash remains committed to the same principles it was founded upon. In its nearly 200-year history, the College has seen technological revolutions irrevocably change the world, from the industrial revolution to the invention of the personal computer. Through it all, Wabash has always striven to teach its students to be not only knowledgeable, but virtuous. Even though large language models may seem like powerful and life-like tools, at present they remain just that: tools. Tools may be destructive if used improperly, but that must not prevent Wabash from teaching young men how to use even the most powerful tools responsibly.

“My hope is that AI becomes a technology that amplifies those durable skills that one could learn at Wabash College, the ones that will set you up to use these new tools to amplify your work just as humans have used tools to amplify their work for millennia,” said Feller.

United States and Iran

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really matter where the oil comes from, it’s just supply and demand.”

This rise in prices will lead to further inflation in cost across goods, as trucking gets more expensive. Diesel costs have exploded beyond the rate of gasoline, up almost \$1.50. For truckers, this is a difference of roughly \$210 per fill up.

In part due to these economic shocks, conservatives have fallen out of lock step with the administration in the wake of the bombardment. Former Fox News host Megyn Kelly has voiced her criticisms non-stop on her X page. Fellow former Fox News host Tucker Carlson released merchandise last week that read “NEOCONS ARE GAY FOR ISRAEL,” “NEOCONS ARE GAY FOR WAR,” “NATION BUILDING IS GAY,” and “AIPAC An offer you can’t refuse.” These individuals signaled a tide that has turned among conservatives since Operation Midnight Hammer.

Though not all conservatives have lost their way with the presidency so far. Some, like College Republican President Owen

Miller ’27, assert Trump’s decisive actions as a demonstration of effective governance, something he did not grow up with during the Barack Obama administration.

“We knew Iran’s been a national threat to us, and they can even be an international threat,” said Miller.

This sentiment reflects the similar pretenses under which

the U.S. entered war with Iraq under George W. Bush’s administration. The International Atomic Energy Agency has not accessed Iran’s enriched uranium supply since Operation Midnight Hammer closed off access to Iran’s nuclear facilities, so the Trump administration cannot firmly ascertain their nuclear capabilities.



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Iranian citizens have participated in many protests in the major cities across the country.

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March Madness

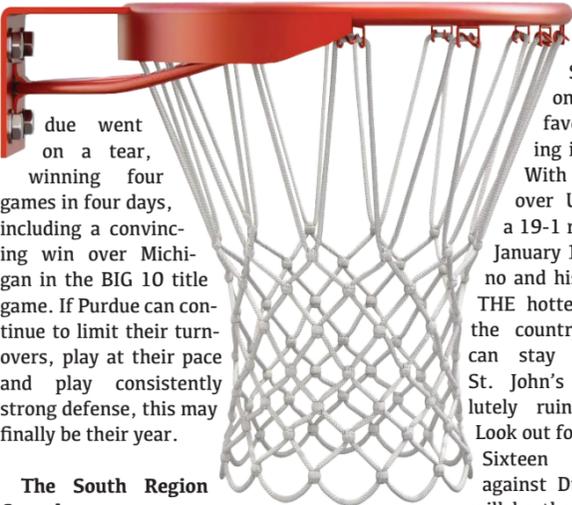
WILL DUNCAN '27
PHOTO EDITOR

A tale as old as time: trying to predict the perfect bracket for March Madness. Your “absolute lock” of a team getting bounced by a 13-seed, the random role player who scores 30 on your squad or a mid-seeded team that emerges from the shadows. Here are teams, matchups and players to watch as we enter the Madness of March.

No. 4 Arkansas/Darius Acuff Jr.
Arkansas enters the madness on a heater, winning the SEC Tournament, their first since 2000. The Razorbacks, led by Freshman guard Darius Acuff Jr., are a nightmare matchup to run into. Acuff has averaged 30.3 points and 7.7 assists per game in his last three games. With the coaching of John Calipari, if Arkansas's defense can stay tenacious, they will make some serious noise. I have Arkansas making a run to the Final Four, knocking off Arizona in the Sweet Sixteen.

No. 2 Purdue's recent surge
Purdue was ranked as the #1 in the preseason power rankings, yet fell all the way to 18 due to some rather shocking losses. However, after watching the BIG 10 Tournament, I can confidently say, Purdue is back and as scary as ever. Led by guard Braden Smith (who I think is the best player in the country), Pur-

due went on a tear, winning four games in four days, including a convincing win over Michigan in the BIG 10 title game. If Purdue can continue to limit their turnovers, play at their pace and play consistently strong defense, this may finally be their year.



The South Region Gauntlet
This fourth of the bracket has me cracking my brain for who makes it out. In my eyes, any team in here can beat whoever they are matched up against. Florida is just 1-3 in top-15 matchups, putting them in prime position to fall before the Final Four. Look out for Florida and Vanderbilt in the Sweet 16. Vanderbilt just smoked Florida 91-74 – yet it is an extremely hard feat to beat a team twice. I think Vanderbilt barely squeaks out a win. However, whoever wins this matchup I think ultimately loses to Houston in the Elite Eight.

If you want another sneaky team, watch out for Troy, who plays against Nebraska in the first round. Troy has scored over 100 points in 6 games. Combine that with Nebraska never having won a game in March Madness, I like the Trojans in this matchup. However, I don't see a way they beat Vandy in the second round. The potential second-round matchup of Saint Mary's and Houston may be one of the most entertaining games in the tournament, and I think it decides the South. Ultimately, I have Houston beating Saint Mary's and surviving the South, making it to the Final Four.

No. 14 Penn vs No. 3 Illinois
Penn had an underwhelming regular season, going 18-11, finishing third in the Ivy League. However,

junior TJ Power, a former Duke Blue Devil, just put up 44 points and 14 rebounds in the Ivy League Championship. If Power can stay hot, Penn could be busting millions of brackets. Keaton Wagler, who is widely known as the Illini's best player, has been really struggling recently as well. In his last six games, he's shooting 30/79 (38%) from the field and 7/29 (24%) from three. Assuming nerves creep in for the freshman, the struggles may continue. If you want a sneaky upset in round one, run with the Quakers and Power's hot-hand (Penn sits with +2000 on the moneyline).

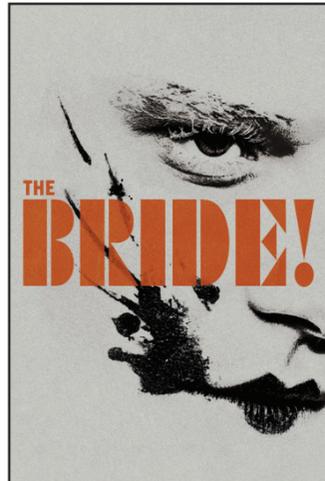
No. 11 South Florida
South Florida is a team I think many people are overlooking. They are 14-1 in their last 15 games, and have all the makings of a team that fits the “Cinderella” mold. Junior G Wes Enis has scored 19 points or more in seven of his last eight games, shooting well over 15 shots a game. With Louisville losing their star freshman guard Mikel Brown Jr., South Florida is in prime position to make it out of the round of 64. However, an unfortunate matchup has the Bulls seeing Tom Izzo and the Spartans second round, which is where I see their run ending, but don't be surprised if this game goes down to the wire.

No. 5 St. John's/Rick Pitino
The Red Storm is one of my favorites coming into March. With two wins over Uconn, and a 19-1 record since January 1, Rick Pitino and his squad are THE hottest team in the country. If they can stay consistent, St. John's can absolutely ruin brackets. Look out for the Sweet Sixteen matchup against Duke, which will be the best game played this tournament hands down. Though I like the Blue Devils in this matchup, some of Duke's key players being banged up scares me. I think whoever wins this game can make it all the way to the Championship.

No. 12 High Point/Chase Johnston
Though I think the chances are low for High Point to pull off a round one upset, they have all the makings for one. Guard Chase Johnston might become the annual role-player-turned-Steph-Curry. Get this – Johnston has shot 64-136 this year, putting him at 48.5%, pretty solid. But what if I told you he's shot 64-132 from THREE? Yes – meaning he's only taken four non-threes all season... and missed them all (he's also only 4-4 from the line). If someone's going to randomly erupt for six three's, it's Chase Johnston. Wisconsin fans better watch out.

If March has taught us anything, it's to expect the unexpected. Here's to another year where every prediction can go out the window within the first hour. Throughout these following weeks, I will be walking you through the biggest surprises, disappointments and things to look out for as the craziest time in sports unfolds (even though most of our brackets will be long gone). Happy March Madness.

'The Bride!' is bold yet broken



COURTESY OF TMDb

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

She sports a flapper's dress, Harley Quinn's aesthetic, Mary Shelly's vocabulary, Bella Baxter's origin, Bonnie & Clyde's crime spree, a cop's revolver and an inky splash of blood on her cheek as she dances through 1930's America. She shares a punchy name with the title of Maggie Gyllenhaal's film: “The Bride!” As someone with an affinity for messy, inventive movies that drop subtlety for salience, I had fun with it; at least, until it stopped having fun with itself.

“The Bride!” is yet another modern spin on classic monster cinema, depicting a woman (Jessie Buckley) who was reanimated to be the cure for Frankenstein's (Christian Bale) loneliness. Her energy explodes beyond her prescribed role as Frank's lover, causing her to incite an offscreen feminist revolt against the criminal underworld and the equally patriarchal government. While the former is one-dimensionally evil, two detective characters further contextualize the latter.

Therein lies the murkiness permeating the film's themes. There are many deliberate choices that confront the omnipotent patriarchy, only to be later undermined. The bride directly insists to the audience that she is her own person, yet the script still binds her to her husband. Frank lies to her throughout the film with no consequential repercussion. Even after witnessing corruption equal to that of the criminals, Detective Malloy (Penélope Cruz) still tethers to the system that spews misogyny at her. For every time the film flaunts a progressive motif, it slips into a rather cliché plot point.

How much the film undercuts or builds up its feminist narrative is not for men to decide. But I will criticize the way that these choices also flatten the themes of independence. The film teases a meta exploration of how the Bride's character distances herself from her conception, but never explores such a liberation. She begins and ends as a moderately free actor who exhibits marital loyalty to her husband. Even the Bride's self-selected name, (chosen over the name she had before Frank reanimated her), contrasts her embrace of independence.

“The Bride!” is at its best when it leans into a visual panache and blatant messaging. The opening sequence fires on all cylinders, promising an energetic adventure that never quite comes to fruition. From there the cinematography, writing, sound and especially the score all dissolve into a shell of their former selves. Gyllenhaal's directing only captures what it seeks for a fleeting second, only long enough to get the viewer's hopes up before the rest of the bloated runtime sinks it back down.

Buckley (who just won the Academy Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role) gives an energetic performance, but the singular unique thing about it is the superb design of The Bride herself. Whether it is owed to the art director Nithya Shrinivasan or the makeup and effects teams, the character design is my pick for the best aspect of the movie. The same can be said of Bale, who does not bring much depth to Frank. The supporting cast is not given enough to work with, so they also cannot match the redeeming qualities of the lead duo's performances.

Even as these critiques weighed on my mind, I still could not help liking “The Bride!” Its willingness to forcefully assert itself, even while failing to follow through, is still charming. The use of Mary Shelly herself as a framing device, while arguably trite, is still presented with a boldness and flair. At least, it is in the first act before getting abandoned alongside every other redeeming quality of the film.

Boldness should not be a destination, it should be a step towards becoming a great movie. “The Bride!” is like a flashlight on a dying battery. It blasts the viewer with intensity, but as the energy slowly leeches out, all that remains is the shell of what could be. Given the number of monster movie flops peppered throughout the last few years, these batteries have been rebooted too many times.

FINAL VERDICT:
2.5/5 WALLYS



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Rochella Endicott: Brightening the Wabash community

PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28
ONLINE EDITOR

As one of the longest-tenured staff members at Wabash, Rochella Endicott has served as the Academic Administrative Coordinator for Hays Hall and formerly for Waugh Hall and Thomas Laboratories since the summer of 1997. Over her nearly 30 years at the college, however, Endicott has served campus in many capacities beyond just the science buildings. During her tenure, Endicott has been the Pre-Health Administrative Coordinator, served on hiring committees for faculty and staff, headed the Freshman Experience Program and chaired the larger Administrative Assistants group. Even though Endicott doesn't often work on the front lines with students, her work behind the scenes is critical to keeping students' and staff's daily lives running smoothly.

“Rochella is an expert at making things happen on campus,” said Associate Professor of Biology Heidi Walsh. “She is really responsive and anticipates our needs a lot, which is really helpful because there are times when I want to do something but don't always know all the things that go on behind the scenes.”

Endicott came to Wabash in 1997 working in Waugh Hall and Thomas Labs. After those buildings were torn down and Hays Hall was constructed in 2003, she moved to Hays and has worked there ever since. Endicott attributes her long tenure to Wabash's amazing com-

munity and work environment.

“I really like the people I work with,” said Endicott. “I like what I do. I like that I can be expected to work on my own and be flexible to help with what needs to get done. I've seen a lot of people retire, and I still stay in touch with a lot of retired faculty when they come back to campus. I've really enjoyed staying with Wabash.”

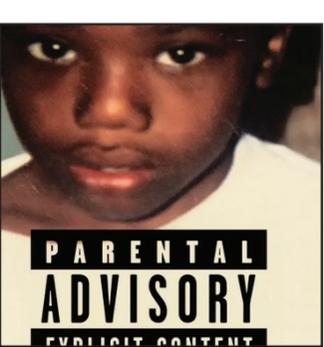
Even though most students don't interact with Endicott on a daily basis, any student or recent alumnus that has applied to medical school has her to thank for ensuring important documents are sent to medical schools. In her role as Pre-Health Administrative Coordinator, Endicott is in charge of compiling transcripts, letters of recommendation from professors and other important documents for the medical school application process.



PHOTO BY PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28

Rochella Endicott is serving in her 29th year at Wabash College as the Academic Administrative Coordinator for Hays Hall.

'CA\$INO': Baby Keem's latest album is a storytelling masterclass



COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

BRADY REEVES '29
STAFF WRITER

Baby Keem is back! After 5 very long years, Baby Keem released “Ca\$ino,” and this album is no doubt one of the best albums that has been dropped so far this year. Over the 37-minute run time, the excellent storytelling of Baby Keem's life, from his rough childhood to his rise to fame, will entrap you with its gor-

geous melodies and top-notch lyrics.

Baby Keem begins “Ca\$ino” with a slow beat in the song “No Security.” This track discusses the hardships in his early childhood and the story of becoming a renowned artist. The vulnerability of the lyrics push you toward building sympathy for the artist's life. Baby Keem discusses the countless difficulties in his past and how he overcame them. What is so powerful about this song in the context of the music industry is the rawness of the lyrics in the album as they tell a real story in comparison to the sometimes unauthentic rap that has been pushed out recently by mainstream musicians.

An array of artists have been featured on this album including two songs with Kendrick Lamar, and features with Momo Boyd, Too \$hort and Che Ecur. One of the features from Kendrick Lamar was not listed on the song “House Money.” Listening to this song for the first time

was an absolute thrill of an experience. With Kendrick Lamar running the chorus and Baby Keem working the verses, their family connection in “House Money” is touching.

As you listen further into “Ca\$ino,” Keem really dwells in his ability to storytell to slow and melodic beats. Two exceptional examples of his ability to match the flow of a song with brilliant lyricism can be highlighted in the songs “I am not a lyricist” and “Highway 95 pt.2.” In “I am not a lyricist” Baby Keem discusses, in a beautiful fashion, his life as a child in a neighborhood that did not promote progress. He also discusses his family, their input on his life and how that affected his growth.

“Highway 95 pt.2” is another example of how Baby Keem wishes blessings for his family. He grapples with the influence that he wishes to project onto his family. He wants to be something that his family can

look up to but regrets a lot of his behavior from his teenage years. This song brings motivation for people struggling from a position that is limiting their potential.

Following “Highway 95 pt.2,” a 5-minute upbeat freestyle switches the tone. “Circus Circus Free\$tle” is a shift from the focus of meaningful melodies and passionate lyrics into something that can get the car jumping. It is a banger, especially for listeners craving music to hype them up.

“Dramatic Girl” brings another change to the album as it is a love song featuring Che Ecur with a fairly passive and beach vibe for a rap album. This brings emotion to the album through a love song that makes “Ca\$ino” hit a broader audience. The sweet vibe embellishes “Dramatic Girl” and makes it one of the keebsake songs.

The final song, “No Blame,” could bring a tear to your eye if you reside

with it. It is a triumph in lyricism. The words “I don't blame you momma” resonate and cycle throughout the song. “No Blame” alone makes the album bump up a tier, and the most enjoyable part is the replayability of the track; the more you listen to the lyrics the more meaningful it becomes.

“Ca\$ino” is a masterpiece in writing that will be appreciated for years. This was the right album for Baby Keem to drop after five years without releasing a single album. The time Baby Keem spent away from the music industry writing this album made it into one of the finest features so far in a year with fierce competition.

FINAL VERDICT:
4.5/5 WALLYS



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Preston Parker Lights the Marquee

PHILLIP HARVEY '29
STAFF WRITER

Wabash, as an institution of opportunities, provides its young men the chance to adapt their future to fit their ever-changing passions. For Preston Parker '26, these years have been a journey shedding old skin and discovering a fulfilling purpose. A double major in history and theater with a minor in educational studies, Parker's trajectory from an hopeful pre-law freshman to an aspiring educator demonstrates how someone's values can apply to any vocation, and personal mission can be the real difference maker in life if you have valuable mentorship along the way.

When Parker arrived at Wabash, he intended to pursue law until hitting a turning point during his second semester. Wabash, as it is apt to do, challenged his idealistic notion of the legal system and that justice can be less blind than it seems. Parker realized that a career in criminal justice might not allow him to make the positive impact on the world he imagined for himself, leading to a brief free-fall during his sophomore year as he grappled with his future identity.

"A good idea can be diminished if presented condescendingly, but Preston always generously and humbly offers his piece for the good of the cause rather than to tramp upon others."

- Gabrien Smith '27

Although the law's interpretive nature caused him serious disillusionment, Parker's personal refuge has come from theater, whose art he believes can be appreciated by anyone.

"I think that theater genuinely is for everyone," said Parker. "There is a piece of theater, whether its an on-stage show, or whether it's just a script that's been written, or just an idea for a play, something's out there for everyone."

Parker had a personal realization in his summers working as a surveyor in the cornfields back in his home of Logansport. The repetitive, "passionless" nature of the work was a warning to him. What he realized he needed was a career that offered him intuitive meaning as well as social impact.

Cherry, Pittard and Seltzer-Kelly were the Wabash mentors that showed him the way there. Cherry helped Parker foster his love of theatre and maintain the interpretive aspects of his worldview, while Pittard and Kelly give him a place to pursue his desire to change people's hearts in education.

"One of the things I like about working with Preston is that he's an actor who isn't afraid to take big swings and make big choices," said



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Preston Parker '26 brings comedic energy to his memorable side-role as a leaky roof in Lenin's Embalmers.

Dr. Cherry. "I think the intensity of the torture scene in 1984 was all about Preston's willingness to go absolutely all out, which then could be contrasted with Beldsoe's nonchalance. It's sort of creepy to say that it was really fun helping Preston act like he was being repeatedly electrocuted, but it was."

Parker has contributed to Wabash's culture through roles in five theatre productions. In addition, he also used his talents for drawn art to make a charcoal portrait of the college's first African-American collegian. John R. Blackburn's portrait is now in possession of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies, where it can be appreciated and Blackburn's legacy will be commemorated for years to come.

Parker's artistic contributions to Wabash also extend to *The Bachelor*, where he drew several original comics.

He also has been a long time member of both the writing center and College Mentors for Kids, both of which he is grateful for in helping him realize his own passion for helping the lives of others.

Parallel to his life in the Fine Arts Center has been his time in Tau Kappa Epsilon. Parker says he couldn't have realized himself without the fellowship and influence of his brothers at TKE.

"There's no worse feeling on Earth than doing a show to basically no one," said Parker. "But I've never felt that way at Wabash. Even at the shows I'm not confident in, there's always a plethora of Tekes that are showing up to every single show. They've been my support system."

"As brothers both in TKE and on the stage, I have come to know the multifaceted personality of Preston Parker quite well," said Gabrien Smith '27. "In terms of acting ability, I genuinely believe he has some of the greatest depth and that's graced Ball Theater during my

time here. Not only is he technical, but he is also tender. A good idea can be diminished if presented condescendingly, but Preston always generously and humbly offers his piece for the good of the cause rather than to tramp upon others. For all the the time I've known him, he's been just like that: kind. His kindness has touched many of our Wabash brothers, and to speak on their behalf, we are grateful for his presence and his insight."

Looking ahead, Parker has already been accepted into the Teach For America program, a nation-wide patching project built for undergraduates interested in education. Following graduation, he will work in Indianapolis, teaching secondary english or history while earning his master's degree. He looks forward to the day he can marry his fiance Selia, whom he has been with for the past six years, and who has been another bedrock support in his life. Parker's goal is to one day return to rural Indiana to instill the same passion for learning and creativity in the next generation that his own teachers sparked in him.

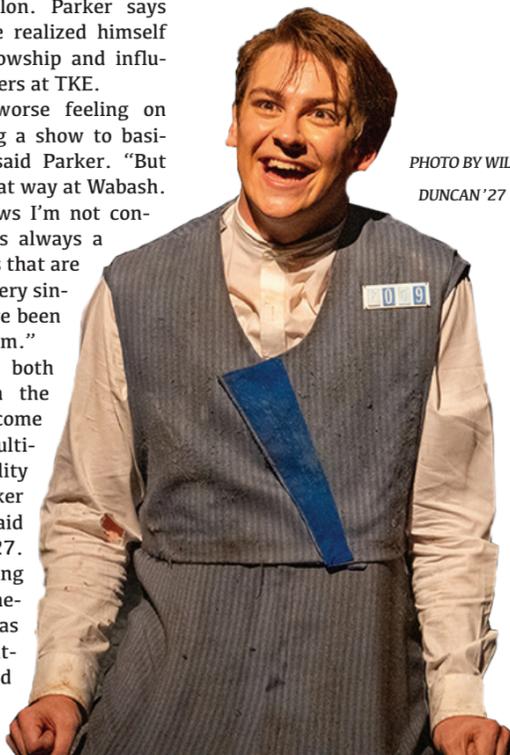
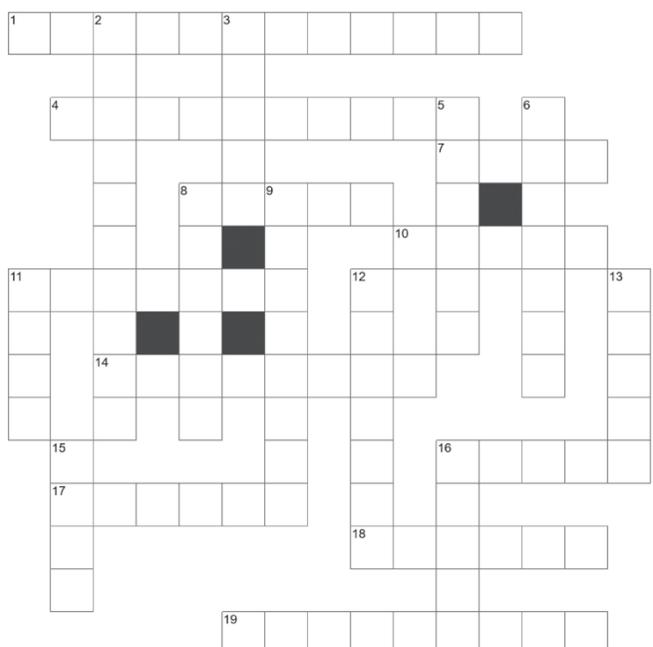


PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

'March Madness'

Crossword by Tanner Quackenbush '26



Across

- 1. Round before the Elite Eight
- 4. Underdog team making a deep run in March Madness
- 7. Team's ranking in the tourna ment
- 8. Deflecting a shot attempt
- 10. Footwork move with one foot planted
- 11. Bouncing the ball while mov ing
- 14. Break in the middle of a game
- 16. Where college basketball is played
- 17. Offensive foul for illegal con tact
- 18. Illegal movement without dribbling
- 19. Uncontested shot from the line

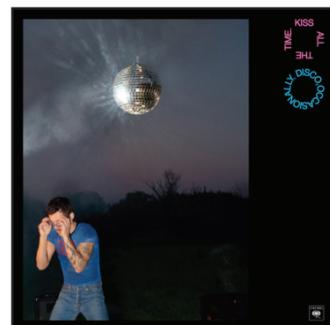
Down

- 2. Round before the Final Four
- 3. Taking the ball from an oppo nent
- 5. Pass leading to a score
- 6. Gaining possession after a missed shot
- 8. Teams on the verge of making the tournament
- 9. Extra period to break a tie
- 11. Slamming the ball through the hoop
- 12. Brief stoppage in play
- 13. When a low seed beats a high seed
- 15. Governing body of college basketball
- 16. Team leader on the sideline

Scan for answers!



'Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally' is a strong artistic album



COURTESY OF THE SPOTIFY

TOBIN SEIPLE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

Harry Styles recently broke his own record for the highest number of records sold within a week of an album's release. "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally" sold a whopping 180,000 records in the first seven days. The former One Direction man has emerged as one of the most popular international artists in the last few years. He boasts a plethora of high-achieving hits like "Watermelon Sugar" and "As It Was," but this latest album lacks a clear triple-platinum record. In past albums, Styles featured a mix of commercial hits and artistic tracks, but in this release it seems he sticks with the latter. Fans who embrace the less industry-centric side of him would certainly appreciate the album, however, the everyday listener isn't missing much.

Ironically, the most catchy song in "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally" is called "pop." The song uses many synthesizers and pads and has a solid drum track and baseline. The verses are solid overall, but the chorus hits the sweet spot and hooks the listener. Although it's rare to see nowadays, the song does not sacrifice musical complexity for a pop feel. The production is intentional and exceptional while the vocals and instruments add depth. The album may not be intended for the run-of-the-mill fan, but this song is an easy listen.

A more authentic track in the album, "Carla's Song" is a must-listen for Harry Styles' fans. Soaked with personal life experience, the song is a tribute to Styles' friend Carla, whom he saw discover an artist that impacted her life. The lyrics "I

know what you like" are sung in the background and are appealing both musically and meaningfully. Aside from the lyrics, "Carla's Song" features a typical Styles' style with many layers of vocals, an upbeat drum track, concrete melodies and a beautiful baseline.

Another notable track is "Ready, Steady, Go." The song kicks off with a punchy base and clean kick but swiftly builds with exceptional vocals. Eventually, it turns into a high-octane song. "Ready, Steady, Go" may be one of the best features out of the twelve songs in "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally."

"Season 2 Weight Loss" may be a bottom five song name of all time, but if you ignore the title it has many redeeming qualities. The music is far away in a sense; the audio space is ambient in nature yet has captivating musical textures. The lyrics do not exhibit strong meaning, but Styles' superb voice certainly makes up for it. Additionally, the distinctive feel of the song exudes a Harry Styles touch; it is indisputably creative. All in all, "Season 2 Weight Loss" is the perfect study song.

"Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally" is a fantastic album. Harry Styles fans are sure to enjoy the majority of the tracks, and the everyday listener can learn to appreciate a selection of them. This album is unmistakably written and produced by Harry Styles; the vibe, instrument choices, use of vocals and shifting melodies are intentional and original. The main downside comes from the clear choice on Styles' part to focus on himself as an artist rather than creating another ultra-popular album which resulted in a lack of memorable tracks. Yes, the typical audience may not see the appeal, however, that does not subtract from the fact that this album is remarkably written, both musically and lyrically.

FINAL VERDICT: 4.5/5 WALLYS



**Congratulations,
Dr. Rick Warner H'13
WCI's Man of the Year and Some Little Giant!**



instagram.com/wabashclubofindianapolis

Seek educational quality to combat AI uncertainty

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

FAIR TRADE

Hi-Five to Venezuela for besting the U.S. 3-2 in the World Baseball Classic. We get Maduro, they get the Ryder Cup of baseball — seems like a pretty good deal to me.

TIME TO GROW UP

Lo-Five to Gamestop for officially declaring the Xbox 360, Playstation 3 and Nintendo Wii U "retro consoles." We aren't that old yet, right? RIGHT?

UNDERDOG MENTALITY

Lo-Five to the Academy for nominating Marty Supreme for nine Oscars and awarding none of them. Give it two years, Timmy Chalamet will Oscar-bait harder than anyone's Oscar-baited before.

"NOT SECURITY MINDED ENOUGH"

Hi-Five to the senior intelligence officer that resigned over the war in Iran. Someone get him and John Kiriakou in the studio ASAP!

LANDMINE!

Hi-Five to the Ryans for keeping the ground safe. With the Rhynes protecting the skies and the Ryans securing the ground, Wabash has never been so safe!



President Scott Feller

Reply to this opinion at fellers@wabash.edu

Trustee, Aman Brar '99

Reply to this opinion at aman_d_brar@yahoo.com



This opinion is adapted from President Feller and Aman Brar's article in the Indiana Business Journal.

The Bachelor's recent survey of the Wabash student body on the topic of artificial intelligence identifies anxiety around the impact of AI on the nature of work as a top concern. This is not surprising given the strongly held views circulating in the media and on social media. These range from "AI is overhyped and should be ignored" to "AI changes everything, so don't waste your time and money on higher education."

We reject both extreme positions, yet we cannot know the world of work that awaits the men of Wabash as they graduate over the next few years. Even those who build and invest in AI-powered companies can't reliably predict the roles that will be transformed and those that will emerge.

We favor a humble approach to predicting specifics of the future of work, well aware that only a few short years ago the loudest voices shouted that everyone must learn to code. Today, data from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York shows computer science as one of the majors with the highest unemployment rate among new graduates. We have seen this play out across the job market. From early-stage startups to Fortune 500 companies, the pattern is consistent: job candidates who excel are those who demonstrate adaptability, creativity, intellectual curiosity and the capacity to learn quickly.

Our advice stems from our decades-long experience in higher education and technology. The most important aspect of a college education is the development of durable skills such as critical thinking, creativity, leadership and the ability to work productively with others. Whether in early career experiences or the boardroom, we have seen these durable skills separate the professionals who thrive from those who flounder regardless of their technical background.

The good news is that Wabash College emphasizes the development of exactly these durable skills as part of a holistic education.

It is quite possible that some college graduates are going to be tested in the coming years as tasks presently completed by white collar workers migrate to computation. But does that say more about the power of AI or the failure of some students

to embrace college as the opportunity to develop the skills of higher order thinking?

Too many students approach college as a credentialing exercise, making the mistake of prioritizing the prestige of the college and the relevance of the major as the key metrics. It is unfortunate that our society puts so little emphasis on the quality of the education and too much weight on exclusivity — the mistaken notion that the best schools are expensive and hard to get into.

Last fall, The New York Times published an essay urging students not to "fall for the rigged college game." The author, Jeff Selingo, provided data from Indiana University's National Survey of Student Engagement, a project that evaluates the experience of thousands of college students — from the most elite institutions to schools with open enrollment. The summary: higher institutional selectivity and cost do not yield greater gains in critical thinking, leadership experiences, quantitative reasoning or collaboration with peers.

That study resonates with what we observe on and off campus. The most successful professionals we encounter, whether they are leading product teams, closing enterprise deals or navigating complex organizational change, come from a wide range of institutions. What unites them is not the prestige of their alma maters but the depth, quality and rigor of their education and experiences. These graduates are, we believe, imbued with the habits of mind that will lead to success in an AI world.

Wabash students are fortunate to be enrolled in a college with exceptional opportunities for growth. Wabash's NSSE scores exceeded the average of elite colleges and universities on nearly every metric examined in the Selingo essay. But Wabash students must double down on these opportunities for growth if they are to be prepared for a world that prioritizes the possession of durable skills rather than a diploma.

So, stop focusing on the external forces reshaping the jobs around us. Instead, we urge students to ask a fundamental question about how they are approaching education: Am I embracing sufficient challenges to grow as a thinker, a leader and a person?

Challenge and depth of experience — more than any specific knowledge or training — are what will matter most in the decades ahead.

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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).

Spring "break?"



William Boas '26

Reply to this opinion at wboas26@wabash.edu

overall performance. A burned-out student is far less effective than a rested one. By overloading spring break with assignments, institutions may actually be harming the quality of student work rather than enhancing it.

Spring break also looks very different for every student, which makes assigning major work during this time even more problematic. Some students use the week to pick up extra shifts at work to help cover tuition or personal expenses, while others travel long distances to spend time with family they rarely get to see. Some take the opportunity to relax and recover at home after weeks of nonstop commitments, while others may be balancing responsibilities like caring for siblings or supporting their household. Treating spring break as if all students have unlimited free time ignores these realities and creates an uneven academic burden, where those with additional responsibilities are put at a disadvantage compared to their peers.

Ultimately, if spring break is treated like just another week of deadlines, it loses the very purpose it is meant to serve. Students cannot be expected to perform at their best without genuine time to reset, and continuing to assign major work during this period only contributes to burnout and diminished academic outcomes. If institutions truly value both student success and well-being, they must recognize that meaningful rest is not a setback — it is a necessity. Protecting spring break as a true break allows students to return not only refreshed but better prepared to engage, learn and succeed.

Maybe I'm soft for thinking this, but I really don't care. It's just frustrating to finally go home and spend time with family, only to end up starting every morning at a coffee shop, grinding through essays and presentations worth 20-30% of my grade. That doesn't feel like much of a break. Anyways, I hope everyone had a great one!

More than a mantelpiece



Features Editor,
Noah Mintie

Reply to this opinion at njmintie29@wabash.edu

During spring break, several members of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies attended a learning journey to visit civil rights museums and events in Montgomery and Selma, Alabama. Each student wrote a reflection on how the journey changed their perception of the world. This is one student's reflection.

I believe it was Wabash's own William Placher '70 who observed that America mostly uses history for decorative purposes. Proving his point perfectly, Donald Trump has taken the past year to meticulously mold federally funded museums and parks to sugarcoat, de-emphasize and outright censor the Black perspective in American history. In particular, his claims that the truth was just too pessimistic are deeply bothersome to me. Our history is not a mantelpiece that we can tweak to our desire, it literally is us.

More to that point, The Legacy Museum, the Bridge Crossing Jubilee and the Rosa Parks Museum all emphasized the modern relevance of what others might call history. If racism had really slithered out of the American conscience, none of those experiences would have been presented in the way that they were. The Legacy Museum deliberately starts you with the harsh realities of the slave trade. You hope that conditions get better as the museum progresses, but they don't, because in real life, they haven't. Racial discrimination becoming less overt only serves to make it easier for whites to ignore. These exhibits really helped me to grasp the extent to which systematic racism and white supremacy have functioned and still function today. The memorial and the museum both

quantify the extent to which lynchings happen, highlighting how arbitrary the reasoning was. I never fully got just how little the police cared about terrorism and murder if it was inflicted on to black people. Now I can't look at the police the same way, because it's only logical that such a bias carries on today, hence police brutality.

If the museum scorned me to the system, the Bridge Crossing Jubilee made me scorn the performative left. As I stated that night, people didn't listen to the mayor. They didn't invest in the community. They just rolled up with their signs, walked across, chanted and left. So they did the easy part, the part that allows them to pose for a photo, and left. I'll be honest, I would have rather paid \$20 for a regular print of an artwork I liked from a vendor. Still, I splurged for the full canvas because the artist was deeply talented. I didn't know how much support he would get outside of this event, and was thus willing to put more towards his work. This wasn't even me making a sacrifice, it was me just buying something that I'm happy to own, perhaps the most establishment-friendly way to invest in Selma. Why couldn't the activists who travel far and wide to get here be bothered to visit a museum or a festival? Among other things, I learned to walk the walk from my time in Selma. If I can find a way to return next year, I'll take a page from the late Jesse Jackson's book and spend a longer amount of time and a larger amount of money on the community. If majority-Black communities can't build themselves up because of external historical discrimination, they need their national community to believe and invest in them more than I saw that day.

This trip has given me a firsthand understanding of modern civil rights, American history and the general culture of the deep south. It also helped me to get to know my brothers in the MXI a lot more than I previously did. This knowledge will help me form my future with the Institute, the College and the world.

Kristi Noem: In memoriam



Hutcheson Norris '27

Reply to this opinion at htnorris27@wabash.edu

“...there’s 1.7 billion people that are still alive today in this world because we’ve stopped them. And that invasion over the southern border made those cartels rich.”

Former Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem testified under oath before Congress on Wednesday March 4, 2026. Secretary Noem managed to encapsulate the broad rise in anti-immigrant sentiment more perfectly in these 28 words than I will in the next 700. Behind her sits a row of “angel families,” individuals whose family members were killed, mostly in motor vehicle crashes, by an undocumented immigrant. Noem even had a six-year-old named Delilah in the first row who was in the hospital for six months following a collision with an undocumented immigrant who was permitted to have a CDL under California state law. While I will wholeheartedly recognize that what has happened to these families is a tragedy, the real statistics regarding immigrant crime tell a different story than the one former Secretary Noem peddled to the committee.

While there is genuine crime perpetrated by undocumented immigrants, the media and conservative political figures rely upon emotions and not the totality of facts in regards to crime statistics. This complete disregard for facts is most clearly found within a recent rise in anti-immigrant sentiment in Japan. As some may know, Japan has been an incredibly isolationist country for many years, but even now migrants only make up 3.2% of the population. In a bizarre twist, there has been massive outcry regarding alleged poor treatment of a very popular population of friendly deer by foreigners. However, there is not any clear evidence of these incidents, with the new Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi saying “I confirmed it in my own way.” This reflects a similar non-story we had in the U.S. almost two years ago now, where the President and Vice President knowingly “create[d] sto-

ries” about Haitian immigrants eating cats and dogs in Springfield, Ohio.

These sorts of emotionally charged stories do not hold up to the scrutiny of real data however. Sociologists Nicolás Ajzenman, Patricio Dominguez and Raimundo Undurraga found that while the immigrant population in Chile almost tripled in less than a decade, rates of both general crime and homicides did not increase, but policing and concern about immigrant crime rose. This is also reflected in America if we are supposed to believe Congressman Darrel Issa’s assertion that “Biden let in 10 Million plus people into the country...”. According to the Council on Criminal Justice, homicides have fallen 25% since 2019, aggravated assault is down 6%, assault with a firearm is down 13%, sexual assault is down 4%, domestic violence is down 19%, robbery is down 36% and carjackings are down 29%. This would fly in the face of 10 million of “the worst of the worst,” migrants flooding across the border during the Biden regime.

The Trump administration’s response to this alleged invasion has involved a brutal mass detention campaign centered on a 3,000 detention per day quota imposed by Stephen Miller, per Axios. In addition to this quota, the Supreme Court’s decision in *Noem v. Vasquez Perdomo* allows for “apparent ethnicity” to “be a ‘relevant factor’ when considered along with other salient factors.” This practically codifies the social construction of who is “illegal,” regardless of an individual’s occupational status. This is exactly the racial discrimination that sociologists René Flores and Ariela Schachter identified in their national study comparing a Mexican versus European gardener. Individuals surveyed were more likely to perceive the Mexican as illegal, regardless of document status.

Those families seated behind the now former Secretary Noem did not deserve to be used as a prop for this administration’s propaganda campaign against latino immigrants. There is no objective defense for the mass deportation of people out of this country, so this administration parades out children for sympathy points. Mass deportations damage our economy and strain Federal law enforcement resources. 32 individuals have died in ICE custody in 2025, and nine individuals were shot and killed by ICE since Trump took office.

When the game meets politics



Chayce Howell '27

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The Bachelor, in partnership with Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse, launched this recurring column to reflect how students are thinking about campus life, current events and the broader world. Each week, a small group of randomly selected Wabash students gathers for a facilitated conversation. Participants are not quoted by name. That choice allows space for honest reflection without fear of judgment. Rather than offering conclusions or arguments, the column captures how students are making sense of complex issues in real time.

Sports have long been seen as a place to escape politics. Yet in recent years, athletes have increasingly used their platforms to speak about political and social issues. During this week’s lunch conversation, students examined a question that continues to divide fans and leagues alike: Should politics have a place in sports?

Students began by considering who athletes represent when they step into the public spotlight. Several participants drew an important distinction between athletes competing for a country and those playing for a club or professional organization.

At the international level, some students felt the stakes are much higher. Representing a nation brings expectations that go beyond personal expression. One participant argued that “the international stage is probably the worst place you can protest because it makes everyone look bad.” Olympic athletes, in particular, were seen by some as carrying the responsibility of presenting a unified national image.

The discussion shifted when students considered athletes playing for professional teams or local clubs where the sense of national symbolism is less intense. Even so, participants noted that athletes rarely speak in isolation. “Even if it’s still a small local reporter, it’s still a lot of people seeing it,” one student said, highlighting how media attention amplifies every comment.

Students also debated whether the type of sport matters. In team sports, players often represent more than themselves. Wearing a uniform can signal loyalty to a broader group.

“You’re in your jersey. You’re representing your team, not yourself,” one participant explained.

Individual sports, however, were viewed differently. Fighters in the UFC came up as an example of a model where leagues distance themselves from athletes’ political speech.

“The UFC has it right. Dana White says the athletes can say what they want. It doesn’t reflect the UFC’s opinion,” one participant said.

Once students established the question of representation, the conversation moved to whether athletes should speak politically at all.

Participants acknowledged that modern athletes operate on enormous platforms. Social media, endorsements and television

coverage give them influence far beyond the playing field. For some students, that visibility creates an opportunity.

“Athletes have a platform and they should take advantage of it,” one participant said.

Others were more cautious. Several students argued that sports primarily exist for entertainment, and political messaging can distract from that purpose. “We want to be entertained,” one participant said. Another student framed the issue bluntly: “They were brought in for what they can do on the field, not what they believe in.”

The group also discussed the risks athletes face when entering political debates. While they may have the legal right to express opinions, backlash from fans, sponsors or organizations can still affect their careers. One participant summarized the dilemma this way: athletes can use their influence if they choose, but “you don’t have to make it your career. You’re not a politician.”

From there, the conversation turned toward how athletes communicate their views. Students suggested that tone and intention often shape how messages are received.

Some participants argued that political statements are more controversial than expressions of personal belief or gratitude. Religious references during games, for example, like “I want to thank God for getting me here,” the statement feels personal rather than political. One student described this difference as a matter of tone and purpose.

Students also acknowledged the gap between professional athletes and the average fan. Because of their fame and wealth, some participants felt athletes’ perspectives may not reflect everyday experiences. As one student put it, athletes’ opinions should sometimes be taken “with a grain of salt.”

At the same time, students recognized that audiences hold power as well. “The biggest regulator of government action is public opinion,” one participant said. Fans can choose how they respond, including whether to support teams, players or leagues.

Finally, the conversation widened to the cultural role sports play in society.

Many participants described sports as one of the few spaces where people with very different political views can still gather and connect. In a country marked by growing political polarization, that shared experience can feel rare.

Because of that, some students worried political activism during games risks undermining sports’ ability to bring people together. One participant described attending games where fans with opposing political views could still celebrate a victory together. Political messaging, they argued, shifts the focus away from that shared enjoyment.

By the end of the conversation, students did not arrive at a single rule for athletes and politics. Instead, they identified a set of tensions that seem likely to continue.

Athletes have platforms that can shape public conversation. Fans have expectations about what sports should provide. Teams and leagues must balance free expression with commercial realities. The guiding idea was simple: sports work best when they bring people together, even when the world outside the stadium remains deeply divided.

Poetry from Wallies



Evan Rauwolf

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‘These Bricks Cry Out’

Don’t you know that a man with a “Why” can endure almost any “How”?

What happened to Wabash, the light of my life?
What happened to you, Little Giant, my pride?

What happened to fighting, whatever it takes?
What happened to grinding, regardless of stakes?

What happened to dreaming of doing your best?
What happened to working in spite of your stress?

What happened to toil, what happened to strife?
What happened to making the most of your life?

What happened to “Struggle”, your brother and friend?
What happened to going and not giving in?

What happened to doing what no one could do?
What happened to “Nobody better than you!”?

What happened to kindness? What of brotherhood?
What happened to morals, and doing the good?

What happened to feeling life’s highs and its lows?
What happened to striving no matter life’s blows?

What happened to loving and being alive?
What happened to feeding your soul and your mind?

What happened to makers and people that paint?
What happened to virtue and everything quaint?

What happened to cheering with smiles and frowns?
What happened to staying as seconds count down?

What happened to learners who challenge their thoughts?
What happened to athletes and who came back and fought?

What happened to Wabash, the star in my eye?
What happened to you, Little Giant, my life?

The power of mindset



Alexander Schenkel '28

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In one’s life, it is irrational to believe that one will not experience a difficulty, setback, impossible situation or heart-wrenching defeat. Preparation is essential in these critical moments, but mindset is crucial. When faced with adversity, mindset determines whether that moment becomes a breaking point or a turning point. A change in one’s mindset can make a seemingly impossible situation not only possible, but manageable. In the book “The Four Agreements,” Don Miguel Ruiz posits that “you can be in the middle of hell and still experience inner peace and happiness.” In other words, no matter where you find yourself, adopting a growth mindset can completely change how you handle yourself and, eventually, the outcome itself.

Take, for example, Henry Ford, the founder of Ford Motor Company, one of the world’s largest automobile manufacturers. He is a man who came from nothing, born to a family of eight children on a farm in rural Illinois. He left home at 16 to follow his dream and find a more prosperous life for his family. He was determined to be successful and did just that. He believed that one is only capable of what they believe they are capable of. He once stated, “Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t, you’re right.” I think that, as humans, we put our own limits on ourselves to curb our

true potential. As Wabash men, we are like a shaken bottle of champagne. Once that cork, or our limits, comes off, our trajectory is impressive to say the least.

Your mindset can change everything. The power of the mind over the body is what enables people to accomplish seemingly impossible tasks, such as putting a man on the moon or preserving an all-male college in the twenty-first century. Achievements such as these become possible when a can’t-be-stopped, won’t-be-stopped mindset is adopted. Cristiano Ronaldo faced staggering poverty in his early years in Madeira, Portugal. He believed in himself, in his abilities, and in his potential. Ronaldo has since won 5 Ballon d’Or awards (awarded to the best male soccer player of the year), second only to Lionel Messi. This is an example of someone who believed he was a champion and became a champion. Ronaldo’s story is one that proves success begins the moment you decide you are worthy of it. Wabash men have the work ethic, drive, ambition and adaptability necessary to succeed in life. They believe in their passions and follow their dreams. When faced with a struggle, they change their mindset and see it as an opportunity to become better men. Successful Wabash men are masters of mindset, and this contributes to their overall success. The more experience one has in controlling their mindset, the more difficult tasks they can take on, and the greater the achievements they can pursue. Mindset can turn a seemingly horrible situation into the time of your life. It can help you make the most of every moment of life while others waste away, wallowing in self-pity. Change your mindset and become a better Wabash man. Change your mindset and believe that you can accomplish everything you’ve ever dreamed of.

Golf shows signs of strength with T-3rd finish at Music City Shootout

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
SPORTS EDITOR

Spring time is by far the most difficult time of the year for the Wabash College golf team, but even with the brutal weather conditions that come with the season, the Little Giants

displayed plenty of grit during the Music City Shootout hosted by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology at the Legacy Golf Club in Springfield, Tennessee. The Wabash "A" team finished T-3rd with a 36-hole total score of 617 (41 over par), and the

Wabash "B" team finished 14th with a total score of 648 (72 over par) in the field of 15 teams.

In the first round, Charlie Seaburg '29 led the way for the "A" team with an opening round of 76 that included 13 pars. Finn Carteaux '29 and Liam McAllister '26 each added rounds of 78 that included some more color on the scorecards, but both of them battled through a collection of bogeys and double bogeys with some crucial birdies. Mason Pierle '28 added an 81 to make the team score total up to 313 (25 over par) for the first round, putting the team in 5th place.

The Little Giants returned on the second day and improved their team score by nine shots, shooting a 304 (16 over par). Carteaux shot the lowest round of the day for Wabash with a one-over-par 73 that consisted of three birdies and four bogeys. His two-round total of 151 was good for a T-8th performance and a spot on the All-Tournament Team. Leo Dellinger '29 made an impressive bounce back in the second round by shooting a four-over-par 76. Pierle and Seaburg added rounds of 77 and 78 respectively.

The top three performance for the "A" team was exactly what

the group needed to start the season off on the right foot.

"In terms of result, tying Rose-Hulman, who's 50th in the country, is a solid result," said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21. "It's where we want to be, but if you ask everybody in the van, they would've said they could've played better for one or both of the days."

"A new thing that I believe a lot in is that there is no such thing as maintaining [your ability]. There's only improving or getting worse."

- Head Golf Coach
Justin Kopp '21

"The weather was really tough so it was a lot of staying patient," said Carteaux. "We really had a good game plan going into the tournament, and we just eliminated those big mental mistakes. I think the team knew that we had each other if one of us played badly."

After the tournament, Kopp and six of his players went down to the Hilton Head, South

Carolina area to have the team's annual spring break trip. The week consists of plenty of golf, meet and greets with Wabash alumni and shared stories. It's an action-packed week to say the least, but it's a trip that creates lifelong memories.

"It was a great bonding experience," said Carteaux. "It just shows you the true values of Wabash in that every alumnus that we met had the same values that are being instilled in us. They treated us so well, and we're all grateful for that."

The team will have a couple of weeks off before their next tournament, but the team will remain focused thanks to Kopp's mentality.

"A new thing that I believe a lot in is that there is no such thing as maintaining [your ability]," said Kopp. "There's only improving or getting worse. Because if you maintain, other guys are improving and getting better than you."

The Little Giants will tee it up on April 3-4 at the Illinois Wesleyan University Invitational in Bloomington, Illinois at Weibring Golf Club and Ironwood Golf Course.



COURTESY OF HEAD GOLF COACH JUSTIN KOPP '21

(From L to R) Finn Carteaux '29, Leo Dellinger '29, Charlie Seaburg '29, Coen Bauschek '28, Mason Pierle '28 and Liam McAllister '26 take a photo after dinner at the Colleton River Club restaurant on March 13, 2026, in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Tennis shines in the Sunshine State

SEAN BLEDSOE '26
SPORTS EDITOR

Outdoor season is in full effect for the Wabash tennis team as they traveled down to the Sunshine State for their annual spring break trip. The team had five matches scheduled, but only completed four.

The Little Giants kicked off the trip on Monday, March 9, with a match against Carthage College, but Wabash struggled to find its stride, losing 0-7. The Monday night match against Washington College (Maryland) was started but not completed due to facility closures.

The Little Giants made easy work of their Tuesday slate, beating Piedmont College 6-1 in the morning and pummeling Illinois Valley Community College 7-0 in the evening.

The most exciting match of the week, however, came on Thursday night as Wabash took on its rival all-male school, Hampden-Sydney College. There was plenty of energy from both sides in the match, but Wabash emerged victorious in the end with a final score of 4-0.

The Little Giants found consistency in doubles play. Augusto Ghidini '26 and Samuel Soto Garcia '28 started the winning momentum with a 6-2 victory in the number two doubles match. Murilo Guarnieri '28 and Edmon Neto

'29 continued the trend in the number one doubles match with another 6-2 triumph. Tharakesh Ashokar '26 and Matthew Haas '29 closed out the doubles session with the third 6-2 win to earn the doubles point, giving Wabash an early 1-0 advantage.

As the singles matches were about to get underway, the skies opened up and a deluge began. With the hardcourts getting soaked, the teams were forced to relocate to another section of the USTA facility with hardcourts that were not as wet. As soon as the teams began to dry off the new hardcourts, the decision was made to move the singles matches to the clay courts. Although Hampden-Sydney practices on clay courts themselves, Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett felt comfortable and confident in his guys because his roster consists of eight international players, all of whom grew up playing on clay courts. Naturally, he decided to play six of his international players in the singles matches.

"It was the first time I've ever ran an all-international lineup out there, and there's worse times to be playing on clay when your entire lineup of singles players grew up playing on clay," said Bickett.

With the closing of the USTA facility looming over the match, Wabash went to work. Ghidini

did not give up a single game in his match as he blanked his Tiger opponent 2-0 (6-0, 6-0). Neto followed up Ghidini with another 2-0 win (6-3, 6-0) to give the Little Giants a 3-0 advantage in the match. With the matches being best of seven points, Wabash needed one more win to secure the win over Hampden-Sydney. As time was running out, Soto Garcia clutched up and won his match 2-0 (6-2, 6-4) to give the Little Giants the win over the Tigers.

"The atmosphere was amazing," said Ghidini. "We were locked in with our game and our unity as a team. The Hampden-Sydney parents were loud, but we didn't allow them to be too loud. We dominated the atmosphere with our energy."

The week in Florida also served as a vital training trip for the team. With the colder weather in Indiana hindering the team's ability to practice outside, the warmer weather allowed the team to get important repetitions on the outdoor courts since there is a drastic difference between playing inside versus outside.

"It's just understanding that the points are going to take longer," said Bickett. "The ball is going to move around a little bit more than you're used to. You need to be more patient and physically fit to withstand those

long points. So when we get out there, we're trying to take those opportunities to train that mentality and mindset where this is going to be more of a grind."

With fresh and competitive outdoor tennis experience in

their back pocket, the team looks to use those lessons going forward in the last half of the season. The Little Giants return to the hardcourt on Saturday, March 21, as they will take on Ohio Northern University at 1 p.m. EST in Ada, Ohio.



COURTESY OF HEAD TENNIS COACH DANIEL BICKETT

The tennis team takes a photo in front of the United States Tennis Association facility on March 12, 2026, in Orlando, Florida.

Volleyball takes a California swing

NATE JOVEN '26
STAFF WRITER

After defeating the nationally-ranked Baldwin Wallace Yellow Jackets on March 1, the Little Giants further tested their mettle against tough opponents, travelling to California for spring break. The team's California tour, composed of matches against four opponents all ranked in Division III's top 20, pitted the Little Giants against some of the best teams they have faced this season.



COURTESY OF CHRIS BOARD '27

Ben Donaldson '29 and Zev Wolverton '28 pose for a picture on March 8 in Los Angeles, California.

With a surplus of sandy beaches and warm weather, California has long dominated the men's volleyball scene across all levels of the sport. As Wabash adds Californian competition to its pool of opponents, the program pushes the needle for its standard level of play.

"I am incredibly proud of how the team performed," said Head Volleyball Coach Ashaun Baker. "This trip served as a major eye-opener for our guys. It proved that we have the talent to beat anyone if we simply tighten our consistency and maintain that competitive push through all phases of the game. This trip showed us that our ceiling is much higher."

Though Wabash lost its four matches, the team was able to take sets off three of the four nationally-ranked opponents that they faced.

"Playing in California made me want to show that this gritty Indiana team can stand among the top teams in the nation," said Bawibawi Thang '27. "When we passed well and sided out, we played like a top-10 team in the country."

Off the court, the team took the time to enjoy California and their time together. Whether it was exploring Malibu Creek

State Park, visiting Santa Monica Pier or even befriending TSA at Los Angeles International Airport, the group made the experience great by spending it together.

"The trip felt like the perfect balance between sightseeing and competing," said Thang. "Spending that time together off the court definitely brought our team closer and strengthened our chemistry. I wouldn't want to do it with any other guys."

The Little Giants return to Crawfordsville filled with an ambition to improve as they gear up for conference play.

"I'm excited to get back in the gym and work on the things we need to improve," said Thang. "Our goal is to reach that same high level of intensity and consistency in our serve-and-pass game. If we can do that, I'm confident we can win our conference and make a run in the NCAA tournament."

Wabash retakes the court at Franklin College on Friday, March 20, at 7 p.m. EST and then plays at Spalding University on Saturday, March 21, at 3 p.m. EST before returning to Chadwick Court to begin conference play against Calvin University on Friday, March 27, at 7 p.m. EST.

Lacrosse goes 1-1 over spring break

TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

Spring break gives many Wabash students a chance to reset, focus and relax, but for the lacrosse team, this year's break brought a test of competition. While the Little Giants stayed relatively close to home instead of going to their usual spot of Virginia Beach, Virginia, they managed to pack a lot of valuable experience into a short trip to Columbus, Ohio, finishing the trip with one win and one loss against two solid opponents.

"Staying a little bit closer at home and having two good opponents was something that was better for us this year," said Head Lacrosse Coach Nate Webber. "We got out of it what we wanted, got to play a couple good teams and play on a quick turnaround, which was good."

The team opened up their spring break competition against Francis-Canterbury University on Saturday, March 7. Evan Bair '28 led the team with two goals and three assists, which helped the Little Giants to a fourth quarter surge to win 18-12.

"Once we started cooking, we just kept cooking," said Bair. "We had a lot of guys step up. It was awesome and was a really good team effort on offense and defense."

The quick turnaround between games turned out to be the true test

of the trip. On Wednesday, March 11, the team took on Capital University in a match that was much closer than it appeared thanks to a strong showing from the defense. Sam Santiago '26 and Ethan Veigel '29 kept the team in the contest late in the fourth quarter with two goals each, but it was not enough to overcome the Comets, who won 10-5.

"We've had a lot of really bright spots but just haven't been able to put it all together," said Webber. "There's a lot of stuff that we're working on, and I think that's part of the growing process."

But the trip was about more than just the games for the team. It was the chance to strengthen their chemistry. With trips to the Columbus Zoo and a chance to practice on Ohio State University's lacrosse field, that is exactly what they did.

"For spring break, being able to be just a lacrosse player for like five or six days, it's really fun," said Webber. "I got to eat meals with the guys every single time, and it was just great to be with my players in that space."

As the team returns from break, they will focus on John Carroll University, who they face on Saturday, March 21 at 12 p.m. EST in University Heights, Ohio.

Day '26 and Waters '27 claim All-American honors at DIII National Championship

Continued from page 1

In the quarterfinals, he continued his march forward, defeating Patrick Mullen of Wartburg College by an 11-7 decision to secure a place in the national semifinals.

Saturday morning brought one of the most dominant performances of his career. Against second-seeded Jake Craig of the University of Southern Maine, Day controlled every moment of the match, turning takedowns and relentless pressure into a



Titus Waters '27 looks to gain control over his opponent at the DIII National Championship on March 14, 2026, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

12-1 major decision that sent him to the national championship.

For the senior Little Giant, the moment represented years of work: early morning practices, exhausting training sessions and the quiet determination to return to the national stage again and again.

In the title bout, Day faced top-seeded Garrett Totten of the College of New Jersey. Totten struck first with a takedown early in the match, and despite Day's resilience and defensive battle throughout the bout, Totten ultimately claimed

the title with an 8-1 decision.

His runner-up finish marked his third career All-American honor, adding to a third-place finish at 125 lbs. in 2024 and a fourth-place finish at 133 lbs. in 2025 — a career that firmly places him among the most decorated wrestlers in recent Wabash history.

"Looking back, I can't help but reflect on how much I've grown during my time at Wabash, both as a wrestler and as a student," said Day. "I'm incredibly appreciative of my teammates and coaches because I've learned so much from them, and the relationships we've built over the years have deeply shaped who I am as a person."

If Day's run represented dominance, Waters' journey embodied perseverance.

The sixth-seeded heavyweight suffered heartbreak in the opening round, falling in a 2-3 tiebreaker decision to Andrew Vanscoy of Baldwin Wallace University. For many wrestlers, that early loss could have ended the dream, but Waters had other plans. He stormed back through the consolation bracket, pinning Benjamin Katz of Springfield College in just 57 seconds, igniting new life in his tournament run.

"I knew that when I executed and did the little things right, the results



James Day '26 shows love to Wabash fans in the stands at the DIII National Championship on March 14, 2026, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

would come," said Waters. "I just threw the loss out of my mind and got ready to take everything one match at a time"

Moments later came another dramatic victory, a 4-1 sudden-victory decision over Wyatt Smith of Coe College that guaranteed him a place among the nation's top eight wrestlers.

After falling in the consolation quarterfinals to Jonah Clark of Loras College, Waters rebounded with a gritty 7-4 victory over Mohamed Abdelatty of Ursinus College to claim

seventh place nationally, where he stood proudly on the All-American podium for the first time in his career.

The victory was a testament to the resilience that defines the heavyweight and the program he represents.

For Day, Waters, Young and the Wabash wrestling program, the weekend in Cedar Rapids became a reminder of what makes college athletics so powerful — the pursuit of greatness, the bond of teammates and the pride of representing a school that stands behind them.

DeBello '29 and Sholar '26 add to All-American count Three Wabash athletes compete at DIII Indoor Track and Field National Championship

CARTER MCCALL '29
STAFF WRITER

On a stage reserved for the nation's best, three athletes — Brock DeBello '29, Quinn Sholar '26 and Sly Williams '26 — represented Wabash at the 2026 NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field National Championship in Birmingham, Alabama.

DeBello and Sholar emerged as the centerpieces of Wabash's national showing, each earning All-American honors in moments that reflected both promise and perseverance.

For DeBello, the national championship became an opportunity to show that, despite his age, he is one of the best Division III runners in the country.

The freshman sprinter surged through Friday's preliminary heats in the 400-meter dash, clocking a 47.94-second finish that ranked fifth overall and secured his place in Saturday's final. With that performance alone, DeBello guaranteed himself First Team All-American honors, an impressive feat for an athlete competing in his first national championship.

"Going into the meet, I knew that the trickiest part was going to be the prelims," said DeBello. "The pressure to make it to the finals was a lot and to say that I was

nervous was an understatement."

DeBello returned to the track for the championship final and delivered another strong performance. Running with poise beyond his years, DeBello split the race with a 22.92-second opening 200 meters before closing in 24.95 seconds, holding his own against a field stacked with upperclassmen. He clocked a final time of 47.87 seconds and finished as the sixth fastest 400 meter runner in the country.

"My second 200 meters is always my strongest part of my race," said DeBello. "Our goal was to try to stick as close as we could to my competitors in the beginning and not let them gain too much ground."

In a matter of two days, the freshman had not only announced himself, he had cemented his place among the elite in Division III track and field.

While DeBello's rise captured attention, Sholar's journey

told a story of persistence.

Competing in both the weight throw and shot put, the senior began his weekend with a 17th-place finish in the weight throw, recording a top mark of 17.06 meters. Though he fell short of the podium, the performance set the stage for a final opportunity in the shot put, an event he built a reputation in throughout the season.

On Saturday, Sholar delivered when it mattered most. He recorded a top throw of 16.29 meters (53 feet, 5.5 inches) to finish 13th overall, earning Second Team All-American honors and closing his indoor collegiate career with a defining accomplishment.

For a senior competing in his first indoor national championship, the moment carried added weight, a culmination of years of training, setbacks and steady improvement.

In the triple jump, Williams battled and earned a best mark of 13.66 meters, which earned him 19th place in the country.

Together, the performances reflected the depth and determination of a Wabash team willing to compete with the nation's best.

The good thing for the Little Giants is that some of the nation's best are in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC), and at the 2026 NCAC Indoor Track and Field Championships, Wabash faced tough competition.

With the scarlett and white in contention for the title, Sholar headlined the early success

with a record-breaking weight throw of 18.69 meters, shattering both the conference meet and school records. The distance medley relay team of Sam Vaught '29, Kaiden McGuire '29, David Adesanya '27 and

Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 also delivered a historic performance with a new NCAC record. DeBello added to the momentum by breaking his own school record in the 400-meter prelims (48.60), putting Wabash in prime position heading into the final day with a narrow lead.

However, despite those standout performances, Wabash ultimately fell short, finishing second overall with 144 points behind Wittenberg's mark of 157 points. Sholar remained dominant by sweeping the throws and earning NCAC Field Athlete of the Year honors, while DeBello capped an impressive debut by being named Newcomer of the Year after lowering his 400-meter school record again (47.47) and helping the 4x400 relay to a runner-up finish. The Little Giants still produced multiple all-conference performances, including a win by Adesanya in the 800 meters and a record-breaking triple jump by Williams, but after leading early, the second-place finish marked a disappointing end for a team that had positioned itself to compete for the conference title.

The team has transitioned outside with their goal of adding another NCAC Outdoor Track and Field Championship trophy to the case later this spring.

CUTOUT PHOTOS COURTESY OF DEAN STEVEN JONES '87



Baseball splits time between Kentucky and Georgia over break

TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

A week away from campus for spring break turned into a proving ground for Wabash's baseball team as the Little Giants spent their time navigating a demanding road schedule across Kentucky and Georgia. Facing a variety of tough opponents, Wabash mixed highs and lows while gaining valuable lessons on the trip.

The Little Giants opened their break with a trip to Danville, Kentucky, on March 7-8, where they faced Centre College in a trio of tightly contested games. Despite late rallies, Wabash came up just short in all three contests.

"We started off games really well," said Aidan Ramsey '29. "They didn't end well for us, but we definitely identified a lot of things we need to work on both offensively and defensively."

After leaving Kentucky, the team traveled south to Demorest, Georgia, to take on Pied-

mont University on Tuesday, March 10. Thanks to a Jimmy Hawksworth '28 single and a Ben Henke '26 two-run single, the team took a commanding 5-1 lead. But this was not enough as Piedmont came firing back to keep the game close. The Lions tied the game in the seventh inning before closing it out in ninth, handing the Little Giants a 7-9 loss.

There was more on the plate for Wabash as they traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to take on Emory University. Thanks to a three-run home run from Nate Brumfield '28, Wabash held on in a tight game against the Eagles, winning 8-6.

Finally, the Little Giants ended their spring campaign with a tripleheader against Oglethorpe University on March 13-14 in Atlanta, Georgia. Despite losing the first game 6-7, the team would win the second game in a dominating 13-4 finish thanks to standout performances from Hawksworth and Ben Henke '26,

each with a home run and three RBIs. Oglethorpe, however, responded with a 15-4 win to take the series from Wabash.

While the results were mixed, the experience extended beyond the field. With no academic responsibilities during the break, players were able to focus entirely on baseball and building team chemistry.

"It was a great experience," said Ramsey. "We had a couple good dinners together, got to hang out with each other all the time and really care about baseball. Not having to worry about homework really helped us get closer as a team and strengthen our bonds."

Despite getting to know each other as a team more, the result was not exactly as the Little Giants were hoping for. The trip certainly revealed areas that the team can get more comfortable in.

"The outcomes of the games definitely didn't turn out how we wanted," said McKinzie.

"Getting walked off and also losing close games definitely was a learning experience for the entire team, even the older guys. Even though the games were tough, the team continued to show up for each other and fought all the way until the end."

As school starts back up, the team will get the chance to prove themselves again. The Little Giants return to action on Saturday, March 21, and Sunday, March 22, in Lafayette, Indiana to take on Adrian College in a triple header.



Jimmy Hawksworth '28 makes a throw to first base during a game at Hampden-Sydney College on February 21, 2026, at Ty Cobb Ballpark in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia.

FEBRUARY 27 WABASH: 14 MONMOUTH: 12	FEBRUARY 28 WABASH: 6 MONMOUTH: 1	FEBRUARY 28 WABASH: 5 MONMOUTH: 3	MARCH 7 WABASH: 7 CENTRE: 8	MARCH 7 WABASH: 6 CENTRE: 12
MARCH 8 WABASH: 4 CENTRE: 5	MARCH 10 WABASH: 7 PIEDMONT: 9	MARCH 11 WABASH: 8 EMORY: 6	MARCH 13 WABASH: 6 OGLETHORPE: 7	MARCH 13 WABASH: 13 OGLETHORPE: 4
				MARCH 14 WABASH: 4 OGLETHORPE: 15