

# RAY-PURICHIA CLAIM VICTORY IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

ELIJAH WETZEL '27  
 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The dust has settled, and Jack Ray '28 and Luke Purichia '28 will take over the Wabash College student government as president and vice-president next fall. Ray is excited, proud and eager to begin governing.

"I'd be lying if I didn't say it was an honor," said Ray. "I have a lot of respect for my peers here at Wabash, and to be honored by being elected student body president, it's one of the most significant things I've ever done. I was elected not just to be president, but to do certain things, and so I want to get at those starting Monday in the Senate."

The pair won by a wide margin over the ticket of Derek McDonald '27 and Chris Board '27 in a race that surpassed the turnout of the 2025 election that saw Austin Pickett '26 take the reigns of the Student Senate, but it failed to match the highest turnout of recent years, which came in the 2024 election.

"We had a good turnout," said Nick Green '27, head of the election commission and a supreme court justice. "2024 is still the year to beat. But at the same time, we did beat last year's numbers, and I consider that a success. I also know that the debate between the two candidates was more widely attended than last year, and we're very proud of that."

In all, 293 people voted in the election. Ray's ticket garnered about 66% of the vote compared to McDonald's 33%. This represents less than one-third of the Student Body, which means that the constitutional amendments up for adoption also fail — Article 7 of the constitution requires that at least a third of the student body vote for any constitutional amendment to be approved. Eight more votes were needed to meet this requirement. Supreme court chief justice candidate Connor Phillips '28, who ran unopposed, received 222 votes.

Ray will try to capitalize off of his experience as Chairman of the Student Senate as he enters his new role. He has been open about wanting to spur more action on campus, and after an election in which voters apparently resonated with that message, he is hoping to make good on his promise to "solving the real issues on campus with no concern to whether or not they are within the traditional bounds of student government."

"The president doesn't do that much — in the Senate," said Ray. "I think that's where we've run into



Student body president-elect, Jackson Ray '28 (Top), speaks at the candidate debates while vice-president elect Luke Purichia '28 (Bottom) answers questions on April 8, in Baxter hall.

PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

trouble. We have a view of the student body president as an executive officer within the Senate, and that's, constitutionally, not what it is; It's not what the role should be. If you're only doing the work in the Senate, you're doing half the job. If I intended to stay completely in the Senate, I would have remained Senate chairman. What I'm focused on is this additional role of what it means to be student body president, which is a cultural campus leadership role."

While Ray will not officially step into the presidency until the end of the academic year, that doesn't mean last few weeks of this year won't be busy. His next steps? Identify people who he thinks will be bold, action-oriented leaders. One of the most important parts of that process is picking committee chairs.

"I need people who show up, and I need people who are going to put the hours in outside of the Senate," said Ray. "Anybody who applies to be a committee chair — I'm looking for people both inside and outside the Senate — everyone who applies will receive an interview."

To the students who elected him, Ray has a simple message: get excited.

"I want people to get gassed up and ready to go," said Ray. "As we look to the future of Wabash, it's going to take a brotherhood, and not just in a vague sense. And that's one thing that my cabinet is going to do. We are going to be everywhere and anywhere. We are going to be seen on campus."

In addition to the presidential election, Wabash also voted in a new Chief Justice of the Student Senate Supreme Court. Connor Phillips was appointed to the role a few months ago and will now serve a full one year term at the court's helm. Phillips is excited for what the next year will bring.

"I think Jack will do a really good job as president," said Phillips. "I look forward to seeing what we do together. I think there will be a lot of questions posed to the Supreme Court about funding and about some of the constitutional guidelines that we have. The supreme court has always wanted to take on work, so I hope we get some."

As one year closes and students look to what the summer will bring, these leaders will have an eye on the fall and students' return to campus. Their aims are high, and Wabash students will surely be eager to see if they can be met.

## Wallystock debuts as new student led festival

Organizers hope to spark a new campus tradition

**WALLYSTOCK**  
**MUSIC AND ARTS FESTIVAL**

JEREMIAH CLAYTON

DEACON & the LGE

WABASH MARIACHI

🎵 **APRIL 17 - 2026** 🎵

**4:30 - Wabash Mariachi**  
**5:00 - Jeremiah Clayton**  
**6:00 - Deacon and the Loosey Goosey Experience**

**FEATURING: MC Dean Brown, Open Mic at 5:30, Wabash Student Art Gallery, the Scarlet Masque, 50/50 Raffle for the MoCo Community Foundation**

**THE CHAPEL**  
 ON THE MALL AT WABASH COLLEGE

COURTESY OF DEACON GREEN

Wallystock, a music and arts festival set to celebrate artistic expression at Wabash College, will take place April 17, on the Chapel steps.

TOBIN SEIPLE '29  
 FEATURES EDITOR

Wabash College is predominantly a school of tradition, however, a new festival sets a potential precedent. What started as a simple student idea turned into a must-see experience. Dubbed "Wallystock," this new festival will occur this Friday. Wallystock will feature fun festivities on the mall including variety of delicious foods. Additionally, it will showcase various musicians and an array of art.

"It is important to feature student artwork," said Carter Bertsch '26. "It showcases the talent of our fellow Wabash brothers that may go unnoticed at times."

The concept began when the Loosey Goosey Experience (LGE), a student band composed of Bertsch, Deacon Green '26 and Carson Wirtz '26, had the idea to build a fundraiser for the community. They decided that rather than play as a singular band, they wanted to partner with the Mariachi Los Pequeños Gigantes, a student organization led by Alejandro Cruz '27, in hopes of bringing more live music to campus.

"Alejandro is a good friend of mine, and I find he, and Mariachi, are a real gift to campus that

I'm glad are going to be in the spotlight with Wallystock," said Wirtz.

Luckily for the LGE, Cruz and the Mariachi were happy to hop on board and support the mission of performing for a good cause.

"We were sitting on the mall one day, and Carson said, 'hey, if I invite the mariachi to come play on a given Friday with the LGE would you be down?' I said, 'of course,'" said Cruz.

The thought of having a couple artists perform to raise money was an excellent idea, but Wallystock evolved into something larger with the efforts and interests of the founders. Wirtz also invited friend and artist Jeremiah Clayton '26 to give a performance, resulting in a lineup of three artists with three different genres.

"That was the initial plan, just a simple pop-up concert with Deacon & the LGE with Wabash Mariachi," said Wirtz. "Then our imaginations ran wild to do a full-blown music and arts festival on campus, and thus, Wallystock."

The festival will feature student art, Dean of Students Scott Brown as the MC and delicious food, but most importantly, it will serve a philanthropic purpose. There will be a 50/50 raf-

fle supporting the Montgomery County Community Foundation.

"We've had the idea of a community-based charity event for a while," said Green. "After talking to a few people, the idea grew to become a music and art festival showcasing Wabash students and their talents."

With a multifaceted goal, Wallystock has only been made possible through the hard work of various people at Wabash College.

"Theta Delt agreed to give a substantial amount for the event, most notably funding most of the food for Wallystock," said Wirtz. "Brothers have also agreed to volunteer during the event with preparing food and to help raise money for the Montgomery County Community Foundation."

There is no doubt Wallystock will be positive for both campus and the county, and the LGE hopes it can turn into a tradition.

"As a senior, I hope that this event inspires future events, whether it becomes an annual tradition or something new," said Green. "I hope events like this and Ralph's Mother continue to inspire future musicians to start bands and create opportunities that showcase student talent."

# News around the world

## Orban's historic defeat in Hungary and a sharp public clash between President Trump and Pope Leo XIV signal major global upheaval

JOSEPH PARADA '27  
STAFF WRITER

### Hungary

In a result that sent shockwaves across Europe and much of the world, last Sunday, Hungarian voters ended the 16-year reign of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, handing a sweeping victory to the opposition leader Péter Magyar and his Tisza Party in the country's parliamentary elections.

Turnout for the election reached its highest level since the fall of communism in the 1990s, with early counts indicating that Magyar's party may have secured a two-thirds supermajority in parliament. This would be enough to amend Hungary's constitution and reverse many of the changes Orbán made during his time as Prime Minister.

Magyar campaigned on fighting corruption and being a strong ally in the EU and NATO. His victory is expected to unlock

billions in EU aid that Hungary had withheld from Ukraine and could shift the balance of Europe significantly.

Orbán, a close ally of both President Donald Trump and President Vladimir Putin, conceded defeat just hours after the polls closed. He called it a "painful" result. Days earlier, Vice President JD Vance had made a visit to Hungary to help boost Orbán's chances at the ballot box.

The European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen called the election a win for Europe, saying, "Hungary has chosen Europe. A country reclaims its European path. The union grows stronger."

Former President Obama hailed the election as a "victory for democracy, not just in Europe, but around the world."

### Iran

President Trump announced Sunday that the United States Navy would begin blockading

the Strait of Hormuz after the failed peace negotiations in Pakistan collapsed without an agreement.

The blockade formally began last Monday morning. The talks, led by Vice President JD Vance over more than 21 hours, broke down after Iran's refusal to abandon its nuclear program.

Trump declared on his Truth Social platform that Iran was engaged in "world extortion" by controlling the Strait of Hormuz, which carries one-fifth of the global oil supply. U.S. Central Command clarified that the blockade would be enforced only against ships entering or leaving Iranian ports and would not interfere with commercial shipping to non-Iranian destinations. However, global markets reacted immediately, with oil prices now surging past \$100 a barrel. Iran's parliamentary speaker dismissed the move, warning Americans to prepare for rising gas prices.

The two-week ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran remains in effect, though its durability is now in serious doubt as each side accuses the other of violations. Trump also said the military would be clearing mines Iran had reportedly placed in the Strait, and warned that any Iranian forces who fired on U.S. ships would be dealt with harshly. Experts cautioned that the blockade could be interpreted by Tehran as an act of war.

### Pope Leo XIV and President Trump

A public clash erupted this weekend between President Trump and Pope Leo XIV, the first American-born pontiff, after the pope called for an



COURTESY OF ABC NEWS

Pope Leo XIV addresses journalists on a flight heading to Algiers on April 13.

end to the U.S. — Israel war with Iran and condemned what he described as a "delusion of omnipotence" driving global conflict.

Trump responded Sunday night with a lengthy series of posts on Truth Social, calling Leo "WEAK on crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy" and saying he did not want a pope who thought it acceptable for Iran to develop nuclear weapons. He also claimed, without any evidence, that the Vatican had selected an American pope specifically to manage Trump, writing, "if I wasn't in the White House, Leo wouldn't be in the Vatican."

Leo pushed back Monday from his papal plane en route to Alegria, the first stop on an 11-day African Tour. He said his calls for peace were rooted in the Gospel and that he had no intention of entering a political debate with the president.

Furthermore, the Pope told reporters he has "no fear of the Trump administration" and will

continue to speak out against the war. This confrontation with the pope drew condemnation from Catholic leaders across the U.S. and solidarity across party lines.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said it was "disheartened that the President chose to write such disparaging words about the Holy Father," further noting that the pope is not a political rival but the spiritual successor of St. Peter. This clash is a sensitive one, as Trump won 55% of Catholic voters in the 2024 election.

According to Pew data, 20% of adults in the U.S. call themselves Catholic, making the group a significant political force. Whether this dispute will damage Trump politically remains to be seen. While he retains strong support from conservative Catholics, the bishops' direct rebuke suggests the relationship between the White House and the Catholic Church is under real strain.



COURTESY OF REUTERS

Peter Magyar, leader of the opposition Tisza Party, speaks at a press conference a day after the parliamentary election in which Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán conceded defeat on April 13, in Budapest, Hungary.

## Allbirds incorporated: From shoes to AI

A seismic shift and its implications on the markets

TOBIN SEIPLE '29  
FEATURES EDITOR

What if Arni's suddenly became a computer company? Similarly ludicrous scenario occurred on Wednesday when Allbirds Incorporated, a shoe company based in San Francisco, California, announced it was pivoting to Artificial Intelligence (AI). Ironically, Business Insider dubbed Allbirds Inc. as 'the go-to shoemaker for finance and tech bros.' Now, Allbirds has decided to target their customer base on a more personal level, transitioning into the tech world. Not only did the company announce a switch to a new industry, they now have to change their entire business model.

Although some businesses have altered their services in pursuit of the AI race (like Chegg which transitioned to an AI learning platform), this is the first to entirely transition into an AI company. Before Allbirds announced that it would become an "AI compute and cloud services company," it had a rough trajectory. When

Allbirds had its initial public offering, it dealt with revenue loss and tried to expand too rapidly, resulting in various internal failures.

In 2024, the business lost 93 million dollars. Needless to say, share prices declined as investors pulled away, and its 4 billion-dollar valuation at peak declined. Allbirds announced that they would sell their shoe business for thirty-nine million dollars on March 31, and after raising 50 million dollars through an anonymous investor, it is shifting to AI.

The intriguing aspect of the entire ordeal, however, is the impact it had on the markets. As of 11:30 AM this past Wednesday, the stock was up over 800%. A similar event occurred late in 2017 when an iced tea company, Long Island Iced Tea, worth north of twenty million dollars decided it would pivot to blockchain technology. At the time, the stock rose by around 200% as blockchain technology was all the craze. In the same way, AI is currently a buzzword for investors and is indicative of an "AI

Bubble" of companies that are in the AI industry that gain value because of their investors, not actual profitable products.

"If this was a currently successful company pivoting into AI, it would have some bearing," said Isaac Grannis '26, a computer science major and economics minor. "Instead, they are likely hoping that the pivot will be attention grabbing enough to give them some liquidity to stay afloat. Becoming a GPU provider happens to be the tool that gets them the most eyeballs today."

So what ever came of the tea company? It miserably failed. Yes, this change will garner attention for a short while for Allbirds; however, it is unlikely the company will thrive from this point on (not without a major layoff and hiring spree). The whole situation mirrors the current AI race, and is also evidence of Gartner's Hype Cycle, a prediction for technological integration into the markets. The cycle has a point called the "peak of inflated expectations" where many businesses pivot and new businesses emerge. Allbirds may be one of the first, but it certainly won't be the last.

Furthermore, the money raised for Allbirds indicates a financial barrier to the much-talked-about "AI Bubble," where companies need capital to operate within the bubble. This could indicate a hot market for graphics processing units as owning large amounts of it is parallel to the internet race in the early 2000s when investors bought shares of companies due to their ownership of internet cables not their performance.

At the end of the day, while Allbirds pivot to AI has few impacts on markets right now, it could be an indicator that the AI race is encouraging markets to head in the direction of the early internet days, where a buzzword would drive up the value of a company more than revenue itself.

## Los Pequeños Gigantes bring music alive



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

Los Pequeños Gigantes perform at Pike Place Park on September 25, 2024.

DAGIM HUNTINGTON '29  
STAFF WRITER

Wabash College students and community members will have the opportunity to experience a vibrant and growing musical tradition on Sunday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m., as our very own Wabash mariachi performs in Salter Hall for Los Pequeños Gigantes. This concert is free and open to the public with no tickets required. If you can not wait until Sunday, the Mariachi will be performing at the music and arts festival called Wallystock which is set for April 17 at 4:15 p.m. on the mall. The Wabash mariachi ensemble includes both Crawfordsville residents and Wabash students, which reflects a blend of campus and community involvement.

The current director of the mariachi, Alejandro Cruz '27, wants to break the typical stereotypes of mariachi bands, not just with this performance, but all the ones coming after them.

"You should expect goosebumps," said Cruz. "For most people in the Midwest, their experience of mariachi bands are limited to Mexican restaurants. This will be something different. Half of our members aren't Latino, maybe a little under half of our mariachi aren't hispanic and so if they are able to connect with the music as musicians, then I'm 100% certain that anyone sitting in the audience is going to be able to connect to the music."

What began as an idea through recruitment from Tyler Wade '12 has since developed into a unique and meaningful

ensemble on campus. Cruz, who helped found the group, formed it as an accident.

"As I was moving in, one of my fraternity brothers was singing in perfect Spanish... and he turned out to play the trumpet," said Cruz. "Little by little I started adding more people, and it grew into an ensemble."

Hailing from south Texas, he emphasized the cultural and emotional significance of mariachi, particularly for immigrant communities.

"For some people, when they immigrate, that might be the last time they hear mariachi music live," said Cruz. "Being able to bring that aspect of home back to them is incredibly fulfilling."

Nathaniel Litts '27, while having a very different personal background, also shared the same perspectives of the mariachi band's position within the college.

"It's very lively... a range of emotion," said Litts. "The crowd gets to take part in it. Audience members can expect a mix of upbeat, energetic pieces alongside a few more emotional selections. Overall, the performers promise a lively and engaging concert that showcases the depth and versatility of mariachi music."

As Mariachi continues to expand in colleges and schools across the country, Wabash stands out as one of the early adopters in the Midwest. These student performances are also an opportunity to add to our "melting pot," build community and share unique early 20th century music.

## Running the Mini?



Since 2013, we've provided a hospitality tent for our Wabash runners at the Mini Marathon.

Stop by on May 2nd.

@wabashclubofindianapolis

## Michael Abbott '85, godfather of arts at Wabash, retires

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26  
MANAGING EDITOR

In a few short weeks, Wabash will say farewell to a pillar of the community. After 32 years of dedicated service, Professor of Theater and Music Department Chair Michael Abbott '85 will retire, having left an indelible mark on the fine arts at Wabash.

For decades, Abbott has been more than just a professor. His advocacy for the humanities has been tireless, and he blazed trails in several departments. More than his innovative contributions to the arts at Wabash however, Abbott will be remembered most fondly for his warm, effortless rapport with students and colleagues alike.

After graduating from Wabash and Columbia Film School, Abbott was hired back to teach theater at his alma mater in 1994, where he immediately sank his teeth into teaching. Returning to Wabash at a time when the theater department was expanding, Abbott was free of the pressure of replacing another professor.

"Wabash decided that they were going to add a third faculty member to each of the arts departments, so I wasn't replacing anyone," said Abbott. "I heard about the job, and I thought, 'I'm just going to apply and see what happens.' I came for the interview, and I felt at home in a way that made sense to me."

With an advanced fine arts degree from an Ivy League school and work experience in New York City, returning to work in rural Indiana may not be the obvious choice for most people. However, Abbott believes that living and working in Crawfordsville has been to the benefit of his creative career by harnessing the unique character of both Wabash and its students.

"Narratives with fathers and sons have kind of been the through-line of my creative career, I'm sure that's partly because my relationship with



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Michael Abbott '85 (right) directs Tom Oppmann '25 (left) on the set of "Something Rotten" on October 25, 2023.**

my father was very fraught," said Abbott. "So Wabash suddenly becomes a place where you can do that work. You've got students who are up for that, who bring their own story about men and masculinity. We wouldn't have used those terms back then, but that's kind of what we were doing."

If Abbott was just a theater professor, his creative and educational skills would speak for themselves. However, his broad curiosity and restless spirit pushed him to experiment inside and outside of the classroom. Abbott introduced film to Wabash's curriculum, spearheading the creation of the Film and Digital Media minor. Abbott also pioneered courses in playwriting and sound design, giving students agency in all stages of the creative process.

"In every class, he shows his students why their work is important," said Chris Board '27. "In the sound design class, he showed us how sound really made '1984' come alive."

Abbott has never limited his interests to just one art form. His long-

standing passion for video games in particular has made him stand out, exemplifying both his deep knowledge and approachable persona. Few professors have gaming controllers on their desks, and fewer still have co-taught game design courses with a "Skyrim" and "Fallout" developer or published a visionary blog on video games as art when no other academic was. Abbott has done both.

"As an employee, I'm most grateful to Wabash that they allow you to indulge your restlessness," said Abbott. "People with a curious mind get restless, you just get itchy. There was never a point when anyone at the College said, 'you shouldn't be doing that,' or 'that's not in your job description.' That's been huge for me, just to stay alive."

Abbott has ingrained himself in the Wabash community in more ways than one. Few know that Abbott met his wife, Department Chair and Professor of Rhetoric Jennifer Abbott, in the Fine Arts Center, the building where they both work. With a meet-

cute fit for a rom-com (they literally, physically bumped into each other as one left the men's restroom), Michael and Jennifer Abbott have quietly been one of the power couples of the Wabash faculty.

"In addition to being tall, dark and handsome, he has a terrific sense of humor," said Jennifer Abbott. "He has very low ego needs. He doesn't need recognition, so he's very at peace with himself. I think we're all drawn to that, I was certainly drawn to that."

As colleagues, the Abbotts have been able to observe each other shine professionally first-hand, a privilege not all couples can have.

"I've always admired his ability to really teach to the people," said Jennifer Abbott. "He's not just teaching content or teaching a class, he's always teaching to the people."

Some people, even those at the top of their field, often need to let their mind rest or avoid all things work in order to relax. Not so with Abbott, whose tireless curiosity never turns off.

"He has an insatiable thirst to learn," said Jennifer Abbott. "While I'm watching television and mellowing out at the end of the night, he is often in his study watching YouTube videos or he's playing with something to learn more."

Abbott's warmth is not limited to family or students, often recruiting people into the Wabash community.

"His friendship and belief in me is why I applied for this position," said Academic Administrative Coordinator to the Fine Arts Center Julia Phipps. "He's helped me gather more confidence about myself and my abilities, both in acting and in my career."

While the Theater and Music departments must move on without Abbott, his presence will be dearly missed by all who had the pleasure to work and learn with him.

"He's irreplaceable," said Phipps. "The new tenure track faculty in theater is not replacing [Abbott]. She is filling a hole that he has left, but she is not expected to be Michael because no one can be Michael."

Of course, retirement is far from the end of Abbott's creative career; rather, it's just the next opportunity for him to sink his teeth into. Instead of teaching, Abbott will fill his time with international travel, various creative projects, cooking and plenty of golf.

"He'll keep being industrious," said Jennifer Abbott. "There's going to be no stopping the man."

This is not to say that Abbott's retirement will not be a bittersweet moment for the accomplished professor. While his projects have been wide and varied, his greatest source of pride stems from his primary calling: that of an educator.

"I think teachers live through the outcomes of their students, that's the ultimate gratification," said Michael Abbott. "I can walk out of a room and feel like class went really well, but it's not the same kind of high as when a student delivers something, maybe years after, that astonishes you."

Wabash will be able to gather and send off Abbott with a farewell reception in the Fine Arts Center's Littell Lobby at 4:15 on Thursday, April 30. The opportunity to tribute Abbott's monumental contributions to Wabash College will be an opportunity to remind him that he will always be a part of the College community, even as an emeritus.

"With Wabash, I feel like I'm always in service of this mission that I believe in," said Michael Abbott. "It's the feeling that I signed on to something that needs my devotion and my attention. What I'll miss is just that feeling of being part of this beautiful thing that's bigger than me."

## Passenger of the past four years: Rylan Hendricks



PHOTO BY EVAN BONE '26

**Rylan Hendricks '26 in front of his shuttle, waiting for his passengers.**

EVAN BONE '26  
OPINION EDITOR

In day-to-day life at Wabash there are tons of jobs and tasks that need to be completed to keep our lovely college healthy and happy: the constant lawn mowing, the janitors working day and night, of course our lovely professors, library staff and the list goes on. But one student has been the standard of consistency and care in his seemingly mundane role: Rylan Hendricks '26 epitomizes the Wabash spirit as he has shown up week in and week out as

shuttle driver.

Hailing from Terre Haute, Indiana, Rylan Hendricks is a mathematics major, philosophy minor, resident of Seymour B and member of the wrestling team. He is often referred to as the "Shuttle Guy," and rightfully so. He has manned the shuttle all four years at Wabash, but some students may not know what the purpose of the shuttle is or why that one guy always sends out goofy emails about it. The shuttle service may not be known to some students, but to others, it is an essential part of surviving Wabash as the shuttle

may be the only way for students to make their way to the grocery store. And for the past four years the same guy has been that integral chauffeur in many Wabash men's lives.

"It was just random honestly. There was an email from Vic when I was a freshman that was like, 'anybody have a valid driver's license and looking for work?'" said Hendricks. "I was kind of nervous about being able to pay for school, so it sounded perfect and I signed up for it."

While Rylan's time as shuttle driver started on a whim, he has made the job and experience his own. In his weekly emails about the shuttle, Rylan includes personal news and his choice for "passenger of the week," a title bestowed upon the kindest of passengers: quite often the passenger of the week is the driver himself! The personal news section sees Hendricks tell tales from his weekends and chronicle his love for Patriots quarterback Drake Maye; recently he has shared details of his wedding planning.

"I have just really enjoyed putting myself out there. My roommates actually talked me into putting more fun stuff in the emails," said Hendricks. "It made me feel like I was a part of campus. Some people are like 'oh you're the shuttle guy' and I am just like 'yeah, I am,' and it's just a cool experience be-

cause I get to talk to new people a lot and it opened up Wabash for me."

Rylan's inclusion of his personal life in his emails often led to fun and positive interactions. He described how shuttle passengers brought up stories from his emails leading to insightful and fun conversations. He even described the encounters he has with passengers as therapeutic at times.

As the shuttle driver, Rylan has provided Wabash with a much needed service. Students coming from across the United States, other countries or those who don't have a car may need the shuttle service for snacks, weekend meals, laundry detergent and more. Rylan recognized the work he does as a service, but, surprisingly, he saw his passengers as more so providing a service to him.

"I'm more thankful to [passengers] for getting in than I am thankful to myself for providing a service," said Hendricks. "I get someone to talk to and to be with a little longer, so most of the time I am thinking about how they're helping me; but every once in a while, it is nice to think that I am providing an opportunity that most people wouldn't have otherwise."

On top of his shuttle service, Rylan also makes the trek up to the printers in Lafayette to pick up *The Bachelor*. We are incredibly thankful to Rylan for

his service and his part in getting *The Bachelor* to campus every week. Rylan described that journey up to Lafayette as calming and meditative.

"I originally recruited for this position with the email subject line 'Got Driver's License? Want Money?' It will take a lot more than those two things to fill Rylan's shoes," said Coordinator of Student Success Vic Lindsay. "He's created a tradition and a legacy that I hope will last a long time. Being the campus driver will hold a new level of reverence after this. We're still looking for that next person, and the job is listed on Handshake. If someone out there wants to carry the torch, holler."

Rylan's time as the "shuttle guy" is coming to an end soon as he graduates in May. It is up to the returning, or new, Wabash students to take up that important mantle of shuttle driver. Some jobs just need getting done. But Rylan's attitude toward his job shows that there is so much more to be gained from our work than a paycheck and a completed task. His time as shuttle driver opened up Wabash for Rylan. Being the shuttle driver was a way of connecting with this community and brotherhood we all love. Rylan found tender moments of connection in the unlikeliest of places: the sleek, white Wabash shuttle.

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

### David Leal '26: Activism through communication



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**David Leal '26 urges Wabash men to "be the assassin" during his Chapel Talk on October 17, 2024.**

BRADY REEVES '29  
STAFF WRITER

As David Leal '26 entered Wabash College, neither he nor the rest of the campus knew how much he would influence them as well as the greater city of Crawfordsville. He has impacted every co-curricular he joined. He is a meaningful contributor to 'shOUT, the Sphinx Club, the Public Health Organization, the Global Health Initiative, the Latino Community Center (LCC), Kappa Sigma and the Wabash Democrat Club.

When Leal joined the Kappa Sigma fraternity, he noticed various issues within the house including an alienating culture and exclusionary social norms. However, he made it his goal to challenge those norms and was able to impact both the culture of the house and its reputation.

"I began to challenge these cultural norms," said Leal. "I made it one of my biggest goals to make sure that our house was a safe space and to build a reputation to be known as the 'Diversity House' to the future members and all of campus."

Leal has followed through with this plan by increasing the number of Kappa Sigma 'shOUT members

from one to six, with three members actively participating in 'shOUT executive positions. He has encouraged many of the freshmen and brothers of the house to become more involved all around campus.

One of his best qualities as a president was his ability to communicate with all of the members of his house. He has implemented these skills across campus. He has emphasized the need for communication in every leadership role that he has served in at Wabash.

"In my first two years, I wasn't really outspoken because I didn't feel like I could be, but now I have learned of my voice and how valuable it is," said Leal. "Because of that I don't want anyone else to not find their voice's value too."

Outside of his time at Kappa Sigma, he has built a large reputation in both the Sphinx club and 'shOUT. These have become some of his proudest achievements outside of his house.

"David Leal has done an excellent job as the 'shOUT president in putting a spotlight on 'shOUT," said Javion Montgomery '27. "I know in the past it has been a little difficult to have queer representation on campus, but he has done a really good job at elevating those voices."

His time in 'shOUT has improved the inclusivity of the student body and he has been working to build brotherhood by building more of a safe space for queer people and minorities all across campus. Leal has also cultivated communication in La Alianza.

"During my Chapel Talk, I called out the support the queer community receives and, broadly speaking, the support minority groups receive," said Leal. "While I emphasized that all support is amazing, there are different levels of said support."

Leal's work in the LCC does not go unnoticed. Leal spends his Wednesdays at the Conversation Tables

hosted by the LCC. He helps in the Spanish to English portion of Conversation Tables. He has worked with many members of the community to help those who struggle with English learn how to structure sentences.

"Beyond the classroom, David's presence in the Latino Community Center reflects his desire to connect," said Director of Latino Partnerships and Dean of the College's Office Julio Enriquez-Ornelas '08. "As a Senior Community Scholar, he helps lead initiatives that connect Wabash College with Latine families in Crawfordsville and the surrounding region."

Leal's connection with campus staff makes his Wabash story complete. His time with faculty has been his favorite part of Wabash College. The staff has always been there to support him and there are many stories that he has with those who have had the pleasure of shaping him.

"One of the most impactful faculty members is [Visiting Assistant Professor of History Aiala Levy], who has become one of my biggest mentors at Wabash and introduced me to Latine research, in which I examined Latine belonging in higher education through oral history interviews," said Leal. "Before this, I was premed, but after she allowed me to become a principal investigator on my work, it impacted the reason why I wanted to get my PhD."

When Leal graduates, he will pursue a masters degree in social sciences and Latin American studies at the University of Chicago. He will continue to spread his knowledge to spend time exploring immigration, trauma and belonging as a sociologist.

Leal's time at Wabash left a large impression on those who have been here to witness his impact His work throughout 'shOUT, Kappa Sigma and the LCC are memorable. He entered Wabash with a purpose and executed it well, leaving a lasting change.

## Fraternity day recap



PHOTO BY DANIEL TKACHUK '29

**Fraternity day attendees pose outside the Allen Center on April 12.**

JERRION ROSE '29  
STAFF WRITER

Over 60% of Wabash students are in a fraternity on campus. With fraternity involvement being a core of Wabash, for the past 13 years the Interfraternity Council (IFC) has hosted Fraternity Day to bring together students and alumni to recognize the impact fraternities have on campus. This past Sunday, IFC President Kyle Foster '27 and Dean of Students Scott Brown organized a morning dedicated to highlighting the contributions of each fraternity this past Sunday.

"It is a great honor to be able to represent those that are currently in fraternities and those who have come before," said Foster. "The Greek system is a long standing tradition that has given me a lot, and I hope I have done [Fraternity Day] well."

Among those present were active members from the 10 national fraternities, alumni and other College representatives.

"Fraternity Day is one of the few times during the year fraternities can learn from triumphs and mistakes," said President of Tau Kappa Epsilon, Henry Chilcoat '27. "We can celebrate a model of living that only Wabash offers."

As far as awards, Phi Gamma Delta's (Fiji) Dan Azar '18 received the "Fiji Alum Advisor of the Year" award. Azar is the Purple Legionnaire for the Psi Chapter and continues to work passionately for the Fiji brotherhood.

"I am elated for Dr. Dan Azar," said Fiji President Owen Smith '27. "He is very deserving of this award and is dedicated to helping our fraternity."

Associate Professor and Director of the Stephenson Institute for Classical Liberalism Daniel D'Amico won "Faculty Advisor of the Year" for his oversight at Phi Kappa Psi.

The Sigma Chi house was awarded the "Most Improved" award for their increased rank among the national fraternity and their effort to expand in community service.

"We are very proud and grateful for the distinction," said Sigma Chi President Jackson Gilbert '28. "It is true that our fraternity has undergone tremendous improvement in the past year, and it was great to be vindicated for this process."

The "Freshman Impact" award was given to both the Lambda Chi and Kappa Sigma freshmen for their hard work at the College. Additionally, Theta Delta Chi (TDX) received multiple awards, including "Philanthropy" and "Senior Class Impact." Carter Bertsch '26, also a brother of TDX, won the "Senior of the Year" award.

"Fraternity Day is important to TDX because it's the best way for us and other fraternities to enjoy time together," said TDX President Ethan Cook '27.

Last but not least, former President of Lambda Chi Alpha Silvio Radice '26 was the recipient of "Fraternity President of the Year."

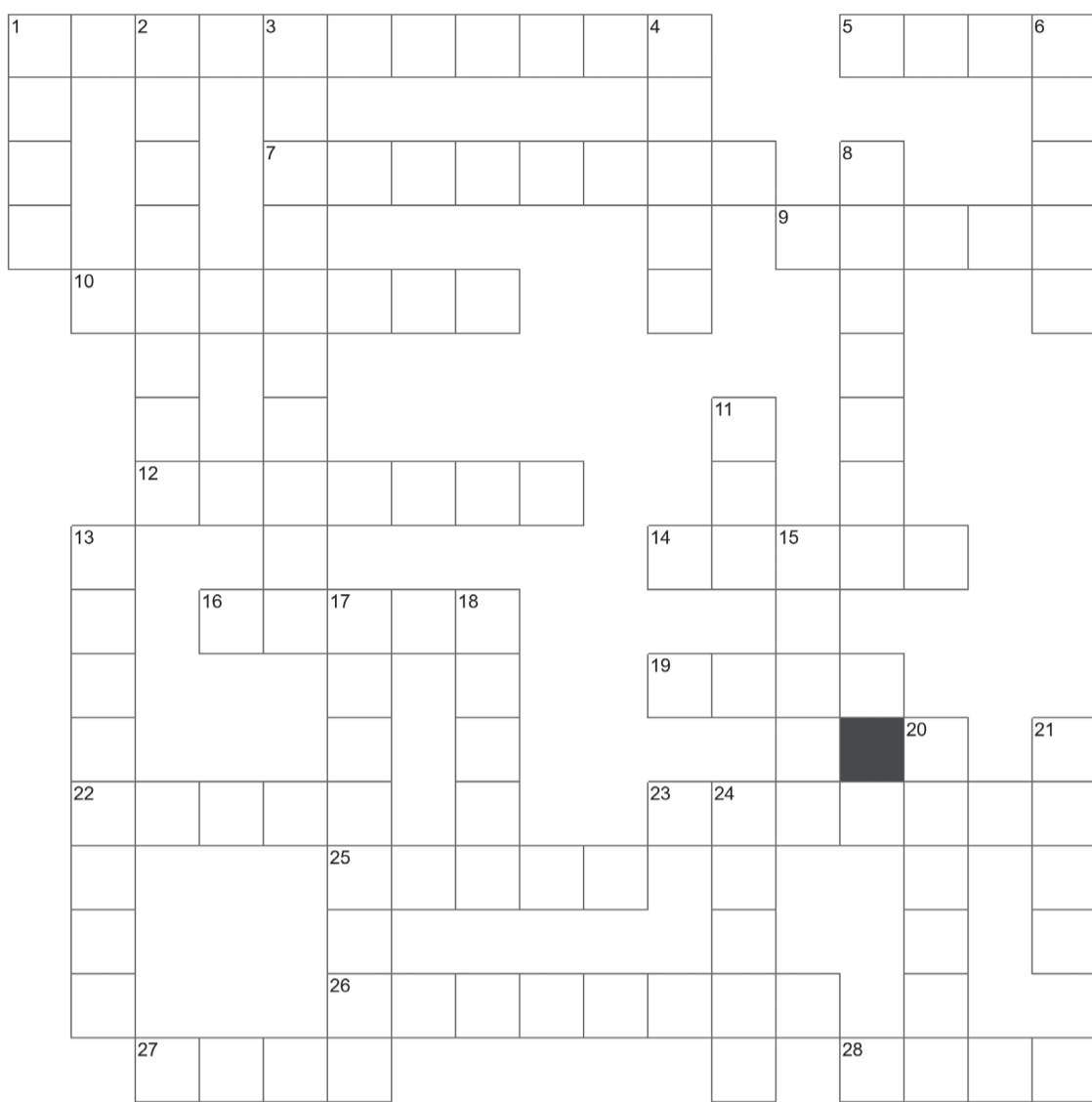
"I am proud of how all fraternities across campus are continually improving along with holding onto tradition," said Foster. "I believe the event provides a lot of information and insight into how fraternities can improve from one another in the future."

# 'Coffee'

Crossword by Tanner Quackenbush '26

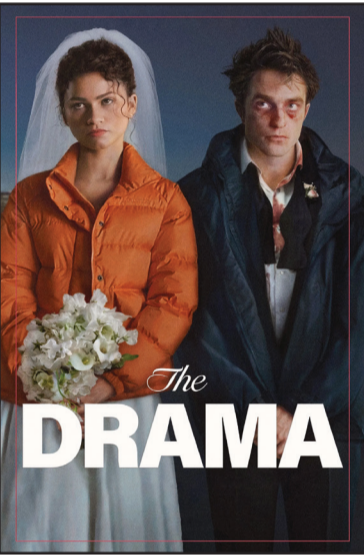
- Across**
- Also known as a cafetière, or coffee plunger
  - Texture and thickness of coffee
  - Manual brewing method using boiling water over grounds
  - Espresso with steamed milk and foam
  - Stronger coffee bean, compared to Arabica
  - Bright, tart taste
  - Coffee without stimulant
  - Chocolate-flavored coffee drink
  - Chilled coffee drink
  - Mix of different coffee origins
  - Popular coffee bean from Ethiopia
  - Seeds from the Coffea plant
  - Concentrated coffee shot, basis for many drinks
  - Action of making coffee
  - Common brewing method, using a machine

- Down**
- Layer on top of milk-based coffee
  - Believed origin of coffee
  - Equal parts espresso, milk, and foam
  - Used to heat milk for lattes
  - Early coffee cultivation region
  - Skilled coffee maker
  - Informal name for coffee
  - On campus coffee shop
  - Golden foam on a fresh espresso shot
  - Coffee steeped in cool water for hours
  - Fragrance of brewed coffee
  - Allows the liquid coffee to flow through, but traps the grounds
  - Slang term for coffee
  - Process of heating beans to develop flavor



Scan for answers!

## 'The Drama' is far from being a misnomer



COURTESY OF TMDB

NOAH MINTIE '29  
FEATURES EDITOR

Come one, come all! To any who seek to pass out from an overdose of precisely-engineered secondhand embarrassment, might I recommend Kristoffer Borgli's latest film. It is aptly named "The Drama," and it eases you into a fluffy romcom before grabbing you by the throat and dragging you through hell onscreen. This description may sound dramatic, but again, so is the film.

"The Drama" follows fiances Emma (Zendaya) and Charlie (Robert Patten-

son) one week out from their marriage, when their picturesque relationship is complicated tenfold by one drunken conversation. Much like the characters, this plot sounds simple yet holds a sinister and raw secret: a plotpoint as conceptually bizarre as it is realistically executed. Even green-lighting a script that uses this pervasive real-world issue as a plot point feels like walking on eggshells while wearing clogs. However, "The Drama" explores a generally undepicted angle of this issue.

The character most tied to this amorphous plotpoint is Emma, who Zendaya brings to life in her greatest role since 2024's "Challengers." This character once slid into a dangerous place, but due to a benign yet emotional twist of fate, she found her way back to a happy life. Her attempts to reclaim normalcy after the resurfacing of her past are compelling, yet unsuccessful. Her shame is an unstoppable force pitted against an immobile object: Charlie's rumination.

And so the downward spiral begins. One of the best aspects of the script is its set-up and payoff. "The Drama" perfectly stacks its house of cards before toppling it right

down, leaving the audience stunned and powerless spectators at the mercy of the screen. While the straightforward ups and downs work well at first, the film does slip into predictability a bit in the middle and at the very end. The midsection of the film also gets to be a little thematically redundant, forgetting that downward spirals must go down and not just around in circles. These incidents were not dealbreakers, but they also bound the script to convention, an ill-fitting fate for an otherwise subversive movie.

Speaking of subversive elements, "The Drama" is incredibly edited. In fact, the maximalist rhythm feels

like a modern spin on the filmmaking of the French New Wave. That sentence may draw scoffs from aficionados, but "The Drama" feels stylistically distinct from most of modern Hollywood and its genre. The choice to emphasize the camera's presence compounds the anxiety-inducing script. Hats off to Borgli and his co-editor Joshua Raymond Lee.

The visual style is distinct and dynamic throughout the film, but the third act in particular cranks it up to eleven. The writing, acting and directing come together to incite spectacular calamity, with a climax more gripping than any action sequence that I

have seen all year. Like most tragedies, it is both devastating and preventable, yet thematically necessary.

I expect that the public reaction to "The Drama" will be divided and contentious, a fair reaction to a movie that fictionalizes yet fosters political discourse about the modern world. Much like another A24 film from last year, "Eddington," "The Drama" ought to be thoroughly explored and scrutinized, or else some might take the wrong message away from it. That said, movies that encourage the audience to grapple with complexity are integral to the media landscape, so long as they are tastefully executed.

I doubt that "The Drama" has secured its place in cinematic history. It is not the kind of film to become an awards darling, a fan-favorite, a classic or a film-school compendium. That said, sitting in an empty theater and letting this film's energy wash over me was an unforgettable experience. If you can stomach the intensity and embrace the embarrassment, this is one screening you will not want to miss.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
4/5 WALLYS**



COURTESY OF TMDB

## Jazz Concert brings Salter Hall to life

PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27



## BACHELOR

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

X: @bachelorwabash  
IG: @bachelorwabash

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Elijah Wetzel • ejwetzel27@wabash.edu

### MANAGING EDITOR

Nathan Ellenberger • nellenb26@wabash.edu

### NEWS EDITOR

Owen Vermeulen • ohvermeu28@wabash.edu

### FEATURES EDITORS

Noah Mintie • njmintie29@wabash.edu

Tobin Seiple • tseiple29@wabash.edu

### OPINION EDITOR

Evan Bone • ecbone26@wabash.edu

### SPORTS EDITOR

Sean Bledsoe • smbledso26@wabash.edu

### PHOTO EDITOR

Will Duncan • wjduncan27@wabash.edu

### ONLINE EDITOR

Paul Hawksworth • pdhawksw28@wabash.edu

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

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

## The Catholic Church will remain



Quinn Sweeney '27

President of the  
Newman Center

Reply to this opinion at  
qpsweene27@wabash.edu

Many of us have already seen the headlines. President Donald Trump called out Pope Leo XIV on social media for being “weak on crime” and “terrible for foreign policy.” He followed it up with an AI-generated image of himself portrayed as Christ, laying his hands on a hospitalized man, flanked by an American flag, fighter jets and a couple of bald eagles. Interesting, to say the least.

The media has been nowhere near quiet about these events as usual. Many people are defining these events as a disaster for the Trump presidency and a severe rupture between Catholic Americans and the Republican Party. I believe this is overblown, but I also think we need to be honest about what actually happened.

I want to start by clearly stating where I stand: I voted for Donald Trump. I did so because, as for the issues that directly touch my Catholic faith — the protection of unborn children, marriage laws, “gender affirming” care, religious freedom and the dignity of the American family — the current Republican Party is far closer to Church teaching than that of the left. My Catholic values and beliefs come before my political ones, and it was my Catholic identity that directed my vote.

With that said, what the president has stated and done this week was clearly not a good look. Calling the Holy Father “weak” and “terrible” would be inappropriate coming from a Catholic, let alone the President of the United States. As for the AI-generated image, it was an act of poor judgment at best and absolute blasphemy at worst. As we know, Trump has been known to exaggerate, fire off wild posts and joke online. And maybe it was a joke. Nonetheless, there is a distinct difference between what a man says and what the Church teaches. It is crucial to distinguish between the two.

Now, what were the roots of Trump’s words towards the Holy Father? Pope Leo XIV has continued to speak out against the war in Iran. He has been consistently clear as he has called for civil dialogue, condemned the violence against civilians and pushed for a complete ceasefire.

These are the words from a man doing what the Church asks of him: proclaiming the Gospel and the dignity of every human being. We all, including President Trump, should take his words seriously and not disregard them just because they are politically inconvenient.

Applying Church morals and principles to the conduct of war is not a simple task. Church teaching acknowledges that there are some circumstances in which war or armed conflict is morally permissible. The Catechism of the Catholic Church does not demand that all of us be pacifists. Rather, it demands prudential judgement and just cause. We, as ordinary Catholics and Americans, do not have access to the complete United States intelligence, and do not fully know the capabilities of Iran, its intentions or the reasoning behind the decisions to go to war. History has shown us that a Pope’s call to peace, no matter how sincere and rooted in the Gospel, does not always take into account the geopolitical realities that our government faces. This is absolutely not a criticism of Pope Leo XIV, but an acknowledgement that the Church and state have two distinct realms of authority.

It is a common misconception that Catholics are required to believe every word that the Holy Father says. The Pope is only infallible when he is defining a doctrine that concerns faith or morality that is to be held by the entirety of the church or *ex cathedra*. With that said, we do not have to agree with the Pope on everything, especially if he is discussing matters outside of faith and morality, much less a political opinion. There is a difference between humble reverence, respect and blind agreement.

The Church is not a governing body. It does not have the power to rule countries or weigh classified intelligence. Her authority is moral and spiritual, with power not from this world, but from the Kingdom of Heaven. When Pope Leo XIV speaks, he speaks from that same authority, and it deserves our respect and reverence. When our president speaks, he speaks from a worldly authority. An authority that is answerable to the American people.

To conclude, I discovered a quote on Instagram earlier this week that has stuck with me, which I leave you with, “The Vicar of Christ is not to be intimidated. His authority does not come from this world, and the world cannot take it away. Every empire that has tried to silence the Church has fallen, yet the Catholic Church remains.”

## HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

### YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BBQ THE BUILDING...

*Lo-Five to the Creekside Lodge in Crawfordsville for catching on fire shortly after an ownership change. Looks like Beta '23 wanted to relive the glory days.*

### THE GUYS THAT LIVE BELOW COLLEGE HALL

*Hi-Five to Theta Delta Chi for taking home numerous awards at Fraternity Day. They may not have a chef, but they definitely cooked this year.*

### IT AIN'T EASY BEIN' GREEN

*Hi-Five to all our Rhynies, who've traded in their greys for stripes. We can all pat our new Sphinxsters on the back, but remember to be gentle with the former Ryans that are sulking in jealousy.*

### IT'S A CELEBRATION!

*Hi-Five to Rory McIlroy for going back-to-back at the Masters. Tiger Woods was the favorite on Kalshi to be the first one popping champagne after that one.*

### LOVERS' SPAT

*Lo-Five to Vice President JD Vance for announcing the peace deal with Iran was unsuccessful after a 21-hour negotiation. If we wanted to waste hours arguing just to accomplish nothing, we could've just sent my ex-girlfriend.*

## The story of Wallystock



Jonathan  
Parackattu '28

Reply to this opinion at  
jjparack28@wabash.edu

Finally, Wirtz came up with Wallystock, and so it was.

From there, they got to work planning. The idea of what Wallystock would offer expanded. The three reached out to artist Drake Green '28 who connected them with the art department to organize a showcase of what students were working. Carson discussed having an open mic portion with Associate Professor of English Derek Mong, Bertsch reached out to fellow performers Jeremiah Clayton '26 and Alejandro Cruz '27 of Mariachi fame to discuss their involvement in the event, and Green practiced free bird on his guitar. More and more people began to latch on to the potential this event held. Campus Events Coordinator Leann Parrish provided a grant, TDX funded food and Coordinator of Student Success Vic Lindsay provided much needed logistical support.

Those attending the event can expect to get a full showcase of what fine arts at Wabash have to offer along with some chicken and waffles. This is a chance for Wabash students and faculty to come together, building brotherhood while also experiencing a unique side of campus. Additionally, through the 50/50 raffle, this event will provide support to the Montgomery County community foundation which provides crucial grants to organizations within Crawfordsville.

On the Deacon and the LGE side, we have gathered together songs we feel best reflect the at times unserious yet high energy vibes that viewers can expect from us. Our performance will bring together rock and country classics along with a few songs I doubt many have heard.

## Show up early: Talk to people



Brady Largent '26

Reply to this opinion at  
bclargent26@wabash.edu

During my time at Wabash, I have shown up to almost everything a little early. While I wait for my class or meeting to start, I chat with the people around me. Whether it's an academic coordinator or student, I gain another connection. Through this, I have met many people on campus that I otherwise would have never spoken to. I have never taken a class with Associate Professor of Religion David Blix '70, nor have I taken a religion course, but I have spoken with him enough that I feel comfortable asking questions or seeking opportunities from him. This story is not unique and, I believe, holds the essence of Wabash. We do not have such a high alumni ranking for nothing. We build connections and nurture ourselves with the opportunities that surround us. Growth at Wabash comes from intentionally engaging with people

and opportunities, especially the small, everyday moments. That's why Wabash is defined as a place for change


You come onto campus as a freshman with the daunting task of completing the Wabash curriculum and leave an entirely different, and hopefully better, person. However, you only take in change if you choose to. One sign that you spent your time at Wabash well is if you were able to adapt, change and keep changing. Here you are given opportunities to grow academically and personally, and I say take every single one. Talk to the people you would never talk to. Take the class that is unrelated to your major or minor. Show up early and make the connections. I really enjoy the analogy of impulse buying for Wabash students. If you see something that is remotely interesting to you, take it. Maybe the title of a class makes you ask a question or maybe a club is doing something you think is fun. All these little things are your queue to take in the change.

In conclusion, use this time to learn more about the people around you, especially those who you disagree with. The world around us is made up of people, not necessarily the things we study. Sometimes, the biggest opportunities and connections come out of you introducing yourself to a random person.



PHOTO BY JEREMIAH RUNGE '29

Brady Largent '26 fist pumps while singing “Old Wabash” during a Glee Club concert on March 3 in Salter Hall.



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# My thoughts on Jaden Ivey as a gay Christian



Sean Bledsoe '26

Sports Editor

Reply to this opinion at [sbledso26@wabash.edu](mailto:sbledso26@wabash.edu)

I remember where I was when the news about Jaden Ivey broke. I was sitting on the MXI porch with my brother Hayden Lewter '26, and we both got the notification from ESPN saying that Ivey had been released from the Chicago Bulls due to his anti-LGTBQ+ comments. We soon looked up some of the videos of what Ivey said, and when listening to his statements, it made me think about the life that I live as a gay Christian and some of the criticism I receive within the religious community.

I feel like a lot of people either praise or vehemently disagree with what Ivey said, and I feel like most people would assume that I object to his comments (since I am a gay man) and agree that he should have been released from the Bulls. In my eyes, there are two sides to this.

The first side is that Ivey has the freedom to say what he believes, and I agree that he was in the right in that sense. Everyone is allowed to have their thoughts and beliefs, and what I respect about Ivey is his passion to speak out about them. While I may not necessarily agree with the substance of what he said, I support him in the fact that he freely spoke his mind — which is exactly what we need to have a healthy dialogue, especially in this country.

The second side of this, though, is the question of if he should have lost his roster spot with the Bulls. There are plenty of things to unpack with this, but I'm

going to simplify this right off the bat — Jaden Ivey got fired and lost his job. If someone at any other company said the same things he did, that person would have been fired as well. In today's world, if you say something that could be harmful towards another person or group of people — including racist, homophobic, misogynistic or any other forms of derogatory comments — it is grounds for termination. Now some people may say that he didn't say those things at the workplace, which is a valid point, but the issue is the platform that Jaden Ivey has as a professional athlete. Whenever he posts something to his social media pages, he is talking to a large audience that consists of his organization, other people working across the NBA and, most importantly, the fans of the NBA. This means that he is essentially talking to everyone involved with his workplace. He is making comments that could make queer individuals feel threatened or unwelcomed, going against the brand of the Bulls and the NBA, which aims to make everyone feel included into the game of basketball. So it is safe to say that the Bulls were well within their rights to let Ivey go, and they did.

But the entire situation puts someone like me in a peculiar situation. When the news broke, brother Lewter asked me how Ivey's remarks made me feel as someone who identifies as a gay Christian. It's a touchy subject, and it's something that I have to deal with rather often, both internally and externally.

I first want to bring up one of the things Ivey said. In an Instagram Live session, he said, "I'm against what is contrary to the word of God...Man is not supposed to lie with a man and a woman is not supposed to lie with a woman."

The main scripture of the Bible that concerns this statement is Leviticus 18:22, which reads (according to the New International Version), "Do not have

sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable."

This verse has plagued me as someone who believes in the word of God, but throughout the years, I have learned a handful of things, especially from BKT Assistant Professor of Religion Warren Campbell, that validate and empower me as a gay Christian.

My first reminder is that Leviticus is a part of the Old Testament and is highly concerned with regulating ritual impurity, which is not technically sinful but a ritual status. Leviticus never regulates female sexual relationships because, to be frank, there is no semen — meaning there is bodily fluid defilement. The central concern is about minimizing ritual impurity and maintaining a place for the Israelite God. However one conceptualizes the contemporary relevance of Leviticus for modern Christian, they must also wrestle deeply with Biblical law governing slavery and the assumption that marriage is polygamous [Levirate marriage].

My second reminder is that even with the "newer" scriptures, the translations are inaccurate in terms of what they deem to be homosexuality. For centuries, scholars could not agree on how to best translate Paul's terms in 1 Corinthians 6:12–20, namely *arsenokoitai* and *mala-koi*. Many contemporary scholars, who are both Christian and not Christian, suggest that what is being flagged here is the ancient world around prostitution, particularly concerning the enslaved. It's important to know that the word "homosexuality" was first introduced into the Bible in 1946 in the Revised Standard Version.

The third reminder is that people will weaponize the Bible by cherry picking and using scriptures like Leviticus 18:22, Romans 1 and 1 Corinthians 6 without attending to the complex historical and social conditions surrounding these

passages (like slavery, economy, ritual purity and polygamy). Many readers strategically avoid context in this topic while availing themselves of context on a list of other issues in the Bible like slavery. It's a very hypocritical thing to do, especially in Jaden Ivey's situation.

This leads me to my fourth reminder: Matthew 22:39. We are all called to "Love your neighbor as yourself." You often hear the phrase, "Love the sinner, hate the sin," but for gay Christians this simply will not work. The ancient world does not have a category of sexual "orientation," and so technically, the Bible is not able to talk about "homosexuality." Gay Christians are making a claim about their "orientation" and their lived experiences, and other Christians have to decide whether the Bible even talks about "homosexuality" and if they believe their Christian brother's claim about who they are. At the very least, loving your neighbor as yourself should include a willingness to listen to that claim.

My fifth and final reminder is that God does not make mistakes. Psalm 18:30 reads, "As for God, his way is perfect: the Lord's word is flawless; he shields all who take refuge in him." On top of this, Psalm 139:13–14 says, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

In this Wabash community, I know that I have brothers that are queer, closeted and Christian. I hope these five reminders can help you realize that you are not alone in your battle. God loves you for who you are. Please know that nobody is perfect, so if anyone is judging you, they are the ones to be reminded that they shouldn't be judging at the end of the day.

# Reflecting on ten weeks of campus conversations



Chayce Howell '27

Reply to this opinion at [cjhowell27@wabash.edu](mailto:cjhowell27@wabash.edu)

**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. This week's column, rather than discuss new issues, reflects on the semester of facilitated discussions.**

We observed throughout the semester there is a distance between a desire to share an opinion, thought or idea and a willingness to share with others. We expected these conversations to be opportunities for participants to share and explore within the greater Wabash community but instead found cautious explanations and implied agreement in an attempt to avoid conflict. This left us with feelings of concern because if we wouldn't talk about relevant but distant issues, then how might we talk about issues much closer to home. But let's share a bit about

how we arrived at that concern.

As the semester wraps up, we wanted to offer a final piece that pulls these observations together across all ten of the conversations held this semester. Common themes emerged throughout the course of these conversations, providing insight into how students engage, gather knowledge and share their views. To take you behind the scenes, I will start by giving some background on how these events and pieces came together.

First was the planning for the events. Our goal was to reduce selection bias as best we could. We contacted Institutional Research for a weekly list of 20 students, five from each class year and sent invites out to them. We sent at least three emails each week to recruit participants from that week's list with the promise of lunch. Despite these efforts, we did not receive many responses. On average events had a 15% response rate. While formally and informally students talk about the motivating power of Buffalo Wild Wings and engaged conversation, they did not seem to be real motivating factors. Tuesdays at noon is also a coveted time slot across campus with many opportunities for lunch, professional development, intellectual curiosity or time to get in a workout.

We choose topics based on recent events that would likely be relevant for the week of publication. We sometimes missed the mark, and other weeks we felt it was timelier. If nothing stood out on a given week, we shifted to broader issues that had been ongoing throughout the month or year. Within these conversations many times, participants hesitated to answer

questions, often citing a lack of knowledge about the topic at hand. While we aimed for open conversation where hot takes and half formed ideas would be welcome, there was still a block from creating that space. Whether the discussion centered on immigration, international conflict or sports scandal, students reported not feeling as informed as they wished.

Most information participants shared came from social media. Participants noted that misinformation is common on these platforms and as a result often expressed uncertainty about whether they could trust what they were seeing. People were cynical about being informed, perceiving news as biased at best and intentionally misleading at worst.

We were also surprised by the lack of disagreement among participants. Often, students simply did not disagree. Participants rarely challenged one another, likely due to both the low stakes of the conversation and their lack of familiarity with each other. It could be that the low stakes of the conversation reduced participants' incentive to engage in disagreement. At the same time, being paired with peers they did not know well may have further limited their willingness to push back, as the absence of both established relationships and meaningful stakes diminished the conditions that typically support open disagreement.

When conversations lack differing perspectives, it becomes harder to capture the full range of opinion. Combined with lower turnout, this limited the depth of the discussions. Another pattern we observed was that the first person to respond to a

question often set the tone for the rest of the conversation. Others tended to follow that initial response rather than offer a different perspective. It often felt like participants were just going along with the group to avoid conflict.

Wabash men hold themselves to a certain standard, one that emphasizes critical thinking. These conversations were designed to provide a space where students could express their opinions, engage with current events and connect with others in a low-pressure setting. Sharing a meal with a group of randomly selected peers should have been an opportunity to engage more deeply with ideas and perspectives. But we failed to fully realize that vision.

The intention behind this series was simple. Students would come to discuss issues, much like they might at any lunch table across campus, and those conversations would then be reflected in a *Bachelor* piece as a general pulse of what students were grappling with about big current events. For us, it raised concern of a larger issue facing everyone. If people are not willing to share their perspectives in a space designed for this it raises the question of when they will. It has been increasingly difficult to have the tough conversations about the pathways to resolving issues within the United States and globally. And it feels people are less willing to share space with others and have genuine conversation. If that is the case, who gets to decide the solutions we take forward?

# Schooling in the way of our education



Evan Rauwolf '28

Reply to this opinion at [ecrauwolf28@wabash.edu](mailto:ecrauwolf28@wabash.edu)

Have you been falling behind in your classes? Are your semester grades crashing and burning? Do you feel like you're rushing out of time to complete the late work you've been piling up all semester? If so, you might be in luck. Spoiler alert, though. I won't be writing about how it benefits you to be lazy, and I definitely won't be writing about how it benefits you to avoid challenging yourself. Instead, I want to provide a perspective that I've experienced this last weekend and hope to experience strongly still in the future. Last Friday and Saturday, I got to attend the Indiana Collegiate Mathematics Conference (ICMC) at Purdue University Fort Wayne. I'll skip talking about the wonderful math and the people working on it because I'm aware that most people will find it incredibly boring. However, I will talk about a refreshing takeaway that I could've gotten only from putting off my homework and taking the rest that comes from feeling the crash and burn. This takeaway comes from the perspective that "you should never let schooling get in the way of your education."

For the moment, let us remove our preconceived notions of "college" and "education." Pretend that you are not a student at Wabash College, but are an alien from a faraway planet, learning about the purpose of human life. You want to know what humans do; how they think, how they interact with other humans and how they love. In the next chapter of your study of the human race, you want to figure out what a "university" is and what all the hype is about. You pick some university out of a hat and visit, hoping to observe humans in this new habitat. You find that students are spending exorbitant amounts of money to practice a skillset that isn't particularly guaranteed to make them money, all the while completing their required work completely by themselves. Ask yourself, "Does this situation sound familiar?"

At the ICMC, I learned a valuable lesson that's going to help me get through the next few weeks. I heard a long time ago that I "should never let schooling get in the way of my education," but until now, I haven't had a solid grasp as to why. As I attended three hour-long talks, spent another two hours competing against other colleges and conversed with professors from different walks of life, I found that I was being educated at a rate far higher than I was at Wabash. I was delving into interesting conversations about topics in philosophy, history and science. I was challenging my ability to solve problems and think creatively by students and professors from a wide range of skill levels. I had many complex

conversations with friends and faculty at no expense to my enjoyment. I came away from the weekend with a refreshed sense of purpose, and with a huge, important realization. I realized that schooling often gets in the way of education because of how isolated and lonely it is.

If you are consistently spending too much time on homework, you can feel how intense and frustrating it can be. What adds insult to injury is that most of your required work cannot be done by anyone else. There is no one coming to save you, and no one is going to do your work so you can get your degree and move on to better things. I'd argue that because of this loneliness, the pressure and stress of Wabash is much more than it needs to be. This is why people on YikYak are always complaining about the lack of parties or reaching out because they've reached their tipping point. Although it's true that Wabash is designed to challenge you, a man's struggle should not be directionless by design. If your purpose at Wabash is to exclusively take lots of hard classes, I would caution you that you'll miss out on a deeper purpose that will allow you to excel at much more than just schoolwork. I'm not telling you to write your classes off as "worthless" either, but I am suggesting that you find a reason that will help you slog through the tedious, insufferable hours.

In short, I'm not advocating for you to turn in all your homework late. I'm not advocating that you should party every day and neglect the "Wabash grind" that will eventually put food on the table. What

I am saying is that undergraduate education is terribly, uncomfortably lonely. Even if you have a cohort of colleagues doing the same homework, going to the same classes and living in the same house, chances are you aren't spending every single moment sharpening your sword with them. Heck, I'd bet that you're not even spending a tenth of your time studying with other people. In essence, it's the loneliness that kills us. For the people complaining on YikYak, I'd even venture to say that more people will start partying (and also, feel more enjoyment from their parties) if their work didn't feel isolated, begging for some direction that hardly exists in the first place. Sure, a degree is a ticket to the marketplace and a door to many opportunities, but it's exactly this and nothing more. Your education, your learning, your skillset and your passions cannot be cultivated exclusively through the pursuit of your degree. Even for those who want to broaden their intellectual horizons, do they spend most of their time grinding out the tedious work alone or engaging in the necessary challenges with their professors and classmates? Much to consider.

If you're feeling lonely in the following weeks, ask yourself why that is. Is it truly because you lack the capacity to be joyful, or is it because the work you're relying on to fulfill you can only take you so far? Good luck with finals, dead week, graduation requirements and everything in between.

## Golf goes on a birdie barrage to finish T-2nd at Spalding University Preview

SEAN BLEDSOE '26  
SPORTS EDITOR

The golf team traveled down to Edinburgh, Indiana on April 11 and 12 to play in the Spalding University Preview at Timbergate Golf Course. After the first day, the Wabash "A team" found itself only 10 shots back of the lead, and despite a late charge during the final nine holes of the tournament, the Little Giants finished tied for second with a team score of 596 (20-over par). The "B team" also turned in a strong finish, carding a team score of 621 (45-over par) to place sixth.

The first couple of holes of the opening round on Saturday were rough for the Little Giants, but as the players got around to the third and fourth holes, momentum began to shift. Between the top five players, five birdies were made on the two holes, giving Wabash the early lead. By the end of the front nine, Liam McAllister '26, Leo Dellinger '29, Finn Carteaux '29 and

Coen Bauschek '28 all turned in scores of 37 (1-over par), but Luke Ranard '26 had the low score with a 1-under par score of 35 on the front side.

**"The team and I enjoyed being in the hunt to win on Sunday. That's what you want. You want to have a chance to win the tournament and we definitely had the chance**

- Head Golf Coach  
Justin Kopp '21

After making the turn to the back nine, the Little Giants continued to play strong, and by the end of the day, the A team turned in a score of 295 (7-over par). The top five players made a combined total of 17 birdies. Dellinger and Carteaux produced the lowest rounds of the day with scores of 74 (2-over par). The other two counting scores for the team

total came from Ranard and McAllister, who shot scores of 76 (4-over par) and 77 (5-over par) respectively.

The playing conditions on Saturday were ideal — sunny, a slight breeze, firm and fast — but Sunday's conditions were slightly different. Instead of the wind being a light breeze maxing out at 10 mph, it picked up to a steady 20 mph with gusts up to 30 mph, but Wabash remained focused and determined thanks to prior experiences of playing in the wind this season.

"We had a good experience with the wind last weekend in Illinois, which helped prepare us for the wind this week," said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21. "The focus was getting the ball in play so that you have a chance to par rather than pushing it way down there when the wind was behind you or trying to fight the wind that was into you."

Swinging easy was the key, and on the back nine, Kopp's team found itself in contention, only four shots back from the leader at one point in time. But as the closing holes came around, a handful of bogies stalled the team's momentum, creating a bigger gap between Wabash and Grinnell. Ultimately, the Little Giants shot a team score of 301 (13-over par), finishing tied for second at 20-over par. The group also added to their birdie total, tallying 13 birdies in the second round.

"This course was definitely a nice change from the rainy spring we have had," said Dellinger. "Into the greens, we had to roll the ball up and make sure to stay below the hole."

On the individual side of



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

Leo Dellinger '29 watches his drive fly through the air on hole two at Timbergate Golf Course on April 11.

things, Carteaux finished sixth with a two-day total of 146 (2-over par). Dellinger finished just one spot behind Carteaux at a tie for seventh with a score of 147 (3-over par). McAllister and Ranard also finished in the top 15 with scores of 151 (7-over par) and 152 (8-over par) respectively.

"The team and I enjoyed being in the hunt to win the tournament on Sunday," said Kopp. "That's what you want. You want to have a chance to

win the tournament, and we definitely had the chance. We are a young team so it's very good to get that experience, and I'm excited to see this group take advantage the next time they find themselves in that position."

Kopp's squad will tee it up next in Conyers, Georgia in the Discover DeKalb Emory University Invitational at Cherokee Run Golf Club on April 18 and 19.



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

Finn Carteaux '29 lines up his approach shot on hole two at Timbergate Golf Course on April 11.

## Tennis splits two conference matches in Ohio

ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28  
STAFF WRITER

Over the weekend, the Little Giant tennis team took a trip through Ohio to take on No. 29 Oberlin College on April 11 and Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU) on April 12 in two crucial North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) matches. The squad split the weekend matches, losing to Oberlin 3-4 and beating OWU 5-2 to

put them at 12-10 overall and 2-4 in conference play.

In Saturday's duel against Oberlin, the doubles matches were a highlight for Wabash. The duo of Augusto Ghidini '26 and Rafael Rin '27 won their match 7-5, and the pair of Cole Shifferly '26 and Vittorio Bona '27 won their match 6-2 to take the opening point and the early lead.

The Little Giants could not carry

their momentum into singles play, however, as Ghidini, Shifferly and Rin all dropped their matches. With the team trailing 1-3, Murilo Guarnari '28 dug deep in his match. After dropping the first set 0-6, he managed to turn the tide, winning the next two sets 6-4 and 6-1 to win the match and give Wabash a point. With the scarlet and white down 2-3 in the match, Tharakesh Ashokar '26 fought hard but was unable to beat his opponent, giving the Yeomen the point they needed to win the match.

"On Saturday, we knew that it was going to be a tough match," said Guarnari. "It was a tough first set for me. I couldn't find a way. But I looked around and saw that my teammates were pretty locked in, so that gave me some energy to pull out the win."

Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett was pleased with how Guarnari battled in his match on Saturday.

"I think anytime you're playing at the top of the lineup, there's always going to be a solid opponent," said Bickett. "Shawn Lisann has been a really tough opponent for our guys, so it was a good win for Murilo. He came out of the gate really slow, and

you don't often see somebody lose a first set 0-6 and come back to win. So that was a really good fight from him."

**"We still have some business to take care of this weekend in order to clinch our place in the NCAC tournament, but I think we learned a lot of what we need to do for next time."**

- Head Tennis Coach  
Daniel Bickett

On Sunday, Bickett's team traveled over to Delaware, Ohio to continue conference play against the Ohio Wesleyan Battling Bishops. The squad continued their doubles play domination as all three duos — Ghidini and Rin, Shifferly and Rin as well as Ashokar and Matthew Haas '29 — claimed victories, giving Wabash the opening point.

In singles play, Bona carried the momentum over and didn't drop a single game in his win. Rin also

crushed his opponent, winning 2-0 and only dropping one game. Faustino Dimuro '28 clinched the match for the Little Giants with a 2-0 win (6-2, 6-2). Guarnari played another hard-fought match on Sunday, winning 2-1 in three marathon sets.

"On Sunday, there was a lot of adversity because of the wind," said Guarnari. "It was good to see some guys adapting well, especially those towards the bottom of our lineup. That win gives us energy for next weekend."

"Anytime you can pick up a win in the NCAC, it is a good weekend," said Bickett. "If you look at three or four matches, it's a couple points that decide who wins. We still have some business to take care of this weekend in order to clinch our place in the NCAC tournament, but I think we learned a lot of what we need to do for next time. We have an opportunity with these next two opponents to perform a little bit better."

The squad will come home for their final two matches of the season. They will play the College of Wooster on Saturday at 2 p.m. EST and John Carroll University on Sunday at 10 a.m. EST for Senior Day.



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

Augusto Ghidini '26 awaits a shot from his opponent in a match against No. 9 Washington University St. Louis on March 28 at Crawfordsville High School.

## Lacrosse breaks six-game losing streak

CARTER MCCALL '29  
STAFF WRITER

The lacrosse team continued North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) play in the last week against Kenyon College and Wittenberg University. The Little Giants lost to the Owls but rebounded against the Tigers, snapping a six-game losing streak.

On Tuesday, the squad had a slow start to the game. Although Zach McMichael '29 struck first for Wabash, Wittenberg answered quickly with two goals, including one with eight seconds left in the first period.

In the second, the Tigers pounded on the Little Giants early on to extend their lead to 3-1. Wabash quickly answered with a pair of goals by Jake Pippen '26 and Evan Bair '28 to tie the game at three goals a piece. Wittenberg regained the lead to go up 4-3, and by halftime, the Tigers had the advantage at 5-4.

Wabash went on a three-

goal surge midway through the third quarter behind goals from Cooper Navarro '28, Keegan Hatchell '29 and Pippen to push the Little Giants ahead by two.

The Tigers tied the game with 9:26 left in regulation, but then Colin Krekeler '27 made several clutch stops at the goal. Bair eventually assisted Pippen for the game-winning goal with 3:05 left in the contest.

Pippen, Bair and Navarro led the team with three goals each. Krekeler was a key part of the win, contributing a 16 save effort.

On April 11, the team played

in Gambier, Ohio against the Kenyon Owls, and although Wabash battled early, they could not keep pace with a surging Kenyon squad, falling 5-15.

The game opened with a swift strike from Kenyon, but Grayson McCallum '29 evened the score at 1-1 with 7:10 left in the first period, finishing off an assist from Christian Dybedock '27. However, Kenyon seized momentum late in the period, scoring three goals in the final minutes to take a 4-1 lead.

The second quarter proved decisive as the Owls capitalized on a Wabash penalty, scoring twice within the opening 28 seconds and continuing an extended scoring run. Kenyon poured in seven goals during the period to build an 11-1 advantage. Wabash managed a late response before halftime as Luca Flaim '27 collected a rebound and scored with one second remaining to make it 2-11.

Wabash showed resilience in the second half. Austin Clark '29 and Will Kerker '28 each found the net in the third quarter, with Kerker's goal coming off Dybedock's second assist of the day. Despite the effort, Kenyon maintained control, extending its lead to 14-4

heading into the final period. The difference was too much to overcome for the Little Giants, and the Owls secured a win on their home turf.

Wabash will return home on Saturday to take on the College of Wooster on Fischer Field at 1 p.m. EST.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Cam Fecht '28 surveys the field during a game against Illinois Wesleyan University on March 25 at Fischer Field.

# Baseball finds momentum with doubleheader wins over Ohio Wesleyan

TY MURPHY '27  
STAFF WRITER

Wabash baseball experienced a week of extremes, highlighted by a dramatic comeback victory and a lopsided road loss that underscored ongoing inconsistency.

The Little Giants opened the stretch of games on April 11 at Goodrich Ballpark in a competitive doubleheader sweep against Ohio Wesleyan University (OWU), where Wabash also celebrated their new artificial turf infield. The team could not have been happier to get to play at home on the new Birdzell Field, thanks to a generous gift from JoAnn and John Birdzell '61.

"It felt great," said Caleb Everson '26. "We're super thankful to be able to play on the new field, and we're so grateful for the Birdzells and their contribution to the program. Playing at home is special at Wabash, and the energy that the fans bring, especially on the hill, fuels our energy as a team."

In the first game against OWU, Everson became the star of the day, limiting the Battling Bishops to three runs over nine innings of play and delivering a complete-game performance. Both teams had a slow start, but in the fifth inning, Wabash took a 1-0 lead thanks to a Will Fremion '27 double that allowed DJ Mendez '28 to come home. In the sixth inning, the Little Giants delivered the final blow, ignited by a Landon Basey '29 triple that helped create a four-run surge to take a 5-0 lead. The Battling Bishops tried to respond, scoring three runs in the last inning, but it was not enough as Wabash won 5-3.

The second game got off to a hot start with OWU striking in the top of the first inning with two runs, but Wabash quickly responded with a run of their own before going on a tear in the third inning thanks to a four-run outburst sparked by Ryan Williams '28. The Battling Bishops attempted to respond, but the Little Giants kept piling it on to eventually take the game by a final score of 7-4.

"The two wins are huge for us," said Everson. "We've been working really hard and playing really hard, so it's nice to get the ball rolling with some wins. Hopefully we build on them and continue with some momentum."

That momentum carried the team into their game on April 13 at Goodrich Ballpark against the Eureka College Red Devils. Early on, Wabash put themselves in quite the hole, falling behind 0-8 in the top of the sixth inning.

The team did not back down, however, scoring 12 runs in the bottom of the inning. Mendez played a central role in the rally, finishing four-for-five with two doubles, three RBIs and two runs scored. His two-run double in the bottom of the sixth inning pulled Wabash within one

and helped set the stage for the decisive blow.

That blow came from Bradley Gilliam '27 later on in the sixth inning with a three-run home run to left field, giving the Little Giants their first lead of the game at 12-8. Gilliam finished the day four-for-four at the plate with four RBIs while Ben Henke '26 added five hits. The Red Devils attempted to battle back but came up just short in the top of the ninth inning, giving Wabash the 12-11 victory.

"From here we probably just need consistency," said Everson. "There have been flashes of success, and these past few games were the first time we've put everything together. Hopefully we can stay consistent in that success."

Things went differently, however, on April 14, in Richmond, Indiana, where the team faced Earlham College. What looked to be a hot start with a Caleb Ellspermann '27 double and 3-0 lead turned into a slugfest. The Quakers came firing back with five runs of their own in the second inning and did not stop there. Thanks to several home runs in the third and fourth innings, Earlham went on a 14-run surge that was answered with only one Wabash run. The team could not rekindle the magic from the Eureka game and lost 4-14.

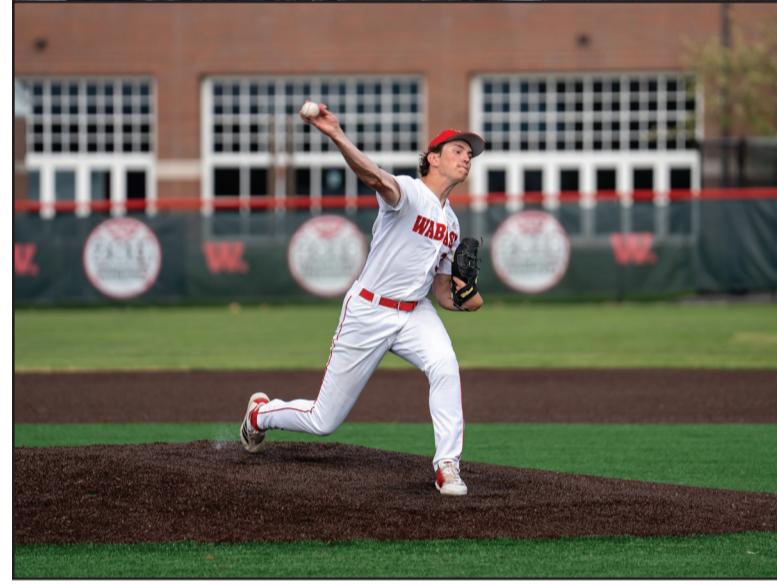
"Earlham is a good team," said Ellspermann. "I thought they had some decent arms, but we just fell flat defensively on the mound. Our bats couldn't play complimentary to our pitching."

The team will return to action on April 18 in Gambier, Ohio to take on Kenyon College in North Coast Athletic Conference doubleheader.



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CUTOUT PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27



PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27  
Wabash scored 12 runs in the sixth inning in a comeback win against Eureka College on April 13 at Goodrich Ballpark.

## Track and field continues dominant performances

CARTER MCCALL '29  
STAFF WRITER

The track and field team delivered another well-rounded performance on April 11 at the Greenville University Select outdoor track and field meet, showcasing both veteran leadership and emerging talent across a number of events. Competing at Francis Field, the Little Giants combined event victories, runner-up finishes and a wave of personal-best performances to highlight a productive afternoon as the team continued to build momentum with the North Coast Athletic Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships on the horizon.

Leading the way for Wabash was thrower Quinn Sholar '26, who turned in one of the most dominant individual performances of the meet. Sholar captured first place in the discus with a winning throw of 47.42 meters, continuing his strong outdoor campaign. He also added two runner-up finishes in the hammer throw and shot put events. His mark

of 55.21 meters in the hammer throw set a new career-best, underscoring his consistency and growth across multiple throwing disciplines.

Sholar was not alone in powering the thrower group. Lane Brockman '26 delivered a standout performance in the hammer throw as well, finishing third with a personal-record distance of 52.75 meters. Jakob Van Pelt '28 added to the success in the discus, recording a career-best mark of 42.97 meters to place fifth and further emphasizing the depth of Wabash's throwing unit.

On the track, the Little Giants earned a major victory in the 1,500-meter run thanks to Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26. He surged to a first-place finish in a personal-best time of 3:56.39, demonstrating both tactical racing and strong finishing speed. Diemer-McKinney later contributed to the 4x400-meter relay team, anchoring the group to a fifth-place finish in 3:22.27 alongside Brock DeBello '29, David Adesanya '27 and Carter Leininger '28.



COURTESY OF NICO KLEMENTZOS

Quinn Sholar '26 loads up to throw in the hammer event at the Emory University Thrills in the Hills meet on March 27 in Atlanta.

Adesanya also made a significant impact individually, placing second in the 800-meter run with a career-best time of 1:52.91. His performance stood out as one of the top middle-distance efforts of the meet and highlighted his continued development as a key contributor for Wabash.

"David has performed at a high level very consistently all year, and this one showed that he believes that he's ready to make a big jump at some point this season," said Associate Head Track and Field Coach Tyler McCreary.

The distance squad demonstrated further strength with multiple podium finishes. Angel Perez '27 secured third place in the 5,000-meter run, clocking a personal-best 16:04.10 while Thomas Price '26 matched that placement in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a career-best time of 10:33.68. These results reflected the team's endurance and depth in longer events.

Wabash also turned in solid performances in the relays and hurdles. The 4x100-meter relay team of Sly Williams '26, Owen Smith '27, Tan-

ner Brooks '27 and Leininger finished fourth with a time of 42.66 seconds. Smith added an individual highlight by placing second in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 56.12 seconds, contributing another strong finish to the team's overall effort.

"This event [400-meter hurdles] can be very intimidating," said Smith. "But you have to keep inter-

nalizing the mindset of, 'I have been training years for this specific race.'"

With a blend of victories, personal records and consistent finishes across the board, Wabash demonstrated both progress and potential. The Little Giants will look to carry this momentum forward when they return to competition April 17-18 at the Indiana Little State Meet.



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

Jack Huisden '28 runs in the Huntsman Family Invitational on April 4 at Little Giant Stadium.