

Fences block Mall on short notice



Students awoke on September 29, 2026 to find fencing erected along the length of the Mall, rendering this large area inaccessible for several months to come.

OWEN VERMEULEN '28
NEWS EDITOR

The week after Homecoming is always a bit of a fever dream, but this year students were hit with a splash of cold water to start the week. The President's Chief of Staff Jim Amidon '87 sent an email informing campus that the Mall would be closed off in order to install piping to connect the new cooling plant to the academic buildings, as well as to the yet-to-be-built Community Center. The closure will run through the winter.

"Utility crews will begin boring underground as part of the cooling plant construction during the week of October 5," said Amidon in his email. "This work will continue through the fall and winter. To make this happen, fencing will soon go up on the eastern side of the Mall, running from north to south. We will not be able to walk directly across the Mall, east to west."

This came as a shock to many students as no public communication had been made regarding this particular project. It came as even more of a shock that fences were erected across the Mall not even 24 hours after Amidon's email, making it impossible to cross the Mall without using the walkways by Pioneer Chapel or Detchon Hall.

This has spurred frustration in much of the student body as the long list of construction projects on campus grows. Students are understanding of the fact that these projects are necessary for the long-term health of the College, but feel as though that understanding has not been reciprocated through the lack of communication the College has given. As a result of the closure, different student organizations are scrambling to relocate events originally planned to be held on the Mall.

"The student body has had two major reactions to the fence going up on the mall," said Student Body President Jackson Ray '28. "First is surprise. The general student body and even a majority of student leaders were given twelve hours notice before a core part of our campus was split. Currently the Senate and other groups are scrambling to relocate or cancel all events planned for the Mall. It's the centerpiece of our campus and it is devastating to be fenced off with little notice. The second reaction is understanding that construction has to happen. However, with what feels like a third of campus behind

a chain link fence right now, how will this impact the lasting memory of Wabash for current students?"

The College administration has responded by saying that they understand the frustration of the student body. The construction process has a lot of moving pieces that sometimes come as short notice even to admin.

"The general student body and even a majority of student leaders were given twelve hours notice before a core part of our campus was split."

- Student Body President Jackson Ray '28

"Over the past couple of years we have communicated news of closures and disruptions as we have received them," said President of the College Scott Feller. "I am sure that everyone would like a precise schedule well in advance — I know that I would — but that is a luxury we don't have as we work to make the campus improvements that we sorely need."

In spite of claiming that they inform students of closures and disruptions when they receive them, select students have reported knowing about the closure since the start of the semester from private conversations with different members of staff. Though not every detail of the closure was known to those students, they had foreknowledge most

students did not, and indeed would not have until less than a day before the closure.

The effect this will have on campus goes beyond events that will have to be moved. The Mall is an integral part of the Wabash community and student culture.

"The first thing I felt was shock," said Abbas Hakim '29. "The fences were up less than 24 hours after the email. I have to walk all the way around the Mall, which is the most beautiful place on campus. You get to see everyone and it's where people really connect and speak to each other."

The disappointment of the Mall being closed for an extended period of time is palpable, but students understand the greater vision for the College that's at play. Students just wish the plan for that vision were better communicated to students.

"While I understand that construction projects must happen a certain way, I am disappointed to see the lack of a notice from the administration," said Connor Phillips '28.

Despite the onslaught of projects current students face preventing them from seeing campus in its full beauty while they're here, the excitement of the finished product still shines through for many.

"My immediate reaction [to seeing the fences] was they were definitely odd, but at the same time these pipes are going to be big for campus," said Logan Miltner '29. "I like to see our campus is working to become more beautiful and we're taking bigger steps to get where we want to be."



Students are upset at the lack of communication from administration after being given less than 24 hours notice of the Mall closure.

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Homecoming victories for FIJI and charity

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For a second consecutive year, the men of Phi Gamma Delta finished atop the Homecoming point standings.

After strong performances during the week in the chants, banners and Chapel Sing competitions, Fiji dominated the weekend. First place finishes in upperclassmen dodgeball, the float competition and the charity competition ensured that their place at the top would not be threatened. Delta Tau Delta finished second, and Lambda Chi Alpha managed third.

"It's nice to get back to our standard that we want the house to consistently hold to: winning Homecoming every fall," said Will Duncan '27. "It's something that we take pride in."

After what can be a grueling week of classes, competition and bonding as a group, FIJI's freshmen were happy they were able to get over the hump.

"Winning Homecoming was a great experience, especially because we got to do it together as a class," said Gabe Anderson '30. "All the work we put in, the time we spent together and just having fun throughout the whole process made it something I'll definitely remember."

"Our class put in a lot of hard work and dedication throughout the week, and it was amazing seeing all of our effort resulting in a win for our house," said Wyatt Chisman '30.

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Moot Court is back in action

OWEN VERMEULEN '28
NEWS EDITOR

Wabash prides itself on its strong pipeline of first generation lawyers. One might even think that there's something in the water. But the real reason for Wabash's strong turnaround of well prepared pre-law students is its strong pre-law programming, with the flagship event for the fall undoubtedly being Moot Court. The callout meeting for the 33rd annual Wabash College Moot Court Competition will take place October 7, at 12:00 p.m. in Baxter 101. Dean of the College Todd McDorman sent out an email outlining not only the problem for this year's competition, but also the importance of the competition itself.

"All law schools have moot courts," said McDorman. "But Wabash is one of a select number of undergraduate institutions to have one."

The opportunity to participate in a moot court before ever stepping foot on a law school campus is something that has allowed generations of Wabash men to stand out among their contemporaries. It helps them build skills before they even realize the necessity of them.

"Moot Court helps students learn how to distill their best arguments from a large mass of material, both legal and factual," said Pre-Law Advisor and Associate Professor of Political Science Scott Himsel '85. "Then during the competition rounds, Moot Court helps students learn how to sharpen those arguments by responding to questions about them while they are on their feet. First-gen lawyers don't have family members to tell them what practicing law is like. Moot Court helps fill that gap."

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Horton gives 46th LaFollette Lecture



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Emeritus Professor of Theater Michael Abbott '85 giving the 45th LaFollette Lecture in Salter Hall.

JOSEPH BOGGS '30
STAFF WRITER

A tradition dating back to 1977, Wabash College honored one of its former trustees, Charles D. LaFollette. The student body is no stranger to memorable lectures, and it got the chance to witness another one. Professor of Psychology Robert "Bobby" Horton examined how the stories people tell about themselves both build and break them in the 46th LaFollette Lecture in the Humanities on Thursday, October 1 in Salter Hall. With help of Professor of Classics and Charles D. and Elizabeth S. LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities Jeremy Hartnett, who organized the event, a reception and dinner followed the lecture in celebration of the humanities.

The lecture, titled "Selfcraft: The Power and Peril of the Stories We Need," puts the audience in the shoes of Horton and brings the world of psychology to the humanities.

"The talk will work to link research findings about 'the self,' such as how motives drive the way that we craft our self-story, to work/disciplines in the humanities, like literature and music," said Horton.

Horton gave the 46th lecture in the long-running LaFollette series. The series was established by the Wabash College Board of Trustees to honor Charles D. LaFollette. A member of the faculty each year is invited to take up the honor and to address the relationship between their discipline and the humanities.

"That is the charge of most lecturers, to give and to invite people into their intellectual world," said Hartnett.

For Horton, that relationship begins with "the self." His talk drew on his research as a psychologist and his study of "the self." It connected research findings about how motives shape the way people craft their self-stories to work in the humanities, including literature and music. The talk served to do exactly as it is charged, demonstrating the relationship between psychology and the humanities.

"I leave [past lectures] feeling like I learned as much about the speaker as I did about any particular topic," said Horton. "My guess is that could be true this year as well, though I do hope to say some interesting things about self-psychology in the process."

Horton joins a long list of Wabash faculty who have delivered the LaFollette Lecture, continuing the annual tradition since the first ever given in 1977. Wabash moves on with an additional reminder of the man whom the LaFollette Lecture series honors, and yet another look at the values of the humanities in all disciplines. This, as well as time spent with open ears, sitting with what the speaker has to say.

"You are let into the mind and the world of the speaker a little bit and it is an interesting place to spend an hour of your time," said Hartnett.

A boiling energy crisis

HUTCH NORRIS '27
STAFF WRITER

As the national average price for gas rose over 40 cents between August 31 and September 21, President Donald Trump has floated the idea of imposing a diesel export ban for the US. This would be a drastic, last ditch effort in an attempt to lower diesel prices prior to the mid-term elections.

"I'm thinking about it," said Trump. "I speak to Chris [Wright] and Doug [Burgum] about it, a lot. They sorta think it'll help diesel, but it might raise the price of other things."

The latter point is certain when the global nature of the oil and diesel markets is considered. A 15.4% reduction in global diesel exports — the most of any single country in 2025 — would have further inflationary effects on the prices of goods. These will be particularly detrimental to the US consumer considering that the US's two largest customers for diesel are China and Mexico, the countries of origin for many finished products consumers purchase.

In addition to the economic threat we would face domestically as a consequence of a diesel ban, there would be harmful consequences to production levels domestically.

"Let's review some Econ-101," said Associate Professor of Economics Eric Dunaway. "Why would a country export a product? Because they can sell it for more abroad than they could domestically. So let's say we stop exporting oil. What's going to happen to the price of oil in the US? It will fall, and oil producers would respond to that decrease in price with a decrease in production. There would be no benefit to this because we'd have a glut of oil for a few weeks, and then it would just be back to where we started."

The looming threat of a diesel ban is not the only factor to consider in the threat of oil's continued rise over the coming weeks. In the initial months of the Iran war, oil prices surged and remained around \$100 per barrel from the end of February to the beginning of June, but during June prices saw a dramatic drop to almost pre-war levels of around \$60. This was due to a perfect storm of a handful of variables, the most important of which was oil bypassing the strait altogether. According to Kpler, a global commodities shipping tracker, Gulf countries' exports jumped nearly 4 million barrels of oil per day from May to June.

Unfortunately, much of this bypassing has occurred via the Red Sea, but it's been halted in the past month due to Iranian affiliated forces in the region. Additionally, Iranian



COURTESY OF YAHOO

As gas and diesel prices soar and crude oil supply line collapses, Trump considers a diesel export ban for US.

allies in southwestern Iraq were responsible for the destruction of several points along the East-West Pipeline that spans the Arabian peninsula. This has additionally, though temporarily, restricted oil exports further in the gulf, as Saudi Aramco told multiple refining partners in Europe that they will receive no crude oil shipments in October.

On top of all of these supply sided factors, one major demand factor has greatly reduced global market stress: China. From April to June, Chinese imports fell by over 4 million barrels of oil per day across the three months. This was the greatest relief on the oil trade globally in this time-span, nearing the leap made by Gulf states from May to June.

This restriction of imports demonstrates a key power that China holds over many of its western adversaries in moments of crisis: central control over the flows of commodities and capital. Because of this greater control, China drew on its reserves for several months. In doing so, China extended a lifeline to several of its neighbors, who lack the massive strategic reserves like China's.

Yet these reserves are finite, and China, like the US, cannot sustain their current rate of withdrawal. This is demonstrated in Chinese oil imports rising by around 2.5 million barrels per day in July and August.

Ultimately, this myriad of factors has led to an incredibly uncertain immediate future. The spot price and futures price of Brent crude oil, a high quality oil with particularly competitive demand, reflect this. The spot price is what it would cost to buy a barrel of oil today, whereas the futures price is the price of a contract to deliver oil, typically in two months. While these prices are never quite the same, they have remained

relatively similar, even during the conflict, with differences not being more than \$10. Since the attacks on the East-West Pipeline September 9, spot prices have remained \$13-\$22 above futures prices.

This price difference, and the market's inability to shake them, may be a sign of impending doom. But more importantly, it is a sign of markets' greatest fear: uncertainty. Because of the ever changing landscape of this ongoing conflict, short and medium term business planning becomes increasingly difficult without steady costs. Companies could be less likely to reduce prices in the future if they cannot be sure as to whether or not input costs will remain low. Someone will pay for this difference in spot and future, either now or down the road.

"It's kind of like a freshman giving a presentation that they didn't prepare for," said Dunaway. "They're just trying to wing it and get through it with no real plan in mind."

Moot Court callout

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In the Moot Court Competition, participants are given a hypothetical Supreme Court case that can cover a variety of legal topics. Moot Court problems from the last few years include social media platform's first amendment rights, gender affirming care for minors and the detainment and deportation of enemy combatants. These hypothetical cases are usually based on cases that are currently being argued in front of the various circuit courts or even the Supreme Court itself. They are known for being hot-button and nuanced issues. This year's Moot Court problem falls right in line with that precedent, covering the Second Amendment of the Constitution and the states' ability to ban AR-15s.

"We want to balance an issue that is going to bring people in and is a live issue that will be decided in the next year or so," said past winner and current organizer of Moot Court Andrew Dettmer '15. "The Second Amendment is a hot topic, it has been for decades. But it's also a topic that has strong arguments on both sides. So going into this problem as a student you're going to have the opportunity and ability to make an argument one way or the other, regardless of your policy position or how you feel personally."

It's important to note that the Moot Court Competition is not limited to pre-law students; it is open to everyone. Moot Court has something to offer everyone, regardless of major or career plan.

"Developing and articulating arguments in response to questions in real time is a valuable skill in many professions, including business, medicine, law and teaching," said Himsel. "Wabash men who partici-

pated in Moot Court have gone on to succeed in each of these professions and others as well."

This event is beneficial for everyone that participates in it, but the importance to participate for those who are interested in a career in the legal field is undeniable.

"I get to see every single year Wabash freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors, who are not law school students, make better oral arguments than practicing attorneys do," said Dettmer. "A bonus of Moot Court is you get exposure to a lot of prominent Wabash attorneys that are involved in the program and you get to know them when you're an undergrad. That positions you well for internships, full-time jobs and just a network of lawyers to reach out to."

More than building your network or professional skills, Moot Court teaches you how to engage critically with different arguments. During Moot Court you will argue both sides whether you agree with that particular side or not. It is one of the only times when you are openly encouraged to explore opposing ideas and question your own. In Moot Court facts rule all and feelings don't matter.

"Unfortunately too much of contemporary debate is carried only at a surface level, one that appeals more to the emotions than our brains," said Himsel. "Moot Court is very different. It forces you to engage with facts and law in a critical way. Indeed, it requires you to argue both sides of a controversial issue, something many people cannot do well."

So no matter what class, major or intended career plan you are, Moot Court Competition is far too rare and special of an opportunity to squander. The best thing you can do is dive right in.

Homecoming victories for FIJI and charity

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More important than how things ended up between the fraternities, however, is the money that was raised for charity. Two causes were supported this year that both focus on mental health: the Evan R. Hansen Legacy Fund at Wabash and The Carriage House of Fort Wayne (on behalf of Leslie's Hope).

In an effort coordinated by the Sphinx Club, the Wabash community combined to raise \$9,717. That equates to more than \$10 for every student at the College.

"This week has been jam-packed with competition among houses, and while we love competition between living units, we always encourage remaining one Wabash over everything," said Sphinx Club president Carac Johnson '27. "As we all know, we can accomplish some pretty remarkable things when we come together as one."



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Members of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity cheering their freshmen on at Chapel Sing on September 24 on the Mall.

Wabash hosts Lilly dinner

TOBIN SEIPLE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

In 2025, the Princeton Review ranked Wabash College #2 in internships and #5 in Alumni Networks. The College consistently provides professional opportunities to students of all majors, however, there are certain career prospects that stand out. Eli Lilly, the largest pharmaceutical company in the world, offers an appealing pipeline for Wabash students. On Wednesday, September 30th, Eli Lilly hosted the Lilly Recruiting Kick-Off Dinner. Multiple alumni across different teams advertised the company, including John Haug '00, Patrick Bryant '16, Parker Redelman '18, Isaac Myers '21 and James Wallace '26.

Haug, the Senior Vice President and Treasurer of Eli Lilly Corporate Finance Investment Banking, began the talk with macro information on Lilly as a company. He discussed that, over the last year, Lilly achieved a twenty billion dollar increase in revenue. Haug also shared that they have one of the best performing stocks out of any technology company, and continually release new innovations in the healthcare space. Haug emphasized the belief that the company has in its ability to positively change the world; Lilly focuses on impacting patients and transforming their lives through medicine. Redelman, who works in Corporate Finance Investment Banking, also discussed his background as a Wabash student and the advantage of a liberal arts education. Finally, Myers shared about his work in marketing and was enthusiastic with the agency that Eli Lilly offers its employees. He said that many of the conversations he has with his team are similar to Wabash discussions and believes that Wabash aptly prepares students for a career at Lilly. One of these recent Wabash students to intern at Eli Lilly was Bryce Kinnaman '27.

"I think Lilly is a fantastic company for Wabash men," said Kinnaman. "The company will continue to become more and more competitive,

but I believe Wabash men who dedicate and immerse themselves in the liberal arts will stand out as unique candidates and leaders."

Eli Lilly generally offers a great internship program. Students in their junior year of college can work for Lilly over the course of ten weeks based in Indianapolis, and the company offers housing for students who are not located in the area. At Wabash, there are two main pipelines for students: marketing and finance. For financial economics or economics majors, the finance internship at Eli Lilly may be of interest. The company offers a variety of pathways, including audit, tax, treasury and corporate finance. There are many full time financial roles across the organization, including areas like investment banking, venture capital, mergers and acquisitions, risk management and investor relations. The marketing internship is also a brilliant option. The internship offers projects pertaining to market research, brand management and product planning. Wallace, who interned in marketing during the summer of 2025, accepted a full time offer on the marketing team in May of 2026.

"Getting the opportunity to intern at Lilly opened my eyes to marketing as a career option – Lilly taught me that marketing isn't just shooting commercials on TV or designing billboards," said Wallace. "We aim to gain an understanding of our customers – including patients and healthcare professionals – and the friction in their journey that we can address."

Eli Lilly stands as a premier career destination for Wabash men, offering a rare combination of financial reward, professional growth and meaningful impact. Whether in finance or marketing, students who immerse themselves in the liberal arts will find themselves well-prepared to thrive at a company whose work changes lives. For Wabash students searching for a career with real purpose, Eli Lilly is hard to beat.



This graphic combines a photo of the Pioneer Chapel with the poster for Wabash College's renowned production of 'Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches.'

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

The more one learns about history, the more one realizes just how nuanced that history is. Such is the case for a report with as expansive of a topic as an entire student population. Nevertheless, in the spirit of LGBTQ+ history month, this piece aims to use archival resources and alumni testimony to compile various significant events throughout the modern history of Wabash's LGBTQ+ community. Though no such investigation can ever be wholly definitive, it is the hope of *The Bachelor* that this piece introduces students to new perspectives on significant moments that helped to shape the entire Wabash community.

Documentation surrounding gay students throughout the majority of Wabash's history (including its entire first century) is scarce. That is not to say that they did not have a place in the community. On the contrary, gay students had allies in Wabash's students and staff.

"Drs. Peter and Brenda Bankart taught psychology at Wabash for more than 25 years, and in the 80s and early 90s, they were 'counseling services,'" said Chief of Staff, Director of Communications and Secretary of the College Jim Amidon '87. "Peter and Brenda, along with people like John Fischer, Jim Fisher, Warren Rosenberg and others, worked tirelessly to support our gay students."

In the early weeks of January 1980, notices from a new student organization called "Man to Man" began to pop up around the campus. On February 1, 1980, the Bankarts helped "Man to Man" send an anonymous letter to the editor to *The Bachelor*. "Man to Man" described themselves as "a group of Wabash men of differing backgrounds and interests representing different

positions on the spectrum of the homosexualities. Our one great commonality, to which we are devoting much effort and thought, is our perception of a strong need in the Wabash community for a greater understanding of homosexuality." They specified that "Our intentions are not to recruit, but to create an atmosphere of acceptance."

In the very next issue, *The Bachelor* staff described this letter as having "sparked some of the most fervent controversy that has surfaced on campus for many years." In the weeks that followed, several opinion pieces would be published, with some supporting the group and others condemning it.

"Homosexuality has never been nor is it an easy matter to deal with in any society, particularly in a largely male community such as our own," said Professor of Classics and Department Chair John E. Fischer H'70 in his letter to the editor regarding "Man to Man." "It is my hope that the whole Wabash community can enter the 1980's with the ever-increasing sensitivity and toleration which I feel sure we possess."

During his time at Wabash, Fischer acted as a trusted mentor to many closeted students.

"Over the years, he was a major force in changing Wabash's views on being out and proud and the attitudes on campus," said Andrea James '89. "I will always be grateful to Wabash and to him for getting me that opportunity."

Even with an increase in acknowledgement from the campus and mentors such as Fischer, closeted students in this era still navigated unique challenges. Before her extensive career as a filmmaker and consumer activist, as well as the inclusion of her life's work in the Library of Congress in 2021, Andrea James was one

such student.

"I had a great experience at Wabash," said James. "I was personally unhappy about a lot of things in my life, kind of in denial. Part of the reason that I think I chose Wabash was because it would force me not to address my own need to transition. So, I really threw myself into work from a pretty early age. I was very active at Wabash. I was the head of the Board of Publications, an All-American swimmer, all that kind of stuff. The great thing about Wabash, to me, is that at a small school like that, if you want to, you can lead a lot of different things"

When asked to describe the campus' attitude towards the gay community at the time, James noted several differences.

"It's really hard to imagine now, but most people were not out," said James. "Whether you're gay, or bi or trans, it just wasn't something people did. And, when I was at Wabash, it was the height of the AIDS crisis. So, there was a real paranoia around gay people especially. There was an Indiana student named Ryan White, who was just a few years younger than me, who got HIV and soon died from it because almost everybody did. And in Indiana there was this especially virulent kind of paranoia around 'Oh, can we drink from the same fountain? Can we use the same toilet seat?' It was very hard to imagine. And in that context, almost nobody at Wabash was out about being part of the queer community. It was kind of a 'don't ask, don't tell' policy where the people who were kind of found each other, but it was all very quiet and not something that you generally spoke about."

By the late 1980s, the AIDS epidemic had already killed over 100,000 Americans. Public fear and misinformation spread across the country, swelling homophobic culture and ostracizing many victims. Montgomery County was no exception.

"I took care of the first people with AIDS in the community, and saw how badly they were treated," said Director of Student Health Center and College Nurse Practitioner Chris Amidon. "Some of them were told by doctors that they should move away, some of their families disowned them and they were so kind and wonderful and appreciative of every little thing I did for them. I was just so disturbed about the way these folks were treated."

As the decade turned over once more, America's LGBTQ+ community continued to advance their fight for legal and cultural recognition. At Wabash, this effort manifested into a now-familiar student organization: 'shOUT. An abbreviation of "Wabash Out," 'shOUT was established in 1991 as a safe space for — as a sign outside of the 'shOUT office in the Pioneer Chapel basement proudly proclaims — "all LGBTQ+ community members and allies! (AKA Everyone!)."

"I think that the best thing that has happened at Wabash within the realm of 'shOUT

A modern history of the LGBTQ+ community at Wabash.

was its creation," said Adjunct Instructor of Piano Diane M. Norton. "That and the open dialogue among all members of the community, and the acceptance and understanding that I've seen among the students, which was not the case decades ago."

'shOUT formed in 1991, but the College's Student Senate refused to recognize it for another two years. Students and faculty alike fiercely advocated for the group's recognition, but they were ultimately outvoted on three separate occasions.

During their third attempt at recognition, 'shOUT faced a new obstacle. Cloaked by anonymous publications and over-the-phone code names, a homophobic secret society dubbed "Echo Bones" had formed to oppose the creation of 'shOUT. Then-Dean of Students David Hadley called the organization a violation of the Gentlemen's Rule, and claimed that they had "defined the context and the interpretation of [that night's] 'shOUT discussion." Because of this, Hadley advised that the vote be postponed. His suggestion was not taken. In an apparent effort to give 'shOUT a better chance, one Senator motioned for the senate to use anonymous ballots in the voting process. This was unanimously shot down. That night, 'shOUT lost the vote by an even larger margin than their previous attempt.

However, 'shOUT's persistence would eventually be rewarded, as they were officially recognized the very next year. Conversely, "Echo

ing controversy on and off campus drove the stakes up considerably. The conservative student publication *The Commentary* drove much negative attention — throughout the alumni body and the media. The Development Office allegedly worried that the play would upset donors as the College was preparing to launch the Campaign for Leadership, a concern echoed by then-President Andy Ford. The fear of controversy was so strong that on opening night, memos forbidding any disruption were stapled onto the front pages of the programs, and the police were present to enforce it.

"It was really well done, and I think that because there was so much controversy, there was so much pressure to make it really really good," said Amidon, who played Nurse Emily. "Like, this has to be perfect. And everyone took a lot of pride in that."

'Everyone' also extended to the original playwright, Tony Kushner.

"It's exciting to hear that the play is embroiled in controversy," said Kushner in a letter to Fisher. "It'll generate box office and it must be a sign of some sort of progress that the president didn't actually squash the show. We have to remember that doing a play like "Millennium" on a college campus, especially one like Wabash, wouldn't have been possible 15 years ago."

The final product gained national attention, drawing critics in from across the country; Lawrence Biemiller, writing in *The Chronicle of Higher Edu-*

mosexual or derogatory vocabulary more than five times per day, 54% of the Wabash community say they know someone on campus who is openly gay and an estimated 5-14% of Wabash students have had homosexual interests or experience."

LGBTQ+ student life at Wabash was given yet another spotlight in 2006, when the celebrated All-American quarterback and filmmaker Russ Harbaugh '06 created his third documentary film: *Thy Loyal Sons*. The documentary follows the daily routines of three Wabash men. The first an African-American football player, the second a Rhyne and the third an openly gay theater major.

'shOUT also continued and expanded programming throughout the late 2000's, hosting its first annual drag show in 2007. On October 29, 2008, the organization invited Andrea James back to the campus to give a five-part talk titled "Identity, Gender and Sexuality."

Just over a decade after the "Gay Today at Wabash" feature covered Wabash's reluctance to address LGBTQ+ issues, and just over 15 years after concerns that "Angels in America" would cause friction with alumni, 'shOUT collaborated with the National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM) to set the record straight.

In October of 2011, then-President of the NAWM Greg Castanias '87 gave an influential chapel talk titled 'Men,' which ignited a new special focus on inclusivity in



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BACHELOR ARCHIVES

In addition to their other events in the mid-1990s, 'shOUT members painted the Senior Bench.

Bones" was fated to obscurity. Their hostile smoke-and-mirrors presentation motivated *The Bachelor* to launch an expansive investigation into the secret society, resulting in an expose detailing their membership and function that adorned the front page of its April 9, 1992 issue.

In the following years, 'shOUT took its place as one of the most influential student organizations at Wabash. Aside from its main function as a safe space for students of the LGBTQ+ community, 'shOUT hosted guest speakers, ran campus-wide events and created a student publication called *The Whisper*.

Around this era, theater department chair and Professor of Theater James Fisher, who had been studying the work of Tony Kushner and invited him to speak on campus in 1995, announced that Wabash had received the rights to perform an exciting new production set to open on the Homecoming weekend of 1996. After winning the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, four Tony Awards and rave reviews across the board, "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" hit the college theater circuit. Thanks to Fisher's effort, Wabash College was its first stop.

"Even at the auditions, you just knew that everyone who was there was meant to play the role they got," said Trevor Fanning '00, who played Prior Walter. "It was the most surreal experience to be sitting there watching people read and saying to yourself 'oh, that's our Louis' or 'he is Joe for sure!' It's as if the universe was working in Wabash's and Jim Fisher's favor. The stars aligned with this casting and we were a tight-knit group from day one. That made this such a memorable experience."

Though the production elicited great excitement from the theater department, ris-

cation, compared it favorably to the Broadway and touring productions. "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" has since rotated in and out of dozens of other college theaters, but it is a permanent fixture in the hearts of the Wabash production's cast and crew. Even now, the play is still often cited as one of the theater department's greatest triumphs, and a testament to the power of Wabash College's artistic capacity. Indeed, in giving it a four-star review, the Indianapolis Star called the production "triumphant."

As progressive as the '90s were for LGBTQ+ Wabash students, some felt that progress had been diluted as Wabash entered the 21st century. On November 29, 2001, *The Bachelor* ran a special feature titled "Gay Today at Wabash" to highlight life as a gay student at Wabash.

In this feature, Fisher shared his disappointment with the administration's reluctance to publicly present Wabash as an inclusive environment. Professor of Psychology and then-Director of Counseling Services C.P. Bankart went on record saying that while other colleges had made great progress in recent years, Wabash clammed up and fell behind. Then-Dean of Students Thomas Brambrey claimed that the administration was supportive of students' concerns, but could not make agendas or initiate political conversation on any topic, including homosexuality.

Beyond analysis of the administration, this feature also highlighted the perspective of LGBTQ+ students. James Johnson '02 described Wabash as "the Mecca of masculinity," with an anonymous student claiming that the social, racial and religious environment at Wabash kept them closeted. *The Bachelor* also reported that "80% of Wabash students say they hear anti-ho-

the organization.

"I want our gay alumni and their partners to understand they are full members of the Wabash community," said Castanias in the January 27, 2012 issue of *The Bachelor*. "Our goal is inclusion of every [Wabash alumnus]. That is not always how our gay alumni have felt about their welcome here. We want all of our alumni, whether straight, gay or transgendered, to be part of the Wabash family."

The product of this initiative was a networking luncheon hosted on January 28, 2012, marking the first-ever pride-focused NAWM event. The event connected LGBTQ+ students and alumni, allowing the former to show off a more inclusive Wabash, and the latter to give advice about post-graduate life. In the time since this chapel talk, the NAWM has had two openly-gay presidents, ushering in a new era of inclusivity.

Four years later, what exactly "a more inclusive Wabash" meant was put to the test when the Student Senate nearly-unanimously rejected a resolution to encourage the Admissions office to actively recruit transgender students to Wabash College. The resolution was based on the pro-trans admissions policies of various women's colleges, and supporters argued that Wabash ought to do the same. Critics argued that the resolution did not comply with the statute that excuses Wabash from Civil Rights Law that allows it to remain an all-male institution. They also argued that this debate was exclusively theoretical, as no there had yet to be a known instance of a transgender man applying to the College.

Although Wabash's LGBTQ+ population was steadily be-

Continued page 4



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TODD VOGEL '03

This image was the cover for the "Gay Today at Wabash" feature in the November 29, 2001 issue of *The Bachelor*.

Adela misses the mark in her debut album

WYATT EMERSON '30
STAFF WRITER

One of the most disappointing things as a music enthusiast is wasted potential. The audience spends so much time anticipating the next artistic output that it becomes hard to even wait. They haven't given you much yet but what they have given you is enough to get you excited for what comes next, whatever that may be. As the album release approaches, the anticipation strengthens, but when the day finally comes the fans are disappointed. It is with great displeasure that I say Adela's latest album "Prima" is a stark contrast to her previously appealing music.

Adela gained massive widespread attention in the summer of 2025 when she released her EP titled "The Provocateur." This fiery dance pop record came out of nowhere, and it was an incredibly exciting listen considering it was her first artistic output. The songs on the EP, including "Superscar" and "Machine Girl," are extremely polished and fun pop songs that are comparable in quality to many long-time pop stars' best work. "The Provocateur" was shocking and created hype for the up-and-coming star. Adela was expected to come out with a great debut album, and it certainly failed to meet these expectations.

The album begins with "KGB," a title that alludes to the Soviet secret police, which features a throbbing bass line that makes this song addictive already. The well-mixed vocals and slick production give this song a very sleek mood, making it a very enjoyable listen. The problem with this song (and album as a whole) is how downright awkward the lyrics are. Adela discusses being an immigrant and mentioning the uphill battle she fought to achieve the accolades and the reputation she has now. She mentions the difficulties of working as an adolescent to learn English, but follows it up with the lyrics, "I'm like a spy, I studied that ****, call me a KG ****." This is a very poor and somewhat tacky



COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

play on words that leaves me dissatisfied on every listen.

Adela proceeds with the most popular song on the record: "Nicole Kidman." I find this song to be lazy and grating on the ears. She takes a very edgy "bad girl" persona and delivers lazy vocals over a trashy soul sample flip. The next song on the album "I'm the man" comes across like a very obvious Ariana Grande rip-off. Adela uses a very similar vocal style and very similar instrumental, but doesn't have the vocal talent or attention to detail to make a banger like Ariana would. The next two songs, "Boys" and "Red Bottoms," both have something more to appreciate than the previous tracks. "Boys" has an extremely catchy chorus and synth line to go along with it and "Red Bottoms" is a very mellow and smooth pop song that separates itself in genre from the others on this album. These both suffer lyrically though; one of the stand-out lines is "I'm like my red-bottom soles, You can't wear me out too many times."

The next song, "Hitachi," is such a poor track that I considered ignoring it altogether. It has lyrical themes that are vulgar just for the sake of being vulgar and nothing of substance anywhere else. Thankfully, the next song, "Fantasize," offers something very catchy and reminiscent

of her first EP. Unfortunately, all momentum that may have been built by this song is instantly lost by the next few songs. From "Starving artist" to "Therapy," there are very few unique ideas on any of these songs. The most famous song and lead single of the album, "Ain't in LA," closes the album off. I can see how it may appeal to some, but this song also feels lazy. It is intended to be anthemic and prideful but it falls completely flat and doesn't fit with any of the other tracks on the album.

Adela's "Prima" is a baffling disappointment on so many fronts. This whole thing feels like a combination of the worst parts of so many other great artists. If somebody could take anything away from this review it is that Adela has made great songs before that are not on this record and I heavily recommend those instead of most of the bland, corporate pop music on "Prima."

FINAL VERDICT:
2/5 WALLYS



Justin Grimmer '05, Stanford professor, returns for PDSS



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Justin Grimmer '05 spends time with Emeritus Professor of Political Science David Hadley.

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In his sophomore year, Justin Grimmer '05 met with Professor of Political Science Emeritus David Hadley in his office and declared his intention to be a serious student of political science. From that point on he did that and much more.

"He's the best student I ever had," said Hadley, who taught at the College for 43 years.

Now the Morris M. Doyle Centennial Professor in Public Policy in Stanford University's Department of Political Science and a Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Grimmer will return to Wabash next week as the latest Presidential Distinguished Speaker with his talk, "Democracy Thrives: Why the Left and Right are Wrong that American Elections are Broken."

"I loved being at Wabash, and it was such a transformative experience for me," said Grimmer. "I've been able to come back to campus a couple times since I've graduated, but never quite in this capacity. I'm very excited to be back and to present my work."

Grimmer's journey from Crawfordsville to the Bay Area was built through hard work. He initially came to Wabash with the idea of becoming a lawyer, but after taking his first political science course with Hadley, summer opportunities to do

research in econometrics and being encouraged to pursue his math interests by the department's chair, he decided academia might be his calling. After graduating summa cum laude with a double major in mathematics and political science from Wabash, Grimmer had his pick of graduate schools. Hadley recalled that, at a Midwest Political Science Association conference that he attended with Grimmer while he was in his senior year, the top schools in the country were lobbying for time with the star student. Able to pick from the bunch, Grimmer chose Harvard University, where he earned a masters and doctorate in political science. He's been at Stanford ever since.

It [Grimmer's academic journey] just couldn't happen in almost any other school," said Grimmer. "First off, to have professors who are this generous with their time and this thoughtful; I'm ping-ponging around — I'm like a 19 year old kid, but what the hell do I know? It's kind of unbelievable, that sort of experience."

Grimmer is now at the peak of his chosen profession. Holder of an endowed chair at one of the world's best universities, a senior fellow at a nationally-acclaimed think-tank, a patented inventor and accomplished teacher, he's one of America's foremost experts on elections and democra-

cy. Though his journey has taken him far, it started at Wabash.

"Compared to a lot of students that I had, the research methods and statistical analysis seemed second nature to him," said Hadley. "By the time he was a senior, he was beyond me in statistics, analysis and methodology. He was interested in what other students thought and understood, and he was interested in helping himself, his fellow students and me as a faculty member understand more, better and differently."

For Grimmer, the intellectual side of Wabash certainly shaped him, but he was also molded outside of the classroom by lessons from, for example, his fraternity. Lessons about what it takes to be successful and focused that he's still implementing today.

"Wabash I think really taught me how to be focused and hardworking, and what it means to be a professional," said Grimmer. "That component of the Wabash experience that happened outside of the classroom, is, I think, unlike anything else that's happening anywhere else in America."

Grimmer will have his work cut out for him in his talk. When all the noise about democracy and elections, from both sides of the political spectrum, is that the system is broken, Grimmer will posit the opposite: there's never been a better time to be an American voter. While acknowledging that this view is certainly contrarian, Grimmer believes it's a more optimistic — and more importantly, a more accurate — account of what's happening. There's no one better positioned to make that case.

Grimmer will deliver his address at 8:00 p.m. in Salt-er Hall on October 6.

LGBTQ+ at Wabash

Continued from page 3

coming more visible, the next several years were not without the need for advocacy. Around the fall of 2023, 'shOUT members reportedly felt that homophobia on-campus had not eroded, rather merely changed form. According to then-President of 'shOUT Javion Montgomery '27, the form of campus homophobia was administrative inaction. In one particular incident, many of 'shOUT's pride flags were thrown in a dumpster.

"I just remember feeling upset over the fact that the school wasn't doing anything about it, and I think a lot of queer people on campus kind of felt the same way," said Montgomery. "In fall [of 2023] we didn't really do anything besides just take inventory of what happened. At this point, we started writing things down. We started making sure that we were compiling a list that we could give to somebody if they were to ask what's happening on campus."

Tensions reached their breaking point on February 28, 2024, when homophobic slurs were spray-painted onto the Delta Tau Delta house. According to Montgomery, the College made no official statement about the incident, flaring tempers across the campus and prompting 'shOUT to communicate with the campus' DEI advisor. Though this dialogue continued for around a month, many



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

(Left to right) Cristian Cantu '26, Alejandro Cruz '27 and Connor Craig '25 stand with fellow students in the entrance of Lilly Library during the silent protest organized by 'shOUT on March 19, 2024.

LGBTQ+ students still felt unheard. After catching wind of a faculty meeting about these issues scheduled for March 19, 2024, 'shOUT leadership decided to act.

"As any rationally angry group of people would do, we organized a protest around how every queer voice on campus was being silenced, how any minority group on campus may have never had a voice and what we can do from this point forward," said Montgomery. "It was honestly a very beautiful display of unity on campus because we had people from all corners coming from every fraternity, independents and guys who you would have never expected to show out for the queer community, and they did."

Montgomery confirmed that for the most part, all of 'shOUT's requests were fulfilled and the organization has since seemed to have a more solid place on campus.

This dialogue captured the administration's attention in a way that allowed voices to be heard more clearly than ever before.

Though this concludes a basic chronological account, the history of Wabash College's LGBTQ+ population is not confined to this page. For anyone who wishes to gain a better understanding of this subject matter, there are several resources available. Andrea James has several websites and publications, including transgendermap.com, which received the aforementioned recognition by the Library of Congress. The College archives house an expansive file on the history of 'shOUT's inception and programming. And Fisher wrote an essay inspired by his experience with "Angels in America" titled "Fighting Culture Wars in America," which is available on the College's website.

Two sophomores take home creative writing prize



PHOTO COUTESY OF JACOB WESTON

Wabash students take notes in Center Hall.

CHRISTIAN HANNA '29
STAFF WRITER

The Walter L. Fertig Prize in Freshmen Writing is awarded by Wabash College to top-shelf expository and creative writing produced by first-year students. Every submission is nominated by faculty members, and then voted on by the Wabash English department. The winner this year was announced at the 46th annual LaFollette Lecture dinner and this year, the award was given to two of the four nominees: Aiden Gubbins '29, who wrote "The Past Success and The Modern Crisis: McKinley, Trump and Tariffs" and Sam Keeling '29, who wrote "Doll Child/Vacation/THE RED BRIDGE." The two runner-ups this year were Titus Hoover '29, who wrote "What the Hell are People For?" and Sergio Meza '29, who wrote "TR and Trump

on Urban Crime - Similar Approaches? Results?"

"We wound up with four students we wanted to highlight for this award," said Visiting Instructor of English Jacob Weston. "These were really good examples of writing — not just for freshmen students, but for college students in general."

It's not every year that the English department picks two award winners either.

"We chose two winners largely because we ranked them the highest but [also] because they demonstrated mastery of very different genres," said Associate Professor of English Eric Freeze. "The Past Success and The Modern Crisis: McKinley, Trump and Tariffs" researched contextual differences between the McKinley and Trump administrations and the effectiveness of tariffs in

protecting American interests."

This inadvertently reveals a certain benevolent nature behind the Fertig Prize: being considered for the award is not limited to the genre the nominees fill their pages with; instead, their works are considered for their own artistic merit. Gubbins' piece was given the award for the strenuous work he put into researching for his piece.

"What stood out about the Gubbins' paper was the amount of research that went into, and eventually supported, the argument of the author," said Weston. "As a rhetorician, I thought it was wonderfully executed and he avoided only engaging with his sources on a surface level, which is a common mistake of first-year college writers."

Keeling's piece was awarded for his equal, though differing, attention to detail within all three of his creative works.

"I adored the Keeling submission for entirely different reasons: the diction of his poem was delightful, his creative nonfiction made me feel like I was also on vacation with him and his short story was one of the best pieces of student creative writing I've had the pleasure to read in the past several years."

A slate of strong submissions earned rightful recognition, and Gubbins and Keeling have the hardware to prove it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Staff editorial: The free press doesn't care about your feelings

Our constitution's first amendment protects freedom of speech and freedom of the press. These protections were enshrined to stop the government from censoring what the citizens or media could say or report, including topics concerning the government itself, even — indeed, especially — when the coverage painted the government in a poor light. Knowledge of what our elected representatives do is crucial to a healthy democracy, which makes President Donald Trump's recent attempt to censor three TV networks not only distasteful, but damaging to America's health.

Two weeks ago, Trump announced a ban on three major networks — CNN, MS NOW and Politico — that barred them from the White House. When journalists from those networks attempted to enter the building the following day, their badges were confiscated by security. The aftermath of the media agencies' barring from the White House has been well-publicized. Other networks boycotted the White House press pool in solidarity with their colleagues. First Amendment scholars widely condemned the ban as unconstitutional. The outlets sued the government, and on September 24, after an early morning ruling, a judge granted a temporary restraining order that required the administration to reinstate the press passes while the legal fight continues.

The battle will continue in court, with the verdict most likely finding the Trump administration at fault, in which case the administration would likely appeal the decision. Several news outlets, such as the New York Times and Washington Post, have protested the bans, announcing they would not take part in coverage of pooled events and the White House has launched its own streaming channel since then called Trump TV, which operates a 24/7 feed of clips of the president.

What was most alarming was Trump's justification for his ban: "I am proud to announce that, effective immediately, I am banning Fake News CNN, MSNOW... from the White House as a result of their constant "reporting" FAKE NEWS! Media Outlets shouldn't be able to constantly write or report FICTION and LIES when they're covering the President of the United States, the Trump Administration or the United States of America." In other words, "I didn't like it."

Individuals can choose not to engage with ideas they dislike. Whether the president of the United States should be doing this is perhaps another question, but what the president — indeed, what no one should do — is suppress news, especially news about the government's actions, because they do not like what is being reported. A healthy representative democracy relies on freedom of speech. It is a given, an assumption, that citizens can remain informed about what our government is up to. Without that ability, we open ourselves up to the possibility of propagandized media that covers up criticism and doesn't fully inform the public. Whatever your particular political persuasion, we can agree that is not a situation we, America's people, want to be in. An act such as this would come as an utter shock to what the founders of this country established. America's fourth president, James Madison, said, "The people shall not be deprived or abridged of their right to speak, to write or to publish their sentiments; and the freedom of the press, as one of the great bulwarks of liberty, shall be inviolable." The American system of government has persisted for 250 years because our leaders are not autocrats who are able to deflect criticism, feedback or debate through censorship and monopolization of information flow.

What we're now seeing at the highest level of national media is not an unfamiliar sight in the realm of student journalism. Just last year, Indiana University faced a First Amendment lawsuit over an attempt to censor their student newspaper, "Indiana Daily Student." Administrators requested all news content be pulled from the 2025 Homecoming issue of the paper. Director of student media Jim Rodenbush denied this request, leading to his firing and the university stopping the release of print editions of the newspaper. In a "Letter from the editors" released in lieu, The concerns IDS editors raised about the integrity of student journalism are nearly identical to what we are now seeing on a national scale. The integrity of journalism, both student and professional, is the fuel for holding the "powers that be" accountable. It's our collective responsibility to ensure the free press remains free and continues to thrive in America.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

AS IF IT COULD GET WORSE

Lo-Five to the Mall for being the subject of yet another construction site. The rhynes are probably figuring how the hell they're getting to the flagpole.

HOLY SIFT

Hi-Five to Mojang for announcing the new dimension, "The Sift", coming to Minecraft in 2027. Better gather your boys for the best two-week phase ever.

BUY THIS MAN A CASE

Hi-Five to Chicago Bears Quarterback Case Keenum on an unbelievable primetime performance. Drake Maye, pause from the sub-sandwich making and watch a real QB.

WELL THAT TOOK A 'TURN'

*Hi-Five to Dr. Turner for letting the campus know there's "No COVID sh*t today." Yes. Thankfully there is no COVID today... or hopefully ever again.*

"YOU'RE OUR ONLY POPE!"

Hi-Five to Pope Leo for blessing the White Sox who, swept their Wild Card Series. This is the only plausible reason for why they are good.

Wallies in the wild: If you care about mental health, talk about patriarchy



Evan Bone '26

Reply to this opinion at
boneevan27@gmail.com

Sitting in my Estonian apartment in my first week abroad, I am incredibly proud of the Instagram stories I viewed of Wabash students raising awareness for mental health. I'm settling into my nine months of teaching English and becoming a part of a community here in Estonia, but part of me still lives in the Classic Halls of Wabash. Seeing the mile runs at every hour, I was reminded of my mental health during my four years of being a student. I wondered what factor is most at play when Wabash students struggle? The answer I landed on? Patriarchy.

If you consider yourself an advocate for men's mental health, you need to talk about the patriarchy. Honestly, we should just say mental health — the rhetoric of "men's mental health" makes the topic seem as though it occurs in a vacuum when, in reality, the mental health of women and men are interconnected. Yes, men deal with issues that are slightly different than women's, but the structure at play depleting everyone's mind is the same boogeyman.

When I reflect on my mental health struggles, I come back to not feeling comfortable in my skin. I felt as though I couldn't be my full self. I had to set aside feelings, interests, desires and ideas when I entered a room. At the most fundamental level, men are afraid of being seen as weak. But patriarchy runs deeper than this commonly held truth about men and perceived weakness. Patriarchy limits our conception of what a human being ought to be on every level from temperament to career choice.

From our days of being a toddler to our teenage years, men absorb messages that signal that we should be strong leaders who do not falter no matter what. We absorb these messages, turn them into schemas with incentives and punishments and then we traverse the world operating with these schemas in our brains like a parasite.

The issue with this schema is that it does

not recognize human beings for what they are: complex, nuanced and ever-changing creatures full of subjectivity. I struggled with self hatred throughout my teenage years. I grew up playing baseball and it meant everything to me. I felt that if I did not win and did not perform then I was a failure. This obsession with "success" extended to academics and my social life. Still today I would consider myself ambitious, but the issue wasn't that I wanted to be successful at various things; the issue was that I defined success as appearing masculine and effectively invincible all the time. If I wasn't these things, then I did not deserve to live. Yes that's dramatic, but patriarchy is a ridiculous drama that we have inherited. I find myself in a better place now because I changed my definition of who I am supposed to be and recognized that we all have inherent value by virtue of existing.

I'll give an example of patriarchy at work. Say that you're a freshman at Wabash. You're going to fraternities to see which one you should join. Each time you go to a house, without realizing, you're putting on a performance. People ask questions to get to know you, so you filter through the parts of yourself and decide which side to show. Let's say you're an athlete, and so you tie a lot of value to appearing strong, successful at your sport and confident. But you also really like fashion and you're afraid the fashion you enjoy may be too feminine. You get asked the question: "So what are your hobbies and interests?" You do a quick analysis of this fraternity member. What does he like based on what he looks like? And you say: "I like playing football and partying." And he smiles and gives you a handshake and says, "Me too!" And life goes on and seems amazing. But this theoretical person just hid himself behind a character in a drama, and the real person will not be seen by others — only when he is alone and depressed will that real person come out.

I didn't come out as queer at Wabash until my junior year. I was afraid despite seeing people around me who were out. I was in leadership positions, on the Deans list every semester and "succeeding." But I wasn't myself. Now everyone doesn't have a bisexual shaped skeleton in their closet, but everyone has fear, insecurity and anxiety. Someone is afraid to admit that they are struggling in class, someone is afraid to admit that they have no idea where they are going in life and someone is afraid to admit that they find a boy attractive. All

three of those fears are tied to patriarchy. Men think they have everything figured out because we think we are supposed to be indomitable. Men think they can't admit they are struggling because we think we have to be flawless. Men think they have to experience attraction and romance like it is a 1950s movie because we think a man is someone who dominates a heterosexual relationship.

But let me be clear, patriarchy runs much deeper than that and every corner of your mind that it infects is making you unhappier. Do you listen in class more when your professor is a man rather than a woman? That is patriarchy robbing you of knowledge and human connection. Do you sparknotes the novel written by a woman? See the sentence above. Do you use the F slur? That is homophobia, a part of patriarchy, pushing you away from self actualization, even if you are heterosexual. Do you drink

yourself senseless every Saturday and do something you regret? That is patriarchy reinforcing that you should hide your pain.

My advice? Find a close friend and tell them what you are insecure about. Try to read that book by someone completely unlike you. You're at an all male college, so seek out a woman's perspective more than ever. Wear that risky outfit. Be honest about your feelings with that girl you met from Purdue. If you do these things and are met with backlash, then you know who's your friend and who isn't. We're all nuanced, complex and changing in ways we cannot foresee. Your mental health, your brothers', your professors' and the Wabash's mental health will heal the more open you are to life's subjectivity. Love isn't something you earn by performing in your role as a man or woman; love requires that you recognize others as full human beings, not roles in a drama.

Living Humanely at W.A.B.A.S.H Day 2026



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Dueling Opinions: Tech giants faceoff: Samsung vs. Apple

Samsung: Practicality over presence



Danny Vallos '30
Reply to this opinion at
djvallos30@wabash.edu

The greatest debate in today's technology-dominated world is Apple vs. Samsung, but is it really a debate? I am an avid Samsung user fully invested in their ecosystem, and a good friend and I constantly argue about which is better. In my view, Apple has brainwashed the public so effectively that many people don't even know the truth.

Looking at the companies as a whole, Samsung is arguably superior. The Samsung conglomerate controls roughly 20% of South Korea's entire economy. Cell phones are only a single subset of their products, and while zero phone sales in a given quarter would certainly hurt them, their massive display, appliance and semiconductor divisions would easily keep the company afloat. In contrast, losing iPhone sales would likely devastate Apple.

Let's look at the facts. With the release of the iPhone 13 Pro, Apple introduced macro lens technology as a groundbreaking innovation even though Android devices already had this feature for several years. Focusing again on camera technology, Android phones have had the ability to change the focus point of an image after it was taken since 2014. Apple didn't heavily introduce a similar post-capture focus feature until the iPhone 15 in 2023, yet they presented it to the public as if they had invented it.

As for materials, most of the premium OLED screens in Apple phones, such as the iPhone 18 Pro and their foldable devices, are manufactured by Samsung Display because Apple lacks the fabrication facilities to make them. The RAM and storage chips inside iPhones are also frequently supplied by Samsung. Apple's biggest claim to fame manufacturing their own hardware is a half-truth. While they design their own processors, they don't fabricate them, and they certainly don't make their own memory. Furthermore, before Apple started designing their own processors, a massive percentage of an iPhone's internal components were supplied directly by Samsung.

Speaking of batteries, Apple has historically faced massive backlash and lawsuits for software updates designed to degrade battery performance faster, strategically forcing users into buying replacements. Samsung phones are not without their flaws, of course. The Galaxy S22 was effectively an oven due to thermal issues, and past generations had their own processing hurdles. However, those issues were fully resolved leading up to the S25, which boasts a better camera than top-of-the-line Apple devices, superior processing power and unmatched customization. Our generation has settled for mediocrity

with Apple. They release minimal innovations yearly, yet people go bonkers over them. Think of the extreme lack of personality modern Apple phones have. The removal of the home button and other physical features has led the iPhone into a sterile, homogenized state. Everyone uses the Always-On display or MagSafe cases just to show off that they own an expensive device. But what these people don't realize is that my phone, the Galaxy S25 Ultra, is actually more expensive and just overall better.

To all the iPhone users: think about how often you charge your phone after the first two months. New iPhones have good battery life initially, but it degrades incredibly fast. Meanwhile, I average seven hours of screen time a day including two hours of Spotify and I only charge my S25 Ultra once a day. Imagine how amazing it would be to not constantly search for the nearest charger or live in fear of your phone dying.

I genuinely believe 80% of people who use Apple products do so simply because of the brand name. They don't know the capabilities of the competition, and they haven't done the research to find out that Android is no longer the cheap, laggy phone it was in 2014. True smartphone personality comes from customizing the user interface. Android allows users to literally customize everything: notifications, alarms, home screens, displays, app logos and more. Why is Apple considered special for slowly adopting basic customization features that Android has had forever?

Don't believe me? Ask any international student on campus. iPhones are relatively rare in most of the world due to being significantly less accessible and affordable. Android completely dominates the global market.

Now let's talk about the MacBook, the "big bad" of Apple's ecosystem and arguably the biggest lie in the tech world. I find Apple's marketing team's ability to convince the nation that the Mac is a superior choice truly incredible. MacOS is a purposefully counter-intuitive system, forcing everyday tasks to be more difficult than necessary. For some college institutions, Macs are almost unusable because they lack software compatibility. They also lack sufficient base storage and processing power for their exorbitant price tags. Yes, they are effective for exclusive school use, but there's no breadth to their capabilities. The ecosystem is linear and stale; the incremental improvements to lines like the MacBook Air only fool people into wasting their money. I am aware that many corporations use Macs. Therefore, it is good to know how to use both operating systems because Apple is a part of everyday business life and is, unfortunately, here to stay.

It all comes down to marketing. Without the best marketing team in history, Apple is nothing but the name of a fruit. They lack the ability to truly innovate on their own and overprice their products to an extreme. Nothing Apple makes is truly worth the price tag. They simply use their name like a designer brand, brainwashing the populace into believing their product is superior simply because Apple made it.

Quality over gimmicks: Why Apple outlives the competition



Benjamin Anacleiro '30
Reply to this opinion at
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Ever since a guy named Steve Jobs started building circuit boards in his garage in 1976, college students have gladly surrendered their bank accounts and free will to a glowing apple. Apple doesn't just sell technology. They sell a perfected ecosystem and cult that is too good to pass up. When was the last time you saw someone switch from an Android device to Apple? And if so, were they regretting it? This is just one example of how Apple has managed to dominate the market and create products and an ecosystem that is so good, it's detrimental to your life to leave it.

While some hardcore tech enthusiasts like to debate bench tests, clock speeds, and camera zoom, normal life is not a laboratory benchmark. For the everyday student, you just want it to work and help you get your assignments done. This is where Apple products shine. Apple's cohesive ecosystem delivers a reliable and frictionless experience with features like Airdrop, Apple Accounts, and Mirroring.

To give credit where credit is due, Android, specifically Samsung, does create some amazing technology and leading edge specs on their devices. Samsung DeX is very impressive in that you can just plug an ordinary phone into a monitor on campus and it will function for the most part like a desktop computer. On paper, while Samsung seems lightyears ahead, in the chaos of daily life, Apple still takes the lead. A prime example of this would be Samsung's 2022 game optimizing service scandal. Samsung was caught secretly throttling the performance of over 10,000 apps on the S22 lineup in order to hide the battery and thermal flaws. They also whitelisted benchmarking apps like Geekbench, so the phones looked blazing fast on paper.

Another example is everyday use and versatility. Having endless customization sounds amazing until you end up using it one time when you first receive the phone and never change anything again. Apple's homescreen and app icons have stayed the same design and layout since the beginning. When you are trying to submit an assignment at 11:58 p.m. Wouldn't you like to just know where everything is instead of scrolling through app covers and custom pages? Android's open nature frequently comes with software issues and inconsistency especially when it comes to using third party apps, and background battery drain.

Nothing demonstrates the cost of cutting corners for flashy specs quite like the 2016 Note 7 disaster. In order to outspec the iPhone on paper, Samsung shipped out their phones with defective and cramped batteries

which knowingly overheated, caught fire, and exploded. This got so bad that it was blowing up cars and the Note 7 was banned from all commercial flights when replacement batteries also caught on fire. Therefore, they scrapped the whole line and left a stain on their customers' view of the company. This flows perfectly into my next point about Apple vs Android longevity and resale value. College budgets are extremely tight for most students. Knowing you have devices that will last you well throughout college makes you feel like you just made a good investment in your future. I still own a running MacBook pro from 2013 that can carry out any function you could possibly ask it to do. This is largely in part to Apple's superior build quality, software support, and easy repairability. If that's not a testament to Apple's legendary build quality and legacy I don't know what is. Android on the other hand, do not run well after this time duration or less as they use lots of third party parts and have very aggressive refresh cycles which makes your new android phone seem obsolete every three months.

Apple's ecosystem has been proven time and time again. Let's dive deeper into Apple products in student lives. When you snap a photo of notes or take notes on your Macbook, they are instantly shared to all your Apple devices without pressing a single button. You can copy something on your phone, and because of Universal Copy, it can be pasted on your Macbook instantly. When your friend needs the notes you just took pictures of after class, instead of having to download the photo, and find their name in messages, all you have to do on Apple is simply click Airdrop and send it instantly.

We couldn't talk about Apple's dominance and influence though without arguably their best and most influential product of the last decade. AirPods. No single product quite illustrates Apple's cultural dominance like the AirPods. When they came out in 2016 and Apple removed the headphone jack, everybody thought they were crazy and trying to screw over their customers. Critics called them overpriced and useless. Fast forward to any campus or city, and almost everyone has a pair of wireless headphones of some sort. AirPods did not just boost Apple stock, but they transformed how Bluetooth audio works and made it effortless and a permanent extension of human daily life.

Ultimately Samsung designs devices for individual tweekers and tech spec people. Apple designs devices for the human population and what they need. Apple does not sell specs, they sell products and fit perfectly and do not interrupt your daily life. College is demanding enough and you should not have to think about why your laptop won't sync to your phone or why your files keep exporting strangely. By prioritizing intuitive software and harmony, while also being able to have enduring build quality, it provides an unmatched experience of ease. Samsung designs phenomenal gadgets for the person who loves reading instruction manuals; Apple designs them for everyone else and the future.

Wally's Wall

The Prompt

Who was more popular?
Michael Jackson or The Beatles

74% - Michael Jackson



26% - The Beatles

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
GRAPHIC BY PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28



Scan for solution!

'It's Mr. Worldwide!'

Crossword by Paul Hawksworth '28

Across

- Clean energy type
- The basics, say
- Prefix with sphere
- Pizza amount
- Cartoon character Betty
- Father to Cain and Abel
- Appointed (to)
- Ye ___ Tavern
- Japanese British singer Sawayama
- Chinese town where no one lives?
- "Honest" president
- Taxi
- Fencing blade
- Controversy of 1990s baseball
- The Eiffel of far east?
- Spy org.
- Martin of "The West Wing"
- Macabre author
- Daring bikini
- Sen. or Rep.
- Famous British rock group?
- Enterprise, for one
- "Am not!" retort
- Organ that has a drum
- Arctic sight
- Place to see an upside down Michelangelo painting?
- Simmons known for his long tongue
- Retro Chevy model
- State on the Rio Grande
- Agreement
- Emerald Isle, poetically
- Longtime soap villainess Kane
- Reddit Q&As
- Pepper counterpart
- Jotted down

Down

- ID card fig.
- Snowman in "Frozen"
- VIP's ride
- Big name in computers
- Snoopy's nemesis
- Humble home
- Squidward's "___ and Brash"
- Cipher
- Older brother on "iCarly"
- Gummy candy brand
- Revise, as text

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
	20					21					22			
					23				24					
		25	26	27			28	29				30	31	32
33						34						35		
36						37				38	39			
40						41				42				
43			44	45					46					
									48					
		49	50				51	52				53	54	55
56						57					58			59
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

- A lot
- IFC counterpart
- Doubter's comment
- 22-Across, usually
- Not ___ (mediocre)
- Wolf leader in "The Jungle Book"
- Common farewell
- Descend like a vulture
- Adolescent
- Clickable PC images
- Outback canine
- Wise guy
- Three make a tbsp.
- Vision-related prefix
- Present danger to
- Giggling sound
- Sacred sites
- Per person
- Starts over
- Common college entrance exam
- "That's impossible for me!"
- Baseball stitch
- Ancient Peruvians
- Romance author Roberts
- Sinister
- But, en Español
- Highway off-ramp
- ___ up, as shoes
- Academic fig.
- Unhappy

Soccer dominates on Homecoming, drops game against Adrian

TY MURPHY '27
MANAGING EDITOR

After a dominating Senior Recognition Day against Principia College, Wabash College soccer struggled traveling to Adrian, Michigan to face Adrian College in their final match before beginning North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) play. Looking to improve on last year's 2-5-1 conference record, the team enters this point of the season boasting a 9-2-1 record and a revitalized team.

The Little Giants opened up Saturday, September 26 celebrating five of their players on Senior Recognition Day in Fischer Field. And those five seniors, Luis Martinez, Will Aurrichio, Alfredo Campos, Ty Freedman and Bryce Kinnaman '27 made sure the celebration would continue into the game against Principia College.

"To be honored as a senior and as one of the five strong seniors that stuck with it for all four years, I'm very honored and humbled by that fact," said Kinnaman.

Kinnaman needed only 33 seconds to score when he took the assist from Ethan Simmons '29 and Campos to hammer the ball into the net for a 1-0 lead. And the goals would not stop there. Simmons, assisted by Daniel Tkachuk '29 and Campos, drove the ball in for another goal at the 13 minute mark. Not long after that, in the 14th minute, Kinnaman once again found the net from the assist by Campos to move to a dominating 3-0 lead. A goal by Principia's Tyler Meier would cut the lead to 3-1 for the Panthers, but Wabash would not be denied with Simmons

scoring again in minute 20. Sebastian Licon '28 closed out the first-half scoring in minute 30 off the assist from Alex Burke '30 before Martinez sealed it with a goal at the minute 70 mark to confirm a dominating 6-1 Wabash victory.

With his two goals during the game, Kinnaman broke into the number 10 spot of the current DIII Men's soccer goal leaders with 8 goals as of September 27. Campos would also take the lead for total assists in DIII Men's soccer as of September 29.

"It was just an all-around great day," said Kinnaman. "It felt like a fever dream a little bit. We weren't really playing very organized, but it seemed like every time we got any offensive half, it somehow worked out to become a goal or assist."

The Little Giants took the four-hour drive to face the Bulldogs on September 29 in a defensive thriller. Campos and Kinnaman applied constant pressure to the opposing goalie but were unable to get anything to connect in the first half, leading to a stalemate thanks to Wabash keeping Adrian off the scoreboard. But due to a penalty kick early in the second half, Adrian's Jack Pelton broke the deadlock in the 57th minute to give the Bulldogs the first lead of the game. The Little Giants attempted to push back with a total of six corner kicks in the last 14 minutes of the game but were unable to get anything to connect, losing 1-0 for their second loss of the season.

"We've been working since the very last game of last year to really emphasize culture first, and that's why we're just

taking one game at a time," said head soccer coach Chris Keller. "We're not looking forward or behind. It was a tough game, but I know we'll be fine."

The team returns on October 3 traveling east to Oberlin, Ohio where they will open up their NCAC play against Oberlin College. And despite playing extremely well to this point, their mindset refuses to change.

"We could have a great regular season,

but when it actually gets into conference play, that's where it really matters," said Kinnaman. "Our mindset going into this is that we've put some success together for the regular season, but it means nothing when it comes to conference play. We're definitely going in with confidence, but the regular season is more to test and to get those qualities before you really get into the nitty-gritty of your place in the conference."



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

JD Branigan '29 runs to clear the ball from Wabash territory in a game against Rose Hulman Institute of Technology on September 9 at Fischer Field.

Welcome new Broadcasting Director: Hunter Magdanz

CORY HUDSON '30
STAFF WRITER

This year, Wabash College's broadcasting team has been fortunate to receive both a new broadcasting director and a refined broadcasting setup. While a generous donation from an alumnus helped the team acquire the equipment needed for a top-of-the-line broadcast, a donation alone does not give Wabash College's broadcasting team the direction needed to execute one. This is what makes Hunter Magdanz such an essential resource for the team to fully utilize the new prestigious equipment the broadcasting team has acquired.

Magdanz's broadcasting career began 11 years ago during the summer in his hometown after returning from his first attempt at college. He describes his return as a time of uncertainty, trying to find direction toward what he wanted to do in life, when his father recommended he try to find a position at the radio station in town. After showing up at the radio station and asking to learn, they agreed to have him as a shadow. By fall, the radio station asked him to work covering high school football, which started his career as a sports broadcaster.

After deciding that sports broadcasting was where he saw his future, Magdanz moved around quite a bit. He studied at University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, where he worked with their radio, TV and film program. He eventually moved back to a sports-focused broadcasting, calling games at the college and doing play-by-play for University of Wisconsin Green Bay's men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball. Around this time, Magdanz scored an internship for ESPN Milwaukee. College at Oshkosh was quite the foot in the door when it came to broadcasting for Magdanz, as he honed his broadcasting technique and gained experience working with big-name broadcasting stations.

After graduating from college, Magdanz spent time working with Good Karma Sports and doing radio gigs on the side. It is important to note the work he did in the community at this time, bringing his well-developed skill set to more local broadcasts, like putting church services on the air and high school football and basketball coverage with ESPN Madison.

Magdanz has been all over the place when it comes to broadcasting. Which raises the question, "What brings him to Wabash?"

"As I started to look into the school [Wabash] more, I was like, 'oh, this is somewhere that is a really unique opportunity to make that switch from radio into live video and really diving into the video side of things,'" said Magdanz.

A few games in, Magdanz already seems to be making an impact

"Hunter has been a great mentor in the broadcasting space," said Ty Murphy '27. "He [Magdanz] came from such a



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMS AND MARKETING

detailed background that he's imposed a lot of knowledge on us and really helped us because a lot of us are new to broadcasting."

He says Wabash is "an awesome opportunity to be somewhere that obviously doesn't do things the way that everyone else says everything has to be done, and I really love that about this school."

What a great year for the Wabash broadcasting team. An ambitious leader with extensive broadcasting experience, and new top-of-the-line broadcasting equipment. It is exciting to see where the Wabash Video Network will go with these new additions and how the limits of past broadcasts will be broken.

"Sometimes when broadcasting you get to a point where you're like, 'I'm pushing the equipment to such a level to how much a computer can do, or how much certain broadcasting equipment can do,'" said Magdanz. "Because of this gift, there's almost no limit to what we can try and do."

Magdanz would like to make it known that the broadcasting team is still taking applications: "So if anybody wants to join the team, we're more than happy to have them as a part of the crew. We can always use more hands."

"He [Magdanz] came from such a detailed background that he's imposed a lot of knowledge on us and really helped us because a lot of us are new to broadcasting."

-Ty Murphy '27

Golf looks ahead to Wabash College Invitational

MARK BERGER '28
STAFF WRITER

The temperature may be cooling down, but the Little Giants' golf season is continuing to heat up as they enter October. After a three-week hiatus from tournament play, they're gearing up for the Wabash College Invitational hosted at Broadmoor Country Club in Indianapolis on October 5-6. They look to continue a hot start to the year as they face some of Division III's best teams.

Wabash Golf has been nothing short of historic to start the season as they carded the best opening round in program history and finished third at the Ted Barclay Invitational. They followed that stellar performance by finishing first out of twelve teams at the Stateline Shootout, led by Leo Dellinger '29 and his individual winning performance.

"It's our own home tournament, so it's always fun to host. We have put together one of the best Division III golf tournaments of the fall thanks to Broadmoor Country Club in Indianapolis," said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21. "We will have four of the top six teams in the country in the field with several other strong opponents as well."

This will be the sixth rendition of the Wabash College Invitational at Broadmoor Country Club. Beginning

"We have had success early in this season but this premier talent will give us more insights to where we are as a team."

-Mason Pierle '28

in 2021, the invitational replaced the Wabash College Golf Classic, and it's become a staple in the Little Giants' schedule each year.

"It feels almost weird in a sense that we all know the course so well," said Finn Carteaux '29. "Usually, we only

have had one round at a course before a tournament, but most of the guys have played Broadmoor at least 10 times."

The Wabash College Invitational historically draws some of the nation's top teams and will give the Little Giants another chance to assert themselves as a team to watch this year. In last year's tournament, Wabash finished eighth out of 18 teams in a field that was led by Emory, Carnegie Mellon and Illinois Wesleyan.

"No. 2 Kenyon College, No. 3 Emory University, No. 5 Illinois Wesleyan University and No. 6 Carnegie Mellon University are all teams I'm excited to play with and compete," said Kopp. "We have had success early in the season, but this premier talent will give us more insight as to where we are as a team."

Of last year's top ten individual finishers, only three will return to this year's field. Top finisher Kevin Mu of Emory University will return and look to defend his title, but the red hot Little Giants will be on his tail. The idea of a home course advantage won't make them complacent either as they'll prepare like it is any other tournament.

"Honestly, there isn't much of a difference when it comes to playing away versus home due to the fact that the goal is always the same no matter what golf course you play," said Mason Pierle '28. "While it does feel good to be able to play at a course that we have a lot of experience at, being able to get the ball in the hole in as few shots as possible is always the most important thing."

The Little Giants' competitive nature and underdog mentality certainly make them a threat to be taken seriously. They'll look to continue their historic season this week and then wrap up the fall leg of their schedule in Destin, Florida at the Golfweek Fall Challenge.



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDSOE '26

Mason Pierle '28 holds his finish after blasting his drive down the middle of the fairway at the Spalding University Preview on April 12 at Timbergate Golf Club.

Wabash decimates Wooster in Homecoming bashing

CARTER MCCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

The College of Wooster made the trip to Crawfordsville on Saturday, September 26, and spent the afternoon chasing Cole Dickerson '28. The Wabash College running back ran for 178 yards and four touchdowns in a 34-7 North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) win at Little Giant Stadium, which is more than the Fighting Scots gained as an entire offense.

The Little Giants controlled the football for a commanding 40 minutes, 33 seconds to improve to 4-0 (3-0). Wooster fell to 1-3 (1-2).

The Little Giants did not ease into things. On the opening possession, Wabash needed just six plays to go 64 yards. Quarterback Brand Campbell '27 hit Luke Adams '28 for a 40-yard gain, and Dickerson finished the drive with a 7-yard touchdown run. Tyler Church's '28 extra point made it 7-0.

The defense answered the bell too. William Harris '28 dropped Wooster for a 6-yard sack on the Fighting Scots' first possession, and the resulting field position turned into a 36-yard Church field goal. Wabash led 10-0, and the afternoon looked like a formality.

Then came the one moment that made the crowd shift in its seats. Wooster returned an interception 89 yards to the Wabash 1-yard line, one of those plays that can turn a game sideways. The Fighting Scots punched it in on the next snap, and the score was 10-7.

"Our whole team has a next play mentality," said Nick Witte '28. "So for us it was all about confidence and refocusing on the next drive."

It was also the last thing Wooster did all day. Wabash scored the final 24

points of the game and made it clear the interception was a speed bump.

Church restored the cushion early in the second quarter with a 26-yard field goal for a 13-7 lead. Then Dickerson made his case for the game ball, breaking loose for a 49-yard run and finishing the drive with a 12-yard touchdown. Wabash went to halftime up 20-7.

The defense deserves a share of the credit for that lead, and it is the part of the story Wooster would probably like to forget. The Fighting Scots managed one first down in the entire second quarter. They went 0-for-4 on third down. Tez Humphrey '27, Wade McAllister '27 and Dakota Johnson '28 each brought down the quarterback in the period, so the sack column came with a three-man rotation.

"Our defensive players have really developed," said Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98. "We are in our third year in the scheme and starting a bunch of Juniors, so that helps a lot. We are playing confident and fast and can really dominate up front, which makes the entire defense look better."

If the first half was a takeover, the third quarter was a coronation, and Wooster helped by handing over the football. Samuel Poriah '27 recovered a Wooster fumble at the Wooster 46 yard line early in the quarter. Dickerson wasted no time, racing 27 yards immediately and eventually scoring from two yards out. That was his third touchdown of the day and pushed the lead to 27-7.

Later in the quarter, Ayden Salpietra '27 forced another fumble, and Johnson pounced on it at the Wabash 21. What followed was the drive of the day: 10 plays, 79 yards. Campbell found Witte for 45 yards, the longest completion of



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '28

Cole Dickerson '28 runs into the end zone in the Homecoming Game against The College of Wooster on September 26 at Little Giant Stadium.

the game. Then came the moment that let everyone in the stadium know how this was going to end. Facing a fourth-and-2 at the Wooster 11, Wabash didn't blink. Dickerson converted it, then finished the drive with a 1-yard touchdown run. Four touchdowns, 34-7, and the only question left was how long Wabash could keep the ball.

The answer, it turned out, was most of the fourth quarter. The game became a demonstration of how to run out a clock. Wabash held the football for 12 minutes and 37 seconds of the final 15, and Wooster never earned a first down in the quarter. Javon Garry '27 carried 20 times for a season-high 79 yards, taking his turn wearing down a defense that was already gasping.

Aiden Beadles '28 and Christian Lopez '28 combined on a fourth-quarter sack, which capped a five-sack day for the Wabash defense. The Little Giants entered the game averaging four sacks per contest, so this one came with a bonus.

The final stat sheet reads like a lopsided argument. Wabash rushed for 296 yards and four touchdowns, both season highs. Wooster managed 116 total yards and five first downs, while Wabash piled up 26 first downs of its own. The Little Giants also made six trips inside the Wooster red zone and came away with points all six times. As for time of possession, 40:33 belonged to Wabash, and you can do the math on the other side.

Campbell was efficient through the air, going 11-of-17 for 139 yards. Adams led the receivers with six catches for 79 yards. Church was perfect on the day, hitting both field goals and all four extra points, and his punting helped the Little Giants win the field-position battle.

"The ability to run the ball and then take some shots downfield is working really well for us right now," said Witte.

Dickerson's afternoon was a career day in several ways. The four touchdowns are a career high in both rushing touchdowns and total touchdowns, and his 27 carries are also a career best. He now has 20 career rushing touchdowns and 22 total touchdowns, which is the kind of stat line that looks good in a media guide.

He was not the only Wabash player having a good time. Johnson stuffed the stat sheet with four tackles, a sack and his first fumble recovery of the season, and he has now recorded a sack in three straight games. Harris has one in two straight. If the defense keeps this up, opposing quarterbacks will start requesting a moment of silence before kickoff.

The win was Wabash's fifth in a row over Wooster and improved the Little Giants to 26-4 all-time in the series. In NCAC play, Wabash has won 22 of 26 meetings between the schools. The series dates back to 1944, when Wabash won 27-0 in Crawfordsville, and the Little Giants have been finding ways to make Homecoming uncomfortable for The Scotts ever since.

There won't be much time to celebrate. Wabash hits the road on Saturday, Oct. 3, for a trip to Granville, Ohio, to face Denison University in another NCAC game. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

The Little Giants will bring an unbeaten record, a ground game that just piled up 296 yards, and a defense that made a Wooster offense look like it was playing in slow motion. Denison has a week to figure out how to stop all of it. Based on Saturday's evidence, that is going to take some doing.



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '28

The Wabash defense dives for a loose ball following a forced fumble against The College of Wooster on September 26 at Little Giant Stadium.

Coach Spotlight: Chris Keller uses tough times to make strong men

TY MURPHY '27
MANAGING EDITOR

Coming from a family of professional soccer players, it seemed that Head Coach of Wabash College Soccer, Chris Keller, was always destined to coach. Moving to Texas from Mexico City when he was just three years old, Keller had already become fond of the sport. Thanks to an uncle who played first division professional soccer in Mexico and a grandpa who wplayed in the Swiss top flight, how could he not be?

Following in the footsteps of his relatives, Keller pursued soccer himself, getting the chance to play at Riverside Community College before transferring to the University of Southwest in Hobbs, New Mexico. After graduating there, he decided to take his first opportunity at becoming a coach. But at just 22 years old, he got a lot more than just being an assistant on the team.

"Just a year into my graduate assistantship, my head coach, who was my mentor, left to coach in the Ivy League, and then he left me as a Head Coach at 22 of my alma mater," said Keller. "So, I just got thrown in, but I truly loved every minute of it."

"I've always felt that he's instilled confidence in me throughout my four years here and I have a lot of respect for what he stands for as a man, a father and a coach."

-Bryce Kinnaman '27

did for him.

"The school wasn't that funded, so I pretty much did everything," said Keller. "And it was really an awesome opportunity as a young coach."

Not long after that though, a new opportunity presented itself. Keller made the move to work at Allegheny College under then-head coach Angelo Panzetta. And with a few national rankings under his belt, it was time for him to transition back into the head coaching spotlight, this time with a new team that caught his eye.

"At Allegheny we used to play against Wabash all the time," said Keller. "I knew they had built a new soccer stadium, and I just knew of the academic reputation and of the alumni network, but the soccer didn't add up. Sometime that spring, the job opened up, and my former Athletic Director Portia Hoeg told me, 'you need to apply for this job.' I got the chance to meet a few of the guys and I figured out that Wabash guys are pretty special. And so, I took the job and ended up here."

Taking over a team with 17 losing seasons and led the country in red cards is no easy task, but Keller knew that he could make a difference.

"We started putting the team first and putting the school first," said Keller. "There were a lot of talented guys when I first got here, and they put themselves first, including the leadership from the coaching staff. So, I needed to instill that mentality. That they weren't too big for any job."

And the team felt the impact. Keller started his first season in 2012, finishing with a 4-14 overall record, and in only two years he completely turned the team around to a 13 win team. From there the soccer team did not have another losing season for nine years. And it was all about bringing in the right people.

"Coach has set the standards high and is holding people accountable," said Assistant Coach Jesse Olivas. "One of the things that coach does well is recruit the

right fit for Wabash. He looks to bring in not only talented players, but good people who will succeed here at Wabash, both on and off the field."

And people took notice of the shift in culture, including Olivas, Keller's former teammate at Southwest who followed him to take the assistant coaching position after being a head coach for 12 years at La Sierra University. But it was not only about winning on the field that counted. Wabash College Soccer needed to win off the field.

"The goal is really just for the guys to become the best versions of themselves, get a great degree, get connected to alumni and be ultra-successful," said Keller. "Being here for 14 years, those guys are now older and really starting to have a lot of success. I could call a doctor at any moment. I could call a dentist at any moment. I could call a lawyer at any moment. There are so many guys who have poured into the program over the years."

Since he took over as Head Coach of Wabash Soccer, the program has seen a boost in its confidence. And if anyone recognizes this, it's his players.

"He's trusted me a lot throughout my time here through both playing good and playing bad," said Bryce Kinnaman '27. "And I've always felt that he's instilled confidence in me throughout my four years here and I have a lot of respect for him and what he stands for as a man, a father and a coach."

With an already hot start to the 2026 season, it looks like Kellers' mentality is still working after all these years. As the team begins the second half of their schedule, Wabash Soccer will continue to surround themselves with success.

"As an athletic department, it's easy to compare sports," said Keller. "But there's so many good teams here and so many good coaches that it's a reflection of all of us. We lean into each other and they also contribute to some of the success of this year."



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Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller talks to Joseph Kaefer '21 during practice.