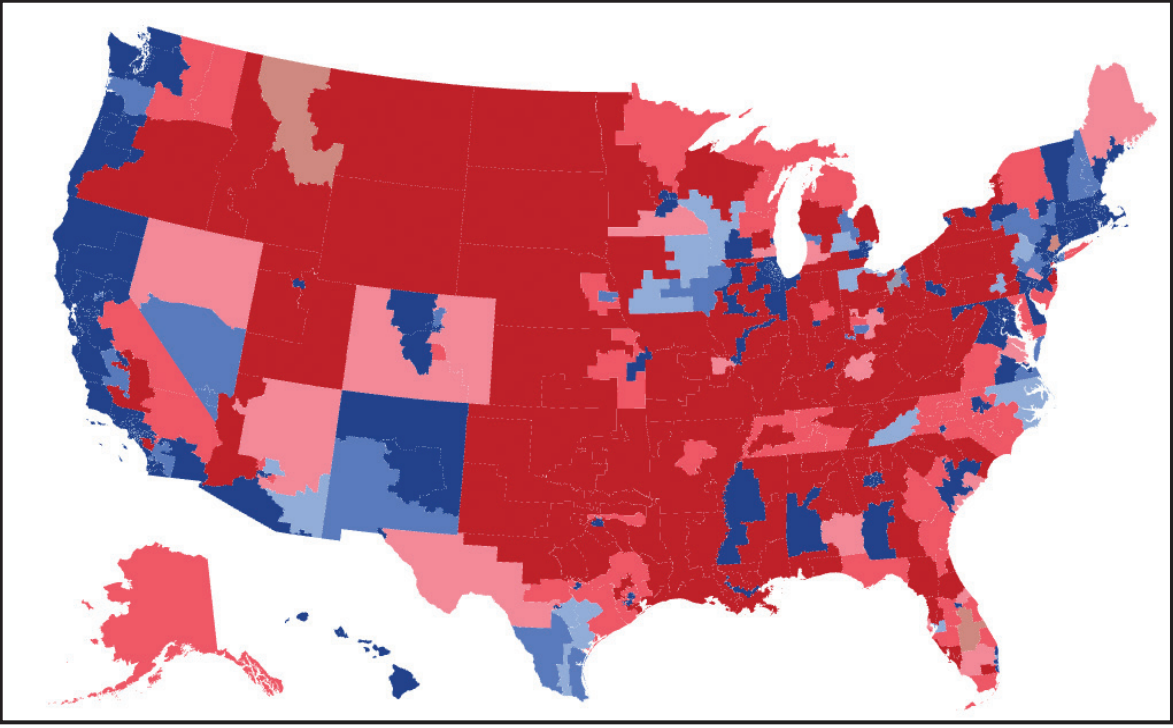


2026 MIDTERM RACES TO WATCH



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR PHILLIPS '28

Blue represents districts leaning Democrat, red represents districts leaning Republican. The darker the shade the more it leans Republican or Democrat.

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

On November 3, voters will participate in the midterm elections during the second Trump Administration. President Trump's approval rating remains in the mid-30% range, comparable to George W. Bush's before the 2006 midterms. Disapproval is driven mainly by the Iran war and its economic impact, which has negatively affected Republican polling. Democrats currently lead the nationwide congressional ballot by eight to 11 points.

A year ago, Republicans appeared likely to retain Senate control in these midterms, as many up-for-election seats are in states Trump won in 2024 and incumbents were favored. However, the landscape has shifted significantly. Texas, which Trump won by 14 points, and Ohio, are now competitive. Democrats have nominated a strong slate of candidates, including former North Carolina governor Roy Cooper, who leads recent polls by over 10 points, and Mary Peltola, former At-Large Representative for Alaska. Democrats are favored to flip several seats and gain back a majority in the Senate.

Final Senate Seat Count:
Democrats 52 -- Republicans 48

Texas Senate Race
Ken Paxton (R) vs. James Talarico (D)

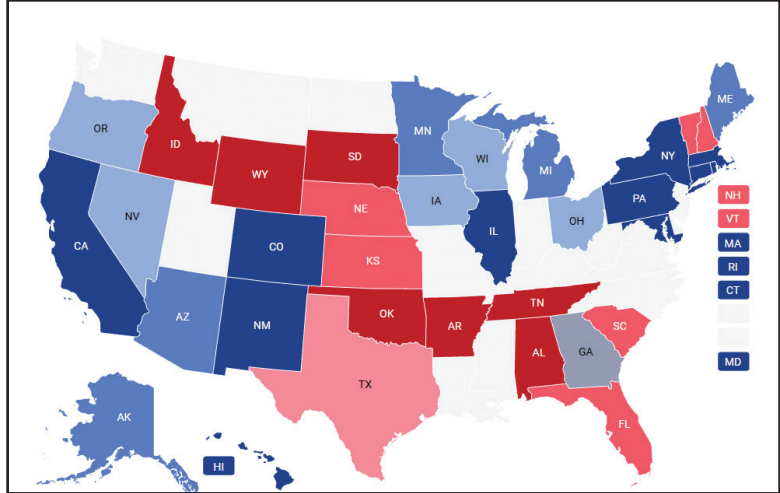
Texas's Senate race is unusually competitive after Ken Paxton defeated incumbent John Cornyn in the Republican primary. Democrat James Talarico, a state representative since 2018, has focused on public

education, healthcare affordability, campaign finance reform and reducing corporate influence in politics. Talarico also holds a significant fundraising advantage. Paxton, Texas's Attorney General since 2015, is a staunch conservative known for opposing immigration, environmental regulations and government run healthcare. He has faced multiple scandals during his tenure, leading to his impeachment by the Republican State House in 2023. This election will determine whether Democrats can leverage Republican divisions in a state that has not elected a Democratic senator since 1988.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Michigan Senate Race
Abdul El-Sayed (D) vs. Mike Rogers (R)

Michigan's open Senate race follows Democratic Senator Gary Peters's decision not to seek reelection.



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR PHILLIPS '28

Projections of the House of Representatives races for the 2026 midterm elections.

tion. Abdul El-Sayed narrowly defeated Congresswoman Haley Stevens in the Democratic primary and campaigns on the Medicare for All Act, lower prescription drug prices and reproductive rights. Former Republican Congressman Mike Rogers, who narrowly lost Michigan's 2024 Senate election, emphasizes tax cuts, economic growth, border security and immigration enforcement. Rogers is closely aligned with President Trump, who carried Michigan in 2024. The race remains highly competitive, though October polling averages show El-Sayed leading by about two percentage points.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Maine Senate Race
Susan Collins (R) vs. Troy Jackson (D)

Republican Senator Susan Collins faces a difficult reelection campaign in a state that consistently backs

Democrats in presidential elections. Collins, who has served since 1997, emphasizes bipartisanship, constituent services and her ability to secure federal funding for Maine. Democrat Troy Jackson, a former Maine Senate president and fifth-generation logger, replaced Graham Platner after Platner withdrew amid sexual assault allegations that Platner denies. Jackson campaigns on working-class economic issues, union protections, healthcare affordability and reproductive rights. The race remains competitive, with Jackson benefiting from Maine's Democratic presidential voting history while Collins relies on her established reputation and political independence.

Final Rating: Tilt Democrat

Ohio Senate Race
Jon Husted (R) vs. Sherrod Brown (D)

Ohio's special Senate election features incumbent Jon Husted against former Senator Sherrod Brown. Husted, appointed in January 2025 following J.D. Vance's election as vice president, previously served as Ohio's lieutenant governor and secretary of state. He emphasizes economic development, tax cuts and conservative fiscal policies. Brown, who lost reelection in 2024 after three Senate terms, campaigns on protecting Social Security, strengthening organized labor and lowering healthcare costs. Despite Ohio's increasingly Republican electorate, Brown has maintained a polling advantage. October polling averages show Brown leading by approximately three to four points, making this a potential Democratic pickup.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Iowa Senate Race
Ashley Hinson (R) vs. Josh Turek (D)

Iowa's open Senate race follows Republican Senator Joni Ernst's decision not to seek reelection. Republican Congresswoman Ashley Hinson, first elected to Congress in 2020, emphasizes border security, tax cuts, agricultural interests and reducing federal spending. Democrat Josh Turek, a state representative and Paralympic gold medalist, campaigns on healthcare affordability, protecting Social Security, supporting working families and improving opportunities for rural communities. Republicans have dominated Iowa's recent statewide elections, making Hinson the favorite in a traditionally Republican-leaning race. However, Turek hopes to capitalize on economic concerns and dissatisfaction with Washington to make the contest competitive.

Final Rating: Tilt Republican

Alaska Senate Race
Dan Sullivan (R) vs. Mary Peltola (D)

Alaska's Senate race has emerged as a major Democratic pickup opportunity, with recent polling averages showing Peltola ahead by approximately 1.6 points. Republican incumbent Dan Sullivan, serving since 2015, emphasizes energy development, national security and strengthening Alaska's economy. Democrat Mary Peltola, who represented Alaska in Congress from 2022 to 2025, campaigns on protecting fisheries, lowering living costs and defending reproductive rights. Alaska's ranked-choice voting system adds uncertainty, particularly because another candidate named Dan Sullivan is on the ballot.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

In a typical midterm, the incumbent President's party loses seats in the House of Representatives. To counter this, President Trump called on state legislatures to redraw congressional maps mid-decade in several Republican states, like Texas and Florida, and several others. The Democrats fired back with their own gerrymanders in states like California.

Final House Seat Count:
Democrats 231 -- Republicans 204

New York's 17th Congressional District
Mike Lawler (R) vs. Cait Conley (D)

Republican incumbent Mike Lawler faces Army veteran and former national security official Cait Conley. Lawler stresses bipartisanship, public safety and affordability; Conley champions reproductive rights, healthcare and democratic institutions. Kamala Harris carried the district in 2024, leaving Lawler among the nation's most vulnerable Republican incumbents.

Final Rating: Tilt Republican

Michigan's 7th Congressional District
Tom Barrett (R) vs. William Lawrence (D)

Republican incumbent Tom Barrett, an Army veteran and former state legislator, faces Democrat William Lawrence in a highly competitive district. Barrett emphasizes national security, manufacturing and lower government spending; Lawrence focuses on affordability and protecting public services. The divided electorate makes the district a key House battleground.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Continued page 2

Smith '27 earns victory in Moot Court



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Owen Smith '27 sits in the middle of the justices who adjudicated the 33rd Annual Moot Court Finals. This year's case revolved around whether states could ban assault weapons and large-capacity magazines. Smith emerged as the competition's Top Advocate after an intense final round.

OWEN VERMEULEN '28
NEWS EDITOR

One thing that a sunny park in the middle of summer has in common with the Moot Court Finals this year is a hot bench. Each year Wabash brings in a distinguished list of real judges to put the four Moot Court finalists to the test. This year was no different. The bench was manned by Honorable James R. Sweeney II, a Chief Justice for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Honorable Kendra Klump, a United States Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, Honorable James A. Joven '89, a Marion Superior Court Judge in Indianapolis and Assistant Professor of history at Wabash Jacob Calhoun.

The four finalists, Wade Wisler '27, John Jarosz '28, Owen Smith '27 and Elijah Wetzel '27, were peppered with questions the entirety of their time. After four excellent oral arguments were given and the judges deliberated, Owen Smith was named Top Advocate.

"It is a really great honor and a privilege to win this year," said Smith. "I had a lot of support through friends and family that made it possible. I thought the three other advo-

cates did an outstanding job so it was really entertaining to see everyone handle a complicated problem so well."

Moot Court is an entirely voluntary activity that yields no course credit or pay, absorbs a lot of time. Only those with extreme dedication and personal drive can find themselves in the company of Moot Court winners.

"I spent a lot of hours over fall break and throughout this last week trying to go over as much of the problem as I could," said Smith. "I also spent a lot of time saying my thoughts out loud in study rooms and walking throughout campus to try and simulate as many arguments as I could."

To get up on stage and go toe to toe with some of the best legal minds in Indiana is no mean feat, let alone to do it in front of an audience.

"It's more stressful than people realize," said Smith. "The judges were asking some really tough questions and there's always the pressure in the back of your mind that a large crowd is watching you. So I really tried to keep a calm mind and level head before walking up. [Head Track and Field] Coach Morgan has given me a lot of great advice through track on how to calm my nerves."

‘A Year with Frog and Toad’ preview



PHOTO BY NOAH MINTIE '29
The set of ‘A year with Frog and Toad’ in Ball Theater being prepped for their shows opening Thursday November 5.

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

This fall, Wabash College’s Theater Department is sailing into uncharted waters: the swampy home of Frog and Toad. Its first-ever completely family-friendly production, Associate Professor of Theater and Department Chair Heidi Winters Vogel’s “A Year with Frog and Toad” opens next Thursday. This production aims to broaden the reach while retaining the depth of Wabash storytelling.

Based on the enormously popular yet wonderfully quaint children’s books by Arnold Lobel, “A Year with Frog and Toad” (originally written by Willie Reale and composed by Robert Reale) follows the titular duo throughout a year of their lives. The original production achieved notoriety for bringing an unprecedented appeal of children ages 3-to-10seat in

Broadway, making it the perfect choice for Wabash’s first show for younger audiences. Upwards of 700 elementary students are currently projected to attend throughout the show’s run, a figure that Winters Vogel says may even stretch the capacity of the Ball Theater.

Aside from the sheer number of attendees, “A Year with Frog and Toad” is going above and beyond to reach an unusually large audience. Special care has been taken to keep the production accessible to all audiences.

“It gets everybody in the community involved,” said Alex Schmidt '27, who plays Frog. “Being able to add a sensory-friendly performance too also expands our reach in a way that I feel a lot of theaters don’t necessarily do.”

The sensory-friendly matinee performance is set for Saturday, November 7. This production

will tone-down loud noises, feature fidgets and rocking chairs for audience members, operate with more light and allow for more audience interaction. The aim for this performance is to transform Ball Theater into a space where anyone, regardless of ability or neurotype, can experience the magic of the theater.

While “A Year with Frog and Toad” is oriented at a younger demographic, Winters Vogel assures that the production still dives deep into themes relevant to anyone, especially Wabash men.

“The theme is male friendship, and how men can be caring and supportive friends,” said Winters Vogel. “It does it in a way that is appealing to children, but the deeper truths are very much there. I think we all need to be better friends, and we all need to improve our relationships.”

Marvel writer Gabby Rivera visits campus



COURTESY OF LATINO USA
Gabby Rivera spoke in Baxter 101 on October 26 on the importance of self expression through creativity.

PHILLIP BARRE '30
STAFF WRITER

Gabby Rivera, a queer Puerto Rican author and comic book writer, visited Wabash on October 26 to discuss identity, representation and her experiences navigating a world that has not always accepted her for who she is. Her keynote presentation in Baxter Hall was followed by a breakfast with students on the morning of Oct. 27, giving students another opportunity to hear about her journey as a writer and the challenges she has overcome.

Rivera, best known for her young adult novel “Juliet Takes a Breath” and her work writing Marvel’s “America”, spoke about her journey as a writer, the experiences that shaped her storytelling and what it meant to build a career while navigating a world that did not always understand or accept her identity.

During the October 26 event, held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Baxter 101, Rivera discussed her experience creating a comic book for Marvel, developing the character America Chavez and writing her first novel. The following morning, students had another opportunity to speak with Rivera during a breakfast from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., where conversations focused on her experiences as a queer author, the obstacles she faced and the impact of seeing people like herself represented in literature.

Rivera spoke openly about the additional challenges that can come with being openly queer and pursuing opportunities that others might take for granted.

“As a queer individual, I am tired of fighting for rights I should’ve been given nor questioned,” said Rivera.

“As being openly queer, I’ve always had to work so much harder to achieve things other people might’ve deemed as easy,” said Rivera.

These comments connected her personal experiences to a broader issue: people should not have to work harder to earn respect simply because of who they are. Rivera discussed how differences that might be accepted among children can some-

times be judged differently by adults. Being seen as different can affect how someone is treated, even before others take the time to understand that person.

Rivera’s writing reflects many of these experiences. Her debut novel, “Juliet Takes a Breath”, follows Juliet Palante, a young Puerto Rican woman exploring her identity, sexuality and understanding of feminism. The story draws on questions of belonging, self-discovery and finding the confidence to understand oneself. Rivera’s novel was first published in 2016 and later received wider recognition, including praise from author Roxane Gay.

Her work with Marvel gave her another opportunity to bring under-represented experiences into popular storytelling. Rivera wrote “America”, a solo comic book series centered on America Chavez, a Latina superhero who is also queer. Through the character, Rivera helped bring a different perspective to a genre in which readers do not always see themselves represented. Her approach also challenges the idea that superheroes must always be tough and hide their emotions.

The breakfast on October 27 gave students a more personal setting to continue these conversations. Rather than attending a lecture and leaving immediately afterward, students could sit with Rivera, ask questions and learn more about the experiences behind her work. Dr. Julio Enriquez-Ornelas and Alina Valencia also joined the gathering, where community-prepared chilaquiles were planned for the meal.

Rivera’s visit offered Wabash students an opportunity to consider how storytelling can do more than entertain. Her experiences illustrated how books and comics can help people feel seen, especially when they have spent years feeling misunderstood, and how writers can use their own experiences to create stories that reach people beyond their immediate communities.

2026 MIDTERM RACES TO WATCH

Continued from page 1

Iowa’s 2nd Congressional District

Joe Mitchell (R) vs. Lindsay James (D)

In Iowa’s open 2nd District, former state legislator Joe Mitchell (R) faces state Representative Lindsay James (D). Mitchell prioritizes conservative fiscal policies, agriculture and economic development; James stresses affordable healthcare, public education, and support for working families. Republican Ashley Hinson’s retirement creates an unexpected Democratic pickup opportunity in northeastern Iowa.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Pennsylvania’s 8th Congressional District

Rob Bresnahan (R) vs. Paige Cognetti (D)

Republican incumbent Rob Bresnahan, a former construction executive, faces Democratic Scranton Mayor Paige Cognetti in northeastern Pennsylvania. He emphasizes economic development, infrastructure and lower government spending; Cognetti focuses on affordability, accountability and working-class opportunity. Bresnahan narrowly defeated Democrat Matt Cartwright in 2024, making the historically competitive district a top Democratic pickup opportunity.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Ohio’s 9th Congressional District

Marcy Kaptur (D) vs. Derek Merrin (R)

Democratic incumbent Marcy Kaptur faces former Republican state Representative Derek Merrin in a rematch of their close 2024 race. Serving since 1983, Kaptur prioritizes manufacturing, organized labor and Great Lakes protections. Merrin advocates tax cuts, border security and conservative economic policies. Republican-friendly redistricting has made her reelection more challenging.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

North Carolina’s 1st Congressional District

Don Davis (D) vs. Laurie Buckhout (R)

Democratic incumbent Don Davis faces retired Army colonel Laurie Buckhout in a rematch. The Air Force veteran and former state senator prioritizes rural healthcare, agriculture and bipartisan economic growth. Buckhout emphasizes border security, military readi-

ness and conservative economics. Republican-led redistricting has made this historically Democratic eastern district increasingly competitive.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Virginia’s 1st Congressional District

Rob Wittman (R) vs. Shannon Taylor (D)

Republican incumbent Rob Wittman, in office since 2007, faces Democrat Shannon Taylor, Henrico County Commonwealth’s Attorney. Wittman stresses military spending, national security and Virginia’s defense industry. Taylor focuses on reproductive rights, public safety and affordability. Suburban voting shifts and dissatisfaction with national Republican policies have made this traditionally Republican district competitive.

Final Rating: Lean Republican

Texas’s 15th Congressional District

Monica De La Cruz (R) vs. Bobby Pulido (D)

Republican incumbent Monica De La Cruz faces Grammy-winning Tejano musician Bobby Pulido in South Texas. De La Cruz prioritizes border security, energy production and conservative economics. Pulido focuses on affordable healthcare, education and opportunities for working families. Democrats hope his regional popularity will reverse recent Republican gains among Hispanic voters.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Michigan’s 4th Congressional District

Bill Huizenga (R) vs. Sean McCann (D)

Republican incumbent Bill Huizenga, in Congress since 2011, faces Democratic state Senator Sean McCann in southwestern Michigan. Huizenga prioritizes financial deregulation, manufacturing and conservative fiscal policies; McCann focuses on public education, affordable healthcare and worker protections. Democrats see the district’s changing suburbs as an opening to challenge the long-time Republican incumbent.

Final Rating: Lean Republican

Ohio’s 7th Congressional District

Max Miller (R) vs. Brian Poindexter (D)

Republican incumbent Max Miller, a former Trump aide, faces Democrat Brian Poindexter in northeastern Ohio. Miller empha-

sizes border security, economic growth and conservative fiscal policies; Poindexter focuses on affordability, healthcare access and opportunities for working families. Shifting suburban voting and national dissatisfaction have made this historically Republican district more competitive.

Final Rating: Tilt Democrat

Wisconsin’s 3rd Congressional District

Derrick Van Orden (R) vs. Rebecca Cooke (D)

Republican incumbent and former Navy SEAL Derrick Van Orden faces Democrat Rebecca Cooke, a small-business owner and nonprofit leader, in a 2024 rematch. Van Orden focuses on border security, agriculture and conservative economics; Cooke on affordable healthcare, rural development and working families. Democrats see the district as a promising pickup opportunity.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

The 2026 midterms also include the governorships of 36 states, with several competitive races offering Democrats opportunities to flip Republican-held offices traditionally. Ohio, Iowa, and Georgia have emerged as particularly important battlegrounds, where open seats

Final Gubernatorial Seat Count: Democrats 28 -- Republicans 22

Ohio Governor’s Race

Amy Acton (D) vs. Vivek Ramaswamy (R)

Ohio’s gubernatorial race has become increasingly competitive, with recent polling showing Acton narrowly ahead. Democrat Amy Acton, Ohio’s former health director, emphasizes healthcare affordability, education and government accountability. Republican Vivek Ramaswamy campaigns on tax cuts, deregulation and conservative education reforms. However, Ramaswamy sparked bipartisan outrage after releasing an advertisement featuring Acton’s estranged mother, who accused her daughter of lying. Acton has not seen her mother since childhood, following allegations that her stepfather sexually abused her. Despite condemnation from Republican Governor Mike DeWine and others, Ramaswamy defended the advertisement, generating significant controversy just weeks before Election Day.

Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Iowa Governor’s Race

Rob Sand (D) vs. Zach Lahn (R)

Iowa’s open gubernatorial race follows Republican Governor Kim Reynolds’s decision not to seek reelection. Democrat Rob Sand, Iowa’s state auditor since 2019, emphasizes government accountability, healthcare affordability and bipartisan cooperation. Republican Zach Lahn, a businessman and political outsider, defeated Trump-endorsed Congressman Randy Feenstra in the Republican primary. Lahn campaigns on property tax relief, parental rights and conservative education policies. Both candidates have emphasized Iowa’s high cancer rates and rising living costs. Despite Iowa’s strong Republican voting history, recent forecasts favor Sand, potentially giving Democrats their first gubernatorial victory in the state since 2006. Ballotpedia

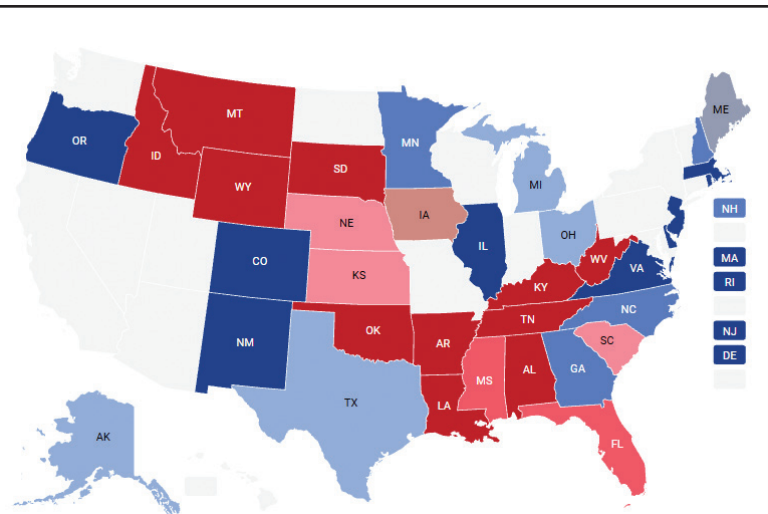
Final Rating: Lean Democrat

Georgia Governor’s Race

Keisha Lance Bottoms (D) vs. Rick Jackson (R)

Georgia’s gubernatorial race is a highly competitive contest to replace term-limited Republican Governor Brian Kemp. Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms, Atlanta’s mayor from 2018 to 2022 and a former Biden administration adviser, emphasizes healthcare access, reproductive rights and economic opportunities for working families. Republican Rick Jackson, a healthcare executive and political newcomer, defeated Lieutenant Governor Burt Jones in the Republican primary runoff. Jackson campaigns on tax relief, healthcare affordability and improving government efficiency. Georgia has not elected a Democratic governor since 1998, but its increasingly competitive electorate has made this election a toss-up, with recent polling showing Jackson narrowly ahead.

Final Rating: Tilt Democrat



GRAPHIC BY CONNOR PHILLIPS '28

Projections of the Senate races for the 2026 midterm elections.

FEATURES

A hidden gem: The Wabash Archives

TOBIN SEIPLE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

In the basement of the Lilly Library, tucked behind an unsuspecting hallway, there are two bronze doors from the original library. These doors belong to the Robert T. Ramsay Jr. Archival Center, and are a small part of the immense collection of rich historical artifacts, texts and furniture. Since the founding of the College, the center has served the purpose of keeping close track of the history of the College.

"The records of the College and the records of the students really demonstrate not only the past of the College, but the present of the College, and influence what decisions are being made today and historical trends and class makeup," said Archivist Nolan Eller '11. "You might just see an artifact and think of that as, 'oh, this is just a historical piece.' But in reality, it's more about what's actually happening at the college and seeing how that story has evolved over time."

The importance of tracking the college's history goes beyond just bookkeeping itself. The hidden gem provides incredible value to Wabash men. Students can use the materials for research, or explore the many stories and traditions of the College out of personal interest.

"There's a lot that's unexplored, so there's a lot of opportunity for students to experience and discover something new and to tell more of a story," said Eller. "Our main purpose is to document the history of the College, but we are more than just that... We have research opportunities. We have materials that students work with."

The archives are also an essential resource for faculty and staff. Exploring trends over time, past pieces of history or even the many unique logos and slogans of the college has proven to be a powerful way to continue the traditions of the college while improving the school.

"We have scanned a bunch of images of different Wabash pennants that we have, and they [Wabash College] use those for their promotional materials," said Dig-

ital Archives Librarian Matthew Meyer. "We also work with the Wabash Magazine frequently... They often request images or logos and frequently request for us to write short articles."

Of course, the Robert T. Ramsay Jr. Archival Center has an abundance of materials, making it easy to get lost in history.

"I really enjoy the student newspapers," said Meyers. "The newspapers tell Wabash history, but then they also tell local history. There are stories of things going on locally off campus. So you can get a taste, you can get a sense of what was going on in the early history of Crawfordsville."

There are also many stories relative to campus history.

"One of my favorite stories is that David Kendall, a student of the College, wrote a letter to the Dean of the College on toilet paper because he was arrested," said Eller. "It speaks to the Wabash mindset: I am in prison, but I am telling you 'hey, I am sorry, I'm not gonna be able to make it to my classes.'"

Moving forward, the center is working with Dean of Students Scott Brown to plan a celebration of the gentleman's rule. The center is also working on a collection, including 900 photos, newspapers that existed before *The Bachelor*, and digitized yearbooks from 1981 to 2016, that will allow many alumni to access the college's history online. There are efforts to digitize past newsletters and photos from the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies, and the center is also partnering with the Latino Community Center to make sure voices are represented in the history of the college. The largest takeaway: take advantage of this incredible resource.

"I would say number one, don't be afraid to ask," said Eller. "Don't be afraid to come in. I know the doors are big and imposing, and oftentimes, the lights are out, but come in and ask. I mean, if you've got questions or if there's something you're interested in, or if you're working on a research project, there could be an opportunity to make a connection with archival research."

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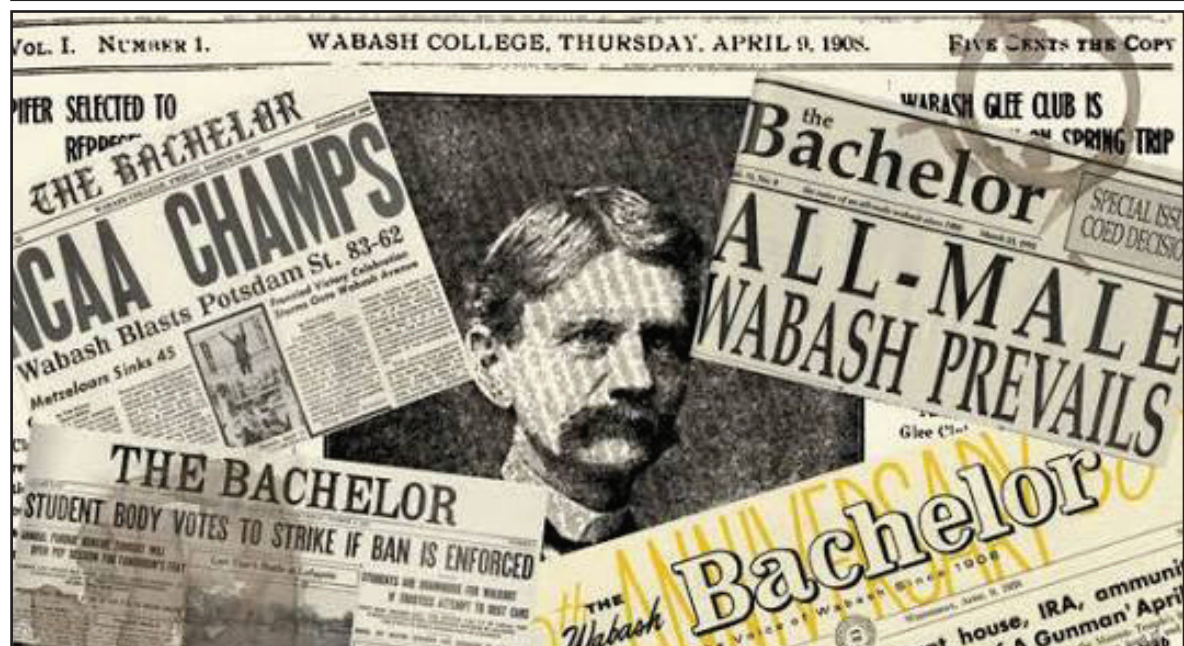
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Many historical texts, including previous editions of *The Bachelor*, are available online thanks to the Wabash Archives.

'Wildwood' is an anchor in the artificial age

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

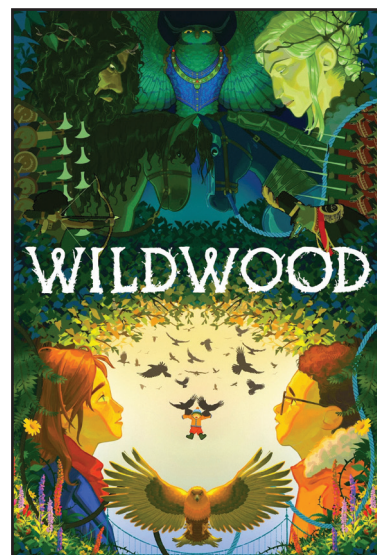
Fine, the AI video generator Sora can spit up sludgy, amorphous footage in under a minute. Maybe that's cool. But you can keep your "groundbreaking technology" at home this weekend, because the beloved stop-motion animation studio Laika has just produced Travis Knight's "Wildwood." Painstakingly crafted frame-by-frame over the course of 16 years, the film is a visual feast, desert, cocktail, and midnight snack. It goes to show that even an industry that seems increasingly bent on nurturing visual vomit must still bend the knee to an antiquated medium teeming with artistic ambition. It's just a shame that "Wildwood's" threadbare narrative renders it more of a testament to the process than an example of the ideal product.

Indeed, films like "Wildwood" are hard to come by nowadays, even disregarding the artificial elephant in the room. Not only does the film defy nearly every western animation studio by being stop-motion animated, but it's also ambitious to an

almost-unnecessary degree. There are dozens of impressive moments throughout that flex the animators' sheer talent, but never so hard that it chokes an authentic sense of wonder. Where many animated films overindulge with frames and scenes that scream "Look how pretty this is," "Wildwood" holds back its hubris and lets these moments enhance the narrative.

When it comes time for thrilling action, the animation does let gorgeously-composed frames soak in, bathing the screen with dynamic lighting and expressive characters. These stunning visuals are achieved with an inspirational amount of effort from Laika's art department, and enhanced by the equally-talented sound design. To tie it all together, Knight shows a particular mastery of height, with the most captivating sequences fully leveraging gravity to earn their thrills. Not since Katsuhiro Otomo's "Akira" has an animated action film made my stomach drop like a chase scene in "Wildwood."

If a film only was as good as its animation, "Wildwood" would be



COURTESY OF TMDB

an all-timer. But to seal that status the film needed a more compelling story. Based on Colin Meloy's book of the same name, the film follows the courageous yet aloof Prue McKee (voiced by Peyton Elizabeth Lee) on her journey through a fantastical wilderness to save her baby brother from the clutches of a melancholy Dowager Governess (Carey Mulligan). Crawling with vibrantly-voiced

characters and fascinating factions, the worldbuilding is incredibly well-executed, if a bit stylistically indistinct from other stories featuring anthropomorphic animals.

The biggest problem with "Wildwood's" story is that it is disarmingly standard. Though each character is well-realized by the animators and actors, their arcs are disenchantingly easy to chart after very little time. The tropes of a witch driven insane by the grief of her lost son, an indecisive young man who must learn to fight for his loved ones, and a driven protagonist who overcomes her guilt over the inciting incident to master the ways of a foreign world are to the fantasy genre what a Big Mac, fries, and Coke are to McDonalds. It's such a shame that a film can be so technically ambitious while remaining narratively comfortable.

"Wildwood's" other prominent weaknesses are its tone and its editing. Though they sound unrelated, they actually combine at several points to disorient the viewer. An early scene that should be gripping, even disturbing, is embedded with cliché slapstick gags and set to an

upbeat song. Many cuts between different scenes don't fully transition the viewer from a dark moment to an interlude of levity. Though most of the cute jokes in "Wildwood" land, they're sandwiched between some startlingly gruesome content as well. I appreciate the film's ambition in committing so strongly to its stakes, but the attempt to wear both sock and buskin was not met by the capacity of the cutting room.

So "Wildwood" isn't perfect. But these critiques are miniscule considering just how wonderful the experience of first watching the film is. Many have called to buy tickets for "Wildwood" as a means of sticking it to the silicon man. While I'm certainly down for that, I would sooner encourage anyone to go because "Wildwood" is an enchanting experience worthy of a 40-foot screen. It may lack narrative ambition, but it still finds a way to push the art of cinema to its limits.

FINAL VERDICT:
4/5 WALLYS



COURTESY OF TMDB

Mike Flanagan's 'Carrie' is bloody addictive



COURTESY OF TMDB
CHRISTIAN HANNA '29
STAFF WRITER

Stephen King wrote and published Carrie as his debut novel in 1974, and since then it has had four separate adaptations. The most iconic of these being the first film starring Sissy Spacek in 1976, which is still widely considered to be the best adaptation of the original novel. The special effects, camera quality, casting and acting don't entirely hold up today, but such is par for the course. The next adaptation didn't come out until 2002, and instead stars Angela Bettis as the titular character. This rendition is less known and clearly had less budget behind it, however it does a fair job as a

sort of re-imagining of the 1976 movie. Finally, a third adaptation released in 2013 starring Chloë Grace Moretz, and feels less like a present-day interpretation of the book, and more like a present-day face-lift of the 1976 movie. All of these titles are, at least, decent horror-thrillers in their own right, however as book adaptations they all fall short.

The original novel is interesting because Carrie is deliberately not a sympathetic character, and is frequently described as odorous, ugly and overall religiously snarky towards her peers. The novel, instead of pitting the reader against the bullies and Carrie's mother, instead opts to pit you against Carrie as often as possible, as if to say "you aren't better than the people in this school, you would be complacent too." From this perspective, a faithful on-screen version of Carrie has never been made, so the announcement that Mike Flanagan would be heading another adaptation as an Amazon exclusive gave some hope to the fans of the novel and movies alike. So after almost two years of waiting, does the mini-series hold up to expectations? The answer is a bit complicated.

To begin with the positives, as is the case with every other Mike Flanagan series, his rendition of Carrie is addictive as sin. Every character feels thought-out in

their flaws, needs and desires — in short, they feel like actual people instead of cartoonish caricatures, and this distinction is true for our heroes and villains within the story. Chris, Carrie's most prominent bully, is tragic and understandable to a degree. The series reveals how horribly her home life is rapidly falling apart throughout the spring semester; the arrival of her parent's divorce hitting her like a truck, how much of a bully her father is, and how little her mother tries or even cares to help Chris in this awful situation, all of which culminating in Chris's wicked treatment of Carrie. The script even shows small glimpses of humanity behind the eyes of Chris — seeds of doubt in her own behavior — and as a viewer you legitimately hope she acts on these positive impulses to make amends with her victim. Sue ends the story as one of Carrie's closest friends, however she begins this trail of terror as a passive bystander to her abuse, and in some cases an instigator. It's only after the first two episodes where in the gym coach, Miss Desjardin, asks Sue to look out for Carrie that real positive action is taken on her part. Carrie's mother, Martha, is still a manipulative and paranoid attention-seeker, but is much more sympathetic in her methods. Instead of dismissing seemingly rational decisions brought to her

attention using only hyper-religious schizo-speak, she often visibly holds herself back from doing as such, instead opting to bring researched facts and, albeit slightly paranoid, logic to her heated discussions. She isn't just crazy, she's amazingly conniving. Lastly, Tommy is still Carrie's aid as Sue's boyfriend, and an overall mature, optimistic, powerhouse of a man, however that's not all there is to his character. He's smart and asks intelligent questions, and he certainly doesn't just put on a brave face when things don't go his way. He's a bit more one-note than a lot of the other characters, but that's alright, because he doesn't need to be more than a good man.

The music in this series is an overall blessing to the ears. It can be a tad jarring at first, however upon further examination the tracks perfectly fit the tone, atmosphere and context of the scenes they're presented in, Unsweetened Lemonade being a standout as it's included in Chris's drunken Instagram tirade.

Finally the series does a great job of bringing the retelling of Carrie to the modern age, with the introduction of an Instagram account dedicated to slandering, not just Carrie, but her high school's entire student body, giving a window into how bullying has shifted over the last fifty years, and making the story much more applica-

ble to the current digital age.

Unfortunately, the show isn't all positive. Mike Flanagan introduces multiple other side characters who have shining abilities similar to Carrie, however it doesn't land. This, in tandem with Carrie remaining a traditionally pretty, and overwhelmingly kind and relatable individual throughout the series, makes the show feel less like something from the mind of Stephen King, and more like a brain child of the Duffer brothers. All of this comes to a head in a finale which attempts to have its cake and eat it by invoking Carrie's rampage, keeping her sympathetic and morally correct, and all the while attempting to give a clearer purpose to the other psychic side-characters. Top everything in this final episode off with bipolar momentum switching between interviews with survivors and the event in question, and you get an unfortunately lackluster finale.

Overall, Carrie is an enjoyable watch. Although Flanagan still refuses to break the mold and make a faithful King adaptation, and the finale to this first season is, unfortunately, anticlimactic, it's still worth your time and worth a binge this Halloween season.

FINAL VERDICT:
3.5/5 WALLYS



'POPSTAR' is the start of a new pop star



COURTESY OF SPOTIFY
WYATT EMERSON '30
STAFF WRITER

What is art if not a combination of all of the influences that it came from? It is impressive enough for a musician to pull from so many other musicians to make their own thing, but what I find even more impressive is that somebody took all these influences and was somehow still incredibly forward-thinking and genre-defining. With that I would like to talk about Tinashe's "POPSTAR."

Tinashe's journey into a self-proclaimed 'popstar' is wildly unconventional. She began in a pop girl group called "The Stunners" all the way back in the early 2010's, which faded quickly. Her artistic avenue then switched to a more rhythm and blues adjacent style, being headlined by her debut album "Aquarius" and her next few projects. Tinashe went on to leave her record label around 2019 and, in my opinion, really found her artistic footing with her individual efforts. I think through and through, regardless of the quality of her music, she has paved the way for so many people in both the rhythm and blues and electric genres and her influence can be seen in so many areas now. She is regularly put in conversations with heavy hitters such as "The Weeknd," "Miguel" and "Jhene Aiko" when it comes to the most formative minds in modern rhythm and blues. "POPSTAR" came out of left field, mixing contemporary pop and rhythm and blues with more electronic sounds, something I believe could be attributed to her long time friend and pop visionary Charli XCX. I personally was not incredibly aware of Tinashe before her new record came out, but I am so happy to say that I have been playing this new album over and over again for about the last month.

A common praise I will have for each of the tracks on "POPSTAR" is how smooth and addicting they are. Tinashe has such a unique flow and calmness to her voice nearly 100% of the time that makes it impossible to stop listening. She wastes no time in showing us this either, with the opening track "Sunglasses" introducing us to the album in a very experimental and noisy way until the unexpected beat drop that is led by an absolute masterclass of a bass line and an incredibly catchy chorus. The verses on this song discuss Tinashe going for a much-needed drive when she feels overwhelmed, which I am sure a lot of Wabash students can relate to. Overall, this track is such a

perfect and short tone setter for the excellence that is to come. The following song "Too Easy" is a much more upbeat and playful song that is accompanied by yet another great bass line and some wonderfully mixed vocals, and this song leads directly into the people's favorite track "Melatonin." I for one cannot turn this song off. The momentum here is kept by a repetitive vocal chop of the lead chorus that eventually builds into some kind of bridge where Tinashe comes onto the song singing these rapid-fire lyrics that somehow still feel cool and effortless with her delivery.

Something I love so much about the first nine or so tracks off this album is how the pace literally never slows down. Nearly all of these get straight to the point and never overstay their welcome, becoming below three minutes some of the time. "Empty Stadium," "Overdramatic" and "Flashbacks" are great examples of short and sweet electronic rhythm and blues songs that keep such a nice momentum going during this album. The three-track run starting with the song "I'd Rather be Alone" is certainly of note, with this song itself being a guitar-heavy song unlike anything else on the record. It is one of my personal favorites. "Crash Out" and "Pillow Fight" are both ridiculously smooth and laid back electronic rhythm and blues songs that I have been completely unable to get out of my head.

Unfortunately, after these songs I believe the album slightly loses momentum. "Nobody Wanna Dance Anymore" is a banger for sure, again being a very short, catchy and well-produced song that has a very epic final minute. I just believe that when artists are trying to make it to the end of the record there is some bloat. This is mainly a problem with the songs "Cloud 9" and "Brainrot." These both feel to me like they are throwaway songs or filler songs added to make the album longer. They lack the suave nature that every other song on this album has and I believe that the album would have benefited greatly from these being removed. Thankfully we end on a very positive and reflective note with "Heavy Weight" being a surprisingly quiet and melancholy song to end off the electronic rollercoaster that preceded it.

Tinashe truly found her place with "POPSTAR." She denied the title for so long because she was "something else" and she was experimenting in so many other lanes. It is so extremely poetic that when she finally has found herself sonically and found her place in the genre she releases an album by the very name she has denied, and it just makes it that much more rewarding that the album is fantastic.

FINAL VERDICT:
4.5/5 WALLYS



Java with Julia: A brilliant program



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
MANN VATTS '30
STAFF WRITER

At Wabash, advice travels fast. Ask a brother which classes count towards your major, how summer credits work, or whether a course will transfer, and chances are you'll get an answer. But will it be the right one?

That's where Associate Registrar Julia Perry comes in. Perry started 'Java with Julia' to give students a chance to ask questions before small uncertainties become bigger problems. She sets up at 1832 Brew in the

library on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, from 8 to 11:30 a.m., making herself available outside the registrar's office.

"I wanted to make sure that the students knew me outside of my office," said Perry.

She knows her office can feel intimidating, especially when students associate it with rules and problems. By meeting students in a more relaxed setting, she hopes they will recognize her and know whom to approach when they are unsure what to do.

Students often ask about how courses count toward their majors, transferring credits from summer classes, or studying abroad. But Perry's help is not limited to questions the Registrar's Office can answer directly.

"If I don't know the answer, I'll figure out who does know the answer for you," she said.

Assistant Professor, Associated Faculty Research and Instructional Librarian Beth Daniel Lindsay, who has visited 'Java with Julia' many times, has seen the value of such direct access. During an advising appointment with a student facing a complicated situation, Lindsay took the student to Perry while she was

holding the program. They were able to get an answer from the person who knew the academic records best.

"There's no better way to get an answer than to physically go to the person who is an expert. Ask them," said Lindsay.

The program is open to faculty and staff as well as students, and Perry is still available for appointments or visits to her office outside those Tuesday mornings. For her, though, Java with Julia is also about the interactions that happen without a specific question attached.

Perry said that once students visit for help, they often return. Sometimes, they simply stop by to check in or say hello. Those visits matter to her, too.

So, gentlemen of Wabash, the next time you're passing through the library on the first or third Tuesday of the month, stop by 1832 Brew. Bring a question, double-check something you've heard or just say hello.

You don't have to wait until something goes wrong to get to know the person who can help you figure things out.

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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.

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Curb your enthusiasm



Rowan O'Daniel
'28

Reply to this opinion at
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Do you ever start the morning thinking you'll be an absolute grinch to start the day? Have you ever tried to dictate the world and subject others to your own idiosyncratic, nonsensical or downright absurd social rules, often at others' detriment? This is the embracing of the life of Larry David, my greatest teacher in this tired and weary world.

For those living under a rock, Larry David co-created "Seinfeld," made more money than any of us will ever see and then spent twelve seasons of his magnum opus "Curb Your Enthusiasm" playing a version of himself who could not get through an afternoon without starting a war. He has everything a man could want: wealth, free time, a house in Los Angeles, a golf membership. And yet every episode, he finds a way to ruin it, usually over such a non-problem to the everyday man that nobody else would have even bothered to care.

That's exactly why I love him.

Most of us walk through life swallowing the little injustices and taking the beating. Someone takes four samples at the ice cream counter while the line backs up to the door and we say nothing. Someone runs into you on the sidewalk and launches into a twenty-minute "stop and chat" when you clearly have somewhere to be and you nod along as they drone on and on. Larry doesn't do that. Larry asks the question we're all thinking: why are we pretending this is fine?

There's a certain honesty in that. Larry is petty, yes. He's rude, often. He is, by any reasonable standard, a social menace. But he ain't fake! When he's annoyed, you know. When he thinks a rule is stupid, he breaks it, and when he thinks a rule should exist, he invents it on the spot and enforces it with the zeal of a rookie traffic cop. He once got so fed up with a coffee shop that he opened a rival shop right next door purely out of spite and that's commitment.

Larry David is not a gentleman, in many ways quite the opposite of the Wabash man. Larry David would probably argue with the dean about the definition of "gentleman" and then refuse to hold the door for him.

But allow me to be the devil's advocate; The Gentleman's Rule doesn't hand us a rulebook. It trusts us to figure out what's right and to own our behavior. Larry, for all his flaws, is obsessed with exactly that question. What do we owe each other? How long should you hold a door for someone who's still thirty feet away? Is it rude to not ask someone how they're doing if you genuinely don't care about the answer? Do you have to tip on a takeout order? These are real questions. Most people never stop to ask them.

Here's where Larry becomes my greatest teacher, though maybe not in the way he'd intend. Watching "Curb" is like watching a man run a social experiment on himself every week, and the result is almost always the same: he's right about the small thing and catastrophically wrong about the big one. He's right that the guy hogging samples is being inconsiderate. He's wrong to escalate it until he's banned from the store. Larry wins the argument and loses the day, every single time.

I'll provide an example of my own in a very Larry David situation: one day, minding my own business, I was enjoying a nice refreshing beverage when a friend of mine asked for a sip. Being the very considerate person I am, I did, in fact, give him a swig of my drink. "Ah, very refreshing," he said. He came back with his own drink some time later, and I asked the same thing; he replied, "No, I don't like people drinking from what I drink; it contaminates it." What ensued was a tirade about how inconsiderate he was and how I did the same thing he did but was nice about it! Such is life, and thus I curbed my enthusiasm.

So what does it mean to adopt the life of Larry David responsibly? I'd put it this way: notice the absurdity. Question the social rules that don't make sense. Be honest instead of performatively polite. Have the courage to say "that's weird, right?" when something is, in fact, weird. And then, unlike Larry, know when to let it go.

Because the other side of Larry's misery is that he is, in his own strange way, completely free; he doesn't spend his energy pretending. He doesn't carry around resentment he never voiced. He says his piece, deals with the fallout and wakes up the next day ready to do it all over again. We all have grievances; air them out!

Just a little, though. A dose, not a lifestyle.

And if you need somewhere to aim your inner Larry David, I'd humbly suggest saving it for the second weekend of November. There's a school just down the road that has been asking for it for over a century. If there is ever a time to be petty, spiteful and completely unreasonable, it's then. Until then, curb your enthusiasm.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

KINGS OF THE COURT

Hi-Five to all students who participated in Moot Court this year. With 8:30 a.m. Saturday start time, we commend your mettle...we'll leave the early starts to y'all, though.

HALLOWEEND

Hi-Five to Halloween landing on a Saturday this year. Surely all Wabash men will act responsibly and think critically...

CRACKING US UP

Lo-Five to Apple for having numerous complaints of their new iPhone Duo cracking after repeatedly folding it. Who would've guessed folding a glass screen would make it crack?

IND(EPRESSION)IANA

Lo-Five to Indianapolis sports as a whole. We've lost Nelson and Buckner to trade, and Haliburton and Zubac to injury... here's to being .500 in both sports

CHIP OFF THE OL' BLOCK

Lo-Five to the Sigma Chi freshmen for chipping off old paint on the Senior Bench. If this was any other house we'd be surprised.

We need to talk about failure



Elijah Wetzel '27

Editor-In-Chief

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In 1723, at the tender age of 17, Benjamin Franklin fled his hometown of Boston and arrived in Philadelphia with virtually no money to his name. By the time he died in 1790, Franklin was a wealthy man and perhaps the most well-known in the world. By many accounts Franklin lived a successful life; in other words, we might say that he flourished. Much has been written on how a person might live a successful, flourishing life, including by Franklin himself. Chances are you're familiar with at least one of his pithy, insightful remarks, even if we usually fail to live up to such tenets ("early to bed and early to rise make a man healthy, wealthy and wise" seems particularly unattainable most days). But the wisdom we can glean from Franklin isn't restricted to his

sayings, scientific achievements or diplomatic prowess. We can also look at how he spent his free time.

Four years after his arrival in the City of Brotherly Love, Franklin formed a group known as the Junto. It was a social club of sorts, and though the meetings took place in a local tavern and libations enjoyed throughout, the group's primary mission was to improve themselves, each other, and, by extension, their community through practical action. The Junto had 12 members, most of whom were artisans or craftsmen like Franklin (a printer and newspaperman), and met once a week. Richard Gunderman '83 describes in his book "We Come to Life with Those We Serve: Fulfillment through Philanthropy," how at each meeting of the Junto, members would pose "queries on any point of morals, politics, or natural philosophy to be discussed by the company" and discuss and debate the topics together.

Additionally, each meeting the Junto's members answered among themselves a series of questions meant to kickstart conversations. Among them is this line of inquiry: "Hath any citizen in your knowledge failed in his business lately, and what have you heard of the cause?" Why would a group focused on improvement talk about failure? No one wants to talk about failure, especially their own or that of those

close to them. Failure is uncomfortable, it betrays our inability to control all the factors and paradigms of our lives and can be incredibly isolating. When we do read or listen to someone talk about failure, still it is framed usually as a valley before the peak of success, a glitch rather than a feature of one's life story. Our hesitancy to be honest about and analyze failure has the unintentional consequence of diminishing our chances to learn and grow. We don't raise our hands in class because we could get the answer wrong, or we hold onto our opinions instead of sharing because we are afraid we may sound stupid. In doing so, we harden ourselves to insights and experiences that might have been ours had we not retreated out of a fear of public failure.

On the contrary, the Junto's inclusion of failure, even personal failures, in its discussions wisely reveal that failure can be valuable, not only in an evaluative sense after the fact, but even in the act of failure itself. Someone who fails openly and honestly has a better chance to grow than someone who denies themselves the opportunity to come up short. Additionally, they may even serve others through their failure by illustrating what not to do. No one wants to be the main character in a cautionary tale, but if one does fail, it's better to warn others than sit idly by and watch them make similar mistakes.

Most importantly, failure is human. Failure in and of itself is valuable because it reminds us of our humanity, which is inextricably bound to our imperfection and limitedness; it's why stories about human attempts at perfection, like Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" or Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Birth-Mark," typically end in disaster. Acknowledging our shortcomings also brings us into closer communion. It is an inherently vulnerable act that challenges the one who failed to put more trust in their peers than they otherwise might have and challenges the witnesses to failure to empathize and engage with key aspects of human life — disappointment, embarrassment, pain, hope and courage, among others. If we want to be better children, siblings, parents, spouses and friends, we would do well to start by being willing sharers of our disappointments and failures and receptive listeners of others' failures.

It's easy to browse LinkedIn profiles and come away with the impression that failure is largely extinct. In reality, of course, that is not the case, but a zeitgeist that cultivates the fallacy that failure should be hidden away deprives people of improvement and flourishing. We would be wise to take a leaf out of Franklin and the Junto's book and refuse to shy away from talking about failure.

China's bubble: A positive externality for U.S. AI



Tobin Seiple '29

Features Editor

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Over the past few months, the "AI bubble" has been a talking point for Wall Street analysts and reporters alike. After \$194 billion in bonds issued by hyperscalers (six mega-cap companies that are investing heavily into AI infrastructure), an estimated \$200 billion invested through private credit and a total of over \$500 billion invested into AI through debt according to Goldman Sachs analysts, investors are asking the question: Will the investments into AI be worth it? Up until this point, there are many red flags that need to be addressed.

Many of the investments have been made with debt rather than equity, meaning if the bets fail and companies do not have enough cash flow to pay back their bonds and their private credit loans, the loans could default, the firms could go bankrupt and the chain of

events could impact the economy. Additionally, early signals from OpenAI and Anthropic are not particularly promising. Data from Sequoia Capital indicate a much faster churn rate for consumers, and an even lower retention rate. Essentially, customers have no loyalty to AI, they simply want whatever model works best. This means there is not a meaningful moat surrounding AI Labs; if a lab from Canada was able to build a better model sustainably, they could potentially steal many customers.

There is also some historical nuance. Earlier this year, major companies like Meta as well as technology companies in general started "tokenmaxxing," meaning they had internal leaderboards to track AI token use in their employees which incentivized employees to waste tokens in order to climb the leaderboards. There was not a correlation between token usage and efficiency. Uber ran out of their entire AI budget in the first quarter, and simultaneously, AI companies increased the price of tokens in order to capitalize on the trend. "Tokenmaxxing" resulted in inflated quarter over quarter (QOQ) growth for the two companies, however, "tokenmaxxing" is over, and the burst in revenue growth in OpenAI and Anthropic has tamed significantly. According to Yahoo Finance data, in Q1 Anthropic achieved 145% QOQ growth, but that slowed to roughly

45% in Q2. OpenAI achieved an even slower growth, with only 18% QOQ growth in the last quarter. The slowed growth is certainly a concern for investors, especially considering the two companies' debt and operating deficits. According to the Wall Street Journal, OpenAI operating loss in Q2 was \$12.6 billion, and while Anthropic achieved a profit of \$964 million, they are over \$11 billion in debt. To make matters worse, both companies need hundreds of billions of dollars in capital expenditure investments. OpenAI will need an estimated \$350 billion in annual revenue to break even in 2030, while Anthropic will need around \$45 billion in annual revenue to break even in 2028.

With this context, we can start to understand where the U.S. markets stand with AI. Steve Eisman, host of "The Real Eisman Playbook" podcast and former hedge fund manager who built his fortune by shorting the 2008 mortgage market through credit default swaps, theorizes that OpenAI and Anthropic have been trying to build a moat through manipulating an AI crisis. According to the BBC, there have been numerous press releases from the companies themselves detailing the potential danger of AI, and both companies advertise themselves as being capable of building measures that keep models secure and safe. Eisman believes that the two companies have been trying to orchestrate an

AI crisis to encourage the government to create regulations that prevent citizens from using models from other companies. In other words, he believes they were trying to orchestrate a moat to become a duopoly before raising equity and risking going out of business if other competitors were to steal customers. That is where the Chinese collapse comes in.

The bubble collapsing certainly has many negative impacts in China, and many investments have been impacted as a result. Previously, Chinese AI models that are free and open-weight were a major cause for concern for Anthropic and OpenAI. It is speculated that this is one of the reasons OpenAI delayed its IPO, and the recent crash may have incentivized the S-1 Anthropic filing with an anticipated launch on November 16. As the moat for Anthropic and OpenAI strengthens, not only might the companies start raising more money through public equity, but investors are likely to be more confident in these two investments. Earlier in this article, I discussed the problem with betting on AI through debt. The collapse of the Chinese bubble will hopefully incentivize these companies to raise money through equity instead of debt, thus increasing the likelihood that they can pay off current debt, provide returns for major investors, and ultimately delay the bursting of the AI bubble.

‘Ghosts and ghouls’

Crossword by Paul Hawksworth '28

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- Across**
- 1. 24-hr. news network
 - 6. U.S. leader
 - 10. Attire in ancient Rome
 - 14. “Carmen” or “Aida,” e.g.
 - 15. Party, in Hawaii
 - 16. Great primates
 - 17. 14-time French Open winner
 - 18. Grp. of professionals
 - 19. Diez squared
 - 20. “Wow dude, that place was really scary!”
 - 23. Hit the big time
 - 26. Abu Dhabi country, abbr.
 - 27. Kitten’s cry
 - 28. High card up one’s sleeve
 - 29. Oscar winner for “Milk”
 - 33. Zero, for 17 across
 - 35. 1982 Duran Duran album
 - 36. “M*A*S*H” Extra
 - 40. “Wow mom, look at all this candy I got!”
 - 44. Pester
 - 45. Ruin
 - 46. Catch on a nail, say
 - 47. Rightmost column on the periodic table, for one
 - 51. 12 doz.
 - 52. Angsty rock genre
 - 55. Used to prop up a golf ball
 - 56. Seating options at bars
 - 58. “Wow son, you did a great job carving that pumpkin!”
 - 62. Olympian’s sword
 - 63. Part of the eye containing the iris
 - 64. Former Houston NFLer
 - 68. Base material in terracotta
 - 69. Cog in a machine
 - 70. Sleepy Aussie animal
 - 71. Hamilton’s bills
 - 72. Regarding
 - 73. Create, as a scholarship

- Down**
- 1. Tomorrow for Sun.
 - 2. Site of Formula 1’s Belgian Grand Prix, familiarly
 - 3. Friendly neighbor dad Flanders on “The Simpsons”
 - 4. Danish astronomer Tycho
 - 5. French port city on the Strait of Dover
 - 6. Architect’s drawing
 - 7. Auto body corrosion
 - 8. “Back off, man!”
 - 9. Weekend dessert?
 - 10. ____ Bell (fast-food chain)
 - 11. Subject of 19th century Chinese wars
 - 12. Birds flying in Vs
 - 13. Good ____ (fixed)
 - 21. Nirvana album “In ____”
 - 22. Temporary tattoo dye
 - 23. Island nation south of Italy
 - 24. Future oak tree
 - 25. Comedian Hart
 - 30. Fills a tire
 - 31. Kid’s phrase of denial
 - 32. cashews and almonds, e.g.
 - 34. Finance bro’s maj.
 - 37. Starr of The Beatles
 - 38. Angry dog’s sound
 - 39. Toaster waffles
 - 41. Capital of Japan, once
 - 42. Towel made from an old T-shirt
 - 43. Delete pencil writing
 - 48. White whale
 - 49. Found on the ground during Autumn
 - 50. Brain bleed
 - 52. DVD player button
 - 53. Famous Canadian syrup
 - 54. 48-Down is native to the Arctic one
 - 57. Burger topping, perhaps
 - 59. Group of islands in south Florida
 - 60. Organized
 - 61. ____ cake (dim sum item)
 - 65. Young boy, in Scotland
 - 66. Standard rating system in chess
 - 67. Uncooked



Scan for solution!

The game is over



Benjamin Anaclerio '30
Reply to this opinion at bmanacle30@wabash.edu

There was once a time where loading into a new video game you got for Christmas felt like you were entering a new world. You took the disc out of the plastic case, and the adventure and content within the game was all yours. Today, that feeling has been replaced with a completely online store being pushed on us consumers. The modern video game industry has moved away from a boundary pushing art style to a completely monetized corporate greed scam. Corporate greed is stripping away everything that once made video games great, and replacing it with profit margins that please the stock holders.

The most glaring result of this is the fall of AAA gaming and the rise of AA and Indie games. Major publishers have all decided that \$60-\$80 is the new standard baseline for a video game. That does not include any extra “add-ons” or “extra deluxe supreme additions.” All too often we are handed an unfinished, buggy or underperforming product. The era of a complete game at launch has left us, due to the rise of the “live service model” first popularized by games like “Fortnite.” Due to companies copying this model “Fortnite” succeeded at, they all have become live service models, most of which are never as finished or refined as how “Fortnite” developers executed it.

This cost cutting has also hollowed out gaming narratives and art. Historically, single player games and campaigns were at the center of blockbuster titles and offered movie-like storytelling in a video game. Now, many companies treat their game’s story mode as an afterthought to prioritize money making in the live service part of the game. The “Call of Duty” franchise is arguably one of the games that has been hit hardest. Most specifically, “Modern Warfare III,” which features one of the worst and laziest campaigns ever written. I still don’t understand how they could kill off a major character like Graves in a tank in “Modern Warfare II” and then bring him back into the story the next year in “Modern Warfare III” and simply say, “Well I wasn’t in that tank.” It is such lazy writing. This entire series has devolved into just purely delivering a jarring story and a soulless three hour experience patched together using “Call of Duty: Warzone” models and maps in order to save money and try to reel you into the monetized side of the game to buy the latest Nikki Minaj skin in a military focused shooter.

This lack of creative effort is compounded also by the plague of inventions like loot boxes, battle passes and micro-transactions. Progression systems are no longer built around rewarding skill, but are now engineered around pushing the player to spend money in the online store. Nowhere was this more prevalent than

in games like “Fortnite,” “Overwatch” or “Star Wars Battlefront II.” For example, in “Battlefront II,” Electronic Arts (EA) did the beloved “Star Wars” franchise dirty. What should have been the great return of “Star Wars” video games ended up being a pay to win slot machine. EA famously ruined the game by trying to direct progression into a loot-box system so bad that it attracted national government attention and eventually led to an investigation into its relations to gambling. When called out, EA defended the loot-boxes, locked major characters behind paywalls and claimed that grinding hundreds of hours for Darth Vader provided players with a sense of accomplishment. This was a great example of corporate greed and how publishers will destroy a franchise purely for the ability to make more profit.

The push to monetize everything has also made its way into player ownership. Sony, the owners of PlayStation, have signaled that they are trying to end the production of physical versions of games. They spun the move as a way to help the consumer and make buying games easier and more efficient. However, that could not be more wrong. Eliminating physical media saves publishers an estimated \$10 per copy, but that cut in costs is not helping the consumer as the digital games still stay at the same price. It becomes even worse when you learn that 127 countries in the world cannot even create PlayStation Network accounts, therefore they cannot even buy games digitally. The final nail in the coffin is that unlike a physical disc, when you buy online, you are merely renting the license to the game that can be revoked whenever the publisher feels like it.

Despite this, publishers report astronomical revenues, which as a consumer makes it difficult to see which is wrong or right. Are they losing money or are they lying and actually profiting? Between 2022 and 2026, an estimated 45,000 jobs were wiped out in the gaming sector. Epic Games was one of the biggest ones as they recently laid off 1,000 developers and employees as they claimed “Fortnite” was not making as much profit as they wanted. This just proves they actually don’t care about anything but money. It doesn’t stop there, however. Just three months after Microsoft bought Activision Blizzard in October of 2023, 1,900 employees were laid off in January of 2024. These layoffs are not a sign of revenue decline. Instead, they are a sign of corporate greed taking over for even more profit. What makes it the worst though is the letters they send out to those laid off. Many of these letters state how great the employees were and what great things they did for the company, but if they were so great then why did you fire them?

Modern AAA gaming is dying from self-inflicted wounds. From the \$70 game that doesn’t even work properly to the death of narrative storytelling, the destruction of physical ownership and the predatory monetizing strategies, the industry is burning its own art to the ground. The Indie game scene needs to continue to step up for those who truly enjoy video games where passion is greater than profit. Gamers must vote with their wallets and make the industry change for the better.



Request for artists

Are you interested in making comics? Do you want your art to be featured in *The Bachelor*? We are looking for new artists to be consistently featured in the Opinions section!

Contact ejwetz27@wabash.edu or pdhawsw28@wabash.edu

Looking for inspiration? Here is a beautiful 2023 Homecoming comic from Preston Parker '26.

‘If the GDI’s can do it’



Congratulations, Owen Smith '27 Moot Court Top Advocate





Since 1996, the WCI has proudly partnered with the Rhetoric Department to run the Moot Court competition.

Jankowski smashes records as swim and dive punches up

TY MURPHY '27
MANAGING EDITOR

In a week of tough competition with long travel days and senior day celebrations, the swim and dive team came out with records broken, strong individual performances and a good start to the season. Despite close losses, the Little Giants have a lot to be excited about as they head into an off week where they will focus on a strong training effort.

Swim and dive stayed at home on October 24 in the Class of 1950 Natatorium during their home opener, facing off against NCAA Division II schools Davenport University and Lewis University. Farrukh Akhatjonov '27, Michael Cruzado '27, Brody Page '27, Nick Plumb '27, Quinn Sweeney '27 and William Renie '27 were honored for senior day before the meet began for their contributions to the program.

“It was a really fun atmosphere to be in on Saturday and really recognize the seniors for all the four years of their efforts that they have given us,” said Head Coach William Bernhardt. “They’ve done so much to build this program up and to get it to where it is today, to be able to get these guys to come in to aspire to be great and to be the Wabash

men we want to build at our program.”

Facing two teams a division above you can be a daunting task, but Wabash did not back down. Ozzy Jankowski '30 gave the highlight of the night, finishing the 200-yard butterfly in a time of 1:49.52 to break the oldest record in program history, set by David Birrer '11 in a time of 1:50.93. But Jankowski would not stop there, taking the lone victory for the team in 100-yard butterfly with a time of 49.06 which was also a freshman school record.

“It was definitely unexpected, even for me,” said Jankowski. “I knew that this year I would have a good shot of breaking that record, and it was a goal of mine. But looking up at the scoreboard and seeing that I had done it so early was really confirming the success that I hope I have throughout the rest of the season.”

But it was not just the freshman who was establishing himself. Ryan West '28 added a runner-up finish alongside Lew Sams '29, with West finishing second in the 200 backstroke and Sams in 200 breaststroke. The Little Giants lost 118–182 to Davenport and 109–185 to Lewis, but came away with lots of positives.

“The back-to-back meets after another hard week of training was a testament to the fact that we can do hard stuff and still perform well, even after being stretched so thin during the week,” said West. “And all the guys did a really good job of adapting and competing against some really fast guys, while still getting their lifetime bests.”

Before the home opener, Wabash traveled to Terre Haute, Indiana, to face off against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in the first dual meet of the season. Sams, Jankowski, Sweeney and West started the meet off strong, winning the 200-yard medley relay in a time of 1:36.86. Plumb followed by winning the 1,000-yard freestyle in a time of 10:29.74. And it did not stop there. Jankowski recorded his first individual victory in the 200 butterfly, touching the wall in 1:53.51. Sams swept the breaststroke events, claiming the 100-yard race and claiming the 200 breaststroke. West would earn the final victory of the night with a 1:58.91 in the 200-yard individual medley, but it would not be enough. Rose-Hulman edged out Wabash, handing them a 144–156 loss in

their second meet of the season.

“It was a back and forth meet and we knew it was going to be that,” said Bernhardt. “Our strengths play off of their weaknesses, and our weaknesses play off their strengths, so it was a little bit of a chess match. It came down to it and they got us at the end but we were really excited about our overall performance.”

“I knew that this year I would have a good shot of breaking that record, and it was a goal of mine.”

-Ozzy Jankowski '30

The Little Giants will return on November 6 when they head to Lexington, Kentucky, to face off in a dual meet against Transylvania University in the first event of the weekend. Then, the next day, they will travel to Danville, Kentucky, in a tri-meet against Centre College and Franklin College. With a week of rest, the Little Giants will be looking for strong performances as their season continues.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Brody Page '27 competes in the butterfly in a dual meet against Rose Hulman on October 26, 2025 at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

Lawsuit threatens to change DIII landscape

CARTER McCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

One current and two former NCAA Division III athletes sued the NCAA on October 23, arguing that the division's ban on athletic scholarships amounts to illegal price-fixing. Wabash leaders said the case would not change how the College awards aid anytime soon.

The proposed class-action lawsuit, filed in federal court in California, targets Division III Bylaw 15.01.3, which bars schools from awarding financial aid based on athletic ability or participation. The plaintiffs argued that the rule is an agreement among more than 400 schools to “fix the price of Division III athletic labor at zero.”

The three plaintiffs are Jackson Hale, a current Pacific Lutheran University football player, and former athletes Connor Printz of Claremont McKenna College and Chris Jennings of the University of Lynchburg. They asked the court to block the ban and award damages to athletes who have competed in Division III since Oct. 21, 2022.

A federal judge in Indiana dismissed a similar challenge in 2013. Since then, the U.S. Supreme Court's 2021 ruling in NCAA v. Alston opened the NCAA's limits on athlete compensation to full antitrust review, and the new complaint leans heavily on that decision. Even if the plaintiffs win, schools would be allowed to offer athletic scholarships, not required to.

Division III's identity has long been tied to the absence of athletic scholarships. And for Director of Athletics and Recreation, Jim Peeples, that has always set the division apart from the rest.

“NCAA Division III recently celebrated their 50th anniversary,” said Peeples. “From the beginning, what has distinguished our division is that we were the division that didn't offer athletic scholarships.”

Peeples said the lawsuit would not force Division III schools to offer athletic scholarships. Any such change would require legislation sponsored by two conferences or 22 Division III members, followed by a vote of the membership at the NCAA's annual convention.

“There is no desire from the membership to move in that direction,” said Peeples. “The schools that have desire to do that have the ability to go through the reclassification process and become athletic-scholarship providing institutions.”

The lawsuit seeks to remove the ban through a court order rather than through that legislative process.

Peeples said the Division III model fits what Wabash is.

“At Wabash our experience



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

educationally is a 4-year academic experience and that academic experience aligns perfectly with the Division III philosophy,” said Peeples. “Our coaches and I all agree that you are students first and foremost at Wabash.”

Tyler Wade '12, Dean for Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions, said it was too soon to know whether Wabash would ever offer athletic scholarships.

“It's too early to say, and it isn't a decision for admissions,” said Wade. “The lawsuit was filed days ago, and a ruling could be years away. If the rules ever changed, the question of whether Wabash would take part would go to President Feller, the Board of Trustees and our athletic leadership, with a lot of consideration of who we are as a college.”

For now, Wade said, nothing changes for Wabash athletes.

“What I can tell you is how we award aid today: athletes receive aid on the same terms as every other Wabash student, on need and merit, as NCAA Division III rules require,” said Wade.

Wade declined to speculate on whether Wabash could afford athletic scholarships. He said any new category of aid would be a budget decision for the president and the Board of Trustees.

“Students choose Wabash for the whole experience: the place, the brotherhood and what it does for them after graduation,” said Wade. “Athletics is a big part of that for a lot of guys, and it's part of why they come.”

Peeples said that balance is what sets Wabash athletes apart.

“We value the excellence that a young man has the ability to pursue in the classroom, and in those other extra-curricular activities that our student-athletes have the ability to experience,” said Peeples. “We still are able to pursue excellence in our athletic experience shaping a more well-rounded college experience.”

The current status of the suit remains that there is no class certification and no settlement or claim yet, meaning that the court has not yet approved the case as a class action, and the settlement process has not started. As the NCAA has not yet filed a response in court, athletes can expect no changes for now as this progresses.

Soccer's conference hopes extinguished

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

TY MURPHY '27
MANAGING EDITOR

The Little Giants fell in a must-win game on Saturday, Oct. 24 to the Wittenberg Tigers in a tough North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) matchup at Fischer Field. The loss was Wabash soccer's fifth in a row and made it impossible for them to make the four-team conference tournament.

Neither team asserted their supremacy in the first half of the match. The home team sustained an early blow when Zane Biggerstaff '28, a stalwart at the back this year, sustained a concussion just ten minutes into the match and had to be replaced at the back. In total the Little Giants defended 10 shots and four corner kicks in the first half, while registering just three shots and no corner kicks of their own.

But after the break, Wabash looked like the team most likely to break the deadlock. They piled on the pressure in the first 10 minutes, a period which culminated with a barrage of shots in the fifty-seventh minute, two of which hit the goalpost and were only inches from giving the men in scarlet the lead.

But failure to capitalize on the pressure they created came back to haunt Wabash, like it has so often over the last three weeks. In the seventy-fourth minute, the Tigers served a set-piece from the halfway line into the penalty area, where it was headed home by Asher Donahue. That ended up being the decisive moment of the match — one Wabash will rue considering they've held relatively stout against set pieces this year, the game against DePauw notwithstanding.

“We missed a couple early chances in the first half,” said Ethan Simmons '29. “We just let them stay in the game through the

first half and into the second half. Really just weren't able to capitalize on some formational changes that they made, and then gave up another set piece goal, which was kind of unlucky. But we got to be able to capitalize offensively.”

“The offense will tell you firsthand that they felt like they let the game slip away and didn't punish them,” said Head Coach Chris Keller. “They were all very similar to the chances that we've had all year and that we've scored 35 plus goals from.”

In the final home game of the season, the Little Giants hosted United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division III No. 18 ranked Denison in a match that proved to be too much for Wabash. The Big Red started slowly, but once they got rolling, there was not much the Little Giants could do to stop them. Denison's Colin MacDonald scored the first goal of the game at the minute 26 mark before doing so again at the minute 36 mark.

With Wabash being down 0-2 heading into the half they needed to come out firing. But it was the Big Red who scored first with a Lowen Jamison goal. The team would get their first breath of life at the minute 81 mark when Alfredo Campos '27 take the assist from Will Aurrichio '27 to hammer the ball into the net. But with little time left the Little Giants could not find the net again taking a 1-3 loss and their sixth loss against conference opponents.

The Little Giants will next play against John Carroll University on October 31 when they travel to University Heights, Ohio for their final match of the season. With a bleak ending since NCAC play has started, the Little Giants will look for one final effort before heading into the offseason.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Bryce Kinnaman '27 loads up a shot in a game against Denison University on October 28 at Fischer Field.

New Look, Same Goal



2026-2027 Basketball Season Preview

PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

CARTER McCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

Wabash basketball will look very different when they open the 2026-27 season with an exhibition at University of Evansville on October 29. The Little Giants lost their leading scorer, Luke Ellspermann, to NCAA Division I Evansville in the offseason. Graduation also took Gavin Schippert '26, Josh Whack '26 and Rich Brooks '26. Together, those four players scored 1,174 of Wabash's 2,010 points last season, or 58% of their offense.

The pipeline ran both ways, though. Wabash added two transfers from Evansville, Wes Aigner '28 and Dakota Candler '28.

Ellspermann spent one season in Crawfordsville and made the most of it. The 6-foot guard from Evansville's Reitz Memorial High School started 24 of 25 games and led Wabash with 15.9 points per game. He also led the team with 66 assists, shot 39.6% from 3-point range and made 79.2% of his free throws. He twice scored a season-high 28 points, against Berea and Kenyon. After the

season, he transferred to the Purple Aces in his hometown.

Schippert leaves a hole of his own. The 6-foot-7 post started all 26 games and led the team with 8.5 rebounds per game. He also averaged 10.7 points and shot 56.9% from the field.

Wabash finished last season 15-11 overall and 9-7 in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC). They scored 77.3 points per game and allowed 74.6. The Little Giants opened 12-4 but won just three of their final 10 games. Their season ended February 24 with a 77-53 loss at Wittenberg University in the NCAC tournament quarterfinals. Wabash also split their two meetings with DePauw University, losing 89-79 at home before winning 74-70 in Greencastle.

The two newcomers bring Division I practice experience to a roster that needs bodies on the wing and in the frontcourt. Aigner is a 6-foot-4 guard from Newburgh, Indiana, who played at Castle High School. Candler is a 6-foot-5 forward from Vincennes, Indiana. He averaged 14.7 points and 6.7 rebounds per game as a senior at South Knox High

School and earned Indiana Basketball Coaches Association all-state honorable mention. Minutes were hard to come by at Evansville, where he appeared in eight games over his first two seasons.

"Fans should expect me to do whatever my role requires," said Candler. "At the end of the day, the job is to win. Whether that means rebounding, playing defense, scoring or whatever else is needed, I will do whatever it takes to help the team win."

The returning core starts with Nate Matelic '27. The 6-foot-6 forward averaged 10.3 points per game off the bench last season without a start. He led the team in free throw percentage (83.6%) and blocks (13). Colton Stowers '29 started 24 games as a freshman and averaged 9.4 points per game. His best night came December 13, when he scored 23 points in a 101-97 win at John Carroll. Deric Cannady '29 led Wabash with 25 steals, and Keegan Manowitz '27 shot 40.4% from 3-point range in conference play.

The biggest question is who will run the offense. Cannady, Manowitz and Arlondo Hall '27 are the returning guards. Cam Fennell '30 and Jack Clark '30 will also compete for minutes in the backcourt.

"Keegan Manowitz is going to eat up a lot of minutes," said Head Coach Kyle Brumett. "We're going to have to rely on him to have a high basketball IQ, be a smart player and try to impact some of the other guys with his experience."

Replacing Schippert's rebounding falls

to a frontcourt led by Tyler Horton '27, a 6-foot-8 post, along with Kadyn Ellery '29, Isaac Rivas '29 and Candler. Horton appeared in 21 games last season off the bench. Fennell and Clark are part of a six-man freshman class that also includes Spencer Wynsma '30, Tony Bos III '30, Cooper Bock '30 and Max Flanagan '30. The roster lists 17 players in total.

Max Greenamoyer joined Brumett's staff as an assistant in May. He spent the previous season as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Pacific Lutheran University and was a four-year starter at Hanover College, where he scored 1,157 career points.

The regular season opens November 7 at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, and the home opener follows November 11 against Anderson University at Chadwick Court. Wabash begins NCAC play December 2 at home against Wittenberg, the team that ended their season in February. Later that month, the Little Giants will travel to Las Vegas for the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Division III tournament, opening against Randolph-Macon on December 21. Wabash faces DePauw January 6 in Greencastle and January 27 at home. The NCAC tournament begins February 23.

The season opener doubles as a reunion. The Little Giants will face the Purple Aces at the Ford Center at 7 p.m. Ellspermann will be on the home bench, and Aigner and Candler will return to their old arena in red.

"At the end of the day, the job is to win. Whether that means rebounding, playing defense, scoring or whatever else is need, I will do whatever it takes to help the team win."

-Dakota Candler '28

Football loses third straight game for first time since 2004

CARTER McCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

For one quarter Saturday afternoon, Wabash had No. 8 Washington University in St. Louis on the ropes. Then the Bears answered with two fourth-quarter touchdowns, and the Little Giants walked off Little Giant Stadium with a 27-17 loss and a streak the program hasn't seen in more than two decades.

The defeat was Wabash's third in a row, the first time the Little Giants have lost three straight games since 2004. A team that opened the season 4-0 now sits at 4-3 overall and 3-3 in North Coast Athletic Conference play.

None of the three losses has been lopsided. Wabash fell 24-23 at Denison October 3, then lost 24-17 at John Carroll October 17 when its final drive came up two yards short of forcing overtime. Saturday's game was a one-possession contest until the final five and a half minutes. Across all three, the Little Giants have been outscored by just 18 points

combined.

"We have just struggled to put teams away defensively," said Head Coach Jake Gilbert '98. "We have busted a couple of coverages and some really good QB's have made a couple of plays against us. We will get it fixed. We have been one sack or stop away from winning three weeks in a row."

Washington University opened with a 15-play, 76-yard drive capped by Levi Moore's 3-yard touchdown pass to Matthew Kinoshita. Camden Singer '28 blocked the extra point to hold the Bears to a 6-0 lead.

Wabash answered with a 13-play march that stalled at the Washington 21, where Tyler Church's '28 47-yard field goal attempt was blocked. Moore found Colin Donahue for an 8-yard score early in the second quarter to make it 13-0.

The Little Giants then put together their longest drive of the day, 17 plays and 71 yards over nearly nine minutes, converting twice on fourth down. But Trey Knox intercepted Jackson Gilbert '28 at the 1-yard line, and Washington carried its 13-0 lead into halftime.

Wabash flipped the game after the break. Keith Jackson '29 returned the second-half kickoff 65 yards, setting up a 25-yard Church field goal. On the Bears' next series, Gage Gulley '28 picked off Moore and brought it back 35 yards to the 13. Gilbert hit Domanic Barnett '28 for a touchdown on the next snap, cutting the deficit to 13-10.

Gulley intercepted Moore again on the following possession, then forced a Karsten Cornell fumble that Messiah Belton '29 recovered at the Washington 27. Five plays later, Gilbert found Cole Dickerson '28 for a 3-yard touchdown, and Wabash led 17-13 with 2:48 left in the third. The Little Giants held the Bears to 41 yards in the quarter and scored 14 points off turnovers.

The lead didn't last. Starting at the



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Nick Witte '28 and Luke Adams '28 line up pre-snap in a game against Washington University in St. Louis at Little Giants Stadium on October 24.

Wabash 41 after a punt, Washington needed five plays to score, with Moore hitting Donahue from six yards out for a 20-17 lead at 12:12.

Wabash leaned on Dickerson on its next drive, reaching the Washington 30 before an 8-yard loss pushed the Little Giants back and the ensuing punt was blocked. Three plays later, Brayden Lewis broke a 30-yard touchdown run to make it 27-17 with 5:30 remaining.

Wabash reached the Washington 11 on its next possession, but WashU's Brett Kersemeier intercepted a pass in the end zone with 1:37 left.

Dickerson ran 32 times for 108 yards, his fourth straight game with at least 108 rushing yards, and passed 1,500 career

rushing yards. He also caught five passes, extending his touchdown streak to seven games. Gilbert completed 19 of 35 passes for 233 yards and two scores despite being sacked six times.

"We need to keep improving every day so the results can show up on the weekend," said Gilbert. "We emphasize limiting turnovers, creating explosive plays, and scoring touchdowns in the red zone."

Gulley finished with a career-high 12 tackles to go with his two interceptions and forced fumble. William Harris made seven stops to reach 101 for his career.

Wabash will try to end the streak Saturday, Oct. 31, at Ohio Wesleyan in Delaware, Ohio. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

W.

Offense



74

Rushing
Yards

150

233

Passing
Yards

171

307

Total
Offense

321