

Lights... Cameras... Action?

Amidst uncertainty surrounding future security improvements, College leadership looks away from cameras in the near future

JAMES WALLACE '26
NEWS EDITOR
ELIJAH WETZEL '27
STAFF WRITER

For this year's 2024 LGBTQ+ History Month celebration, members of Wabash's gay-straight alliance, 'shOUT, lined the walking paths of the College Mall with LGBTQ+ pride flags, hoping to promote community and brotherhood.

When they awoke the following morning, they found anything but these two things. On the Mall, there were no flags in sight. 'shOUT's

efforts were later found in a campus dumpster, leaving everyone with a burning question: Who committed this crime?

The answer: No one knows. This isn't the first time where the question of criminal identity cannot be answered. In March of 2024, Delta Tau Delta was vandalized with homophobic slurs for the second time in two years. The summer prior, two neighboring fraternity houses — Kappa Sigma and Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) — were broken into and vandalized. Items were sto-

len and spray painted, and messages were left behind. These aren't the only incidents happening on campus either — cars have been broken into, rocks thrown at windows, personal property stolen and academic buildings trespassed.

The natural follow-up to the question of identity in each case was the question, "Will we ever have cameras on campus?"

The College has long been proud not to need cameras on campus, citing the Gentleman's Rule. Wabash men should be gentlemen at all times, many claim, and therefore have no need to be surveilled. Others cite transgressions of the Gentleman's Rule as the very need for cameras.

"Any criminality on campus would be easier to solve with cameras," said Dean of Students Gregory Redding '88. "That's just a fact."

For many students, the reality of having cameras on campus is one that comes with a feeling of fear and irritation at the idea of being watched more. There is a sense among students that freedom to move around campus with relatively limited oversight is crucial to Wabash's thriving social culture.

Josh Campbell '25, whose backpack and laptop were stolen from the Sparks Center while he ate dinner several weeks ago, sent an all-campus email expressing his anger and frustration, but maintained that campus should remain camera-less.

"The root problem isn't that there aren't cameras on campus," Campbell said. "The root problem is that there are people on campus who don't follow the Gentleman's Rule."

"I think we have a history of things here at Wabash, and cameras are not a part of that history," said Phenix Carney '25, president of Kappa Sigma, one of the houses that was vandalized over the summer break of 2023. "I don't think it would help our campus. Our tradition is holding people accountable whenever they mess up, and I don't think we need cameras to do that."

In an anonymous survey conducted by *The Bachelor*, only 33% of the responses from individuals who identified as 'Fraternity' or 'Independents' agreed that Wabash needs security improvements. However, 67% of respondents who identified as 'Faculty/Non-Student' affirmed that they thought that campus needed security improvements.

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Pride flags trashed

Found in dumpster after being removed from Mall during LGBTQ+ History Month



PHOTO POSTED ANONYMOUSLY ON YIK YAK

Pride flags found in the dumpsters behind the Beta Theta Pi and Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternities.

SAM BENEDICT '25
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students and staff awoke the morning of October 16 to find that every LGBTQ+ pride flag lining the brick pathways across the Mall had been pulled out of the ground and tossed into dumpsters behind the Beta Theta Pi and Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) fraternities.

As campus came to life in the morning, word of the incident quickly passed around, and students took to Yik Yak, an anonymous social media platform, to both support and condemn the perpetrator(s).

"This is outrageous," said one user. "You can have a difference in opinion with someone, and that is OK. That is what makes Wabash a great place, because of those discussions. But to see this on my campus is atrocious. Let people live the way they want!"

of those days... Perpetrators: are you too weak to live among people whose life experiences are different than yours? You should know that the members of our LGBTQ+ community and their allies are not going anywhere."

In response, members of 'shOUT and allies of the LGBTQ+ community, led by Coordinator of Student Success Vic Lindsay, spent the day sitting on the Mall to guard the nine remaining flags that were replaced in the morning. By the afternoon, Senior Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the College, Amber King, had provided hot chocolates from 1832 Brew to keep the protestors warm in the chilly autumn air.

"I think it's important in moments like these that people who are technically outside of the impacted community do something," said Lindsay. "This is about as low as



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Christian Tackett '25, Brady Largent '26 and Gabrien Smith '27 (left to right) sit watch over the remaining pride flags after many of them were removed in the cover of the night.

"As a queer student, I have never felt less safe on my own campus," said another. "I don't think many of you mean harm, but I feel so alone and unwanted because of all the hate our pride flags received this past week."

Members of 'shOUT, Wabash's gay-straight alliance, originally placed the flags on Sunday, October 13 at 10 p.m. to raise awareness for the queer community on campus and to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, which runs from October 1-31. The plan was to let the flags fly only until the end of the week, since several flags were damaged or removed when they were left up for a whole month last year.

"The flags had been up for only two days, and the perpetrators couldn't handle us being proudly queer and out," said President of 'shOUT Javion Montgomery '27. "We exist on this campus, and it's not our problem if some people are uncomfortable with that."

This instance of identity-based vandalism was not the first on the Wabash campus. In 2021, a bottle was thrown through a Black Lives Matter flag in a dorm room. In 2024, 'shOUT staged a silent protest to demand more action from administration after homophobic slurs were spray painted on the exterior of the Delta Tau Delta house.

In an email sent to the student body Wednesday afternoon, Dean of Students Gregory Redding '88 expressed intense and candid frustration as well as disappointment at the acts.

"Most days we are proud of our Wabash student culture and the sense of community that we share," the message began. "This is not one

the bar can get, and this is something that we can do. It costs me nothing to be here, but hopefully there are other straight, white men on campus who can acknowledge their own position of privilege and demonstrate what real allyship and brotherhood looks like."

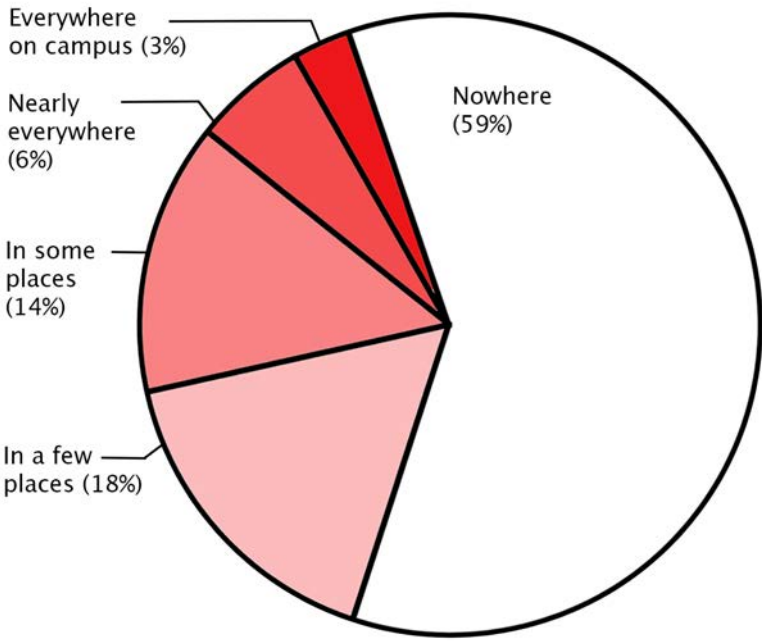
The event came amidst a week at Wabash already focused around inclusive conversations. On Monday, Dr. Bob Einterz '77 delivered the second address in the President's Distinguished Speaker Series, in which he challenged the audience to remember that everyone's voice deserves to be heard. On Tuesday, Nadine Strossen, a senior fellow with FIRE (the Foundation for Individual Rights and Education), delivered the Ama-Gi Lecture, "Hate: A Candid Discussion." David Leal '26 and Joshua Massaquoi '26 were already scheduled to deliver a Chapel Talk on Thursday morning as part of LGBTQ+ History Month.

"It is evident from acts like this and last semester that there is a community on campus that will take action against progress and against the representation of queer culture," said Treasurer of 'shOUT Brady Largent '26. "It's important that we openly demonstrate a community that will oppose action that will reverse progress."

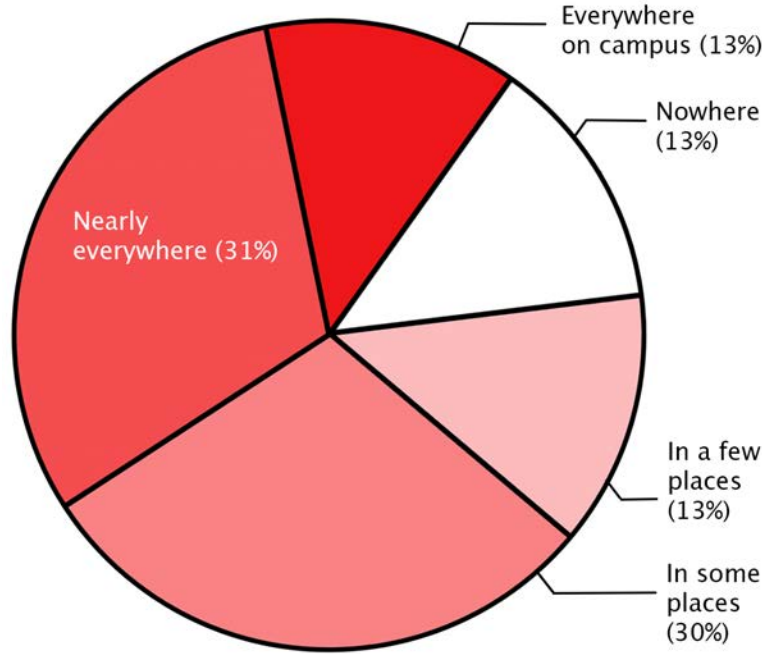
Presidents of TKE and Beta both expressed their disdain with the incident and confirmed they have no knowledge of the perpetrator(s).

At this time, the identity of the perpetrator(s) is unknown. Director of Safety and Security Buck Waddell could not be reached for comment. *The Bachelor* will continue coverage of the incident as more details are uncovered.

Cameras should be... (Students)



Cameras should be... (Faculty/Non-Student)



GRAPHICS BY LOGAN WEILBAKER '25

A region in flux: The Middle East one year after Hamas's attack

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
STAFF WRITER

It's been a little over a year since Hamas launched a deadly assault into Israeli-controlled territory that killed up to 1,200 civilians and soldiers and took 250 more as hostages, and the complexion of the region surrounding Gaza and Israel, have changed significantly.

International dynamics are intense, militia groups are gaining momentum and millions of people are displaced from their homes. Here are some of the events from the last year that have shaped the Middle East, or at least the western half, as we currently view it.

Israeli Response and Initial Humanitarian Crisis

Israel launched an expansive bombardment campaign in immediate response to Hamas's October 7 attack. It was one of the most intense and voluminous bombardments this century.

The Israeli military reported that it struck around 7,000 targets in the two and a half weeks after October 7, and the Gazan ministry of health, which is run by Hamas, reported on October 25, 2023 that the bombs had killed more than 6,500 people in Gaza.

Israel's main objective with the bombing was to weaken Hamas's military infrastructure, including

weapons caches and factories, command centers and anti-aircraft rocket launchers.

Israel also targeted Hamas's extensive underground tunnel network, which spanned hundreds of miles and facilitated the movement of weapons and personnel throughout Gaza. According to Israel, the bombing campaign — and the ground invasion that started later, on

October 27 — was a defensive action, not a retributive one.

In Israel's eyes, the hostages needed to be freed, and Hamas had to be totally destroyed so that no future attack like October 7's could ever happen again.

Continued page 2



COURTESY OF GETTY IMAGES

Two Palestinian children walk through the rubble of houses destroyed by Israeli bombardment on March 3, 2024 in the Gaza Strip.

Lights... Cameras... Action?

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The gap is further seen when looking at the differences in responses about what level, if any, of cameras should be installed on campus. The survey allowed for a sliding response, in which an answer of '1' meant that the individual believed no level of cameras should be installed on campus, while an answer of '5' indicated that the individual believed that every part of campus should have a camera on it.

Only 13% of the 'Faculty/Non-Student' respondents checked off '1,' indicating that no level of cameras should be on campus. This stands in stark contrast to 'Fraternity' and 'Independents,' who had 54% and 40% of responses,

"I think fraternity houses should be protected over the summer with cameras inside," said Carney. "Because at the end of the day, we don't see much vandalism happening to independent buildings."

However, while the desire for cameras from faculty and other non-students in the Wabash community seems to be strong, the Safety Committee — the administrative arm of the College focused on improving overall campus safety — is not considering cameras as their first priority in the context of improving campus security.

"There's a lot of things we should have," said President of Wabash Scott Feller. "But that doesn't mean we are going to have them. I won't say that we will never add cameras, but in the next cou-

or door?" said Redding. "Do we have alarm systems on our doors — on our windows? That would be great [for security] but that's millions of dollars of investment. There's no practical way to make that happen."

The extreme cost of cameras, especially during a period of major financial investment in many capital projects across campus, is not feasible for Wabash. The financial cost, however, isn't the only factor making the Safety Committee leery of cameras. The cultural cost could be just as impactful — and carry heavier weight when looking at the decision about whether or not to move toward cameras.

"We rely so much on our culture of personal responsibility," said Chief Financial Officer Kendra Cooks. "We don't ever want to create an atmosphere of being a prison with lights and [cameras]. Not that we would ever bury our head in the sand about anything, but the priority for us is [door] access."

With the financial and cultural constraints on cameras making them a low priority for improvements to security around campus, the Safety Committee is hoping that electronic door access could be the fiscal solution to improving security at Wabash.

"[Electronic door access] is something that Dean Redding and I have had as a priority," said Director of Safety and Security Buck Waddell. "I'm excited to see access control come online."

Many instances of College buildings being broken into and vandalized might have been mitigated by the presence of electronic door locks to better secure Wabash facilities. This move towards door locks also shows where the administration's priorities are — rather than trying to police students by introducing cameras, the introduction of door locks focuses on protecting students from threats external to the College.

"[With] violations, there's a good chance that it wasn't even a member of our community," said Redding. "This is something we worry about a lot in the summer when students are gone, and when everyone knows that students are gone."

The improvements to access control by implementing electronic door access is something that, like cameras, Wabash is lagging behind in, Feller acknowledged.

"Admittedly we did not get ahead of the curve on electronic door access," said Feller. "I think we've been very honest in saying that we are trying to catch up."

With hopes of improvements beginning to take shape over the next two years, Wabash's administration aims to be on par with neighboring institutions, while still preserving the unique culture of personal responsibility among students.



COURTESY OF BRETT DRISCOLL '24

Vandals struck the FIJI fraternity during summer break of 2023 and wrote racial slurs across the storage room.



COURTESY OF JACOB RANSFORD '25

A trailer hitch was thrown through the sunroof a student's car in August of 2023 in the parking lot of the Ott Residential District.

respectively, saying that no level of cameras should be on campus.

The respondents who selected '2,' '3' or '4' were prompted to elaborate on where they thought cameras should be. Among all three identities, many individuals noted that 'all doorways should at least be monitored' and 'parking lots should have cameras.' However, many responses also indicated that cameras should be limited to outdoor areas of the college, and should 'not be inside of buildings.'

Interviews conducted with students also revealed some are not totally against tightening up certain aspects of security, as long as students' autonomy is not hampered. Additional security measures put forward by students centered more on risks to living units rather than general campus incidents.

ple of years there will be a higher priority than cameras — electronic door access."

Electronic door access would mean every building on campus would be outfitted with a new lock system, making it easier for buildings to be secured and more difficult for vandals to repeat incidents of the past. Should there be an event, security could check the system to see who had entered the building that day.

"I don't think key cards, for example, are an issue," said FIJI President Quinn Manford '25. "Key cards could prevent a lot of vandalism. I think if we have key cards, then what happened at FIJI two years ago doesn't happen."

The prioritization of electronic door access stems from two unique but connected issues — finances and culture.

"We have to think, 'Does [having cameras] mean having one on every single exteri-

The Middle East



COURTESY OF CNN

Smoke clouds the sky on October 16, 2024, following an Israeli strike in Nabatiyeh, Lebanon.

Continued from page 1

Israel's response had broader consequences than martial destruction. 2.2 million people lived in Gaza before the war's outbreak, but a majority have been displaced from their homes and cities yet are still trapped in Gaza.

Gaza's population is underfed, crowded and susceptible to disease and vulnerable to the elements without proper housing. Even if the war ended today and Palestinians were able to return to their homes immediately, they would have little to return to.

Hospitals, schools and mosques have been destroyed by Israel in their effort to obliterate every trace of Hamas. Houses and apartment buildings, many but not all unintentionally destroyed by misplaced airstrikes, are reduced to rubble.

How to help the Palestinian people and what to do with a population of 2 million people who have no homes to return to will be two of the most enduring and difficult to answer questions that the region — and really the world — will have to address in the coming months and years.

Hezbollah and the Houthis, Israel and Iran Tensions Rise

One of the hallmarks of the Middle East this century is the prevalence of non-state actors in conflicts. Groups like the Taliban and Hamas blur the lines between government, paramilitary organizations and terrorist groups.

Two groups of this mold, besides Hamas itself, played important roles in the Israel-Hamas war. One, Hezbollah, is an Iranian-backed political party and paramilitary organization in Lebanon; the other, the Houthis, are a Yemeni rebel group who are also backed by Iran.

Hezbollah launched missiles into Israel in the days after October 7 in support of Hamas. Israel retaliated with airstrikes of its own, which displaced more than 150,000 people in south Lebanon.

Houthi rebels began attacking commercial ships in the Red Sea's trade routes in the weeks following October 7.

Over the next few months, their missiles targeted dozens of vessels. Many ships had to be rerouted because of the violence, and the US and its allies responded by calling hundreds of airstrikes against Houthi forces in north Yemen.

Potential conflicts with Hezbollah and the Houthis are not the greatest risks to stability in the region. Broader conflict involving Lebanon and Iran would likely be far more disruptive.

On April 1, 2024 Israel killed multiple people in an airstrike on the Iranian consulate in Syria, and Iran responded by sending a barrage of hundreds of missiles just a couple weeks later. This was the first time Iran had fired on Israel directly since the war's outbreak.

More recently, Iran fired hundreds more missiles into Israel in retaliation for the death of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah and others in an Israeli airstrike. Furthermore, Israeli forces made their way into Lebanon in early October in an effort to eliminate Hezbollah infrastructure.

A year on, Israel and Hamas's war has spilled over into other countries and brought many new actors into a volatile conflict. Widening this conflict's scope is an important element for Hamas.

Hamas's infrastructure in Gaza is essentially gone, but by forcing Israel to fight on multiple fronts, they can hold out for longer and have a better chance of preserving their larger movement.

Israel, on the other hand, will likely keep fighting until all of the hostages still in Hamas's hands are returned or confirmed as dead. Additionally, their entry into Lebanon and escalating fight with Iran will likely prolong a wider conflict on those fronts. Either way, Israel looks to be in for the long haul too.

The outlook of the war is currently bleak. Deescalation seems unlikely, human suffering abounds and the conflict seems to only be widening. Tides will need to change dramatically in the war's second year for a possible end to appear on the horizon.

News around the world

BEN DOUGLAS '27
STAFF WRITER
United States


Over the past week, Florida has been devastated by Hurricane Milton, marking the second major storm to strike the state in just two weeks, following Hurricane Helene. The impact has been severe, with widespread destruction and significant disruptions across the state. Hurricane Milton caused power outages for approximately 3 million residents, leaving many in darkness as they struggled to recover from the aftermath of the previous hurricane. The storm's powerful winds and heavy rains flooded barrier islands, tore the roof off a baseball stadium and toppled a construction crane, further exacerbating the damage.

Israel & Palestine


Following recent hostilities between Israel and Iran, President Biden reaffirmed U.S. support for Israel in a conversation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. This dialogue comes in the wake of missile exchanges between Israel and Iran. According to Al Jazeera and local Israeli news outlets, Biden and Netanyahu discussed the gravity of the situation and explored potential responses to Iran's actions. The U.S. administration assured Israel that Iran would face serious consequences for its aggression, underscoring the strength of the United States — Israel alliance. However, when asked if the United States would back a direct counterattack on Iran, President Biden made it clear that the U.S. would not support such a move.

Nigeria

In Nigeria, over 140 people, including children, tragically lost their lives in a gasoline explosion caused by an overturned tanker truck. According to NPR, the accident occurred when the truck exploded in flames, highlighting a recurring issue in the country. Such accidents are not uncommon in Nigeria, where poor infrastructure and unsafe transportation networks are prevalent. The lack of reliable railways and the deteriorating condition of the roads contribute to these frequent disasters. Additionally, the lack of adequate safety measures exacerbates the problem, putting both drivers and local communities at risk.



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Betting on knowledge with Professor Dunaway

Sports betting meets the classroom



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Professor Eric Dunaway stands on the stage of the Chapel prior to his Chapel Talk on August 22, 2024.

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
STAFF WRITER

Gambling is rapidly becoming a dominant force in the sports world, as it's transforming how fans engage with games. Professor of Economics Eric Dunaway brings a unique passion for sports gambling into the classroom, while blending it with the principles of a liberal arts education.

Professor Dunaway's approach allows students to explore the concepts of economics through real-world applications, one being the decision-making processes behind sports betting. By incorporating this topic into his lessons, he allows his students to analyze risks and understand the economic implications of the sports industry. To Dunaway, the concept of gambling itself is fascinating.

"The probability that any sporting events go any way is truly unknowable," said Dunaway. "Sports don't exactly behave with how we understand statistics and probability, so that's where my interest comes in."

Because of these senses of uncertainty and randomness, Dunaway wants to make sure his students and all Wabash men who choose to gamble know what they're getting into.

"I won't ever say to not bet, but I'll teach them how it works, because there are ways that these sports betting apps and processes are taking advantage of Wabash students," said Dunaway. "What I can do in liberal arts education is arm you with the knowledge and help you make better decisions because of that."

"I learned a lot about sports betting from Dr. Dunaway's talk last year," said Justin Santiago '25, a financial economics major. "He explained how sports-

books use lines that seem enticing to us but will result in them consistently making money in the long run. It was interesting to see which types of bets actually have the better payoffs as well as hear about the growing risks gambling poses on college campuses."

Even though students can form accurate beliefs and predictions for a given sports event, the profitability of the gambling industry is greater than the average person may think.

"Last year, the entire NFL revenue was around \$14 billion for all NFL teams, but the sports betting revenue was \$13 billion," said Dunaway. "I bet this year or next year, we're going to be in a world where sports betting is bringing in more revenue than all professional sports combined. This is why we should be talking about this."

Fortunately, the future of Wabash students is in good hands, as there's optimism of new opportunities as soon as spring of 2025 to learn more about gambling and how it can impact our view of the topic.

"A dream for me is to have an economics of gambling course," said Dunaway. "We would dive into casino games, sports betting, then poker and cover the economic ideas behind these."

Coupling this new course idea with the incorporations he's already made, Dunaway will remain dedicated to guide our students to make the right and responsible decisions.

Review: 'My Mother's Men' puts the 'heart' in Heartland Film Festival



COURTESY OF WHISTLER FILM FESTIVAL

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25
MANAGING EDITOR

The 33rd Heartland International Film Festival kicked off in Indianapolis on October 10. This year, the organizers brought more than 120 international films to five local theaters, connecting audiences with independent filmmakers of all different backgrounds. On opening Saturday, I watched one such film: "My Mother's Men" (original title, "Les Hommes de ma mère"), a French-language film by Canadian director Anik Jean.

The story follows a Canadian bartender named Elsie who loses her mother, an eccentric actress, to cancer. Her mother's bizarre dying wish is that Elsie track down each of her five ex-husbands and have each one spread part of her ashes. While Elsie is understandably shocked, she follows her wish, and tracks down her "mother's men." In doing so, she learns more about her mother through each husband, uncovers childhood trauma, heals childhood trauma, develops relationships with each man and finds her purpose in life.

If you're thinking that sounds like a lot to cram into one movie, you're right, but it was artfully done, weaving a complex web of relationships into a beautiful tapestry by the end. Each of the husbands — though they all had to compete for screen time — felt thoroughly fleshed out, unique and lovable in his own right. One is a doctor, one is a bar owner. One abandoned Elsie and her mother, one was forced from their lives. Not just impressive on paper, stellar performances by every actor brought the drama through

the screen and into the theater.

The film was technically excellent, other than some slow-moving scenes. Perhaps because it was in French, I paid extra attention to the storytelling through cinematography. Stunning visuals subsidized the actors' performances and helped push and pull the story along. In a time when movies are trending "grayer," "My Mother's Men" was smartly saturated, in color as well as in content. In spite of a few odd choices to plant sappy American piano ballads, the score — featuring deep, heavy strings — perfectly underscored the somber and thought-provoking nature of the film.

I'll be honest, I'm not usually a big fan of foreign-language films. I sometimes struggle to pick up certain nuances, since I can't tell what word they're stressing, and it can be difficult to discern voices. (They also require my undivided attention, which I struggle with at home, but that isn't much of an issue in the theater.) Regardless of my propensities, the story of "My Mother's Men" transcends language barriers. I truly think I could have watched the whole thing with zero dialogue and still been touched by the rich relationships and overall message.

By the end of the montage that ends the film, there wasn't a dry eye in the theater. "My Mother's Men" is a heartfelt celebration of the gamut of human relationships — those we mourn in death, broken-and-mended relationships, new friendships made at unsuspecting moments and all of the chaotic messiness of life.

**FINAL VERDICT:
4.5/5 WALLYS**



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'Joker: Folie a Deux' review: Destroying the original's legacy



COURTESY OF COLLIDER

BEN WALLACE '25
STAFF WRITER

"Joker: Folie à Deux" is a chaotic departure from its predecessor, struggling to find its identity and, in the process, undermining the character established in the first film. It feels disjointed and wildly off-brand, which may leave fans divided. While some may find enjoyment in its bold choices, for me, it was a disappointing experience that fell short of expectations.

The movie's musical element came as a surprise to many, but I was actually excited to see this fresh take on the genre. Unfortunately, it left me massively disappointed. Of the fifteen songs, only the first two were remotely enjoyable, which initially raised my expectations. However, everything that followed felt bland and unremarkable, failing to progress the story and, in my opinion, even holding it back.

There were moments of solid dialogue that were completely derailed by unnecessary musical numbers, which drained the emotion from key scenes. To make matters worse, the choreography was lackluster and uninspired, leaving me feeling let down by a part of the film I had been looking forward to the most.

The first 45 minutes of this movie draw you in with a false sense of optimism. I found myself genuinely enjoying the film, particularly the introduction of Harley Quinn, which seemed promising. The chemistry between the characters hinted at a compelling narrative ahead. However, after that engaging start, the film derails significantly, losing its momentum and failing to deliver on the potential established in those early scenes.

The movie also suffers from a lackluster plot. Much of it unfolds as a courtroom drama that fails to deliver the witty dialogue and engaging exchanges typical of great courtroom films. The story feels half-baked, ultimately coming across as a cash grab.

The original "Joker" grossed over \$1 billion, making it one of the few R-rated films to achieve this milestone. To me, the first movie had a clear and coherent ending, suggesting it was meant to be a standalone film. However, in light of its unprecedented success, it seems fiscally irresponsible not to capitalize on that achievement with a sequel.

Another aspect of the film that didn't sit well with me was the character of Harley Quinn. She felt woefully underdeveloped, and after seeing her in various forms of media over the years, this iteration stands out as the weakest. Her motivations lack depth, and she doesn't exhibit the signature craziness typically associated with Harley Quinn. Additionally, I was disappointed with her final scene, which left a sour taste in my mouth.

Even within this disastrous film there were some bright spots that should not be overlooked. The biggest being the cinematography. The film was beautifully shot and every scene was meticulously crafted. Joaquin Phoenix and Lady Gaga both delivered impressive performances. While Joaquin's talent was expected—having won an Academy Award for his previous portrayal of the Joker—Lady Gaga was a pleasant surprise. She proved to be a surprisingly skilled actor, and despite the lack of writing for her character, she made the most of her role.

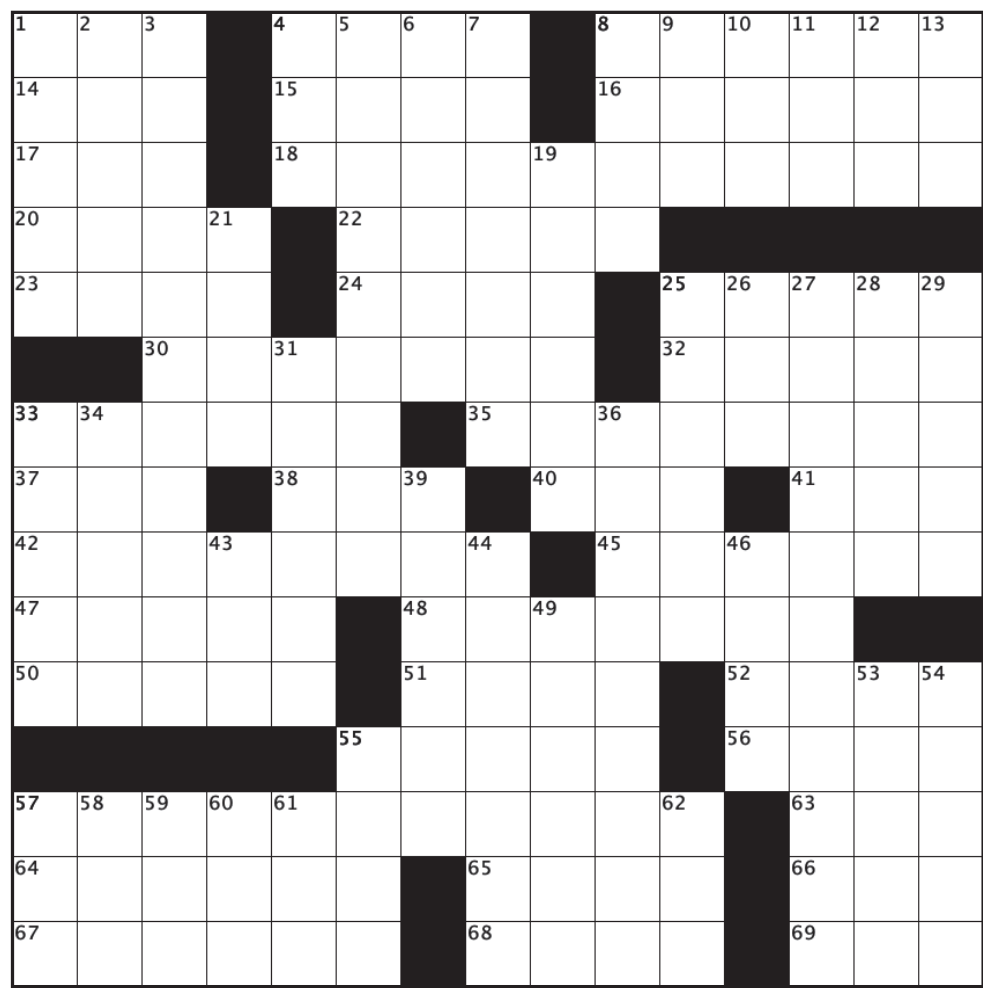
I ultimately wasn't a fan of this film. I enjoyed the original and approached this sequel with slightly lowered expectations, yet I still found myself disappointed. Even if you're a fan of musicals, you'll likely find this film subpar for the genre. If you're not a fan of musicals, I would recommend staying far away from it. Perhaps I'm overreacting, but this movie left me in disbelief at how quickly it tarnished the legacy of the original.

**FINAL VERDICT:
2/5 WALLYS**



'Jump scare'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



Across

- 1. Dec. follower
- 4. Apostles' deeds
- 8. Slanted type
- 14. "A long time ___ in a galaxy far, far away..."
- 15. Piggy-bank aperture
- 16. Device with an aperture
- 17. Barracks bed
- 18. Coach's role at halftime, perhaps
- 20. Loads found in lodes
- 22. Hole in the head
- 23. Mandrill relative
- 24. Split hairs?
- 25. Engine's opposite
- 30. Give the boot
- 32. Responded on "Jeopardy!"
- 33. Native of northwest France
- 35. Hitting the books, say
- 37. PC linking acronym
- 38. So-so, in slang
- 40. ___ Moines
- 41. Code-cracking org.
- 42. With an artful eye
- 45. Document with checks and balances?
- 47. Parade about, as a rooster
- 48. Perennial with funnel-shaped flowers
- 50. Final word
- 51. One of two Galifianakis props
- 52. Gaston's five dozen, in song
- 55. Cardiologist's concern
- 56. Blood bank supply
- 57. Political partition in Cold War-era Asia
- 63. "Oui, ou ___?"
- 64. Words before "D," for a Ph.D. candidate
- 65. Italian volcano
- 66. ["For shame!"]
- 67. White pegs, in Battleship
- 68. Droops
- 69. Mani-pedi locale

Down

- 1. Member of a literary love triangle
- 2. Ancient bazaar
- 3. "Dear Diary..." follower
- 4. Production aide in the theater: Abbr.
- 5. Tight, like some sweaters and families
- 6. Ford in a 2008 Clint Eastwood movie
- 7. Like some comics
- 8. Applies frosting to
- 9. No-no
- 10. Pre-noon hrs.
- 11. "Live and ___ Die"
- 12. Burning anger
- 13. Jaguar or Impala
- 19. Simped for, to use online lingo
- 21. Agitated mood
- 25. Things to march for
- 26. Beast of burden
- 27. They arrange the stars?
- 28. Intuit
- 29. Poe's first name
- 31. Respond after sniffing smelling salts
- 33. Give a benediction to
- 34. Many a dreadlocks wearer, informally
- 36. Relaxing, as rain
- 39. "I beg to ___!"
- 43. Bohemian martyr, 1415
- 44. Does an artist's work
- 46. Runs out of juice
- 49. List of misprints
- 53. Aggregate
- 54. "Ho ho ho" crier
- 55. Castaways' dwellings
- 57. "Batman" sound effect
- 58. "The Greatest" boxer
- 59. American football org. whose athletes don't play American football
- 60. Penthouse pair
- 61. Pool shark's stick
- 62. Lil ___ X (rapper)

Note on the puzzle:
This puzzle contains four "jump scares" hidden throughout. Be careful, or they might spook you!



Scan for solution!

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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.

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Can You defend against the dark rhetorical arts?



Professor and Chair of Rhetoric
Jeff Drury

Reply to this opinion at
druryj@wabash.edu

Every time you visit a social media platform, you're confronted with a potentially frightening world. Especially during an election season, sinister forces are preying on your inattention and your inability to defend yourself. And while a Wabash education strives to cultivate critical thinking skills, it's easy to turn off those skills in an online environment that involves mindless scrolling of an infinite feed.

Ask yourself: Do you know how to debunk disinformation? How to impair propaganda? How to dispute demagogues? How to thwart trolls? If you answered "no" to any of those questions, you are susceptible to manipulation and control.

Although these dark rhetorical arts abound in an internet age, writers for millennia have recognized the ability of people to use rhetoric for both good and ill. For example, the ancient Greek rhetorician Isocrates promoted his vision of rhetoric tied to the truth and virtue, bemoaning in the 300s BCE that "it is easy to contrive false statements on any subject that may be proposed" (Helen 10.4).

Isocrates understood that people cannot simply avoid—or "turn off," in our contemporary lexicon—political discourse. Thus, Isocrates explained in *Against the Sophists* that political rhetors ought to cultivate "honesty of character" and he argued that "the study of political discourse can help

more than any other thing to stimulate and form such qualities of character" (13.21; emphasis added).

Indeed, the study of contemporary discourse can equip you to be a more socially responsible community member, to use rhetoric virtuously and to defend against rhetoric's abuse.

Students in my freshmen tutorial class, titled "Defense Against the Dark Rhetorical Arts," have been researching just that and are prepared to share their knowledge. You might think of them as Wabash's own "Dumbledore's Army."

Over the next three weeks, they will publish a series of four articles, each addressing a different dark rhetorical art. Today's article addresses strategies you can use to guard against disinformation. There will also be articles about propaganda, demagoguery and trolling.

Our goal is to build awareness and offer some practical steps you can personally take to defend yourself. Many of these will suggest ways to counter bad rhetoric with good. If these articles spark dialogue or debate, all the better.

Beyond defending yourself, we hope these articles give you greater pause before employing the dark rhetorical arts yourself, whether intentionally or not. Insofar as these rhetorical tactics cause chaos and confusion, you contribute to the problem when you spread misinformation and propaganda or fuel the demagogues and trolls.

Indeed, it seems appropriate to remind you of your charge as a Wabash man to conduct yourself "at all times, both on and off campus, as a gentleman and responsible citizen." Ultimately, a gentleman and responsible citizen uses rhetoric productively to defend against and challenge the dark arts.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

GUARDIAN ANGEL

Hi-five to Vic Lindsay for guarding the remaining flags on Wednesday. Actions always speak louder than words.

WE'D LIKE IT A DIFFERENT WAY

Lo-five to Burger King for giving away purple Whoppers. The food is questionable enough without making it purple.

PLEASE GOD, NO!

Lo-five to the MLB for not preventing a Yankees/Dodgers World Series. Is it too late to edit the script?

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

Hi-five to Wabash students for showing out in droves to professor Nadine Strossen's talk on "Pornography." Marketing to a male college really isn't that difficult.

WE ARE SO BACK

Hi-five to Theta Delta Chi for throwing this weekend. Will College Hall residents get in for free?

Defending against the dark art of disinformation

In a time of modern technology on campus and with an upcoming presidential election, the threat of disinformation is at an all-time high. This poses challenges to both our democracy and our campus environment. The continuous spread of intentional lies on online platforms, such as the anonymous ranting app YikYak, is detrimental to the electoral process and undermines our country's needs during this critical time. If the citizens and students of this nation cannot be properly informed, our republic cannot thrive. Therefore, users must ask themselves: how can one defend against disinformation?

For one, to defend themselves from disinformation they should start with a proper definition. To effectively implement these steps, we must first provide a clear definition of disinformation



AJ Bradford '28, Julian Castro '28 and Nathan Criss '28

Reply to this opinion at
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and nmcriss28@wabash.edu

from respected professors of journalism Deen Freelon and Chris Wells. In their 2020 article "Disinformation as Political Communication," they define disinformation as "fake news" or "problematic information." Disinformation includes all forms of false, inaccurate or misleading information designed, presented and promoted with the intention to deceive.

A consequential approach to combat-

ing disinformation is the four-step process our group has developed: MCSF, which stands for Media literacy, Critical thinking, Strengthening media awareness and Fact-checking. Understanding this process is essential, as it helps individuals critically evaluate information and distinguish between true and false claims.

As regular YikYak users, we have applied these steps in various ways. For example,

when encountering a false YikYak post, it's crucial to consider the intention behind the post, which relates to both media literacy and critical thinking. Secondly, to strengthen media awareness you should report any false information you come across to help spread awareness. Lastly, to effectively fact-check it's important to stay updated on current events or consult with individuals who may have accurate information.

The process of being an informed reader is simple, follow the MCSF. One must be Media literate, Critically think, Strengthen one's media awareness and Fact-check. With this four step process for success, readers can be aware, informed and combative to disinformation. Now it is up to you all as Wabash men, in the wake of one of the most politically divisive elections

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Comic by Preston Parker '26



— Preston Parker

Wally's wall: Double-Header

The Prompts:

What has been your biggest Fantasy Football letdown?

or

How do you feel about the new gym setup?

Evan Furuness '26

As an athlete, the new gym set up is elite. It was difficult to have team lifts in the smaller room, especially if there were multiple teams in there at the same time. Coach Williams also explained to me that the flooring in the weight rooms are different, and the new set up is better for the flooring.

Adam Ott '28

Rowan O'Daniel '28

Picture this. Step into the shoes of a 2-3 Team, which should be significantly better than the record it holds. The battle seemed easy; my opponent scored a measly 76 points by the start of Sunday. Three players failed me. Ray-Ray McCloud scored but 4.3 points, and I started to sweat. Tyjae Spears couldn't break past three points, my eyes widened. All hinged on Tre Tucker to get three more points. What did Tre do? He scored zero. Nada. Zip. Tre Tucker is easily the greatest failure I've ever had the displeasure to grab off free agency since the start of my fantasy coaching career. Never pick this man if you value your sanity.

Christian McCaffrey never fails to get hurt. He had a couple crazy years and now he just gets drafted through the number one round then just sits on my IR.

Cameron Fecht '28

I would have to say Dak Prescott. Luckily I was playing him, and won by 2 points. If Dak just got 5 points instead of his measly 3.2, I would have been in trouble.

Bigotry hasn't died



Nathaniel Plake '25

Reply to this opinion at neplake25@wabash.edu

a senior here on campus it seems that nothing has changed, and even more horrifying, it seems that this routine of bigotry is normalized.

While not the best for my mental health, I read messages on the incident and I feel like the anonymous messages on YikYak help to further this bigotry as well as accurately describe the hateful opinions present on campus. Posts like "chillax on the hate comments... I can't like all of them", "me genuinely tweaking forcing myself not to stomp on the flags", "I just am tired of getting gay shit shoved down my throat" and others scare me and fill me with rage towards the willingness to say these things.

And, the final slap in the face, the most popular received around 60 likes which accounts for 7% of the entire student body.

Hate like this is indefensible as it directly hurts the mental health of queer students on campus and goes against the very ideals this college stands for. This college does not seek for its students to act like animals driven by fear and instinct but to educate themselves and to work hand in hand towards this common goal.

I believe that while criticizing an incident like this is easy, coming up with solutions is truly challenging. I would argue to remember David Leal's chapel talk every day and to be an assassin in your housing unit. This means proactively calling out bigotry when it occurs and defending your fellow LGBTQ+ students.

Part of the solution also involves education. I feel that many student's personal beliefs prevent them from learning about historic LGBTQ+ struggles and culture and instead feel comfortable remaining fearful. Hate comes from misunderstanding and fear, and I feel that taking a gender studies or history class on the topic would go a long way to developing a perspective which combats hate.

I do not have all of the answers for this issue of homophobic campus culture, but I know that we as a student body can do better. I don't want the Wabash I remember to be one of bigotry, misunderstanding and suppression of those different from the majority. Do better Wabash.

As a person decides to study history, they may be convinced by a notion of progress and feel that our existence in the modern era is at the end of progress and that we have reached an era of tolerance and knowledge. While criticizing the portrayal of history as naturally progressive isn't the aim of this article, the recent incident on Wednesday the 16th regarding pride flags on the mall is proof enough that we vastly overestimate the progress we exist in.

Instead we live in a time and place at Wabash College in which the mere sight of a colored flag elicits a bigoted fear and hatred towards the LGBTQ+ community here on campus. The purpose of these flags was to challenge the narrative that queer people are not welcome on campus and to give these students a sense of belonging on a normally homophobic campus.

Instead of serving this role, these flags lasted for a mere three days, were berated and made fun of on YikYak and were eventually stolen and tossed in a dumpster which was again posted on YikYak. The flags proved instead that queer students are not welcome and should be ashamed of being represented or seen in our community.

What does this say about our Wabash community? Is this what being a gentleman and responsible citizen looks like? No.

Instead of building a community which shares a common goal, these individuals fall victim to their most primal urges. To hate what is different and to fear what is unknown.

The worst part about this whole incident is that similar acts consistently happen. It is a rehearsed act in which sh'OUT seeks to educate and celebrate pride history with flags only for students to kick, joke about and even ignore pathways with flags year after year. As

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Soccer begins NCAC play 1-1-1

MALACHI MCROBERTS '27
STAFF WRITER

Only three games into Wabash soccer's conference slate and the Little Giants have already faced highs and lows. Wabash now stands with a 1-1-1 record after a 2-0 victory against Hiram and a 0-4 loss to the 11th-ranked Denison, who demonstrated why they are one of the premier teams at the Division III level on Tuesday, October 15.

After they drew DePauw in an exciting fashion on October 9 in Greencastle, Wabash continued their road trip through Saturday, October 12 to face the Hiram College Terriers. Traveling to the small town of Hiram, Ohio, whose population is comparable to Wabash's student enrollment – the Little Giants met with an extremely physical Terrier team. In just the first 45 minutes of play, Hiram committed 15 fouls compared to Wabash's three.

"They were a very disruptive team," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "I thought we were positive, and we just played through it and played our style."

Taking advantage of the overt physicality of Hiram, midfielder Bruno Zamora '25 put a header in the back of the net off of a free kick assist from winger Jesse Martinez '26 in the ninth minute of play.

"You can only go up from there when you score that early," said Zamora. "It gives you a sense of confidence. It sets the tone early for the rest of the game."

Although the Terriers played tough, their playstyle failed to deter Wabash from putting shots up, as Wabash shot over their average shots per game with 15, five being on goal. Hiram, in comparison, only put up eight shots, only three of which were on goal. All three shots were saved by keeper Fernando Ramos '25. Hiram struggled against Wabash's presses and defensive communication the whole game.

"I think communication was really strong against Hiram," said Keller. "It was one of the factors that contributed to us winning that game and getting a shutout."

Wabash's only other goal came in the 56th minute when Zamora found Martinez on a run on the right wing with a lead pass. Martinez – two steps ahead of his defender – threaded a ball into the middle where a streaking Jose Escalante '26 knocked in an easy finish from five yards out.

This last goal secured a physically taxing, but relatively comfortable win for Wabash's first conference game of the season.

Coming off the win against Hiram, the Little Giants faced the hardest challenge of the season in the

11th-ranked Big Red. Denison came in fresh off of defeating conference rival Kenyon, who was ranked second in the nation entering the match. Off the bat, Denison had confidence, and their defense was smothering.

In the 15th minute, Denison's striker Jake Kreuger – who is currently leading the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) in goals with 11 – buried a goal on a long strike, dribbling between two Wabash defenders. Unfortunately for Wabash, Kreuger's goal was immediately followed by an own goal off a corner kick, which bounced off of a defender's head directly into the goal. Denison's 2-0 start can only be described as unfortunate for the Little Giants, who, aside from a couple of mistakes were playing some of their best ball of the season against an elite Big Red squad.

"We have to make sure we bounce back from an average game or a bad result, even if we play decent. We can't start a losing streak."

-Head Soccer Coach
Chris Keller

"We made a few mistakes that led to goals, and they were very critical in punishing us," said Keller.

Wabash almost got one on the board at the 30-minute mark, as Escalante received a lead ball in the center of the box from Alfredo Campos '27, but the goal was waived off due to a controversial off-side call.

After a frustrating first half with three yellow cards on the Little Giants, they conceded two more goals in the second half, which capped off Denison's 4-0 victory.

But the Little Giants can be proud of hanging with a top team in the country for the duration of the first half. Moving further into conference play, Wabash should keep their head high against a tough remaining schedule, and a game against Wooster on Saturday, October 19.

"We have to make sure we bounce back from an average game or a bad result, even if we play decent," said Keller. "We can't start a losing streak. We need to be able to focus on [film review] and in practice. Wooster is going to be a high-intensity team that plays with high energy, so hopefully senior day will be a celebration."

Red Pack sets eyes on end of season

Coach McCreary breaks down team's plans for final improvements



Ethan Fleischhauer '28 runs in the junior varsity race at the NCAA Pre-Nationals meet on October 4, 2024 in Terre Haute, Indiana.

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

With a little over two weeks to go before the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championship, the Red Pack is entering the most crucial stretch of their season. After a long break the team will have their next competition – the last one before conference – on Saturday, October 19.

In their last meet at the NCAA Pre-National Meet, Wabash had a chance to run on the same course where the NCAC Championships will be held. In the October 4 meet, the Little Giants placed 25 out of 46 teams and finished one spot ahead of the only conference opponent present, DePauw. The meet was probably the toughest competition the Little Giants will face before the Division III nationals.

The team had a strong leading five in Brayden Curnutt '27, Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26, Jacob Sitzman '25, Will Neubauer '25 and Justin Santiago '25.

Curnutt led the pack with a 25th-place finish out of 405 competitors. Diemer-McKin-

ney took 104th place, while Sitzman, Neubauer and Santiago finished 170th, 247th and 248th, respectively.

"It was an exciting meet with an electric atmosphere," said Diemer-McKinney. "We took advantage of the stacked field and focused on competing over everything else. When we emphasize being competitive rather than the times we hit, the results will take care of themselves. That's what we did at Pre-Nats and we'll continue to do so for the remainder of the season."

The upcoming Augustana College Interregional Invitational will give the Little Giants a strong field of competitors to face. It will also be fans' final look at the Red Pack's development before they compete at the conference meet.

But the depth chart didn't end there. Johnathan Loney '28, Angel Perez '27, David Adesanya '28 and Ty Murphy '27 all finished close behind Santiago.

In an interview with *The Bachelor*, Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary broke down what he wants

to see from his team as the NCAC Championships approach.

Q. Where is your team, development wise, compared to where you want to be at the end of the season?

A. We're really close. The training is starting to shift a little bit more to some higher quality work. We're getting into more of the race pace or sub-race pace effort with a little bit more recovery here and there, dialing back mileage just a little bit... So the progress has been going just the way we wanted and expected. The most encouraging part of it is how well the guys are performing in training.

Q. What are the last few things you like to click into place before the conference meet?

A. The biggest one right now is Santiago – our number five – and he has a little calf strain right now. So we're not going to run him at Augustana this weekend. We might take a little bit of a hit performance

wise. But my priority is getting Justin healthy to make sure that he's ready for conference. In unison with that, we saw a ton of growth from some of our young guys that are in our number 6-7-8-9 range, that really have started to run very well for us. Augustana and even conference is an opportunity for those guys to step up and fill whatever void we may or may not have there.

Q. What does a successful meet at Augustana look like for you?

A. Everyone individually taking steps forward, being competitive. It's one of the best meets in the country every year. I'm not as concerned about where we finish in the meet. We can do pretty well there, even without Justin [Santiago]. But what I want to see is Brayden [Curnutt] step in as an elite runner nationally and to see how he competes with those guys. I want to see Haiden [Diemer-McKinney] and Jacob Sitzman do the same thing – just take a little bit of a step forward. And the two biggest things I'm looking for is Will Neubauer to get a little bit closer to Haiden and Jacob.

And then [I want to see] our young guys... step up to the plate and see if they can fill that void of not having Justin. That will answer a lot of questions for us for two weeks later, at conference.

There are just a handful of days left for McCreary and his team to prepare for conference.

With a dominant front-runner in Curnutt and a tight time-spread from the 2-5 positions, along with a competitive 6-9 group, the Red Pack is in a strong position to repeat as NCAC champions and solidify their place in Wabash athletic history.

Swim & Dive opens winter schedule



Swimming & diving competed in the three-day Gail Pebworth Invitational held between November 17 and 19, 2023 at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

The pool is open, and the Wabash swimming & diving team is ready to jump right back where they left off. Last year the team finished with an impressive third place in

the conference against nationally-ranked Kenyon and Denison. With school records on the line and a chance at national attention the swim and dive team have already begun preparing for the season ahead.

"Our coaches have definitely been pushing us," said captain Ethan Johns '25. "I think each year I've been here; the standard has been increased just a little bit. And it's pretty noticeable this year. [Our coaches] want and expect a lot out of us."

A lot of this expectation comes from the new freshman. The total new class size ended at a huge 15 new members, and they are expected to make an impact immediately. Expect names like Ryan West '28, Lucas Ferreira '28, and Mason Gilliam '28 to challenge the conference and fight for new school records.

"I think we could see some really special stuff," said Head Swimming & Diving coach William Bernhardt. "Some freshman records are getting broken, possibly some school records [will be] broken by some of our freshmen."

And with such a strong class coming there will be an extra competitive team culture throughout the year.

"Then obviously, the upperclassmen have to step up, and they're going to be

pushed by some of these freshmen, which is a really exciting endeavor," said Bernhardt.

Returning players such as school record holder in the 200 backstroke Nick Plumb '27, multi-eventer Quinn Sweeney '27, team captain Ethan Johns '25 and diver Alex Arruza '26 can be expected to further improve and look forward to a great season ahead.

"I could go on and say a million things about every guy on the team," said Johns. "Overall, I just think we've got a great group of guys and we're going to have a really fun year."

The team got their first taste of action with a matchup against highly competitive schools at the Dan Ross Indiana Intercollegiate Meet hosted by Purdue University. And the results were just as expected.

"It's exactly what we needed at that point in the season," said Bernhardt. "The first meeting of the year is always just to shake the rust off. And it was really fun to see the freshmen finally get some races under their belt."

This will help prepare the team for a strong outing at their next meet, Indiana DIII Invitational at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, where they will face many of the tough competition

around Indiana. Wabash fans should mark their calendars for December 6, as the Little Giants host rival DePauw in what is expected to be a tight matchup as always.

"That is going to be a key meeting for us," said Bernhardt. This meeting every year always is close, and in the last two years it's come down to two points or less. Two years ago, we beat them by one point, and last year, they beat us by two points."

"There's a lot of fun things that we're going to try to do for that meeting, and get the fan base excited, and get them here in crowds and upstairs and make it loud and proud with a lot of red," said Bernhardt.

These meets will all serve to prepare the Wabash team as they look to close the gap at the NCAC Conference Meet on nationally-ranked Denison and Kenyon. The team is looking to breach into the top 25 of ranked teams and looks forward to strong competition at conference.

"The goal is to get third but also to start moving towards second place, closing that point total gap to a reasonable amount so we can hopefully catch them in the next three to five years," said Bernhardt.

But do not expect the season to end there as NCAA's approach soon after. With strong conference matchups, the Little Giants seek to send some fast relay teams and individuals to nationals to cap off a hopefully impressive season.

"From a team standpoint, I would like to see a good squad going to NCAA's," said Johns. "I think that's the next step this program needs to take, and I would love to be a part of that step this year."

For fans of the sport, there is a lot going on in the pool this year for Little Giant fans to come take part in.

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SPORTS



Xavier Tyler '26 carries the ball against Ohio Wesleyan on September 14, 2024 at Little Giant Stadium. After five games, Tyler leads the NCAC with five rushing touchdowns. He is second in rushing yards with 488 and in yards per game with 97.6.

PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Backups take care of business in shutout win against Oberlin

ETHAN COOK '28
STAFF WRITER

As fall break finished up, Wabash football traveled to Ohio for a matchup against Oberlin. The game was a blowout win for the Little Giants, giving the second and third unit a chance to take the field. The game was held on Sunday, October 13.

Wabash football yet again beat up on the Oberlin Yeomen by a final score of 52-0. This marks the 11th-consecutive victory for the Little Giants over the Yeomen and just the fifth time in history that Wabash has held them scoreless for the game.

The Little Giants decided to show off the depth of their roster by benching the majority of their starters in the first half and letting the reserves go in so they could dominate the Yeomen as well. Wabash's reserve players had a field day. They could not be slowed down, no matter what Oberlin tried. Tight end Rowen Durbin '27 was the second-leading rusher on the Scarlet and White offense because each of the other four running backs were done for the day due to the lopsided scoreboard.

Oberlin's defense allowed four touchdowns on the ground, but they were not done there. They also surrendered three touchdown passes to quarterback Brand Campbell '27, making it a grand total of seven touchdowns on Sunday. Wabash scored points on eight of their 14 drives against the Yeomen, giving them a 57% scoring drive rate. This is their highest scoring drive rate of the 2024 campaign and is the second time they have gone over 50% this season, the first being against Wooster. It was not just Oberlin's

defense getting walked over either. Their offense combined for 17 total yards for the game. The Yeomen offense would have been better if they never ran the ball at all, as they totaled a loss of nine rushing yards against a Little giant defense that saw 24 different players record a tackle.

Due to the blowout nature of the Little Giants' victory, many players that do not often get to see the field, if at all, had the opportunity to showcase their talent. One such player was quarterback Adam Mullett '26 who only had five pass attempts, but he connected on four of them for a total of 17 passing yards.

Another big winner was running back Austin Pickett '26 who carried the ball nine times for 78 yards for an average of 8.7 yards per carry and a touchdown. He also made two receptions for three yards through the air.

"We performed great against Oberlin and it was a great team win," said Pickett. "Everyone has been very bought in on us being a team and playing as a unit this year. And you can see it in our results. Everyone is doing their job and filling their role

whether that is scoring the ball, playing defense, blocking or cheering the guys on from the sidelines. I think we are on a great pace to continue to grow as a team as exemplified in Oberlin. The Oberlin game shows that everyone can and will eat."

Defensive cornerback Ryan Keating '28 led the Little Giants' defense in tackles with four in his first game at Wabash against Oberlin. Keating also had a tackle for a loss in his debut. Outside linebacker Nick Page '28 recorded both his first sack and forced fumble of his young career. Middle linebacker Cole Williams '27 and cornerback Will Freeman '27 both recorded their first career interceptions on Sunday as well.

Despite the fact that the game against Oberlin went about exactly how everyone thought it would, a win for Wabash in dominant fashion, there were still some key takeaways and things to build on. The players down the depth chart got the chance to show how talented they are and how deep the talent goes on the Little Giants' roster this season.



Ethan Harcourt '27 lines up against the Oberlin defensive line in the Little Giants win against the Yeomen on October 13, 2024.

COURTESY COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wallace: Is it time for Wabash football to be ranked?

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

It is probably fair to say that most Wabash fans weren't expecting to see a football team good enough to merit a national ranking. However, six weeks into the 2024 season, it is time to reevaluate what the Little Giants are capable of this season.

The Scarlet and White are not only unranked, but haven't received a vote to appear in the D3football.com top-25 rankings all season. Wabash stands at 4-1, which is a better record than five of the top-25 teams and several nearly-ranked teams.

Wabash's only loss came at the hands of the sixth-ranked University of Wisconsin-Platteville (5-0), where the Little Giants fell 21-42. But a loss to UW-Platteville is far from enough to keep a team out of the standings.

Both the 10th-ranked University of Wisconsin-River Falls (4-1) and the 22nd-ranked University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (2-3) lost to Platteville. River Falls even lost by the same margin as Wabash, 28-7.

Tack on the fact that the loss to Platteville came during a game when the Little Giants were transitioning after the loss of their starting quarterback, and the loss is almost a complete non-issue for winding up in the top-25 standings.

A quick look at the top 25 leaves one asking whether the selection committee is made entirely of Wisconsinites. Five UW teams are ranked and one more is two-spots out of the standings. While Wisconsin does regularly produce multiple, leading Division III football teams, having six at the top of the standings seems a bit

excessive. Maybe as the season continues the Wisconsin bubble will burst and a fresh wave of teams will make their way into the rankings.

But avoiding losses is only half the equation when it comes to landing in the standings.

What seems to be the main factor in keeping the Little Giants off the standings is the lack of impressive wins. Apart from Platteville, Wabash has yet to face any strong opponents. And this is a trend that will continue until the 130th Monon Bell Game.

With only North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) opponents ahead, Wabash won't have many chances to prove themselves against strong talent. In the NCAC only 13th-ranked DePauw and Wabash can be called good teams. In total the conference is 7-11 against non-NCAC teams. The only way for the Scarlet and White to turn heads will be by blowing out teams like Witteberg and Denison.

If Wabash wants to get into the rankings they will have to beat DePauw in the Bell Game – a prospect that is becoming increasingly plausible. If they do, the Little Giants will probably find themselves suddenly in the top 15-20.

Ultimately, Wabash probably isn't quite ready to hit the top 25, but they should start getting votes if they keep their record clean. What will matter most is continuing to play dominant defense and feeding a blossoming offense.

For now it's difficult to prove that Wabash is one of the best teams in the country, but it's impossible to prove they aren't.

Golf wraps up fall schedule Team disappointed by final appearance



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Matt Lesniak '25 walks the back-nine at the Crawfordsville Country Club in the team's scrimmage against Rose-Hulman on August 29, 2024.

SAM BENEDICT '25
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A bottom-third finish is not what the Wabash golf team hoped for going into the Wabash College Invitational, but the team's 54-hole tournament ended just that way on October 7-8 at the Broadmoor Country Club in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sean Bledsoe '26 led the way for the Little Giants with rounds of 73, 76 and 76 to finish tied for 18th individually amongst the 84-player field.

"I think this is the toughest that Broadmoor has ever played out of the three times that I have played it in the Wabash College Invitational," said Bledsoe. "It was the firmest and fastest I have ever seen, and I definitely struggled with it at some points in time. Personally, I believe that I played poorly. For how well I know the golf course, I felt like I played two bad rounds of golf out there with the 76's in the final

two rounds."

Rounding out the 54-hole scoring for the Little Giants were Lewis Dellinger '25 (+14), Lane Notter '28 (+22), Matt Lesniak '25 (+23) and Robert Pruzin '25 (+32). Overall, the team placed 11th out of 15 teams.

"I think that our performance at our tournament was a big wake up call for our entire team," said Dellinger. "We had spurts of really good golf, but we need to be much more consistent. I can say this for myself and speaking for the rest of our team, after seeing us so close to DePauw's B team, it really lit a fire under our ass. I would expect the sim [golf simulator] room to be occupied for the entire winter with the golf team because I think we are going to work harder than we ever have to give our best shot at conference next spring."

The fall season has been relatively average for the golf team, a disappoint-

ing result following back-to-back years of improvement, but also a positive sign of higher aspirations. The team finished middle of the pack in each of their four tournaments and were unable to make it over the hump and into contention.

"I think we really need to put the pedal to the metal in the off-season," said Lesniak. "I don't think it's a matter of having a long way to go. I think we're right there ... It's just a matter of everyone needs to get a few shots better and eliminate the bad holes to be able to perform where we need to perform."

In preparation for the spring season, the team has multiple points of focus for the off-season that they hope will translate into positive scoring outcomes.

"As far as my focus this offseason, it will be the same thing I've focused on in recent winters: my ball striking with my irons," said Bledsoe. "I have never been the best ball striker, but I have gotten better over the years. In order to go low and win golf tournaments, I have to be able to give myself good looks at birdies. Getting Coach Williams [Director of Strength and Conditioning] into Wabash athletics has been huge for us, and he has designed some amazing workouts to help us be more flexible and get stronger in order to increase our speed to pick up some much needed distance."

WABASH

191
PASSING YARDS

183
RUSHING YARDS

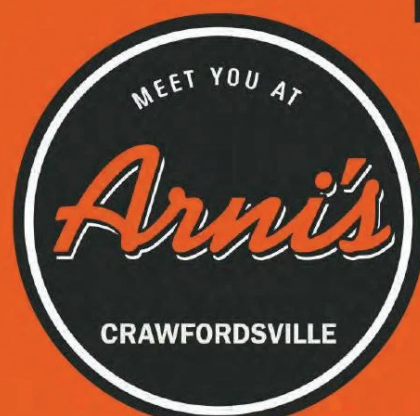
374
TOTAL OFFENSE

OBERLIN

26
PASSING YARDS

-9
RUSHING YARDS

17
TOTAL OFFENSE



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