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# BACHELOR



DECEMBER 4, 2008

WABASH COLLEGE

THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH SINCE 1908

VOLUME 101 · ISSUE 12

# Some Little Giant

## Wabash Community Loses a Legend

JACOB STUMP '11  
FEATURES EDITOR

In the final moments of his speech at Wabash College's Sesquicentennial observance, then Assistant Professor of Philosophy and Religion Bill Placher said, "Walking around this campus at night with a new fallen snow, I always fall in love with it all over again."

On Monday, as the season's first snow fell on campus, Wabash fell in love once again with a man it had fallen in love with many times before, a man who loved her most dearly and truly, and who dedicated his life's passion to her integrity.

William C. Placher, the LaFollette Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, passed away over the weekend at the age of 60.

"He was one of the legends," President Patrick White said, "and he was one of the legends two weeks ago. He was the moral and intellectual center of this College. Bill is going to be remembered forever."

On sabbatical from the College this year, Professor Placher was writing a commentary on the Gospel of Mark while serving a one-year appointment as the Kilian McDonnell Writer-In-Residence at the Collegeville Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. The task, writing about the God he knew and loved, was nothing new for Professor Placher, whose internationally recognized scholarship included 13 books and countless essays, articles, and reviews.

"Bill wanted to write so that the intelligent laymen could understand what he wrote," said Raymond Williams, the LaFollette Distinguished Prof. in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF ARCHIVES OF WABASH COLLEGE

Then just a messy haired, spectacled, small town Indiana boy with an extraordinary intellect, William C. Placher became one of the College's most beloved sons and a moral inspiration to many a Wabash man.

Humanities Emeritus. "He thought so clearly, though, that I think he would have naturally written that way."

Longtime chair of the Wabash religion department, Dr. Williams was in his second year of teaching when Professor Placher matriculated. From Professor Placher's first months as a student, it was evident he was special.

"He was absolutely stunning as a student, and everybody was impressed by him," Dr. Williams said. "When he was a sophomore and was deciding what department to major in, it was as close as the college faculty came to being combatants. The religion professors were saying, 'We'll offer you two future Phi Beta Kappas and three other majors if you'll let him major in our department', because he was so good at everything. There was nothing he couldn't have done."

Dr. Williams said the quality of religion majors went up significantly when Professor Placher chose to major in religion, and that, as he was in his later life, "he was quiet then as he's always been - non-aggressive, non-confrontational, non-combatant. So sometimes you didn't know what a powerful engine was running in the room until he'd ask a question, or you'd read his examination papers."

"What I soon learned in courses he was in was to read his exam first, and then you'd know what might be possible for other students to have learned from the class. You'd set the top with him and then

you'd read everyone else's and figure out where they were in relation to that."

That same brilliance that led Wabash faculty to good-natured combatance over which department could claim a 6'1, spectacled student from Peoria, Indiana, was of the same charm that attracted so many students to the classrooms of the celebrated and cherished scholar. His teaching was centered on his students, so much they would have to press him, and often with little success, to find out just what his opinion was on a theological dilemma or literary masterpiece. It was never that Professor Placher didn't know; it was always that he cared more for what his students thought.

"Placher was a genius at having that kind of engagement with students", President White said, "because he was really so profoundly well-educated he didn't have to display that education at every moment. He had such a capacious and welcoming heart that he let a lot of people in, and it was never that he was just scoring debating points in a conversation. It's as though it was never about Placher; it was about the students."

Dr. Nadine Pence, Director of the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, said Placher's openness was not just reserved for students.

"Bill was one of those human beings who seemed so at home with what he said and who he was that you never felt he had

## INSIDE:

Wabash Community Shares their Stories of Dr. Placher, Page 5

to press himself upon the situation," Pence said. "He would listen attentively, and then come up with these wonderfully wise comments which would both capture the sense of the conversation and move it forward to consider the next steps."

Clay Robbins '79, president of Lilly Endowment and a Wabash religion major, spoke of Professor Placher as a legendary teacher and mentor.

"On learning of Bill's death, it occurred to me that superlatives should be reserved for men like Bill Placher. His faith, intellect, character, demeanor and passion for teaching were extraordinary."

Of the many people that Professor Placher welcomed into his heart and who held him close was his former classmate and now Wabash professor of religion David Blix '70, "among the lucky few", Professor Blix said, who heard and saw Professor Placher's now immortalized 1970 commencement speech.

Professor Blix recalled their first meeting. He was sitting in the lounge of Lilly Library, reading Jean Paul Sartre's "Existentialism and Human Emotions," and, as he said, "understanding barely a word of

See, PLACHER, Page 2



STEVE ABBOTT | WABASH '09

Professor David Blix and other Wallie paid a small tribute to Dr. Placher at the Bench on Tuesday evening

# Smith Family Hires Carmel Attorney

GARY JAMES '10  
NEWS EDITOR

*Editor's Note: This story contains offensive language. We have elected not to print the names of the students in question.*

The latest twist in the ongoing Delta Tau Delta house closing saga is a series of vulgar and offensive emails released last Wednesday by the family of Johnny Smith.

During a press conference held over Thanksgiving break, Carmel-based attorney Stephen M. Wagner announced Johnny Smith's parents, Robert and Stacy Smith, have hired him to assist in gathering information about the circumstances surrounding their son's death.

Montgomery County Coroner Darren Foreman ruled acute alcohol poisoning was the cause

of Smith's death on October 5, 2008 at the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house at Wabash College.

The 15-minute press conference was held inside the law firm Wagner Reese & Crossen, LLP in Carmel. Mr. Wagner read a prepared statement, and answered questions afterwards. The statement focused, primarily, on three profane emails sent from upperclassmen at Delta Tau Delta to their pledges, one singling out Johnny Smith specifically.

Mr. Wagner acquired the emails from Smith's parents. The emails chosen for public release were sent by one senior and two juniors. The first email, sent September 7, 2008, warned house members of an upcoming visit from a representative of the national chapter. The email instructed them to "not say ANYTHING about ANYTHING" when they meet with him, including that "there was no party after closing ceremony"

and no "hazing during chapel singing practices."

The second email, sent September 30, concerned preparations for a party planned for the college's Homecoming weekend - the weekend of Smith's death. It read: "there will be an abundance of alcohol" and described what types of beverages would be present, including those which would "make girls easier." Freshmen were told they had to ask another upperclassman whether they could drink or not, and the email charged the pledges with making "sure [alums] don't go around breaking shit as they usually do." Both females and pledges were referred to as "bitches" in the email.

The final email, sent October 2, reminds pledges to do their house duties. It also directs pledges to "haze" those who don't show up. The email is also the only one made public which actually singles out Johnny by

name: "If a pledge brother is not there haze them. If Johnny is being a fucktard tell him he is being a fucktard. Just get the shit done."

Wagner said the e-mails show the fraternity was regularly engaged in hazing activities, and the activities were "condoned by Wabash College."

"Although the details surrounding his death remain largely unknown, the family has uncovered a disturbing series of emails which describe an out-of-control fraternity house where hazing and alcohol abuse were rampant," Wagner said. "The Smith family is eagerly awaiting the results of the police investigation and the prosecutor's decision on whether to charge individual students with criminal offenses."

Wagner also compared the contents of the emails to the fraternity's Pledge of Social Responsibility, which explicitly

rejects hazing, promotes respect for women, and repudiates "mental abuse, intimidation, mean-spirited personal criticism, and bullying." Wagner argued the now-public emails as well as others in his possession show a pattern of behaviors in opposition to the fraternity's Pledge. "Delta Tau Delta fraternity leaders encouraged behavior that was anything but gentlemanly," he said.

To date, no lawsuits have been filed. However, Mr. Wagner said the Smiths will consider taking such action at a later time. On November 27, The Paper of Montgomery County reported members of Crawfordsville Police Department have interviewed 21 witnesses in conjunction with its investigation, which is ongoing. Montgomery County Prosecutor Joseph Buser, could not be reached for comment about whether he has decided to

See, SMITH, Page 7

DECEMBER 4, 2008

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## Placher

From Page 1

it, and panicking.”  
“I looked up,” he continued, “and there was someone else reading this book – a fellow sufferer – and at that moment he saw me, and he got up and came over. Now, he denied forever he actually said this, but I’m sure my memory is right, that he greeted me with, ‘Isn’t this the stupidest thing you’ve ever read in your life?’ Then he stuck out his hand, introduced himself and said ‘Hi, my name is Bill Placher.’”

The friendship became a Wabash legend.

Visiting Professor of Religion William Cook '66, who filled in this year during Placher's sabbatical, recounted Professor Placher's early days.

“He became a legend almost immediately. I remember when Bill was a senior, because a senior I knew from the Lambda Chi house moaned that in any other year he would be the top religion major, but in 1970 he was only No.3. Of course, No.1 and No.2 were Placher and Blix.”

Professor Cook gave Professor Placher his first campus tour in the spring of 1966, which means he “has known Bill Placher longer than anyone on the Wabash campus!” Their relationship, though, did not end with the tour, nor did it when they went their separate ways. He has used Professor Placher's “History of Christian Theology” book for nearly 30 years in a class he teaches called “Christian Thought.”

Beginning his Dante course on Tuesday with a brief eulogy on the passing of Professor Placher, Cook asserted that even for students who didn't know Professor Placher, they have benefited from him being a Wabash man.

“Bill Placher set the standard,” he said. “And Wabash was a good place when Bill Placher came. He inherited a great tradition, but I can also tell you what the greatest faculty members do is they take all the greatness of the tradition they inherit and then they move that tradition forward. They don't settle for what they receive, and I think that defines what Bill Placher's life at Wabash, spanning a course of 42 years, was all about.”

A lover of Chinese paintings, the poetry of T.S. Eliot and W.H. Auden, baroque classical music, old gothic architecture, the finest Lafleur Scotch, and playing jazz on piano, Professor Placher was influential and devotedly active to the College as the de facto organizer of the LaFollette lecture, longtime faculty adviser for “Callimachus,” organizer of the Christmastime annual Wabash Festival of Lessons and Carols, devoted member and



STEVE ABBOTT | WABASH '09

Students gather Monday evening to participate in one of the College's time honored traditions for Wabash men who pass away - painting the Senior Bench.

leader of the Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church, editor-at-large of Christian Century, and Chair of the Advisory Committee of the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion.

But his influence is impossible to contain in the titles attributed to him.

“It's immeasurable,” Dean of the College Gary Phillips said. “The kind of network of scholarship, of religious connections that he established through a lifetime of work, networked Wabash to places around the world that we are simply unaware of.”

One perk of that influence for past and present Wabash religion professors was that they would often be asked at conferences if they knew “Bill Plah-cher”, with the ‘ch’ pronounced softly as in “charm”.

“I used to be glad when people at professional meetings would mispronounce his name,” Dr. Williams said, “because then we could say, ‘Well, it's really Placher, and he's my colleague at Wabash College.’”

A constant at every Wabash activity, Professor Placher was in his 34th year of teaching at Wabash, and his loyalty to the College ran deep. He received invitations from “virtually everywhere”, Dr. Williams said, to be on their faculty.

“One time,” Dr. Williams said, “I was asked by a dean of a Ph.D granting institution in religion what I had on Bill Placher. He said, ‘I've tried to get him twice to come to my institution to teach, and he

won't even agree to come and talk to us.’ I told him I had a great big rope tied around his waste. As chair of the religion department, I always thought that my greatest contribution to Wabash College was to keep Bill Placher happy and here.”

Apart from his appointed leadership positions, Professor Placher impacted students, colleagues, and those apart from the College in ways that will continue to inspire them. As Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Wabash Center, he was consulted on every decision the Center made and, as Dr. Williams said, “probably there are very few decisions made at the College during his tenure when he wasn't consulted.”

Yet being so revered and of such high intellect put not one prideful or selfish motivation in Professor Placher's heart. Reverend John Van Nuys of Wabash Avenue Presbyterian Church recounted how Professor Placher calmed the nervousness the new pastor felt at first realizing that each Sunday he would have such a great mind sitting on one of his pews.

“I thought, ‘Yikes! That's like signing on to be Dale Earnhart's chauffeur. How could anyone be good enough to drive for him?’ When I arrived to be the pastor, I told Bill that he should be the one preaching to me. Bill laughed and said, ‘No. I am the one who needs a pastor. I'm glad God brought you here.’”

Wabash can forever be glad that God brought William Placher to its campus, even during a grieving week of flags flying half-mast.”

“It would be tough to imagine

this place with Placher retired,” President White said, “but to have Placher gone, there's a fear that the light has gone out. And yet as I say that I can see him laughing, hear him laughing at my saying that with his great bellowing laugh, and the laughter isn't out of a sense that he wouldn't recognize his own role. I think Placher understood what it meant to be Placher. At the same time, it came so much out of who he is, and who he wanted to be, and it's kind of like a great gift of love. Wabash was the center of his world. It was where he gave his life. That's what makes it so hard to imagine him gone.”

Tuesday night, as the season's first snow continued to cover the campus white, more than 60 students and a few professors gathered around the Senior Bench to pay respect. At 10:30 pm the group started the first verse of “Old Wabash,” and, as the last chorus faded, the snow stilled and the crowd stood silent. Neither word nor movement was made, as in that silence a love was coming back all over again.

“Some Africans refer to some who have died as “the living dead,” Dr. Williams said. “A person who is remembered by name and story in the community remains part of the community as the ‘living dead.’ I think that Bill's impact on individuals and institutions will be such that for generations he will be a part of the Wabash story. People will look back and say, ‘Well, why was Wabash so good?’ And if I were there to answer them, I would say, ‘Bill Placher.’”



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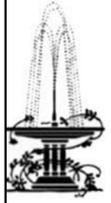
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DECEMBER 4, 2008

# WABASH DELT ALUMNI

invite the faculty, staff, and student body of  
**WABASH COLLEGE** to join us in the  
 following petition. Please show your  
 support by:

1. Sending an email to Wabash\_Delt\_Alumni@comcast.net with "Support" in the Subject line
2. Print your name on the petition, scan it and email it to Wabash\_Delt\_Alumni@comcast.net
3. Print your name on the petition and mail it to: Delt Petition; Ste.2455; 55 West Monroe Street; Chicago, IL 60603.

We are a group of Wabash Delt Alumni who are NOT affiliated with Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, International. The opinions expressed in this petition are our own.

## PETITION

Dr. Patrick White, President

Wabash College  
 December 4, 2008

Dear Dr. White:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am a Wabash College student, I am NOT a Delt. I was shocked and saddened by the tragic death of Delt pledge, Johnny Smith. I know that his fraternity brothers and pledge brothers have taken the loss very hard. I strongly disagree with Wabash College's decision to withdraw its recognition of Delta Tau Delta. Delta Tau Delta, Beta Theta Pi, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Delta Theta, Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, Sigma Chi, Tau Kappa Epsilon, and Theta Delta Chi and Independents are all responsible for support and nurture of the diversity so prized by Wabash College. Delta Tau Delta has been a partner in this effort for 133 years and I value their contribution to the College Community.

I believe that rather than lay blame on the Delts, Wabash College should implement programs, which would seek to ensure that the tragedy of Johnny Smith's apparently alcohol-related death is not repeated. These programs should include: An annual, mandatory, alcohol awareness program which would alert or remind Wabash students to the potential lethal effects of alcohol; and a Good Samaritan policy which would allow a student to report a behavior or situation that endangers a student without fear of negative repercussions for either the student who has endangered himself by abusing alcohol or other substances or the student who has acted responsibly by reporting the situation. This program would encourage students to come forward, act responsibly, and thereby provide an opportunity for the College to intervene, in a positive way, with immediate medical support. Such policies would reinforce Wabash's commitment to the safety and well-being of all students.

It is manifestly unjust to deny these grieving young men the support structure of their fraternity at a time when they need it most. It is equally unjust to compel forfeiture of campus elective office by all Delts who were officers of their fraternity. There is simply no place for injustice at Wabash College, most especially not injustice sanctioned by the College.

I do believe that implementation of these policies would make Wabash College safer, while fully respecting the College's long tradition of the Gentleman's Rule. I do NOT believe that any good purpose is served by Delta Tau Delta's departure from the Wabash campus, for any period of time. As a Wabash Man, I take seriously the mandate that we "think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely," I request that the College do likewise. I therefore, respectfully request that Wabash College suspend its blind persecution of all students affiliated with Delta Tau Delta and that the College reconsider its decision to withdraw recognition of Delta Tau Delta, thereby ending a partnership which has endured for 133 years.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Student



## Cross-Legged on the Floor: Memories of Bill Placher

I've been thinking lately about my favorite image of Prof. Bill Placher. It was my sophomore year at our faculty cocktail party. I was bartending, but happened to look over at one point to see him sitting cross-legged on the floor. I guess I didn't know him well enough at that point not to be surprised.

I tried to offer him a chair, and scolded an unaware freshman for having the nerve to sit on the couch while there was a professor sitting on the floor, but he assured me he was quite comfortable there, just sitting on the floor. Probably the most brilliant man I've ever met, sitting on the floor of our dirty, tattered old frat house. So I refilled his glass of scotch.

I can't remember how many times I passed through the living room of that house thinking, "Bill Placher once sat there on the floor." Maybe it's a good thing that ragged old house isn't there any more—I don't know what I would have done today walking past that spot. I can still picture him sitting cross-legged on the floor.

I also remember the first conversation I ever had with him. It was the third week of school in the fall of 2005 and I had been assigned to interview him for a story in the Bachelor about his latest book, Callings. It was about the concept of vocation in Christian life and history. We talked about that for a little bit, enough to cover the article. But like all conversations with Professor Placher its ostensible topic was merely a launching point to greater and more substantial matters.



ROYCE GREGERSON '09  
COLUMNIST

At one point, seeing a crucifix on the wall of his office, I asked if he was Catholic. In my hopelessly limited experience up to that point only Catholics hung crucifixes on their walls. He laughed, that great laugh we can all probably still hear echoing through our heads, and then slumped down even farther in his chair. "I think you'll learn here that things just aren't that simple." He was right. He had hope that I, now not only a Wabash student but also his student, would be better than that.

But I knew going into that interview that this man wasn't going to be typical. In the introduction to Callings, which I read before interviewing him about it, he wrote, "I sense just now, perhaps particularly in the generation of my students, a hunger for such liberation. I have long suspected that most young Christians are more willing to be challenged than their churches are to challenge them. We are so concerned to make Christianity seem easy that we fail to notice that maybe young people are not looking for an easy Christianity."

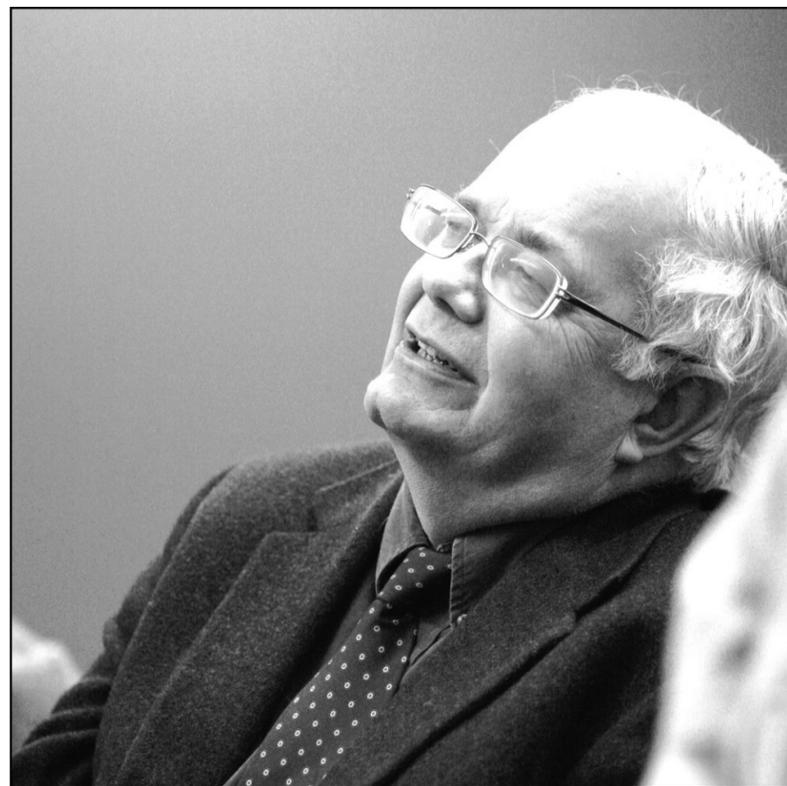


PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Here was a man who took his students seriously. Here was someone who did not think that young people need the Truth watered down in order to make it palatable. Here was a man deeply concerned with his students, not just on an academic level but on a spiritual level. Here was a man who not only took his students seriously, but who seriously hoped in them. Hoped that they would forge a better tomorrow, hoped that they would be even greater than he. And I can just

picture him telling us the same thing while sitting cross-legged on the floor.

Two years later I found myself having scotch with Professor Placher again. It was after the annual LaFollete dinner. At about eight o'clock I looked around to find the rest of the Detchon's International Hall vacant except for our table. Professor Placher, me, two other professors, and two other students remained from a group of about 60. "Well,

See, PLACHER, Page 5

## Remembering a Legend...

Bill Placher was an early proponent of international education for Wabash students. While a Wabash undergraduate, Bill had spent junior year abroad at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. When he returned to Wabash as a faculty member, he served as an advisory committee member for the Scotland Program and realized that it was not being managed well. He convinced GLCA to move the program to Wabash in 1979, when he directed the program and I served as administrative assistant. Typical of Bill, when I assumed more of the management responsibility, he insisted that I become director, and he become "advisor." The Scotland Program grew from 3 students each year to 65 students from all 12 GLCA colleges, a faculty exchange program, and a student exchange program. The Scotland Program was the first Wabash-managed international program, and the policies and procedures he carefully negotiated were forerunners for today's programs in Ecuador, York, and Scotland.

Nancy Domel  
Senior Advancement Officer

My favorite memory of Bill Placher stems from a trip to the college archive. I was seeking historical Wabash voices on the subject of war and peace for an upcoming Chapel talk. I discovered Bill Placher's 1970 commencement address. Imagine the scene: hundreds of mostly midwesterner folk gathered on the college lawn just days after the tragedy at Kent State University, one of the defining moments of that day. The lanky, sensitive and sheepishly wonky young Bill Placher courageously asked if it was unpatriotic to oppose a war that seemed to be killing young people for no apparent reason. Expressed in the quiet and respectful language that would come to define his scholarly and teaching career, I've always imagined that no one in that audience was offended, and more than a few were moved to tears.

A few years ago as I delivered my Chapel speech called "Wabash in War and Peace," just as I came to the section in which I quoted Bill from his 1970 address, who should arrive late but Prof. Placher himself. It was quite a piece of dramatic irony watching him take his seat at the rear of the chapel as I read out his words to the audience, most of whom had no idea that he had just arrived.

Dr. Rick Warner  
Associate Dean of Students

Freshmen Orientation was surely a day full of un-expectancies and confusion for me as I was

running around trying to get settled into the hectic culture that is Wabash. When it came time to meet our academic advisors for the school year, Dr. Placher was acting as my tutorial's advisor due to our tutorial instructor being new to Wabash. Placher invited the group over for dinner at his comfortable abode; and upon getting acquainted with Dr. Placher, it was evident that the man was brilliant and cared deeply about his

some point early on I received a typed memo with a hand-written "U" at the bottom. As a mathematician, I could not get past reading these rounded letters with their long tails as Greek lower case beta and rho (perhaps the Days have shared this experience). I showed the memo to our former colleague Bonnie Gold, and asked "who is beta rho?" She laughed and told me it was Bill Placher. Of course I knew who Bill Placher

Colloquium I did, also early in my time at Wabash. He was an inspiration and model for me of how to be fully committed to both scholarship and teaching, to the world of ideas and the worlds of our students. He was also a tremendous role model of a person of deep religious faith, who persistently asked the most difficult questions about faith but did not stop there. He worked with answers and potential answers and had the courage to make affirmative statements about faith commitments.

Last summer Bill read a draft of a book chapter I was working on and looking back at his response reminds me of so much of what I appreciated about him—his honesty, kindness, humility, and sense of humor. Having Bill in a meeting always made the meeting better and more productive than it would have been otherwise. He was always fully present, willing to think in an open-minded manner, and willing to express his ideas and responses in a clear and civil manner without edge or secondary agenda. Yesterday in the Rhetoric Senior Seminar course we covered dialogical perspectives on rhetorical ethics and the virtues associated with this ethical perspective. The virtues identified by Richard Johannesen all strike me as spot on to describe the virtues Bill exhibited in conversation: authenticity, inclusion, honesty, humility, open-mindedness, lack of pretense, trust, and non-manipulative intent.

I for one am finding it exceedingly difficult to imagine Wabash without Bill Placher and the part of me that knows that we must and can do so is wrestling hard with the part of me that does not want to do so. As of today the latter part is still winning. I am thankful that in any case the trusted companion of memory remains.

Dr. David Timmerman

I had the good fortune over last couple of years of serving on several committees with Professor Placher and in all my experiences, he always emerged as the voice of reason and compassion. Even in the most heated debate, Professor Placher listened intently and respectfully considered all sides of an argument and then offered a thoughtful, reasonable opinion that always would take us all back to the heart the issue. His sense of decency and unyielding kindness was an example to everyone. I was as impressed with his intellect as I was his humility, but mostly I will miss his easy, genuine smile and his infectious laugh.

Dr. Michelle Pittard



*...For every day they die*

*Among us, those who were doing some good*

*And knew it was never enough but*

*Hoped to improve a little by living.*

students and his Alma Mater, Wabash. Throughout the course of two years in being my advisor, Dr. Placher helped me mold my Wabash experience into a worthwhile one as he consulted me not on academics, but in life as well. He was certainly a unique asset to Wabash and one that will be missed in this unique culture.

Derrin Slack '10

Who is "beta rho"? When I joined the Wabash faculty in 1989, e-mail was a novelty and paper memos circulated by campus mail. At

was by that time, and I felt a bit foolish, but I have always recalled that moment whenever I saw his initials adorning a message.

Dr. Robert Foote  
Math & Computer Sciences

I met Bill Placher my first day on campus as he was on the outside committee for the search. I remember that he asked a question after my presentation that I later realized was perfectly designed to give me the chance to shine. I remember him doing this again at a Humanities

PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

# Remembering BP

P. CAMPBELL ROBBINS '09  
COLUMNIST

Dr. Placher was the reason I decided to come to Wabash.

I first visited the campus as a prospective student during my junior year of high school. The last class I sat in on that day was a higher level philosophy class Dr. Placher was teaching on Nietzsche. Scholastically-speaking, I didn't come away with anything besides the knowledge that uber-menchen literally meant over-man in English. Yet despite my being dead-tired that afternoon following an intense day, I still could take notice of how the dozen or so students in that class beamed with joy from the time he walked into class until the time the hour had finished. I was impressed by the fact that he treated the students more like colleagues rather than pupils. I was overwhelmed by his genius, by how he had evidently been able to make the uber-complex teachings of Nietzsche more understandable to his students than elementary arithmetic. And most of all, I was in utter awe of his flexibility, as he effortlessly contorted his arms and head into positions that I doubt even Nastia Liukin could match.

Less than a week later, I received a long hand-written letter from Dr. Placher. In it, he thanked me for attending his class and urged me to send him any and all questions I had regarding Wabash. Needless to say, I jumped at the opportunity, and throughout the rest of my junior and senior years I found myself constantly emailing him my concerns. It never took him more than a day to respond to these often-trivial inquiries. Thus, understandably so, I became sold on Wabash.

I was fortunate enough to take a class with him right off the bat my first semester. It was a religion and literature course, and I

was thrilled when I saw that the final work we would be reading was *The Brothers Karamazov*, my all-time favorite novel. Admittedly, I patted myself on the back when he told us in class that the Dostoyevsky classic was, in his estimation, the greatest novel ever written. I will always have a chip on my shoulder knowing that, at least in one regard, my taste was as good as Dr. Placher's.

Yet though I would end up taking five courses in three years with our beloved professor, I will remember him primarily not in the classroom but at the dinner tables of Applebee's, Little Mexico, Creekside Lodge, and his own home. I wish that as a Bachelor columnist I could write a more general and relatable tribute to Dr. Placher, but that just isn't possible, and I hope you as readers can understand. For it was sometime during the first month of freshman year that Dr. Placher asked me into his office, sensing that I was going through some rough times. I explained that I was homesick, that I was extremely shy and was having enormous difficulty making new acquaintances, and that I was beginning to question whether or not Wabash was the place for me. In his ever-tranquil manner, he soaked in my every word. He then suggested I come back the following afternoon around five so that we could talk some more. Needless to say, I was surprised to find that when I did return the next day, he was already waiting outside his office, coat and car keys in hand. He asked me where I wanted to eat dinner, and thus began the first of my many suppers with Dr. Placher.

Throughout the next three years, we'd meet together on roughly a monthly basis, alternating between who picked up the tab and discussing everything from my struggles with vocal class participation due to anxiety attacks, to single-malt scotches and Janis Joplin. Regardless of the topic, his knowledge dwarfed mine, yet as so many alums



and current students have already remarked, he never belittled me, even jokingly. Looking back, the only thing I can compare it too would be Muhammad Ali allowing a measly challenger to go ten rounds with him despite the champ having the capacity to KO the challenger with the lightest of taps. Only in my case, the Champ had the even greater gift of allowing me to believe that it was my talent that was driving him back against the ropes.

The wonderful four years I've had here at Wabash would not have been without Dr. Placher's presence in my life. With grace and warmth, he prevented me from withdrawing further into my shell. He gently yet confidently encouraged me to join extra-curricular groups such as the Glee Club and the Bachelor so that I could meet new people. My growth on campus as a student is the result certainly of Dr. Placher, but also of many other wonderful professors as well. My growth on campus as a man, however, is his and his alone.

So it is with great sorrow and shock that I, like so many others in the community, must bid this humblest of legends farewell. Yet while the sadness will always remain, so

too will my joy and pride in having been able to have met a man who was able to change my entire life for the better in just the span of a few years. "bp" (as he always ended his emails) will certainly be missed by every fiber of this campus, all the way down from the Board of Trustees to the chalkboard in Center 216, that I'm sure is already missing the daily attention it received when Dr. Placher would unconsciously rub his back across it ever so gently, erasing his own notes and covering his entire tie in chalk to the delight of each and every student in the room.

Dr. Placher (or Mr. Placher, as he modestly headed each of his simple one-page syllabi) would be uncomfortable with me trying to whip up some stirring, Shakespearean ending to this tribute. Thus, I will leave that responsibility to Dostoyevsky, and will merely tamper slightly with the final sentence of *The Brothers Karamazov*, in which dozens of schoolchildren surround the saintly protagonist and teacher Alyosha Karamazov, giving him their hearty thanks:

"Hurrah for Placher! Hurrah for Placher! Hurrah for Placher!"

## Placher

From Page 4

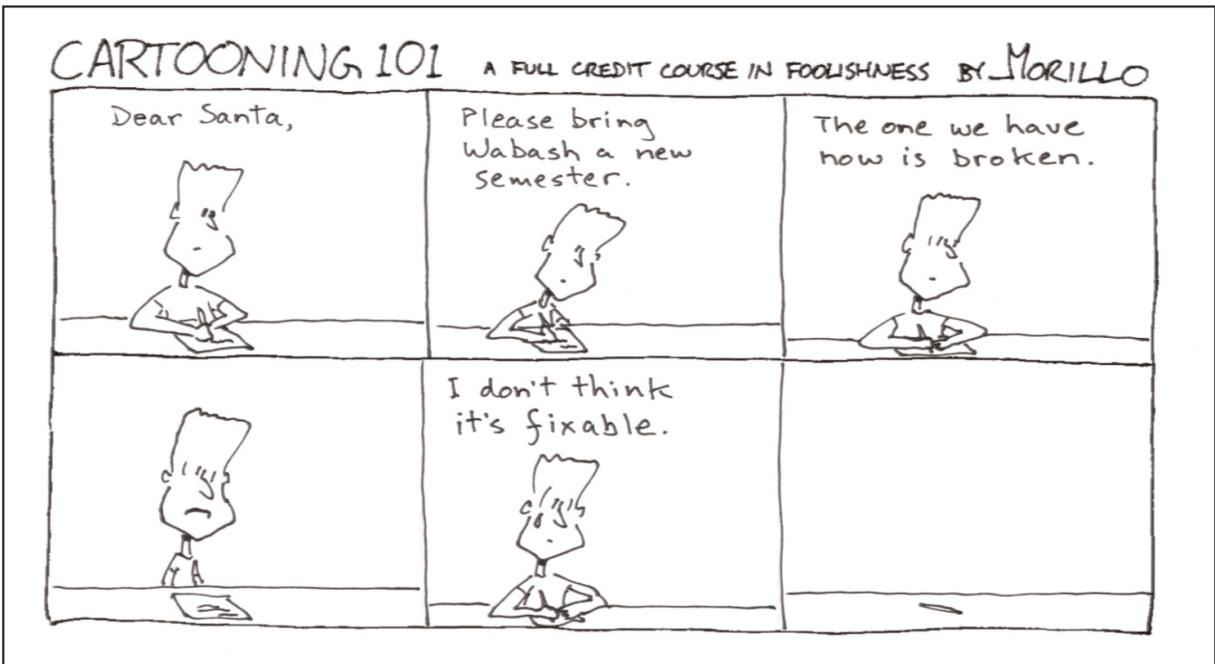
shall we move to the Iron Gate?" he suggested.

Only a certain sort of professor invites students to go out for a drink on a trip home from his sabbatical. It's the same sort of professor who spends hours talking with his students about faith, life and love, who advises who-knows-how-many independent studies, who teaches C&T almost every year, who makes them one of the most important parts of his life. The sort of professor who takes his students seriously.

I've been struggling to figure out why his passing has been such a trial for me. He wasn't my advisor, we didn't talk that regularly, I never had him in class. But he carried the soul of the College. He was the archetype of the Wabash professor. And he loved this school so dearly.

There are lots of ways of being a Wabash man. (I care little now about whether one is better than the other.) But I feel that my own way of being a Wally was close to Professor Placher's. You could tell that what he did at Wabash — teach, research, write, but most importantly live — was so important to him, such an inextricable part of who he was. After less than four years I can't possibly live up to that, can't possibly claim such an important part of myself for Wabash and Wabash for me.

But some students really come of age at Wabash, and I think I'm one of them. For some of us, Wabash becomes an inextricable part of our identity in a way not associated with sweaters and ties but rather with the very men it has formed us to be. If that wasn't true for Bill Placher, if his undergraduate years here did not form him personally into



the man he later became, he wouldn't be the legend he is today.

He came to embody everything great about Wabash, and even now in his death is teaching me more than he did in life. Teaching me to love God, to love Wabash, to love the people around me. To take those people seriously, to know that what we do matters, to know that there is always hope. That was one of his messages to us the week after Homecoming at the Iron Gate: Wabash will recover from this; Wabash will go on doing what she has always done, being what she has always been. But it seems so much more difficult without him here at our side.

It's so hard to have hope without him

by our side, but that's exactly what he would want. He would want us to know that "there are more things to admire in men than to despise." He would want us to "seize the joy that remains in the world." He would want us to have hope: hope in ourselves, hope in our College, hope in our world. "All these are good; all the evil in the world can't change that."

The years we are allowed to tarry beneath the Scarlet sway are fleeting — we know that now more than ever. We can wish to "turn back the hands of time," but they won't. We must, like Professor Placher, put our hopes and fears in the hands of our counselor and guide. We must hope that Wabash and

God will guide us.

Bill Placher was exactly what I wanted to be, even if I didn't realize it until now. If I can ever have the passion, devotion, and love for something the way he did — for his God, his church, his school — then I will have succeeded in life. Then I will be worthy to call myself his student. If I could ever have that deep Christian humility that drove him to take his students seriously, to love the imperfect institution that Wabash is, to care so deeply about the people around him, to have hope despite all reason to the contrary...

All I want to be is that professor sitting cross-legged on the floor.

## Letter to the Editor

Sir-

An answer I would beg of Wabash at large is one to the following question: Are there not instances where the duties of a gentleman conflict with the duties of a citizen? You see, to me the gentleman's rule is like a religious ideal. Wabash is a place wherein a man works to hone himself into a powerful state of humanity where his moral requirements of himself and others are higher than the law can dictate, and his introspection into the mirror of himself, his society, will bring him to find some fatal injustice or failure of leadership which requires him to act in a manner which appears to his society as nothing less than an attack. The example of Socrates comes to mind, or perhaps Martin Luther King, Jr., or America's founding fathers.

Or Wabash College. Can we rank ourselves among these men? At the very least we're on the same mission. The simple

existence of Wabash College as an all-male institution and as an institution with only one rule draws the scoffing attention of the entire country. We are some aberration, they think. Some holdover. When this world looks at us, it stares only to make us a target, to put us on its cross. Each of us is a type of rebel, I think, for even anging to come here. And we are not angry jock rebels, but enlightened jock rebels. Our still being here is a marvelous thing.

I believe our whole culture surrounding the gentleman's rule and its freedom and responsibility lies in complete conflict to the indices of the laws and bureaucracy of the surrounding world. So when the outside world decides that we have failed, the outside world confronts us, and a fight with the outside world is one difficult, or perhaps impossible to win. So when Wabash feels the force of the outside world upon it, should its course of action be to immediate-

ly give in to the outside world's demand for a change in culture, or should the gentleman decide what their way-of-living will be? I should note that I myself am not referring to drinking specifically. I do not drink, and the question of a drinking culture does not interest me. I have heard many alumni say that a confrontation with the outside world was inevitable with the nationwide growing problem with binge drinking. Perhaps they are correct, but again, this does not interest me. Why? Because Wabash College's culture is so much greater than the question of drinking, but it is this greater culture that has come under attack, this most precious one, after the intervention of the outside world. What is surprising to me is the source of the undermining of this culture, which now appears to lie with our own administration.

The administration is undermining our capacity to realize ourselves as gentlemen. I am very suspicious of the failure to recognize Delt's charter, the administrations declaration of no freedom of Delt assembly, and the removal of Delt leaders from student offices. For all intents and purposes, the administration has allied itself with the

culture of the outside world, in actions it perhaps feels is necessary, but which are a betrayal nonetheless. The culture of gentlemen and brotherhood extends well beyond whatever paper tiger the administration has not yet used as an excuse for their actions. The administration has stated that whatever thing has brought about their decision has nothing to do with Johnny's death.

The attack appears to me to be a cultural one upon the whole student body. The requirement of the good citizen here is to flow alongside the cultural order of the state. The requirement of the gentleman is to stand in a composed, but firm, opposition to it. The gentleman affirms his own identity and that of his institution as an establishment that in its uniqueness better serves the state than the outside world's paradoxical desire for a monoculture in scholarship and the erasure of traditional development into manhood. The goal of my philosophy is to try to understand what is Good. The embodiment of the Good, the gentleman, may be found here. I beg we do not exchange him for some cheap mass replica.

Chris McCauley '11

DECEMBER 4, 2008

# Wabash Elections Approach

**ROB FENOGLIO '09**  
MANAGING EDITOR

While most of Wabash is relieved to have the Presidential Election over, election season hasn't really ended for the College. The time for student elections has come upon us and the candidates are numerous and different. No two candidates are exactly alike and this sets the precedent for an interesting election again this year.

Last year's election was a very unique one and a first for Wabash – there was a tie. Seniors Juan Carlos Venis and John Moton tied for Student Body President, so a revote was necessary. In the second vote, Venis was able to just pull ahead of Moton. It will be very difficult, if not impossible, for the candidates to top an election like that, but they will try to show their credentials and experience to help win student's votes.

This year's candidates for Student Body President and Vice President include Robert Fozkos, Steve Zajac, and the teams of Mark Thomas & Craig Cochran and Pat McAlister & Aaron Bonar.

Election Commissioner Ross McKinney '09 is heading the student election and said students will get to pick four people from the list of candidates for their respective class. Every student may vote for up to four choices for representation. However, any vote exceeding four will be nullified.

"The president and vice president will be voted on individually and seniors may only vote for these two positions," McKinney said. "Most candidates have selected running mates, but each must be voted for individually and it will be possible to have a split result."

The wide range of candidates is healthy for the election and helps showcase the diversity Wabash has to offer. Independents are teaming with fraternity members, two candidates are swimmers, and one pair contains a senator and a student studying abroad in Russia. There is a candidate for everyone – no one goes unrepresented.

Even though Zajac is running solo, he is confident that his experience throughout his Wabash career sets him apart from the other vice president candidates.

"I believe that I will be a more personable vice president that is capable of engaging students, faculty, and alumni in

**"The president needs to be devoted and committed to his position, because sometimes he'll have to make sacrifices in order to do a good job."**

*President Juan Carlos Venis, Wabash '09*



STEVE ABBOTT | WABASH '09

Vice President Moton and President Venis attend a Student Senate meeting. This will be required for the next president and vice president.

conversation on the issues at hand," Zajac said. "I am always willing to listen to new ideas, and I know how to gauge interest from students from all different backgrounds on campus."

Zajac noted that although all three candidates have Student Senate experience, he is the only one to have written legislation that has been passed by the Senate – and has done this on four separate occasions. If elected, Zajac hopes to work with the president to improve the National Act process and upholding the "traditions of the Gentleman's Rule," as well as working with the administration on the Strategic Planning process.

Fozkos is also running solo and said he feels that he is the right student for president because he is an "honest man who holds himself to a moral code congruent with the future of Wabash College." Fozkos said that he is a different candidate because he is a normal Wabash man.

"I am an intercollegiate athlete like large percentage of the student body," Fozkos said. "I am a member of a fraternity and have lived as an independent. This leads me to believe I can help bridge and any existing issues between the two groups."

Fozkos also said that his minimal experience with Student Senate should not deter voters because not only has he held house positions as a member of his fraternity, but he has worked very hard as a leader on the swimming and diving team and this is the exact kind of dedication needed by a Student Body President.

The team of Mark Thomas and Craig Cochran is ready to take on all opponents because they have confidence they are the

**The wide range of candidates is healthy for the election and helps showcase diversity. There is a candidate for everyone – no one goes unrepresented.**

perfect men for president and vice president. Not only are they both "highly involved" in various campus organizations, but they feel they are bi-partisan in Wabash politics, as well.

"I myself have been active in the Independent Men's Association, an organization who advocates for the rights of independents on campus, in which I believe my opposing candidate has never participated in even though he is an independent," Thomas said. "Craig is currently a Rhyne in the Sphinx Club, which is a group that is centered on Wabash tradition and school spirit and is a leader in his fraternity, FIJI."

Thomas cited his involvement in Alpha Phi Omega, Wabash Christian Men, and the Independent Men's Association as vital experience he has over the other candidates for president. Cochran is "highly experienced" with Student Senate because he currently serves as the Treasurer of the Student Senate and has served in the Audit and Finance Committee, CBPR Committee, and a class representative for the past two legislative terms. Thomas feels these credentials make them the best candidates

by far.

However, Patrick McAlister and Aaron Bonar said they represent the best possible options for president and vice president. Bonar is the second-most tenured member of the Student Senate in his class. He has also served on both major committees, was vice president of his fraternity, and is a member of the Glee Club.

Bonar feels that he and McAlister are the best-qualified candidates for the presidency and vice presidency because of their Student Senate records and their determination.

"I will do my best to run the Student Government according to its framework," Bonar said. "We will bring experience, voice, and a record of action to the table."

McAlister said he would be an effective president because of the fact he's used to dealing with "lots of things as once, like most Wabash guys." This is his third year with the Bachelor and is currently the Editor-in-Chief. He has also served in the Student Senate for just as long, and is an RA for Morris.

"I want to help restore the sense that things are going in the right direction," McAlister said. "I want to advocate on behalf of students, make Wabash Green, address building problems, restore the Gentleman's Rule, and fix the National Act selection process."

Regardless of who wins, the president-elect and vice president-elect will have much work ahead of them and will be very active with the student body and the College.

Current Student Body President Juan Carlos Venis said a good president has to

See, ELECTION, Page 7

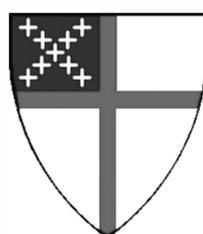
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**Reformation Comes to Crawfordsville**

The Adult Education series for 2008 and 2009 will open with a presentation by Douglas Thorpe, Prof. of English at Seattle Pacific University and author of Rapture of the Deep, and active conservationist who has worked with St. Marks Cathedral Episcopal community on spirituality and the wilderness, an ethic of stewardship toward nature.

On November 9th, Dr. William Cook, W66, Visiting Scholar of Religion at Wabash College and nationally known author of 5 courses for the Teaching Company. A recipient of several teaching awards from the University of New York at Genesco, where he holds the rank of Professor. Dr. Cook will offer a survey of people, movements and history of the 16th Century that set the groundwork of the Reformation.

On November 16th, Father Todd Kleffman will focus on the founding of the Episcopal Church as a part of the widespread fragmentation that identified religion in the western world. He will talk about Henry VIII's disagreements with Rome and the eventual split that resulted in the Anglica church going its own way.

On November 24, Drs. Helen and Marc Hudson will discuss the literature of the Reformation, the thoughtful reflections of the writers of prose and poetry of the 16th century.

November 30 will be an advent program by Kathy Gary

December 7th, Elizabeth Morton, BKT Asst. Prof. of Art History at Wabash College will present a program on the art of the Reformation.

December 14th Dr. Larry Bennett, will present Christmas music of the Reformation in Britain.

# Election

From Page 6

remain neutral, "especially when dealing with students he may not share a similar opinion with." Venis also said that letting students know he's trustworthy is crucial because students are more likely to feel comfortable approaching an honest president with any concerns.

"The president needs to be devoted and committed to his position, because sometimes he'll have to make sacrifices in order to do a good job," Venis said. "He needs to be able to handle high levels of stress, whether its criticism or just a hectic schedule one week. Knowing how to manage the presidency and the life we all have as students is important."

Some of the duties the winning president will tackle include going to weekly Student Senate meetings as a non-voting member who appoints committee chairs and other positions. The president must also attend Trustee meetings and chairs the Senior Council, among other requirements.

However, Venis wanted to stress it is a fantastic experience and cites the chance

# Smith

From Page 1

call a grand jury.

The International Office of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity released a statement challenging the ethical standards of Mr. Wagner's statements at the press conference but offered no comment on the charges leveled by Mr. Wagner because the fraternity's independent investigation is ongoing.

"Upon learning of the press conference and conferring with legal counsel representing the international Fraternity, it is my understanding of the rules of professional conduct that attorneys may not comment on matters under investigation or potential litigation until the time of trial," said Jim Russell, executive vice president of Delta Tau Delta.

All three students who wrote the emails

to work with all members of Senior Council as a great opportunity.

"They've done a great job and devoted hours of their time towards making Wabash a better place for all of us," Venis said. "Seeing their excitement and passion for Wabash makes me happy that I ran for the position and was able to serve as their leader."

Current vice president John Moton said the next vice president needs to be an outstanding Wabash man who has preferably had a position in the Student Senate because that experience puts them "in a great place to move to the vice presidency."

As vice president, one would be responsible for presiding over Student Senate as its Chairman and will be the student body's advocate to the faculty and sit

as a member of the National Association of Wabash Men.

Voting for the Student Elections will take place 10AM to 1PM and 8PM to 10PM on December 8th and 9th, as well as 10AM to 1PM on December the 10th in the main lobby of the Lilly Library.

Regardless of who wins, Wabash needs another set of strong leaders who will continue to lead the College in the right direction and serve the student body the best they possibly can.

"The next candidates must be prepared to take our Student Body in a more positive direction, especially concerning recent events," Moton said. "These new leaders should be strong, wise, and concerned. For a shaky time we need steady hands."

**"The next candidates must be prepared to take our Student Body in a more positive direction, especially concerning recent events."**

*Student Body Vice President John Moton, Wabash '09*



PHOTO COURTESY OF BACHELOR ARCHIVES

were contacted and asked to respond to the release of their emails and the charges made by Mr. Wagner. None of them wanted to comment about the emails pending the ongoing police investigation.

Dean of Students Michael Raters has only recently seen the emails released by the Smith family and Mr. Wagner. He would not comment whether the contents of the email were consistent with finding of the school's investigation, which resulted in the closing of the Delt house and some members' resignation of leadership positions in some student groups. He also cautioned students not to send emails they would not want to be made public someday.

"It was alarming," Raters said. "It's all alarming. Any insinuation that I knew what was going on and hadn't acted is

false. Through our investigation we discovered a culture inconsistent with the Gentleman's Rule, and we acted. If the members of the house followed the advice of some of those emails obviously that's not acceptable. We don't monitor all of our students' emails to see what's being sent, but when students send emails they better be prepared for anyone on the planet to read it. It has cost people jobs. It has cost people internships. It has cost people going to school here."

Few Delts have been willing to speak about the scrutiny they have experienced since Smith's death. But junior Jesse Purvis decided to break his silence. He said the most of the content in the emails drawing the most attention were inside jokes, not meant for a public audience. He said Mr. Wagner does not have enough

evidence to prove hazing took place so he searched for emails with the word "haze" along with Johnny Smith's name.

"They are trying to make a connection," Purvis said. "But there is no connection because it's not true."

Despite the questions and the investigation about what happened in his former fraternity house the night of Johnny Smith's death, Purvis was heartened by students' support, and he thinks the situation will have a positive conclusion.

"What I would like to say to students is thank you so much for supporting our house," he said. "It's a relief to know that we do have people who support us. We're as much in the dark as the students are about all this. At the end, I think we're all going to be ok because they don't have a case that they can make."

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DECEMBER 4, 2008

# Sparks Works With Increased Population

**MILES ASHTON '12**  
STAFF WRITER

The Sparks Center serves as the independent watering hole. A place where students outside of fraternities would meet and discuss their term papers over some mashed potatoes, or talk sports over a gratuitous amount of soft serve ice cream. Aside from special events, the center is moderately populated during allotted meal times. Now with the closing of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, the population has increased roughly by 50.

When the change first occurred, the great hall was packed. Lunch lines stretched outside of the building itself. Items that would usually be left in excess (breakfast pastries) found themselves being depleted before the usuals would have a chance to get some. All in all, when people spoke of the Delts in Sparks it sounded as if they were speaking of a plague of locusts.

"In the grand scheme of things, 50 students isn't that much of a change," addressed Mary Joe Arthur, a Bon Appetite employee. When asked about long lines, Arthur gave some words of wisdom, "Of course at first the lines were long. It happens with the freshman independents at the beginning of every school year. They just need to learn to stagger and not go at peak meal times."

The congestion in the dining center looks to be weakening even more as more Delta Tau Delta upperclassmen choose off-campus housing options without meal plans. "We ran into problems with running out of food at first, but now we've started cooking more and it seems to be working out," was her optimistic response to the question of food shortages.

Arthur even went as far as to offer comfort to the new independents, "Our primary concern is nutrition, but we also want to provide a good atmosphere for these men that so many things seem to have gone wrong for," she said.

One of the chefs, Logan Kemp, is surprised that he still finds a lull between, and even during, some meals.

"It's weird, I'm really busy now, but at the same time there are times where I get a break," he said.

The increase in demand for food has been making employees pick up the pace.

"I've been cooking a lot more food than before, and we've only run out a few



PATRICK MCALISTER | WABASH '10

A BUSY LUNCH: Wabash men stand in two separate, long lines waiting for the various culinary options available in Sparks Center.

times... like today at breakfast," Kemp said. As difficult as the task sounds, Kemp seemed up to it.

The meal plans of all students have been recently questioned. Students and faculty alike have discussed the idea of centralizing meals for all the students at Wabash. Fraternity brothers and independents alike would eat their lunches and din-

**"I'm used to just going downstairs and getting food whenever I'm hungry. Now I have to plan when I'm going to have my meals."**

*Andrew Percy, Wabash '12*

ners together.

While this is only mentioned in passing, the concept itself is almost completely impossible for two key reasons: first, Sparks is far too old and small; second, there is far too much money invested in fraternity house kitchens and kitchenware. Interestingly enough, this issue has been brought up with the College, but not with the students.

Freshman Andrew Percy spoke about his experiences as a new Sparks diner.

"It's a big change from eating in the fraternity," Percy said. "I'm used to just going downstairs and getting food whenever I'm hungry. Now I have to plan when I'm going to have my meals."

The quality of the food was an issue as well.

"The food isn't comparable to Lori's cooking," Percy said. "There's definitely more of a variety, but it's either hit or

miss, and more often a miss."

While it's easy to be negative when in the shoes of a man who has lost his fraternity, Percy finds some things to be optimistic about.

"Eating at Sparks has definitely opened doors," Percy said. "I eat with a lot of people I never would have if I kept eating in the house. It's a good social atmosphere, and I really enjoy talking to some new people that are actually pretty cool."

The situation at the Sparks center is talked about in almost apocalyptic terms. Here's the fact: it is getting better. Lines might still be long from time to time, but if people plan accordingly, they can get their food in as little as five minutes.

No system is ever perfect, but at least the employees of Bon Appetite and the diners (both old and new) are working together to make short lines and good decisions.

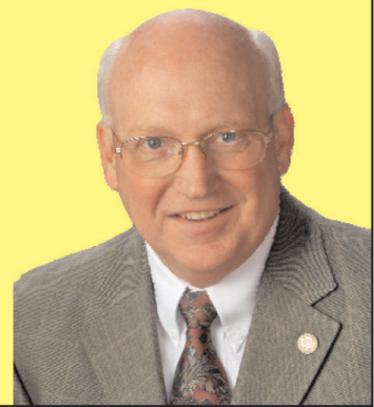
<p>514 East Wabash \$435,000</p>  <p>Historic General Lew Wallace residence. Four bedrooms, handcrafted woodwork.</p>	<p>5850 E SR 32 \$439,000</p>  <p>23 acres; 4 bedroom home with full finished walkout basement. Pool, tennis court, horse barn and much more.</p>	<p>512 Tulip Lane \$385,900</p>  <p>Five bedroom home, custom kitchen, family room with beautiful bar and fireplace. Located in Twin Oaks.</p>	<p>97 N. Sugar Cliff \$199,500</p>  <p>Three bedroom home with formal living and dining rooms, hearth room. Split bedroom plan. Nicely landscaped.</p>
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## Strong Season Ends on Sour Note



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Above: Wheaton quarterback Sean Norris breaks away from a gang of Wabash defenders in last Saturday's game.

Right: Wheaton running back Rocky Gingg collides with senior David Mann. Gingg racked up 111 yards on Wabash.



*After 59-23 playoff loss to Wheaton, the team focuses on things to improve in the offseason*

**CHUCK SUMMERS '10**  
**SPORTS EDITOR**

Head football coach Erik Raeburn's inaugural season came to a disappointing end on Saturday as the Little Giants were knocked out of the playoffs by Wheaton, 59-28.

The Thunder out-gained the Little Giants 504 total yards to 266. Like in the loss against DePauw two weeks ago, Wabash had trouble establishing the run, earning just 76 yards on the ground. Wheaton running back Rocky Gingg led the Thunder with 111 of the team's 204 rushing yards while Sean Norris torched Wabash through the air with 277 yards and four touchdowns. Junior quarterback Matt Hudson led the Little Giants' offense with 230 passing yards and two touchdowns and freshman Brady Young led the Little Giants' rushing attack with 23 yards. The loss ends the football team's successful season on a bitter note, but the Little Giants are already looking forward.

"It's disappointing to lose like we did on Saturday, but it shows that we need to make improvements," Raeburn said.

The Little Giants had much success in 2008- they won 10 games, claimed another North Coast Athletic Conference title, and achieved a higher national ranking than any Wabash team that

had come before it when they were ranked third earlier in the season. But ugly losses to DePauw and Wheaton late in the year show that improvements still need to be made to take the program to the next level.

Raeburn believes that changes aren't necessarily needed in any specific area, but improvements need to be made across the board. "It's not like there's one area we really need to improve on to get there," Raeburn said. "We're pretty solid in every phase of the game, but to beat these teams and move on in the playoffs, we'll need to get better in all areas. That will be our challenge."

Another challenge for the Little Giants will be replacing a huge group of talented seniors. The Little Giants graduate the majority of the offensive and defensive lines as well as other key starters at running back, receiver, and defensive back. This puts a huge emphasis on this year's recruiting, which becomes Raeburn's focus as the offseason begins.

"With the injuries we had this year, I was sometimes worried about our depth," Raeburn said. "We weren't as good in special teams as I would have liked, and our lack of depth had a lot to do with that. So the focus of the offseason is a combination of motivating the

See, SEASON, Page 14

## Basketball Team Looks for Consistency

*67-57 loss at DePauw brings young Little Giants' record to 2-2*

**DREW PARRISH '10**  
**STAFF WRITER**

The Little Giant basketball squad is 2-2 in their first four games. Wabash's record has been very indicative of their play this season. If the team plays well, they are usually on the winning end, if not, they struggle. This is a sign of a young team. Wabash starts one sophomore, two juniors, and two seniors. Although the team struggles at times, the talent is there.

In the season opener against Wilmington, turnovers played a major role in the loss. Wilmington's defense led Wabash away from their offense.

"Their defense caused us to panic and not play as a team," said Head Coach Mac Petty. "We didn't play well because of the pressure. I partly blame myself for not sticking with the original game plan, because I used a scouting report to handle the pressure."

The Little Giants would show some resiliency, bouncing back from a loss the previ-

ous day to beat rival DePauw. Although the offense was not as efficient as it could have been, the Little Giant defense stepped up in the 57-52 victory over the Tigers.

"We played well as a team," Petty said. "We actually played better than they did, especially on the defensive end. Defense was the key to the win."

Three days later, the Little Giants faced Hanover. Wabash was victorious, 89-63. The offense really shined after overcoming an early deficit. This game showcased what the young Wabash squad is capable of doing, putting up 89 points, with 41 of those coming from sophomore Wes Smith.

"We really won the game pretty convincingly after we got over the ten point deficit," Petty said. "We played like we're capable of playing."

The Little Giants then had a whole week off before the second game against DePauw. Wabash suffered their second loss of the season, losing 57-67. Not having played in a week could have been a cause to the poor first half perform-

ance. "We didn't shoot well against DePauw, which I have to credit their defense," Petty said. "Our guards went 5-29 from the field. Having the whole week off was tough, too. It's hard when you start then stop."

Not all the struggles came from the offensive side of the ball though. The Little Giants allowed DePauw to go 7-20 from long distance.

"Our defense has been reliable for the first few games," Petty said. "We just had a breakdown in communication against DePauw. I still think defense and our field goal percentage are our strengths after the DePauw game."

The Little Giants will continue to work on decreasing turnovers and taking care of the ball as they prepare for their first conference game against Kenyon.

"I think that this is a group that plays well together," Petty said. "One of the strong components is that the season is still young. We understand that there will be losses, we just need to step up and improve each game. No one person can do it all. A player wants to take

See, BASKETBALL, Page 14



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Sophomore Wes Smith goes up strong against a Hanover defender in the Little Giants' 89-63 win last Tuesday night. Smith scored 41 points.

## Wrestlers Prepare for Little State

**PETER ROBBINS '12**  
**STAFF WRITER**

This weekend, Wabash will host the Little State Wrestling Meet in Chadwick Court, welcoming teams from 16 different schools to the college. As the meet approaches, the Little Giant wrestlers will hope to build on a November in which they defeated both Rose-Hulman and Manchester.

Head Wrestling Coach Brian Anderson is proud of the team's accomplishments to date this season. "I felt good about our win against Manchester," said Anderson of the November 18 meet. "Our line-up still isn't close to being set, and we were able to take care of Manchester without

our full lineup. It showed us where we are against a good in-state D3 opponent."

On the same night they defeated Manchester, Wabash welcomed Indiana University's wrestling squad, which is currently ranked 15th in the nation. Although the Hoosiers defeated the Little Giants, Anderson was happy with the match-up. "We did a good job," Anderson said. "Our guys didn't win but we did some positive things and were competitive. We showed we can hang with some of the best in the country."

The team also competed in the Concordia Open in Mequon, WI on November 22nd. "It's one of the biggest meets around, and I'm happy with how we did," Anderson said. "We had three

**"We'll be going against squads we'll see at the national qualifiers...it will be a great opportunity for our whole roster to wrestle."**

*Brian Anderson, Head Wrestling Coach*

wrestlers place in the top six in their weight class in brackets of 32, and Andrew Kepchar had six pins in the tournament, which is almost unheard of."

Kepchar, a freshman who competes in the 133 pound division, placed fourth in the tourna-

ment. The other Little Giants to place were freshman 141 pounder Tony Conway, who placed sixth, and senior 149 pounder Jared Tribbett, who also placed sixth.

After the impressive showing in Wisconsin, the team is preparing for the Little State Meet this weekend. "It isn't quite as challenging of a meet as Concordia, but it's a solid, challenging tournament," Anderson said. "We'll be going against squads that we'll see at the national qualifiers in February, and it will be a great opportunity for our whole roster to wrestle."

Anderson also said that Little State will benefit the younger wrestlers on the team. "Our young guys have grown up really fast," Anderson said. "Little

State will be another stepping stone in the right direction for our young team."

One of these young wrestlers is freshman Justen Lock, who competes in the 125 pound division. "I'm looking forward to the meet this weekend, because I didn't feel like I wrestled great at the last meet," Lock said.

The growth of the younger wrestlers can be attributed in part to the leadership of the upperclassmen on the team. "I've learned a lot about work ethic by watching the upperclassmen," Lock said. "They work really hard."

The team's diligent work ethic will be entirely focused on this weekend's meet, which is what Anderson wants. "We take it week by week," Anderson said.



## Bird Shares Political Journey with Students

**GARY JAMES '10**  
**NEWS EDITOR**

As a religion major and eventually a graduate student at Harvard University's Divinity School, Jeremy Bird '00 probably had no idea how involved he would become in national politics.

From growing up poor in a trailer park in Highridge, Missouri to his role as Barack Obama's general election chairman for Ohio, Bird knows a lot about change. He has lived it.

"I grew up in a conservative, Southern Baptist family," said Bird, who spoke to a group of students and faculty and staff members in Korb Classroom Tuesday night. "My family is about 10% of McCain's margin of victory in Missouri, my dad being the biggest Republican. What I remember the most growing up is sitting between the washer and dryer, listening to my parents talk about economics all the time. They would talk about at what point in the week we'd have to go to grandma's house to get food, which was a huge pride thing for my dad who worked two jobs. That and the bible was really what I grew up learning about politics."

Bird said politics first came alive for him as a young adult while he was studying abroad in Israel. Although Wabash didn't

have a program with any institutions there, Bird was encouraged to figure out a way to study there by Bill Placher, which he did Bird happened to be studying Israel during the 1999 political contest between Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party and Ehud Barak's Labor Party. He was affected by the engaging atmosphere.

"Students were energized about this election," Bird said. "I would go in a cab, and the cab driver would be talking about it. I didn't speak Hebrew very well so all I knew was they were talking about the candidates. My roommate was talking about it. It was everywhere, and people were voting. And I was thinking, I don't even know who my state rep is. I don't know who my senator is. Why have I never even thought of these things? I went to Israel to learn more about religion, and I got politicized."

Although Bird went to Harvard for religion, he spent a lot of time at the Kennedy School of Government, and he was particularly interested in the organizing aspect of politics. His first experience with how people can change things was his work in Boston during grad school with education funding in conjunction with his class Organizing, People, Power and Change. Part of the class was actually doing community organizing work. He

began working with a group called Boston Youth Organizing Project.

The group was working with inner city students at the time who realized their friends who lived in the suburbs were getting twice as much funding per pupil. When the mayor refused to address the issue in his budget, the campaign targeted the 12 city council members who had to approve his budget.

"We started having town hall meetings with the students," Bird said. "They showed their books pictures of their school. Then we brought in kids from the suburbs, and they brought their books and showed pictures of their schools, and asked why their friends in the city weren't getting the same education. We ended up getting \$10 million dollars more for the city schools. You can really change things."

Bird graduated from Harvard in 2002, and he began working for Howard Dean in 2003. After the scream and his candidate's defeat in the Democratic primary contest, Bird signed on to work with John Kerry in 2004. In 2007, he began working for Senator Barack Obama's presidential campaign as the Field Director in South Carolina, in preparation for the primary. He said they changed the model for running elections in the state by refusing to give money to religious officials or politicians in order to get support. Instead, they organized and educated the public about the senator. Obama won the South Carolina primary by 29 points.

Bird then went to Maryland, where Obama won, and Pennsylvania, where he lost, before becoming the campaign chairman for the Ohio general election campaign, where Obama won 52% of the vote. Bird said he experienced different parts of the country, some of which he like and some of which disturbed him.

"During the primary I was thinking there is something wrong with this country, from the things we hard and the things they said," Bird said. "And then you realize it's just a matter of



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '11

The political interests of Jeremy Bird '00 started while he was studying abroad in Israel, a trip inspired by the advice of Professor Placher.

relating to people. Once you create that relationship and talk about what's best in people, you can even break through a lot of racism and a lot of things you think you could never break through. But sometimes I just said they aren't going to vote for us, and not waste my time. They woke up on the fifth and Barack Obama was their president. I

think it's going to change their whole racial outlook, and especially that of their kids."

Bird is now working with the Obama to figure out what to do with the organization that was created during the presidential campaign. He thinks may continue to do that or try to get a job in the administration.

"During the primary I was thinking there is something wrong with this country, from the things we hard and the things they said," Bird said. "And then you realize it's just a matter of relating to people. Once you create that relationship and talk about what's best in people, you can even break through a lot of racism and a lot of things

you think you could never break through."

*Jeremy Bird '00*



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '11

A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, Bird began working for President elect Obama's campaign in 2007 as Field Director in South Carolina.

No appointment needed.  
(Who says you're not spontaneous?)



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# Everything is Everything Else

*Synecdoche, New York.* Charlie Kaufman's first film as director. The film demands its own sentence fragment - forcing those three words into the company of others would be improper. It needs room to be itself without attempt at summary or introduction; I can't work it into a rambling introductory paragraph, as is my wont, without starting this review off on a misleading note.

Although, to be honest, I don't know that it's possible to write a review of *Synecdoche, New York* that isn't somewhat misleading, or at the least one that doesn't get in the way of a readers chance to see the film and react to it without any notions or expectations of the sort that it's all too easy to engender through a writer's confusion/excitement and desire to communicate their spin on the film by overlong sentences and gushing logorrhea.

Allow me to push my invisible glasses up, have a pass at cracking my knuckles, and pause to think this through.

All right. *Synecdoche, New York* is a film made by a man who has made a career of exploring the possibilities of the medi-



JAMES MOREY  
THE MALE  
GAZE

um. It is also a film that is very much about the mind of its writer. It is also a film that is very much about life, relationships, the creative process, love, inspiration, death, loss, depression, solipsism, the passage of time, New York, aging, and probably quite a few matters that I'll never figure out.

There is also a plot. By that I mean that events happen over time. The manner in which things happen over time is anything but straightforward, though: *Synecdoche, New York* doesn't just have a metanarrative behind it, it explicitly calls out multiple possible metanarratives and loops itself a shade on the better side of comprehensible by recursion of a, a wossname, a

subnarrative. Subnarratives, if you will - and you shall.

I could keep on hurling terms that I don't fully understand at you - post-structuralism! - but that won't help either of us, will it? Plot, plot. There is one.

Caden Cotard (Phillip Seymour Hoffman, and look up "Cotard delusion" on Wikipedia) is a director of theater who has a less than rosy outlook on life. By way of an embarrassingly stiff (to the viewer) and overproduced *Death of a Salesman*, he is awarded a "genius grant" and decides to create a massive work of theater that embodies truth, communicates existential despair, and stares inevitable death in the face. The project leads to construction of a false section of New York in an impossibly massive warehouse in which Caden endeavors to reproduce his life and the lives of everyone he meets as an ongoing, participatory play. Before long, the warehouse is such an important part of his life that another is constructed within the ur-warehouse. Entities are multiplied beyond necessity.

That's the premise. However,

film, to steal a leaf out of Roger Ebert's field-tested book, is about a lot more than what happens, and the "how" of everything makes *Synecdoche, New York* a lot more than an interesting concept.

From the start, it's clear that Mr. Kaufman has no interest in maintaining a clear chronology. Time stretches and constricts in accordance with Caden's frame of mind. Logic, too, is of the dream sort. Metaphorical and idiomatic language takes literal form just often enough to seem like more than an apology. To be clear, we aren't dealing with Finnegans Wake, here - *Synecdoche* is far more accessible, for one - but watching the movie asks a lot more of its viewers than most theatrical fare. I shall certainly watch it again, and likely again and again on DVD, returning every year or so to see what else I can take from the movie.

I want you to see *Synecdoche, New York*. I want to be able to talk about it with someone, and I absolutely do not want to have my interpretations out in the air where they can roost in the back

of a future viewers mind. So, assignment time. If you have time.

Think about the meaning of "synecdoche" that you learned back in high school, and look up, like I eventually did, the other meanings. There's a lot more to the term than the representation of a whole in a part. Get a good night's sleep. Consider the ways in which your expectations color your perceptions. Drink a delicious, age-appropriate beverage of your choice. Contemplate the degree to which you expect events to transpire as you assume or imagine they will.

Hydrate well. Then go and see *Synecdoche, New York*. Decide whether it's pretentious, cumbersome, dull, and aimless or a work of art that will likely be studied in film, theater, English, and philosophy courses in ages unforeseen.

Come to some conclusion at any point in between or far beyond those. Maybe you'll just like the bit with the tattoos. Trust me, it's better than I make it sound.

How's that for a pull quote?

## Dr. Cook Diagnoses the College, 42 Years Later

GALIB SHISHIR  
WABASH '12

A change is an inevitable course of action. So where does Wabash stand after almost fifty years? Dr. William Cook, Visiting Professor of Religion and Wabash graduate of the class of 1966, shared his thoughts about Wabash at present. There are lots of changes according to Professor Cook, and most of them have given Wabash a good look. "Certainly there are changes in what it meant to be a freshman. When I was here the entire freshmen class had to wear the green and red beanies that you see the Phi Delt pledges wearing. The way we tried to end wearing them a little bit early was a big fight between the freshmen and the sophomores," Professor Cook said. A fight for a certain prize used to determine back in Professor Cook's time whether the freshmen could stop wearing the beanies, provided they beat the sophomores on their way. A defeat meant wearing the beanie for the rest of first semester. "The chapel sing was very different too," explained Dr. Cook. The event used to be 250 freshmen standing on the porch of the Chapel rather than a com-

petition between the houses and the dorms at present. Professor Cook, a brother of Lambda Chi, also thinks that fraternity life has changed somewhat.

"Teaching style has changed. There were many more lecture classes, fewer discussion classes when I was here," Professor Cook said. He continued by explaining why the change was necessary. "Sometimes when the older alums come back, they get all nostalgic about the fact that it isn't quite like it was when I was here," he said. "But as somebody who went to college 46 years ago—that's when I favored Wabash—and who never left the college I think I know the answer," Professor Cook said. Either a student or a professor makes Dr. Cook's relationship with college life span over almost half a century. "So I think I know that everybody who would be in my position would appreciate that things have to change. College exists in cultures and societies and, as the culture changes, so too does the College, as much as the College wants to see it walled off from the rest of the world. In fact, colleges interact with the rest of the world in a lot of ways," explained Professor Cook. He also made a valid point on why things should be different: "freshmen come here

with very different knowledge, with very different experience than they did 46 years ago." However, a core reason why Professor Cook thinks all the changes are good by and large is the faculty-student bond.

"I think Wabash has retained its essential quality, which is very much related to

its single sex status. There is a bond between faculty and students here unlike any other places I have experienced. It was true when I was a freshman and it is true now that I am a freshman faculty member 46 years later," Professor Cook concluded.



CHAD SIMPSON | WABASH '10

Dr. Cook '66, a Professor of History at the SUNY Geneseo, is teaching at Wabash one year.

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# Prof. Finds Classics Humane

STEVE HENKE  
WABASH '12

It was six in the evening when the van broke down. Along with her Latin 101 and 301 students, Visiting Assistant Professor of Classics Claudia Zatta was stuck in Chicago as night fell swiftly on the windy city.

Being a teacher in a foreign country is demanding. But having problems on a field trip made the job all the more difficult.

Not that Professor Zatta was under qualified. In fact, a history of commitment to a Classical education and an international outlook makes her a valuable

help to the liberal arts atmosphere of Wabash College.

Zatta began her study of Greek and Latin at fourteen in a Classical high school in Italy. She then attended the University of Padua (founded in 1222) in Italy for her laureate in Classical Studies, then won a scholarship to attend Boston University for a semester of graduate studies.

Zatta returned to Padua for post-graduate work in anthropology. After some time in the American Academy in Rome and the University of Chicago, she worked in the American School of Classical Studies in Athens for two years as part of her Ph.D. program. She received her Ph.D.

from Johns Hopkins in 2004.

Teaching at universities from Buffalo, New York to Eugene, Oregon, Zatta has taught classes primarily in Greek and Latin.

Her resume outside the classroom is just as outstanding. Zatta published her first book, *Incontri con Proteo*, in 1997. The book explores the Greek god Proteus "the Old Man of the Sea," a shape shifting god who appears in the *Odyssey* on the island of Pharos.

She helped in Djerba (purportedly the island of the Lotus-Eaters in the *Odyssey*) as part of an archeological survey of an island by the American Academy in Rome to reconstruct the histo-

ry of the island in looking for Punic Roman and medieval settlements

With such a vast experience it's easy to see how a woman like this fits in at Wabash College. Yet her focus is not entirely in the past. Zatta believes the study of Classics remains relevant in today's world.

"For the ancient Greeks, the reflection about human beings and their position in the world took center stage," Zatta said. "Their texts reveal a profound humanism and touch upon core values that are still present today, such as the nature of justice or democracy, what is happiness, the importance of friendship, etc."

Friendship certainly saved the day for the Latin students' trip to Chicago. Fortunately, students knew Chicagoan Adrian Mendoza ('08), who jumpstarted the van so the group could continue on its way. "I think that it is a Wabash story in the sense that it shows the connections that may arise amongst good students."

This type of environment helps her as a teacher. "There is more cooperation in the classrooms—a desire to help one another," Zatta said. "It creates an environment that is pleasant and not stressful to work in."

She is teaching three classes this semester: Latin 101, Greek 201 and Latin 301. The introductory Latin class is perhaps most effectively described by Grayson Stone '12: "I don't know how she can be so patient with me." The class focuses on the fundamen-

tals, with an emphasis on vocabulary. Greek 201 ("the wonderful four," as Zatta affectionately calls her small class) has read from a variety of texts, including an oration by Lysias relating to gender relations and Plato's *Apology*. Latin 301 translated poetry and prose of the age of Caesar, from authors like Lucretius, Cicero, Catullus and Caesar. The class explored the authors and the works themselves within the context of Classical literary and philosophical traditions.

The plans for the future remain strong. She will be teaching Latin 102, a continuation of the introductory course, enabling students "to read good Latin prose and poetry" and augment their understanding of English etymology and Latin syntax. A Greek 302 will read *Oedipus Rex*. Classics 102 will read translations of fifth-century Greek examples of comedy and tragedy and attempt to reconstruct an ancient understanding of the texts as well as understanding their impact in today's world.

In the spirit of juxtaposition, Professor Zatta compares listening to students from Florence, Italy to witnessing her first Chapel Sing. "[The Italian song] was more singing and less shouting," she said, "but it was still a moment of bonding." Professor Zatta seeks to examine "the connection with what happens here and what happens outside Wabash. The moment when we compare the two experiences is a fruitful moment."



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '11

A student of Greek and Latin since the age of fourteen, Professor Zatta graduated from the University of Padua and went on, after several academic appointments worldwide, to earn her Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins in 2004.

# Super Smash Bros.

ADAM PHIPPS  
VIDEO GAMES

It's that part of the semester again: crunch time. Between all the laborious papers, the lengthy presentations, and the classes that seem to be getting longer and longer, I have found less and less time to spend on relaxation with a good video game experience. Christmas Break will assuredly bring me enough time to settle down with a nice, long look and feel for *Fallout 3*. Until then, I will once again call upon my past experiences, and recount another epic entry for the Nintendo 64. This week's Super64 article focuses on the advent of one of the most popular multiplayer cartridges ever to grace home entertainment systems. The origin of a brutal Brawl on the Wii and an all-out Melee on the Gamecube, I present Super Smash Bros.

The concept is simple in form, nostalgic in design, and unique in construction. Super Smash Bros. takes the greatest heroes in the Nintendo universe and pits them against each other in a pixelated cage fight. Its cast is packed with nothing less than all-stars: Mario, our favorite plumber from the Mushroom Kingdom; Link, the chosen hero of Hyrule; Fox, the ace pilot and captain of Lylat's last defense; Samus Aran, the intrepid female bounty hunter on Zebes; Pikachu, the cute, yet ferocious rodent from Kanto; Kirby, the pink, floating protector of DreamLand. Complete with a one-player mode and bonus stages, the game allows a person to personify their favorite champion in a number of environments. However, the multiplayer function remains the real gem of the master-

piece, providing a venue of entertainment that is truly unlike anything else.

The control scheme is one of the most well designed systems in the fighting genre. Each button on the gamepad determines a different type of action for the character while the thumb-stick defines the direction of the action. The A Button denotes the physical attacks, with two separate forms (ground and aerial) that are generally the same for each character. The B button defines special attacks, uniquely specific to each character but performed the same both on the ground and in the air. The C buttons set jumping, the L button activates a shield, the R Buttons grabs foes, and the Z button can be held down to dodge left or right. That entails about 15 different moves for each character, a scheme easy to learn from the start.

The game's kill condition is another interesting aspect to Super Smash Bros. Characters do not have hit points (HP) in this game as with most

Fighters. In replacement, a player continuously batters the opponent, driving up his damage meter measured by a percentage. Each character starts the match with 0% on their damage meter, and as they receive more and more hits, the meter increases. The higher the damage meter is, the farther an opponent will fall back in the direction of the attack. To defeat an opponent, the player must hit the opponent off of the screen's wide limits, such as beyond the ceiling, the far edges, or the bottomless pit of the stage.

The environments provide a memorable experience as well. Unlike most fighting games, stages in Super Smash Bros. are not confined by invisible barriers. Instead designers constructed the stages with freedom of movement in mind, with a camera that automatically zooms into the best position. Each player can see their own character at all times on the single screen, along with the different platforms and pitfalls framing the extent to which they can

explore the stage. This provides the combat style with a method and strategy not experienced in other games of the genre. A player may attack an opponent with a rightward physical kick when the opponent is near the right side of the screen. Another player may anticipate this movement, wait for the first player to do so, then come from above at the right moment and slam down hard with a jabbing down-

ward kick. This simultaneous action and open environment adds a depth of skill and experience that a player can truly practice at to achieve.

Thanks to the Nintendo 64, this multiplayer excitement allows up to four players at once to battle it out. It can be a fun experience for leisurely gamers and the perfect arena for the

intense gamers. So take up the Master Sword and clash with Donkey Kong. Plant Mario's boot in Yoshi's face. Or grab a Bob-omb and blast your friend off the screen. If you have ever asked yourself which Nintendo character would come out on top in a free-for-all deathmatch, this is the game for you.

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This event is sponsored by Experience Indiana, through a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

# Wabash Candidates' Statements

## Class Representative Candidate Statements

In the College's current state, there is an incredible burden placed on the class of 2012. Pledgeships are ending, independents have adjusted, and it is now time for our class to be an active part of the school. With the Gentleman's rule under attack, it is important for us as a class to show that even within a couple months; we understand how to hold ourselves accountable for our actions.

By voting for Tommy Ball, the gentlemen's candidate, you can be assured that you are voting to protect the sacred Rule. Tommy will also hold open class meetings to promote the school's precedent of self government. It is through Wabash that we are united, in Wabash that we are learning, and for Wabash that we care; and out of that care for Wabash, I urge you to vote for Thomas A. Ball for Class of 2012 representative.

**Thomas A. Ball '12**

Gentlemen,

My name is Mike Bellis, an Independent Freshman from North Port, Florida. I am running to serve as one of your Senators for the Class of 2012.

Recent events on campus have made everyone examine the direction of our beloved Wabash. Let me assure you, I am dedicated to the preservation of a traditional Wabash that allows our traditions to flourish. Individual responsibility has long been a hallmark of this College and can only maintain under the Gentleman's Rule. As your Senator, I will fight for open communication, campus unity, and the protection of the Gentleman's Rule.

On campus, I am involved in the Wabash Conservative Union, The Phoenix, College Republicans, and the Political Science Society. I am also a student caller/office assistant for the Annual Fund.

I encourage all freshmen to email me or drop by College Hall 151 so I can address any of your questions!

**Mike Bellis '12**

Gentlemen of the Class of 2011:

My name is Andrew Forrester, and I am an Independent living in Morris Hall. Over the last year, there have been many things that have happened on the Wabash campus that concern me - and I hope concern you too. In an effort to be a part of the solution, I want to represent you this next year in the Student Senate.

Because many of you already know me, I'll reaffirm what you already know: I care deeply about this school. I want what is best for Wabash, and will work to achieve that in the Student Senate. I am an active member of many organizations on campus and hold leadership positions in most. I promise you that, if elected, I would represent not only our class, but our school honorably. Thank you for your time.

In Wabash,

**Andrew Forrester '11**

My name is Steve Henke and I'm running for Student Senate.

As a freshman representative, I will work to open the lines of student communication. Wabash College is built on a trust between the staff and students, so they need to be actively communicating with us for the college to survive. Dining conditions, dormitory problems, administrative shortcomings—the Student Senate is the forum we need. With any questions, email or Facebook me.

I'm qualified to do this. I've served as a proxy to the Student Senate, so I have a vague idea of what I'm getting into. I attended the Gentlemen's Rule Summit, so I know about managing conflicting solutions to problems. As part of over a dozen clubs, Pledge Class President for APO (shameless plug: Reindeer Project!), an active member in MUN, Business and Pre-Law Societies, and a struggling salsa dancer, I have the leadership base to represent you. Class of 2012, it's time to rise up and lead Wabash triumphantly through these coming years.

**Steve Henke '12**

My name is Ryan Harrison Alexander Leppert, and I am running to become

Class Representative. Coming from Dallas, the question I receive most often is why in the world I chose Wabash, a small Liberal Arts school in Crawfordsville for college.

The main reason is simple--The Gentlemen's Rule. I liked how the students of Wabash College almost policed themselves. Rules were followed not because of fear of punishment by the administration, but rather because it was the right thing to do. We need to get back to the core of the Gentleman's Rule, and to do achieve this we must achieve a stronger Campus unity. For too long we have a campus divided between fraternizes and Independents. What we all must understand is that we are all Wabash Men, first and foremost. We are given a chance to dictate the direction of our class, so let us choose the right direction.

**Ryan Leppert '12**

I am running for Class of 2012 Representative to enable the Goddess of Peace to encircle within her arms all the children of this country and all the children of the world.

I'm an independent but not anti-fraternity. Credentials blah blah blah. I care about the school, know how to write, and want to step over the imaginary lines separating the students.

**Miles Ashton '12**

Hey Class of 2012!

What's up?! My name is Stevan Stankovich and I would love to be one of your four class representatives for this coming school year. I will just tell you a couple of quick things about me. First I have had numerous leadership positions in student government throughout high school, as well as in the United Way, Boy Scouts of America, and other non for profit organizations. Next I love to help others and helping our class and Wabash campus making it the best it can be would be awesome. And finally I want to make Class of 2012 the best class Wabash has ever seen!!!! So I would love your vote class of 2012. WABASH ALWAYS FIGHTS!!!!

**Stevan Stankovich '12**

## President and Vice President Candidate Statements

My fellow men of Wabash,

Allow me to tell you a little bit about myself and what it is I will set out to accomplish as your Vice President. I am an economics major, originally hailing from Northwest Indiana. At Wabash, I currently serve as the Treasurer of the Business Society, serve on the WAR council, am a founding member of the Wabash chapter of the National Society of Leadership and Success, and am swimming for my third year as a part of the Wabash Swimming and Diving team. I have served as the Senator of Morris Hall in the Student Senate for four semesters. While in the Senate, I have attained an immaculate attendance record over my four semesters, served as the Chairman of the CBPR for the past two semesters, and have written four separate pieces of legislature that have been adopted by the Senate. All of this experience that I have obtained, I believe, qualifies me to serve as your next Vice President.

Furthermore, I have an immense sense of what Wabash stands for and the passion that each of its students, alumni, faculty, and staff have for the college. I have seen the expectations students have for funding to be there for clubs, for Monon Bell tickets to be free for students, for a respectable National Act to be brought to Chadwick each spring, and for the campus to be united under the Scarlet Flag. As your Vice President, I pledge to conduct myself properly as the Chairman of the Senate, listen to and act upon the needs and wants of the Student Body, and represent the students of Wabash to the faculty, alumni, and others as true gentlemen and responsible citizens. Next week, vote for the person whom you believe best understands both what it means to be a Wabash man and the importance of what it means to represent the Wabash man.

**Steve Zajac for Student Body Vice President**

Hello Gentlemen,

I would like to begin first by introducing myself. My name is Robert A. Fozkos, and I am running to become the President of the Student Body of Wabash College. I would like to openly state my experience with the student senate is minimal. I am a member of a fraternity, but this does not mean I dislike independents in any way. I myself was an independent for a year but chose to join a fraternity in hopes of a more unique Wabash experience. I feel the role of student life has become a significant issue on campus in the last few months.

To begin, I believe the ambiguity of the Gentlemen's Rule has caused excessive trouble for members of the student body. I came to Wabash believing I would have a distinct opportunity to learn and mature over the course of four years due to the Gentlemen's Rule. Yet, through the vague nature of the Gentlemen's Rule members of the administration have concluded what actions are gentlemanly and which are ungentlemanly. I believe if issues seen in shades of gray are judged to standards of black and white changes must be made to protect students in the future. I feel either the administration with the voice of the student body must develop a new standard for Wabash men or continue on with the Gentlemen's rule.

Another issue I feel strongly about is the current procedure for selecting national acts. Although being President of the Student Body does not give me much say in this issue, I will to the best of my ability help bring new up and coming artists to Wabash twice a year. The new model is flawed as the Senior Council seems to use little student body input to select artist popular in the past millennium rather than the future. I would like to thank you for taking the time to read about a couple of the issues I feel are important to the future well-being of the Wabash student body. I would also openly encourage you to go out and vote early next week for the men who will lead your Student Body for the next year.

**Robert A. Fozkos for Student Body President**

Gentlemen,

We need a leadership team who is not looking for controversy for its own sake, but for a President and VP ticket who want to tackle the issues in a fair and prompt manner. Wabash College is a top tier liberal arts institution which has existed for the past 176 years exclusively to educate and prepare us, the students. We are the most important part of Wabash College and we need to voice ourselves as one united and empowered student body. In order to help resolve the issues currently affecting the men of Wabash College we, Mark Thomas and Craig Cochran, pledge our service to you all. Let us now introduce ourselves and highlight our campus involvement.

Mark Thomas: I am a Junior Political Science major from Muncie, Indiana. During my tenure at Wabash, I have become involved in all that this college has to offer. I have served two legislative terms in the Student Senate where I worked with the Audit and Finance Committee and co-chaired the Community Service Committee, where I feel I was able to rejuvenate the committee's standing and purpose on campus. I am also actively involved in student groups such as Wabash Christian Men, Independent Men's Association, and Alpha Phi

Omega, holding leadership positions in all. I feel that because of my experience and activity in the Student Senate as well as my involvement and leadership in student-led organizations outside of politics, I best represent the voice of the students at Wabash. This college needs a leadership team which fully emulates the students. I feel that my goals for this campus are the same as yours, and if that is the case, I ask for your vote and support.

Craig Cochran: I am a Junior Religion major from Indianapolis who has stayed very busy here at Wabash. I am currently serving as the Student Senate Treasurer, my fraternity's (FIJI) Treasurer/VP, Alpha Phi Omega's Treasurer, and I am a Rhynie in the Sphinx Club. I have been elected twice to the Senate as a 2010 class representative and have served on the CBPR and AFC committees. At the beginning of the semester I had planned on going abroad in the spring but changed my mind as the tragic events of the semester unfolded. This campus needs sound and efficient leadership from their Student Senate and I believe I am more equipped to carry this out than anyone else running for the position due to my experience and attitude. As Vice President I will continue the position's good name, established by John Moton, and will strive toward a more accessible Senate.

Gentlemen, we will work primarily toward empowering us, the students, and our interests on campus. Please feel free to talk with Craig on campus or contact either of us by email or through our Facebook group. Thanks for your time and we ask for your vote this upcoming week.

Always In Wabash,

**Mark Thomas for Student Body President  
Craig Cochran for Student Body Vice President**

**Gentlemen:**

This is campaign week, and you are going to hear a lot of information from people asking for your vote. I know it can be overwhelming, and you probably find yourself wondering why you should care in the first place. I get it. So I'm not going to use this space to repeat platitudes about how I'm the best candidate, and how you should vote for me. Instead, I'm going to try to answer the two questions you really want to know: who the hell am I and what do I want to do?

My name is Patrick McAlister, and I'm from Ft. Wayne. This is my third year at Wabash, my third year working for the *Bachelor* (I'm the Editor-in-Chief), and my third year as a student senator. I'm the RA for Morris Hall. I deal with a lot of stuff at once. But the real point I want to make is that I feel we are at an important juncture in our history. The relationship between the students and the administration is frayed and the Gentleman's Rule is being challenged in a very real way. Meanwhile we are missing opportunities to improve our facilities and make them cleaner and to incorporate students in the decision-making that affects them.

As president I will communicate the frustrations and hopes of the student body to the administration. I will work to get the administration to build agree to LEED certified buildings. I will highlight building problems, including crowding in Sparks and continued security problems. I will convene a Committee on the Gentleman's Rule to recommend ways to deal with disagreements about what the Gentleman's Rule actually means. And I will work with students to redesign the National Act selection process so that students can submit the bands and acts THEY want, and then the Senior Council Activity Committee can narrow those down to affordable selections.

But above all else, I will never forget that I am a Wally first. I will spend my time trying to make STUDENTS' time here a little better. And I will fight like Hell to make sure that Wabash is stronger when I leave.

In Wabash,

Patrick J. McAlister

Aaron Bonar, class of 2010, is no stranger to student government. Having served in the Student Senate as a Class Representative since his freshman year, he has served on the Constitution, Bylaw, and Policy Committee and the Audit and Finance Committee, two of the most powerful committees in the Student Senate. Aaron Bonar knows the Constitution of the Student Body due to his term in CBPR, and will do his best to run the Student Government according to its framework.

In addition, Aaron served one term as Vice President of Kappa Sigma Alpha Pi, one term as the President of the Wabash College Russian Club, and is a member of the Wabash College Glee Club. A member of the Wabash College Zombie Survival Club, Bonar worked with Pat McAlister and other like-minded Senators to help protect students' rights, and helped bring this popular club into existence. Aaron Bonar will fight even harder for students' rights as the Vice-President of the Student Body.

Pat McAlister and Aaron Bonar bring experience, voice, and a record of action to the table. This election, vote McAlister/Bonar.

**Patrick McAlister for Student Body President  
Aaron Bonar for Student Body Vice President**



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DECEMBER 4, 2008

# Einterz Competes in Nationals Over Break

*Sophomore cross country runner places 136th out of 278*

**BRANDAN ALFORD '12**  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

As the rest of the Wabash community headed home for the Thanksgiving holiday, Sophomore Seth Einterz traveled south to Hanover, Indiana to compete in the Division III Cross Country national championships. Einterz finished 136th out of the 278 competitors at the meet on November 22, finishing in a time of 25:48.60. Einterz was the first Wabash runner to qualify for the national meet since 2001.

Einterz's qualification for the national meet capped an up and down season for the sophomore who missed much of the early season with injury. It was fitting that Einterz finished the year on the Hanover course which was also the venue for his first meet back from mononucleosis.

This fall's cross country campaign was led by its two senior captains, Sam Compton-

Craig and Hugh Jackson. The team as a whole came within three positions of qualifying for the team nationals. "All together we are a little disappointed that we came as close as we did to going to nationals, missing it by one spot," Compton-Craig said. The team assumed somewhat of a below-the-radar role among fall sports on campus, while putting up one of best overall team postseason results in quite some time. "There are a lot of people who respect us as a team, a few professors and other athletes, but as a whole most of the college has no idea how close we came or how good of a team we are," Compton-Craig said. "That is what drove a few of us to perform better." Hopefully the national exposure that Einterz and his teammates provided will help bring the team to more of a forefront among students and faculty alike.

The two captains finished their respective careers with 41st and 47th place respectively in the Great Lakes Regional,

which put Wabash in good position to potentially qualify. Einterz's strong finish gives the team a solid base to build around next fall, and a bright future to look towards. "Seth's success as an individual is a sign of good things to come," Compton-Craig noted.

The team featured ten freshmen among its 19 members on this year's roster and only loses two seniors. However, the loss of those two seniors will leave a void both from a leadership and performance perspective. "I am thankful to our senior captains, Hugh and Sam, especially for their leadership this year," Donovan White said.

Strong freshmen performances throughout the year by White and Kevin McCarthy have provided a strong foundation to support Einterz in next fall's season. White and McCarthy both posted impressive numbers throughout the year, but two highlights for the duo were their fourth place combined effort at the Hokum Karem race and their top-15

**"I was really proud of the things the team accomplished and of Seth's success, but I know our team has so much more left in us."**

*Donovan White, Wabash '12*

results in the GLCA Championships, in which White finished eighth with McCarthy closely behind in 13th position.

White has a positive feeling about next fall's squad, "I was really proud of the things the team accomplished and of Seth's success, but I know our team has so much more left in us." This has definitely left White and his teammates excited about their next chance to run, "I can't wait until next year or even this upcoming track season." Most of cross country squad will be competing in the winter and spring track season as distance runners, providing them somewhat

of a chance at redemption.

Einterz was pleased with his qualification and subsequent placing in the national meet, however, he is far from satisfied, "Simply to be present was an amazing experience." Einterz said. "However, this season and all that it has brought - frustration and disappointment along with success - is done now. I did some things right, but I also know that I can never go back and settle for the same result. We leave it in the past. Yet, we cannot look too far ahead, either."

The goal of qualifying as a team is still a main focus for Einterz, "We know what we want: to place third in our region and qualify for nationals as a team," Einterz said. "But from where we stand now, that is very far away. So we keep it in the back of our minds and we turn to the challenges of the moment."

From the way the team was running at the end of the season, they very well could be much closer than they think to realize their goal next fall.

## Season



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Senior David Mann returns an interception in the Little Giants' loss to Wheaton on Saturday. Mann had two picks.

From Page 9

guys we have to lift and get stronger and going out and finding other guys who will help build the program."

So what things are Raeburn looking for in a recruit? Outside of athletic ability, the primary thing is intelligence, said Raeburn.

"The first thing we look for are guys who can cut it academically," Raeburn said. "The reason we were good this year was because of our seniors. We need guys who will be able to make grades and be here for four years."

The next thing Raeburn looks for is work ethic. "Everyone has talent at the second round of the playoffs," Raeburn said. "To move on, you need guys with tremendous work ethic."

Raeburn also said character comes into play when recruiting a player. "I didn't get into coaching to babysit or read about my guys in the paper about negative things they did off the field."

As for the returning players, one of the primary foci will be improving team speed, one thing Raeburn said was exposed in the losses to DePauw and Wheaton. Raeburn hopes to improve this through the strength and conditioning offseason program as well as recruiting.

Though it didn't end on a high note, Raeburn believes his first season as Head Coach was a positive transition into the team's new era.

"The most positive thing [about this season] was that the guys were very accepting of me," Raeburn said. "I thought the changes we made were positive. The guys did everything they could to make the most of the situation, and that's a difficult thing. I don't think seniors anywhere else would have done as well with the changes and transition."



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Junior Chase Haltom goes for a lay-up against Wilmington

## Basketball

From Page 9

needs to understand it's about the support of five guys on the floor."

Saturday's game will not be home as originally scheduled. The game had

to be moved to Kenyon due to the Little State wrestling tournament. Wabash will be tested by playing back-to-back road games, and facing a 4-1 Kenyon squad.

## Correction

In the last issue of the *Bachelor*, we reported that Seth Einterz's Great Lakes Regional time of 25:30:12 was his best time of the season when Einterz's best time actually came in the NCAC Men's Championship on Nov. 1, where he ran a 25:20:00. It was also reported the Wabash's 6th place finish was the team's best finish ever at NCAA Regionals, when in fact the Little Giants won Regionals in 1992, 1994, and 1995.

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