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# BACHELOR



OCTOBER 30, 2008

WABASH COLLEGE

THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH SINCE 1908

VOLUME 101 · ISSUE 8

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# Wabash, Crawfordsville Gear up for Presidential Election



STEVE ABBOTT | WABASH '09

Wabash sophomore Charlie Kelley talks with a Crawfordsville resident about the upcoming election. Kelley, along with other members of Dr. David Hadley's Political Science 111 and 312 classes are attempting to ascertain how Crawfordsvillians are voting in the November 8th General Election.

## BRENT KENT OPINION EDITOR

Early voting at Wabash has taken on a new meaning as students and faculty have been asked to voice their choice this election in the Political Science Department's Online Pre-election Survey. Dr. David Hadley's Survey of American Politics course has also interviewed over 230 Crawfordsville households using the same survey, which had questions ranging from who they are supporting in Indiana's Fourth District Congressional race to where they get their political news.

"We've been doing the community survey since 1972," said Dr. Hadley. "It is our hope that students are exposed to a different side of the political process. Dean Joe Emmick says he remembers doing this in 1988 and he always thought this was one of the best experiences he had at Wabash."

Students are having fun with the project and the citizens of Crawfordsville seem very engaged in the issues. Sophomore Peter Cheun was one of the students canvassing the city of Crawfordsville: "For the most part,

people were pretty inviting and willing to talk about it. A lot of people are paying attention and a lot of people are going off their gut instincts instead of party affiliations. Some people went in to a lot of depth on their views."

Dr. Hadley said the community pre-election survey, which asks voters and non-voters who they are supporting for president, governor, and congress, has an accuracy rate of +/- 4% going in to its 9th presidential contest.

While the online campus survey gives Obama a strong lead with 63.2% to McCain's 28.3%, preliminary reports from our student pollsters suggest Crawfordsville will remain competitive. Obama supporter Professor Salisbury remained hopeful when asked where she thought Crawfordsville would fall.

"I'm going to be positive and support my guy Gary James," Salisbury said. "I think a lot of fieldwork has been done and we're going to go Obama. I think we're going to go blue!"

Rafael Morillo, age 8 and son of History Chair Dr. Stephen Morillo, wasn't so sure.

"I think it will be McCain because I checked on 538.com with my Dad," Morillo

said, "and the state of Indiana is always red or white, NOT blue, but I still hope Obama wins."

Both the campus poll and preliminary community survey results suggest Governor Daniels has a comfortable lead over Democrat challenger and former congresswoman Jill Long Thompson (with 52.9% of the campus voting Daniels and only 27.2% voting Long Thompson), while the race between Congressman Steve Buyer and Democrat trial-lawyer Nels Ackerson has no obvious victor.

Some students have less than conventional means of predicting this election. Senior Ben Ladowski thinks the only safe incumbent is Governor Daniels. "When I'm running around the neighborhood, I see a lot of Obama and Daniels signs and I think that's how its going to go, and right now I see a lot more Nels Ackerson signs than Buyer."

"I'd say Crawfordsville is going to go for Obama considering all of the professors living here," says senior Mitch Rivers. "But I know a lot of those Obama supporters will also be voting Daniels. We've got a good governor with a great record—and a rock star presidential candidate."

# Alum Shares Earned Wisdom

## GARY JAMES NEWS EDITOR

Andrea James '89 was an 11-year-old boy when she first discovered the word transsexual. She found the term in a publication called "The Book of Lists," which listed ten famous transsexuals. She tried to do some follow-up research at her local library, but she could not find any books about the topic in the card catalog. She was disappointed. But now, having completed the transition from male-to-female, she dedicates both personal and professional time to filling the information void she first discovered as an 11-year-old boy.

After spending a decade in the advertising business, James is now a film consultant, actress, and LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) activist. She operates a free website, TS Roadmap, which provides practical information to transsexuals about the physical, legal, and social aspects of transition. She co-founded Deep Stealth Productions with her friend Calpernia Addams, whose male partner was murdered while in the army because of their relationship. They produce educational materials for transsexual women, focusing specifically on violence and the portrayal of trans people in the media. James is also a producer, director, and consultant, most notably she worked closely with Felicity Huffman in her role in TransAmerica. But James is also a member of the Wabash Class of 1989, a FIJI, Board of Publications President, and Swimming and Diving Team member. She was on campus this week, and she gave a speech last night in Korb Classroom,

"Identity, Gender, and Sexuality."

"I was invited by 'shOUT,'" James said. "I was really excited to hear from them because when I was here there was no gay group on campus. It was a very different time. People weren't really out on campus. Even people who considered themselves or self-identified as gay, it just wasn't discussed, like don't ask don't tell policy on campus. The mind set is really hard to get your head around. In that climate, you were very much discouraged from talking about sexuality. There was just a sense of conformity that seems like it's really lifted now."

Not having been back to Wabash in more than a decade, James said the atmosphere feels different to her.

"It kind of feels like a waking dream, it's very of strange," she said. "They say you can't step in the same river twice, and that's what it really feels like. There's a familiarity, but then there's so much that's unfamiliar and is new that it's not the same place I knew. So I'm looking forward to meeting more students, so I can get reacquainted with the feel of the school because I don't think that really changes."

Although James was very active on campus, she was not not. Classics Professor Josh Fischer was the first person she ever told at Wabash. She said the student-faculty relationship was significant part of her decision to attend Wabash.

"I was good friends with Josh Fischer," said the Greek, Latin, and English major. "He was my mentor, and the first person I came out to. He was very cool about it, very supportive. It took me a while to really get to where I was ready to do anything



STEVE ABBOTT | WABASH '09

1989 Wabash graduate Andrea James gave a talk last night in Korb Classroom titled "Identity, Gender and Sexuality. James is a film consultant, actress and LGVBT activist.

about it, even though I had finally told somebody. But I think it goes to show the kinds of professors you have here. I don't know anybody at any other school who has forged that kind of friendship with a professor: this sense that the professors really care about their students, not just in terms of their academic growth but in terms of their personal growth, as people. That's one of the reasons I came here.

James said she found qualities at

Wabash that she could not find at any of the other schools to which she applied. She grew up in Indiana, south of Indianapolis.

"I didn't choose an all-male school," James said. "I chose Wabash. I didn't apply to other all-male schools. Of the liberal arts schools that I applied to – they were all small schools in small towns – this was the one which resonated with me

See, JAMES, Page 2

# BACHELOR

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

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

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 300 words. The Bachelor reserves the right to edit letters for content, typographical errors, and length. All letters received become property of this publication for the purposes of reprinting and/or redistribution.

Profanity may appear in the publication, but only in cases of direct quote or if profanity is necessary to the content of the story. Please do not confuse profanity with obscenity. No article or picture of an obscene nature will appear in this publication.

The Bachelor is printed every Thursday at the Journal Review in Crawfordsville. It is delivered freely to all students, faculty, and staff at Wabash College. To receive a year's subscription, send a \$40 check to The Bachelor.

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## James

From Page 1

the most. I talked to professors. It was swimming and classics and being at a small school. It was a sense of seriousness that I wasn't getting elsewhere."

James separated her talk into five parts: her first 20 years, Wabash and the late 80s, her 20 years after graduation, the main issues she sees coming to the forefront in the next 20 years, and finally some "earned wisdom" from her time at Wabash and the intervening 20 years. For the next twenty years, James said she sees issues of bioethics, eugenics, and privacy as resurgent topics. With the unlocking of the human genome, she said the society will probably face serious ethical choices in the future, from insurance companies possibly using the genome to cherry pick those in their pool to employers using it to find pre-dispositions to disqualify people from being hired. But most

serious, she said, was the prospect of designer babies. James also mentioned how researches have already started the search for the gay gene.

"No one's looking for the straight gene," James said. "They are looking for the gay gene because where there is a cause there is a cure. That's how these people think. They think if they can identify the fetuses, they can abort them. The next wave of genocide is not going to be like Hitler. It's not going to be by the state probably. It's going to be this kind of distributive eugenics that occurs in-utero. It's going to be presented as a parental right. It's going to be presented almost of a consumer issue. And that's a pretty scary thing."

James also said she thinks society to expand its binary view of the world, that not all classifications fit into such a framework. She compared it to the division

between the United States and Mexico because the river is a natural boundary, but it's really arbitrary that the United States chose that river.

"It's really arbitrary that we decide this is the delineation for race, sexuality, or nationality," James said. "So I see sex and sexuality as social construct instead of an absolute truth. It's a way that we organize the world. Although it's really a spectrum, if I have to choose between two, this one feels more natural, although I probably fall somewhere in the middle. We all have characteristics of both groups."

James left parting words of advice to the Wabash community:

"I would hope that everyone would look at the things that they really want to do with their life because we don't have much time – and make the most of every day. And just be happy and do the thing that you love. Don't live for other

people. Don't try to meet other people's expectations. Go after the things that really mean something to you. Don't let go of those and 20 years later you will have accomplished many goals."

**"No one's looking for a straight gene. They are looking for a gay gene because where there is a cause there is a cure. That's how these people think."**

*Andrea James, Wabash '89*

## Congrats to Moot Court Competitors



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### Correction:

In the story regarding the mandatory chapel last week, quotes from Matt Hudson and Dan DeNormandie were inadvertently switched during the editing process. We apologies to the two students and for the misunderstanding.

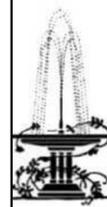
The *Bachelor* would like to congratulate one of its own, Alex Ingram '10, for taking the top prize in this year's competition. Two *Bachelor* staffers made it to the final round - Ingram, and Trevor Councillor '12. They competed alongside Steve Maynard '11 and Grant Gussman '09. Further congratulations to the 26 original competitors. Many thanks to the Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men, the Rhetoric Department and the judges for making this event possible.



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# School of Rock

**MILES ASHTON**  
**WABASH '12**

At most colleges and universities, a student would spend days recounting how they ran into their professor in a coffee shop or maybe a restaurant. Here at Wabash, we know that isn't the case. But what about your history professor nodding for you to take a solo? Or maybe the woman singing a chorus while you strum along is teaching you classics? A true testament to the Wabash, and liberal arts way, is the entity known as The Fragments.

Fronted by Dr. Morillo, this musical tour de arte is a creature in constant metamorphosis. Composed of students, faculty, a flamenco singer, and a department head, they offer the Wabash community sounds and concepts Wabash and the surrounding community often fail to probe.

While most bands are comprised of college and high school dropouts, The Fragments are just a little different. In fact, the faculty members of the band all hold doctoral degrees. Dr. Morillo is a History Department Chair, and takes control on the keyboard

and main vocals. Making her first "rock" appearance, Dr. Jaén-Portillo hails from Madrid, Spain. She's excited to bring her singing talents to a venue other than traditional flamenco or Spanish folk. Last, but surely not least, is Dr. Paul Myhre, the bass player and Assistant Director of the Wabash Center. And let's not forget the students! James Inman '09 rocks the skins (drums) and Jacob Glaser '10 wields the mighty axe (guitar).

The Fragments sport a unique lineup and an even more unique sound. If you like blues, you'll like them. If you like rock, you'll like them. If you like jazz, go figure, you'll like them. Pretty much, if you like any type of music, there will be some aspect you will enjoy about this band.

Dr. Jaén-Portillo went as far as to call this quirky style "Academic Rock". Yes, if The Fragments put out a CD, they would probably be sold right alongside the *School House Rock* Discography.

With songs like "Marginalia", a waltz about notes written in the margins of pages, or "Bioluminescence", the scientific term for glowing in the dark, you can get an idea who's writing the materi-



DREW CASEY | WABASH '12

DAZED AND CONFUSED: History Professor Stephen Morillo has been in multiple bands during his tenure at the College. He performs here with The Fragments at an Obama rally last Saturday.

al. It's no doubt "Dark Matter of Cool", "Theory of Mind", and "Ritual Stoning," can all make radio play, only when the DJs are witty hipsters or Morillo's students.

Performances have just started this year. Last Saturday the first public appearance of The Fragments was the Obama block party. The weather seemed chilly enough that Morillo found it fitting to make their opening number "Global Warming Blues".

Finding themselves missing a drummer (due to superior moot courting skills) for the first half of the performance, The Fragments utilized the formidable musicians they had at hand. Guitar solos and rolling bass lines permeated the air.

Dr. Morillo crooned such classics as, "Green Hair" and (a personal favorite) The Cure's "Just

Like Heaven".

Contrary to popular belief, this isn't Morillo's first band, not in a long run. Four years ago, two metalheads joked with Dr. Morillo about starting a Metallica cover band. Like all great teachers, the kind professor said he would pick up the keyboard and play with the students. After the two petitioners saw the time commitment in a functioning band, they left.

However, Dr. Morillo was still intrigued. He pulled together friends, and friends of friends to make Skrymir. They excelled cover songs, including: "Whisky In the Jar" by Thin Lizzy, "Easy Livin'" from Uriah Heep, and The Animals' "House of the Rising Sun."

Following Skrymir was Baxter 202, a jazzier, calmer version. The playing of certain songs

changed with the line-up. As Morillo recounts, "Green Hair used to be really fast and everything. Then we got the new guitar player who played more jazz. So I changed the chords around and it became an entirely new song, but it still rocks!" I concur.

As college goes, football rosters change, so does the lineup of this musical entity. This year ushered in a new sound, and a new name. While the origins of the name "The Fragments" are unclear, maybe a conclusion can be drawn to the fragments of the Dead Sea Scroll, or possibly the fragments of the Berlin Wall, or maybe just anything mysterious, historical, or fragmented.

Many things change about this band. Lineups, songs, sounds, and even names are all up in the air; but one fact doesn't, you need to experience them.



DREW CASEY | WABASH '12

Bassist and Assistant Director for the Wabash Paul Myhre plays along with student and guitarist Jacob Glaser '10 at the Obama Rally.



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## Vote: It'll Make You Big and Strong

With the presidential election less than a week away, you would have to live under a rock to not have an opinion about what should or will happen on Tuesday. With candidates advertising everywhere from video games to infomercials before the world series, the presidential candidates, as well as congressional, state, and local candidates, have lavished attention on you, the voters, in a way that will be written about for decades, or at least the next four years. So don't let them down.

### Vote.

Whether you vote for Senator John McCain or Senator Barack Obama, Governor Mitch Daniels or Jill Long Thompson, just vote. It'll make you big and strong. Not only that, but it could actually make a difference. The presidential race in Indiana is too close to call. The RealClearPolitics average gives a slight edge to Obama, 1.4 percent. Pollster.com gives McCain a 1.1 percent edge. And Fivethirtyeight.com, the website that Division III professors swear by, predicts McCain will win the state by three-tenths of a percentage

### The Issue:

Some think their vote won't matter, or they are not happy with the main candidates.

### Our Stance:

The presidential race is close in Indiana and voting is the responsibility of a responsible citizen.

point. Indiana, you finally matter.

But you should not just vote because the race in this state is close, but because the issues in this election are important, for you, for your family, and for our future.

McCain and Obama are both good men, but they are offering very different policies. They differ on tax policy, foreign policy, education policy, fiscal policy, health care policy, and virtually everything else.

You should make a quick trip to their websites to look up the specifics. If you don't like either vision, there are third-



BRENT A. KENT | WABASH '09

party candidates like Bob Barr, Ralph Nader, and Cynthia McKinney, offering very their own visions of where to take the country. But vote you must.

With recent polls showing nearly 80% of Americans dissatisfied with the current state of their country, you have an opportunity to put your should to the wheel of history and push it along in a different direction. This election may decide what type of world your children will grow up in, whether the opportunities you have had will be available for them.

### Vote.

As Wabash Men, gentlemen, and responsible citizens, we have an obligation to help shape our communities' future. And with this election, from the

top of the ticket to the bottom, you have that choice. Some Wallies are intimately involved in the election as volunteers, paid staffers, or chronic email senders, but you don't have to go that far to get involved.

You don't have to don a button, a bumper sticker, or yard sign. You don't have to engage in partisan bickering or awkward dinner conversations about your favorite candidate.

With the advent of absentee and early voting, you don't even have to stand in a line, at least around here. You just have to roll up your sleeves, look at the candidates positions, or whatever you base your political decisions, and cast your ballot.

It'll make you big and strong.

# Letters to the Editor

## Gentlemen's Rule Has Been Violated

Dear President White,

Wabash College has historically prided itself by having the single "Gentlemen's Rule." This rule was frequently broken during my time at Wabash College in 1965. Unfortunately, I have observed ongoing violations for the past eight years while my sons attended Wabash College.

Apathetic and indifferent students are often too lazy to get up and offer assistance to new students, families, and their friends.

Students have allowed their living unit to be "trashed" causing visits by parents to be a shocking and unpleasant experience.

Students are reported to wear shirts with logos that are sexually suggestive, which is crass, unacceptable, and insulting behavior. This is especially offensive to female professors.

Fraternity pledgship and activities within living units are often destructive and unhealthy with potentially

harmful and tragic consequences.

I am personally embarrassed about blindly accepting pledgship and hazing in 1965 (I was personally assured that this no longer occurred when my son enrolled in 2000). I remember the inappropriate acts, which were cruel and mean. There was nothing good that came from pledgship and hazing. Resentment and dislike for upperclassmen, who participated with sadistic pleasure, continues for some.

This behavior continued in 2000 when my son, Mark, was kicked out of the house for de-pledging. He arrived home at midnight with all of his belongings. My wife was angry. I have never forgotten the student's name and the unnecessary stress it caused my family. My thirty year relationship with Professor John Fischer allowed this issue to be resolved. Mark graduated in 2004 and is a loyal Wabash alumnus, who speaks fondly and proudly of his college days. John equally values his Wabash College

experience, but does have concerns about the structure of fraternity life. He is grateful for his friendships and the support of his professors. Why students de-pledge does not seem to generate much concern from the Dean's office other than its economic impact.

Acts of vandalism, destruction of property, and stupid fraternity pranks are common at the College. I do not understand the "shock" expressed by Dean Bambrey, when he read Mr. Schmutte's e-mail (dated 12/12/07) regarding vandalism at the Phi Kappa Psi house. I agree with the response that this was "malicious" and "criminal" behavior. This behavior has been silently tolerated and overlooked for decades and must stop. There should have been no shock or surprise.

The Administration and Board of Trustees share responsibility for tolerating the culture that is unly within the living units.

Over-zealous alumni and alumni in leadership positions, who boast of their "tough pledgships" and reminisce about the "good ol' days" need to be reminded of the definition of gentlemanly behavior.

The Greek System is not serving the College well and must be re-evaluated. Students should be a part of the whole Wabash community and not limit themselves to their own living unit.

I personally believe the College should assume more control regarding room and board. Students should eat breakfast and lunch in a common dining facility while dinner is spent in his respective living unit. The cost of room and board cannot be sustained. The food quality is unsatisfactory and

over priced. The days of students running their house has to stop. Failure to change will result in further destruction of College-owned property.

A refurbished student center with improved food services and a common dining area seems like a good idea.

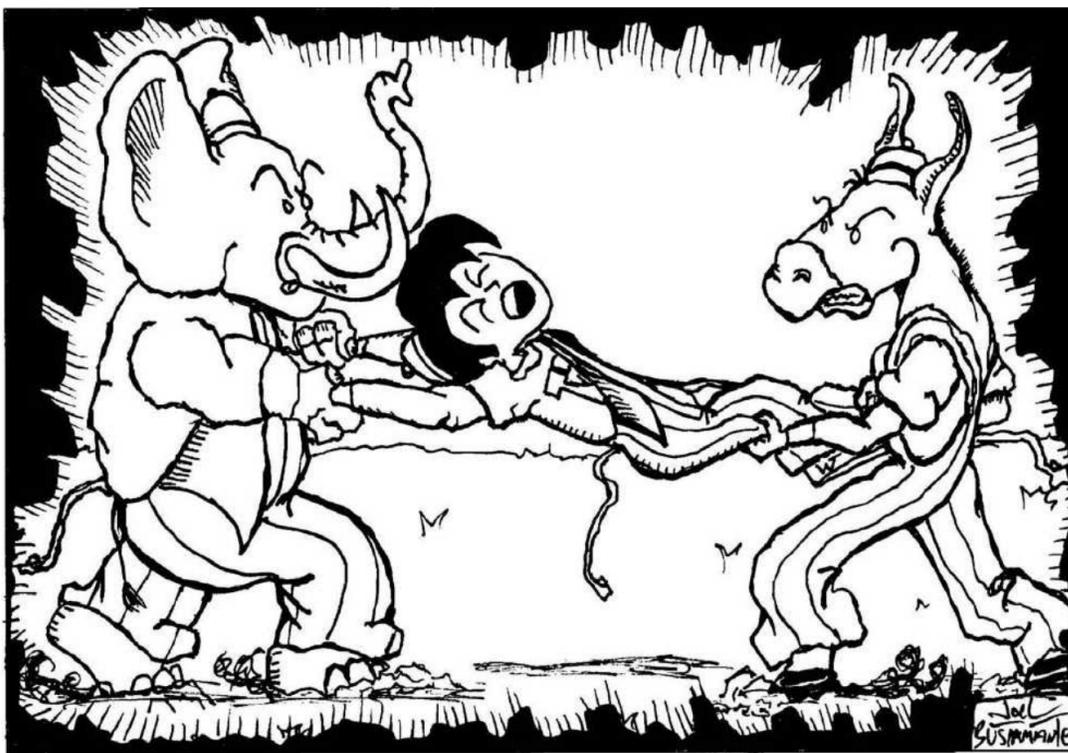
Finally, the most important tradition of Wabash College is its outstanding faculty. Dedicated and brilliant professors educating students and evolving into their advisors, confidants, and life-long friend is very unique to Wabash College. This tradition must be preserved, fostered, cherished, and never taken for granted. Acts of interest, kindness, and compassion by faculty towards students are never forgotten. I will never forget and will always be grateful to Professor John Fischer, who helped my son in his time of need. This type of tradition is what alumni, like myself, reminisce about in these fleeting years. This is why I support Wabash College.

Wabash College can be a better place when they truly expect students to behave gentlemanly and learn to think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively, and live humanely.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration of my opinion, and wishing the College continued success.

Respectfully,

Dr. Harry T. Stout III  
Internal Medicine  
Class of 1969



JOEL BUSTAMANTE | WABASH '11

Vote this Tuesday or Lego Wally will kill you.

# “Get’cha Head in the Game”

## Two Wabash Men Perform in the Vanity Theater’s Production of High School Musical

IAN BONHOTAL  
WABASH '12

Wabash College students are involved in the Crawfordsville community through service, jobs and internships, and, as it turns out, through theater, too!

The Vanity Theater, located at 122 South Washington St., is a homey, local mainstay of Crawfordsville which has historically been a place for the public to come together and enjoy productions of their favorite musicals and plays.

This year, The Vanity Theater will be putting on Disney’s *High School Musical* featuring two Wabash students: Reed Hepburn '12 and Kevin Billups '10.

*High School Musical* for anyone who’s been living under a rock for the past two and a half years, is Disney’s wildly success-

**“The biggest challenge, I would say would have to be time. We’re putting this production together in such a short amount of time.”**

*HSM Director John Blair, noting to the two week rehearsal time*

ful movie franchise, the third in the series having just come to theaters last week, debuting at number one in the box office while also holding the new record for opening weekend for a musical (\$42 million).

Director John Blair said that The Vanity Theater will be putting on a stage adaptation of the original movie. It hasn’t been easy to do, though, by any means.

“The biggest challenge, I would say, would have to be time,” Blair said. “We’re putting this production together in such a short amount of time. We’ve had some long, long days; once going 12 hours from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. By the time of our first showing, we’ll only have been rehearsing for two weeks.”

Wabash has had a history of being involved, and the theater is no exception. Hepburn and Billups have helped to make the rehearsals thus far a success, and have made an incredibly positive impression with Blair, who enjoys working with them.

“I love working with youth on stage,” Blair said. “And Wabash students bring a lot to the table; they’re helping with the show immensely and have much to be proud of.”

*High School Musical’s* influence has spread not just to its targeted audience members, but others as well. Billups, who plays Coach Bolton, has always enjoyed the spirit of the movie,



CHAD SIMPSON | WABASH '10

Junior Kevin Billups plays the Coach Bolton in the Vanity Theater’s Production of *High School Musical*.

and is excited to have the opportunity of bringing it to the stage.

“I had been a big fan of *High School Musical*, the movie,” he said. “Being a part of it now is like living in a dream. Surprisingly, doing this show has helped me grow as an actor.”

Hepburn, a Crawfordsville local by birth, is playing Ryan Evans and has been in 15 productions since he got into theater—most of which have been at The Vanity. He so far has one especially memorable moment from working on this production.

“For once, there’s one outstanding memory that immediately comes to mind for this show,” Hepburn said. “In one of

our first complete run-through’s, we were in the middle of one of my songs, ‘Bop to the Top.’ I’m supposed to spin around a couple of times and wind up at the front of the stage, but this time I misjudged exactly where the front of the stage was and ended up flying off, nearly kicking the assistant director in the face!”

One of the biggest difficulties for both Billups and Hepburn, as any student reading this can attest, is balancing schoolwork with their extracurricular activities.

“It has been a challenge, but I see it as a healthy one because it forces me to manage my time better,” Hepburn said. “When

I’m not at rehearsals I work a bit more efficiently [on assignments] because of it. The hardest part has been learning all the dances and lyrics in such a short amount of time; most shows rehearse for around six weeks!”

Disney’s hit theatrical adaptation of *High School Musical* opens at The Vanity Theater on October 30th, and will run on the 31st, as well as November 1st and 2nd.

Tickets are available through the telephone number 765-362-7077, as well as at the door.

The production promises to be excellent and, with two students of Wabash in prominent roles, it would be difficult for it not to be.

# Why Macs Are Better Than PCs

JOSHUA KOCH  
WABASH '12

The time when Windows was the big kid on the block seems to be coming to an end. In the past five years, more and more college students have been buying Apple computers and notebooks when they leave for school. This phenomenon is quite evident here at Wabash College.

Media Specialist Jeana Rogers, said it’s a different type of person that finds themselves drawn to Apple products. Rogers said that Mac OS X allows users to tailor their computer to fit them more as a user than is possible on a Windows OS.

“It’s just easier to maintain Apples,” said Rogers. When a student wants a computer that is going to perform constantly with few hiccups they often choose a Mac as a much simpler solution to a PC. Malicious coders writing viruses and spyware will usually write their detrimental programs to affect the largest sector of computers, which coincidentally run a version of Win-

dows. This means very few viruses exist for the Mac OS.

Apple gained a foothold in the education market during the 1990s. Desktop computers were widely advertised to schools in a hope that a child who learns to use a Mac in school early on will continue using one in later, private life.

Unfortunately Apple fell on hard time around the turn of the millennium and had to compete with the release of Windows 2000 and Windows XP. As a result, most schools began replacing their older Mac computers with new, cheap systems that ran a Windows operating system. It was not until the iPod began gaining huge popularity that other Apple products rode this “halo effect” and started to become mainstream.

Prior to Apple becoming a chic name in electronics, most students were expected to purchase laptops running Windows XP. Companies like Dell spent large amounts of time and money on advertising towards college students,

and, for the most part, it was successful. As Apple products became more and more popular, the prospective college student, always wanting to have the newest and coolest laptop for college, began looking more at MacBooks in lieu of other laptop makers like Dell.

Apple began an aggressive marketing campaign in 2006 against Microsoft with the now iconic “I’m a Mac and I’m a PC” commercials. Lately, the commercials have been attacking the poor reception and functioning of Vista, Microsoft’s latest OS.

The newest commercials attack Microsoft’s marketing plan which is costing the company over \$300 million, when that money could be used to help fix the bugs and issues in Vista, and the new plan by Microsoft to no longer refer to Vista by its name, only as Windows. That way, people won’t associate the much-maligned Vista with Windows anymore. This marketing campaign has helped Apple sales soar and grow faster than any other computer

maker in the country.

Wabash students took a technology survey over the summer, and the results correlate perfectly. In 2004, when the iPod was still gaining popularity, but still fairly unknown to most, approximately 4.9% of students who took the survey indicated that they were using an Apple product. Two years later in 2006, well after Apple had demonstrated its supremacy in the MP3 player industry, the amount of Apple users raised to 6.2%. And in 2007, the year in which Apple launched the wildly successful iPhone during the summer, the amount of Mac users more than doubled to 13.2%.

The student body of Wabash, much like the rest of the country, will probably continue to use Apple products more and more, as their popularity continues to climb.

“It all comes down to personal taste,” said Rogers. “The ease of use that Apple has built into their products make it easy, and Apple always has a close tie to education. Besides, they’re just cool.”

**“It all comes down to personal taste. The ease of use that Apple has built into their products make them easy, and Apple always has a close tie to education. Besides, they’re just cool.”**

*Media Specialist Jeana Rogers*

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OCTOBER 30, 2008

# Sphinx Club Sponsors Mustache Competition

STEVE HENKE  
WABASH '12

Facial hair may be an unusual way to show school spirit, but that hasn't stopped 136 Wallies from pledging their upper lip to dear old Wabash.

This year's campaign has been championed by Kevin Andrews '10. The Sphinx Club member hopes for a new tradition that will unite the campus.

The rules are simple: grow a mustache to show your school spirit. On the Monday before the Bell Game, at 11:00 P.M., a panel of five judges will select the top mustache. No specific mustache is the goal; judges will discern based on creativity and overall mustache presence. Prizes are being "looked into."

Unbeknownst to many Wallies, the Monon Mustache actually originated last year with junior Joseph Hawkins. The purpose remarkable mirrors the current campaign: to provide an alternative to the Monon Mohawk and unite the campus in ferocious, sophisticated style.

Hawkins himself has bowed out of the mustache growing for personal reasons, citing J.D. Salinger as an example. "My

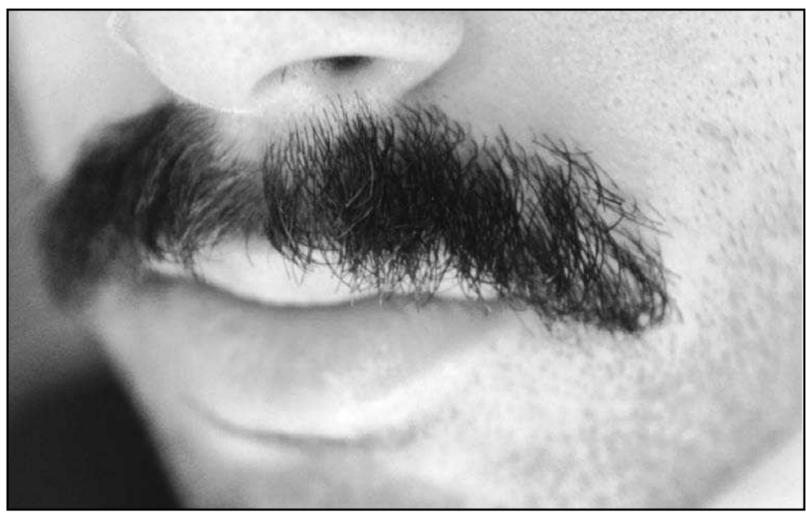
*Bachelor will run the 'Best of the Best' in the Monon Bell Issue*

mustache is going into hiding and it will most likely stay there for the rest of my life."

This year holds several promising mustached men. The first confirmed professor in the movement, Paul Vasquez of the Political Science department, plans to shave his infamous beard before the game to reveal a ferocious mustache. Freshman Joshua "Gatsby" Koch stands out. Andrews notes Koch "has a passion for the mustache."

Hawkins cited Junior Mark Turpin's perseverance makes him a winner and said, "Tony Neymeiyer's face muff is second to none."

For prospective mustache growers, the founders give hints to a successful mustache. Andrews suggests General Lew Wallace as a prime example. He even contends that Jason Giambi's mustache granted luck to the Yankees earlier this year—perhaps suggesting a broader meaning behind the mustache.



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '12

Sophomore Samir Kawak shows his Wabash pride by proudly sporting an already vibrant mustache. The *Bachelor* will run the 'Best of the Best' in the Monon Bell issue.

"The mustache," said Andrews, "is an iconic symbol behind virility."

As for Kevin Andrew's personal story, he says it's a matter of overcoming "trials and tribulations." His father and his seven

uncles all sport a mustache while his mother's side lacks the genetic predisposition. But in his quest to "inspire instantaneous respect," he is working diligently to grow a Monon mustache.

# Levin: Shocked by Philosophy

JOSHUA KOCH  
WABASH '12

Visiting Professor of Philosophy Julia Levin came to Wabash in search of employment and found a community of close knit students and faculty.

Levin graduated from high school in Pennsylvania and attended Hiram College in Ohio. In her early years of undergraduate studies at Hiram, selecting a major seemed distant and vague, leaving her in a sort of moratorium academically. It was not until she took a class on existentialism when she realized that philosophy was her calling in life. "I was raised in by very conservative, Christian parents," Levin said, "and talking about atheist existentialists was just a shock to the system, and I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed thinking about things in a different way that I never thought about things before. It was the most fun class I had so far, and I was hooked, and that was it." While she dedicates most of her time to her profession, she has set time aside for karate.

One activity that Levin partakes in is karate. She enjoyed the martial art so much that she used her experiences in it in her

dissertation at Pennsylvania State University. Levin completed her doctoral studies this May.

Before Wabash whenever she would teach a discussion based class, she was accustomed to talking the whole time. She would have at least part of a lecture prepared if the students weren't willing to talk. When she attended her first few classes at Wabash, things changed. "I got two sentences in," Levin said, "and there would be a question, or someone had something to say."

The level of involvement has been surprising, and pleasantly so." However, Levin has some concerns with being a woman at an all-male college. "Sometimes I wonder if the guys are refraining from saying what they really think because they don't want to offend me as a woman," Levin said. Having taught in both co-educational and single sex environments, she said that, "I don't think it's as different as I've been expecting. Really, I teach the same material, I get the same kinds of questions – it hasn't been that different for me."

Levin sought out a job at Wabash because of the amount of involvement that the professors have with the students' learning and even social life. "I wanted to



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '12

A graduate of fellow liberal arts institution Hiram College, Visiting Professor of Philosophy Julia Levin specializes in existential and feminist philosophical studies.

be able to work in a place where there's a lot of student-faculty interaction," she said, "and where my role with educating the students wouldn't just start and

stop at the classroom door." As faculty do not have access to the cooks at fraternity houses, Levin often dines at the Sparks Center, and said that they have a good

salad bar. Perhaps it does not take a doctorate in philosophy to discover there is food in Sparks that is not only palatable but enjoyable.

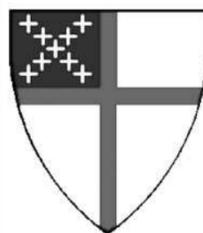
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# Bringing Video Games Into the Academy

ADAM PHIPPS  
WABASH '12

In the realm of video games, most avid gamers point to the Role-Playing genre as the most artistic and creative domain in the medium. Not the case nowadays, according to Department Chair of Theatre Professor Abbott, admitting his developing taste for the Shooter genre.

"Currently, shooters portray the newest ideas in theoretical innovation," Abbott said.

Games such as the Fallout series and Gears of War contain role-playing elements integrated into the familiar genre that add depth to storyline progress and character development.

"We're blurring the lines between genres," said Abbott, referring to how such integration of various game play elements span across genres quite often in the modern gaming scene.

These are the types of ideas held by Abbott, a leading figure in the study of intellectual aspects of video gaming in the 21st century today.

Professor Abbott teaches "From Dungeons to Azeroth," a Freshman Tutorial detailing the history of the genre of Role Playing Games. In the class he also explains the power behind the development of video games that is unique to the medium. The Associate Professor also manages his own blog for intellectual responses to video games, The Brainy Gamer, which receives around 10,000 hits a week on average.

The tutorial serves two purposes: to focus on the development of the Wabash man as a student, fulfilling the common goal presented by the entire group of tutorials dedicated to the incoming Wabash class and to focus on the historical overview of the Role-Playing genre as a whole.

However, the class begins the year with



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '12

Theater Professor Michael Abbott lectures in his Freshman Tutorial on Roll-Playing games (RPGS). While on sabbatical last year, Abbott developed The Brainy Gamer, a blog dedicated to an intellectual discussion on video games. It receives on average 10,000 hits per week.

material dating back to before the existence of video games, studying such notable writers as J.R.R. Tolkien and Joseph Campbell. By studying mythology and heroic archetypes, the class attempts to capture the paradigm of video game depth, the narrative. Abbott describes this as "fitting into the epic tradition."

"The RPG is a very complex system," Abbott said. "You develop strategies for analyzing how this complex system is built through studying these basic elements."

The students in his tutorial have already learned a plethora of knowledge on the depth of video games.

"I have realized that an RPG provides its players with communication to fiction and literature as well as books or journals do," said freshman Kristijonas Paltanavičius.

Others have commented on how the class has changed their views of video games. Wabash freshman William Peacock was previously just concerned with the immediate fun factor of a game.

"I think now that I realize just how intellectually thorough developers must be when they design a game," Peacock said.

The development of video games has not been unlike the early development of the cinema. Abbott said the language of any new form of media must be discovered over time. As seen in the early silent films, narrative was not an option first

available in the gaming world. As technology develops, a wide variety of avenues open up to the medium, and the telling of a story becomes much more accessible.

However, Professor Abbott revealed that video gaming has begun to gain many advantages over the limitations of cinema, thanks to the advent of new technologies. One major factor is that video games can afford to be "more ambitious in both design and display." While most games utilize cinematic-esque "cut-scenes," others, such as the Half-Life series, present the storyline through first-hand experiences and actions governed by the player. Due to the lack of restriction on complicated themes within the medium, developers have conveyed cultural models of human behavior uncommon to the public eye.

"Video games are significantly more likely to present strong images of non-mainstream characters than film," said Abbott. "You can be a spiky-haired youngster with sexual ambiguities and still serve as the hero."

Video games have had more power than any other medium in affecting the player on a personal level. Abbott said interactivity is the key. Abbott mentioned how a player must decide how to deal with the budding moral dilemmas appearing in recent titles. Whether a choice made by a player helped them win the game or not, "those choices have actual consequences."

How much those consequences lie with the character and the player depends on the psychological complexity involved in the decision.

In games such as Mass Effect and last year's overall game of the year BioShock, players choose the fates of others' lives, counterbalanced by giving more power-ups to the player who makes the more immoral choice. This inverse relationship between character development and player morality remains a highly-conversed topic on many internet forums today.

The Brainy Gamer is one such forum. Its purpose is "to create a community of serious gamers to gather and talk about games." The blog site consists of a variety of articles written by Abbott that elicit intelligent discussions from multiple people and sources online.

"I'm interested in how games convey meaning to the gaming culture as a whole," Abbott said. "By doing that I'm modeling what we do here [at Wabash]."

More as a learning tool than a chat room, the blog provides different insights as why gamers play games, whether for the simple thrill of total completion, or for the experience and full accomplishment.

"The language that we use to describe the experiences we have in playing games is evolving," Abbott said. "Pay attention to what you're doing. Games are so rich today; you should explore them."



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '09

Abbott's Freshman Tutorial focuses specifically on the historical overview of Roll-Playing games.

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# Crawford Brings the Funny

## Students, SCAC Agree: Fall National Act Well Worth the Cost

**ADAM BECERRA**  
**WABASH '12**

Lavell Crawford, a rising comedian after placing second in NBC's television show *Last Comic Standing*, came to Wabash Saturday as entertainment in the evening for Family Day. Lavell Crawford walked to stage laughing and left the stage leaving the crowd laughing as well.

"It was a good crowd, they had a good time, as long as they were laughing," Crawford said.

Freshman Ian Bonhotal loved the comedy Lavell had to offer, "The comedian was over the top, racy, and just plain funny." Bonhotal's only concern is if the administration liked it as well. "I think he did an excellent job, but I'm worried that some of his content may keep him from being invited again."

Crawford's comedy was not only about him though; he brought laughs about Wabash

and people in the crowd. Crawford engaged the audience poking fun about the all men school situation. He made his comedy personal by talking to people in the audience and taking his comedy from what they said. The only question seemed to be was if Crawford was worth the \$15,000 the SCAC had spent to bring him to Wabash for an hour and a half. Director of Student Activities Steve House thinks Crawford was the perfect choice for the night and well worth the money.

"Lavell was our choice because he is rapidly becoming one of the most sought after comics on the college circuit," House said. "He was runner-up last year to Jon Reep in *Last Comic Standing*."

House also talked about the bargain of contracting Crawford to come because the cost of the show was actually cheaper than a few years ago when Louis Black performed at the College. Black

was \$29,000 and the SCAC took in \$230 at the door, whereas Lavell cost \$15,000 and \$330 was taken in at the door. House reiterated that the Student Senate, where the SCAC derives its budget, is actually saving money this fall to present a larger National Act in the spring.

House said he wasn't sure what students would want in the way of a comedian for a National Act. House said comedians, like everything else, do not work cheap. Larry The Cable Guy is now in the \$200,000 range, but House joked that Don Rickles might be available. However, students seemed to agree that Crawford was a good deal for a comedian.

"I loved Lavell Crawford!" Jake Moore '12 said. "He definitely was worth the \$15,000. Lavell knew how to push the edge, and when he did go a little too far he was always apologetic making him a great comedian."

Sophomore Drew Palmer also praised Crawford's comedic antics even expressing that more money could have been spent, "He was edgy, funny, and well worth the \$15,000," Palmer said. "I think a proper stage would have been beneficial if more money could be spent and a comedian of his standing deserved a better stage than in a basketball court."

Bonhotal, on the other hand, felt that both the money and the stage set-up were not a problem at all.

"He was well worth the money, much more so than Life-house appears to be," Bonhotal said. "An hour and a half of hysterics [is better than] a couple of hours of mild boredom as I sway



DREW CASEY | WABASH '12

Former *Last Comic Standing* Finalist Lavell Crawford performed to a large crowd at Chadwick Court last Saturday.



DREW CASEY | WABASH '12

Crawford, pictured here with freshman Reginald Steele, made good use of his venue. Many of his jokes were Wabash centered.

to songs I've never heard; and at less than a fifth of the price!"

Crawford continued his joking on Wabash when he gave his opinion of the College.

"The school is nice, it's clean... but at an all guys school you ain't getting to look at any of the co-eds, but it was cool, I can't complain. The real question is how do you all like it here, because I'm leaving and you all will still be here?"

Crawford smiled when he explained that he chose to come

to such a small all men school because it was spotlight entertainment with pay. He said that there were a lot of pluses for him to come perform here, so he did. Crawford said the best thing about being a standup comic is making people laugh and that is what really matters to him.

"When people come up to show, have a good time, and you know you gave them a relief it's always a plus to me," Crawford said.

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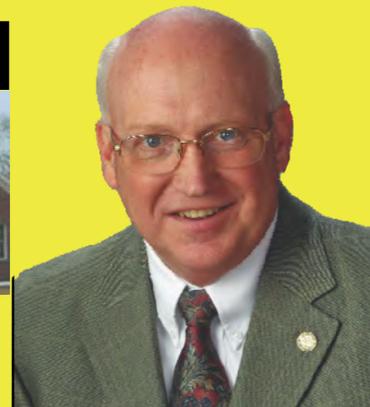
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# A Three-Headed Monster

## *Kimp, Sobecki and Yoder combine to give Little Giants a formidable rushing tandem*

**BRANDAN ALFORD**  
**WABASH '12**

As the third-ranked Little Giant football team heads into its matchup with conference foe Oberlin (2-5, 2-2) this Saturday, they find themselves in a position offensively that has been missing for the past few years—balanced.

Wabash's offense ranks 11th nationally heading into this week's contest, and that is due in large part to a resurgent rushing

attack that has eluded the Little Giants in recent years. This year's ground attack has netted an average of 177.71 yards per game, a sharp increase over last year's 101.1 yards per game. That average has been good enough for fourth in the competitive North Coast Athletic Conference along with being the overall leaders in scoring, passing, and total offense.

This resurgence is due in large part to the combined effort of running backs Bobby Kimp, senior, Evan Sobecki, junior, and

Derrick Yoder, sophomore.

Wabash has had a recent history of prolific offenses that has been founded around an explosive passing game. This year, the coaching staff was looking for a little bit of a change.

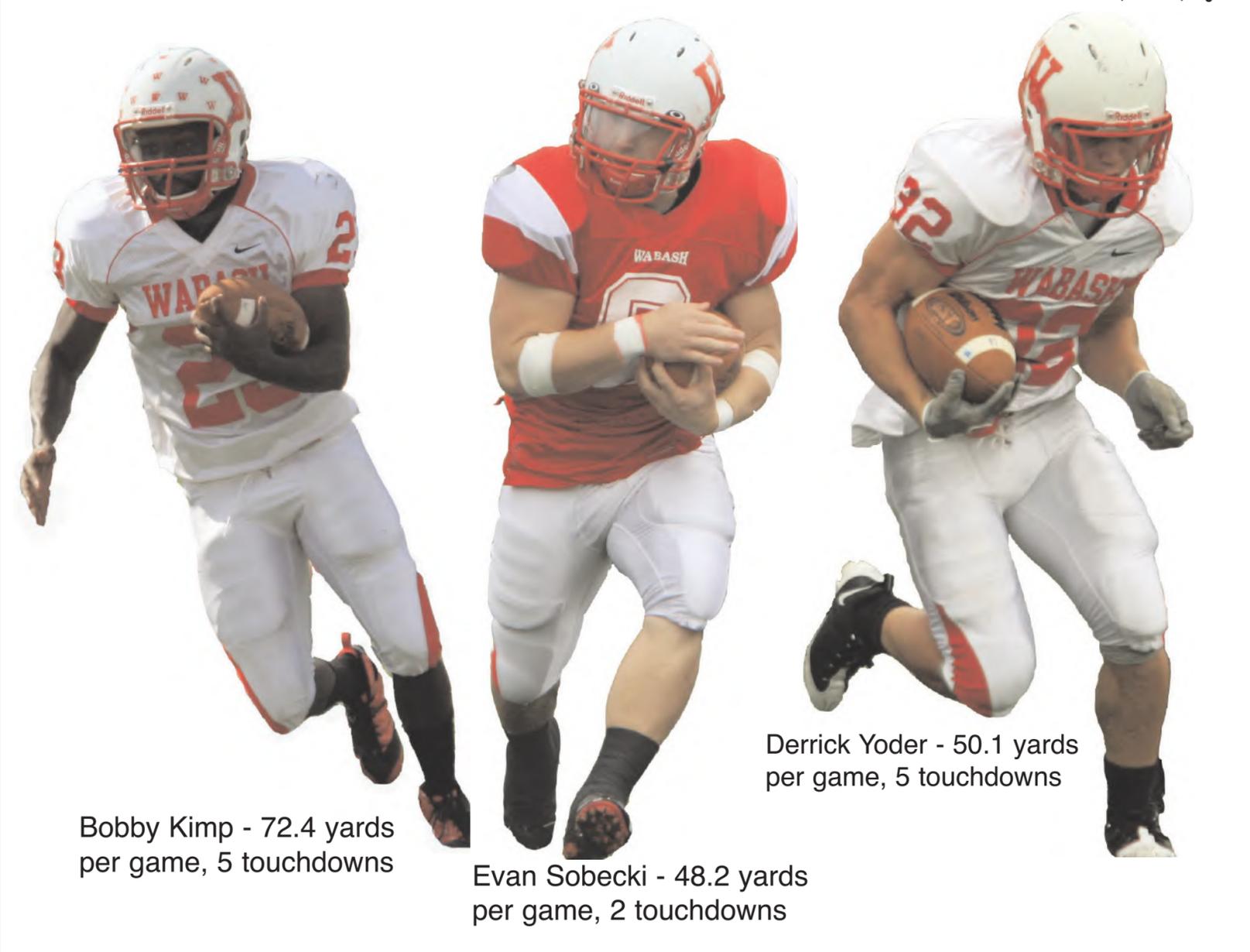
"Going into this year, we were looking to be more balanced offensively," said first-year running backs coach Ashton Northern. "We wanted to be more 50/50 in terms of running and passing. In the past, [Wabash] has seemed to have passed more."

Going into the season, the coaching staff knew there would not be a "feature" back in Wabash's offensive attack. "By the end of spring ball, we knew we would be working with a running back by committee type of offense," Northern said. "All three of those guys [Kimp, Sobecki, and Yoder] bring something different to the table. They each have a tangible weapon that they do different from the other guys; but the one thing they all do well is they all have great vision." Coming off of a tough victory at Wittenberg two weeks ago, Northern was pleased by the offense's ability to lean on the run throughout much of the victory over Wooster this past Saturday, "It was good to be able to

establish the run last week. We ran early in the game and got them rolling. We had 50 carries last week, that is unheard of in the college game," Northern concluded.

This season, Head Coach Eric Raeburn's first, has seen a team not only adjust to a new offensive scheme, but thrive in it. That has transitioned the offensive attack from more of a pass-heavy offense to one with nearly perfect balance. "I'm happy with how the guys have played so far," Raeburn said. "There are still areas that we feel our offense needs to improve on, but I've been proud of the progress our guys have made. It's not easy to learn a new system." This

See, ATTACK, Page 12



Bobby Kimp - 72.4 yards per game, 5 touchdowns

Evan Sobecki - 48.2 yards per game, 2 touchdowns

Derrick Yoder - 50.1 yards per game, 5 touchdowns

# Football Stays Undefeated vs. Wooster

## *45-24 victory over the Scots puts Wabash alone on top of NCAC*

**CHUCK SUMMERS**  
**SPORTS EDITOR**

The Little Giants football team took control of their North Coast Athletic Conference destiny with a 45-24 win over Wooster on Saturday. The victory over the Scots puts Wabash alone at the top of the NCAC standings, with Oberlin and Hiram the only two conference opponents left for the unbeaten Little Giants.

"It feels great to be in the driver's seat," said sophomore defensive back Dan Ryan Wood, who led the defense with nine total tackles on Saturday. "Now we've just got to get back to business and work on doing whatever it takes to finish out our first goal, which is winning the conference."

Wood and the rest of the Little Giants defense faced a difficult task in trying to stop Wooster quarterback Austin

Holter, who came into the game leading the Scots with 1,198 passing yards and 445 rushing yards.

"It's definitely a task to slow down a player like that," Wood said. "Our worst games as a defense are against guys who can throw it and run it. The key is not allowing him to get into your head and just playing your game."

It was the defense who got in Holter's head on Saturday, forcing four interceptions, one returned 78 yards by junior Derrin Slack for a touchdown. Junior defensive back Addrian Frederick led the team with two picks. The defense also recovered two fumbles while allowing 420 total yards.

Offensively, the running game set the pace for the Wabash win. The Little Giant rushers combined for 239 yards, led by junior Evan Sobecki, who had 72 yards and a touchdown off of 11 carries.

Sophomore Derrick Yoder added 71 yards and two touchdowns, and senior Bobby Kimp ran for 69 yards and a score of his own. Sobecki, Yoder and Kimp have developed into a formidable rushing tandem, leading the Little Giants to 177.7 rushing yards per game.

"All three of them are great runners," said Head Coach Erik Raeburn. "We've got a lot of confidence in all three of them, they all execute the offense properly. If they get the blocking up front, they'll get their yards. They're solid, dependable guys."

Junior quarterback Matt Hudson added 128 yards through the air. Sophomore Kody Lemond led the receivers with 53 yards off four catches.

Now the Little Giants set their sights on Oberlin, who has struggled to a 2-5 record so far this year. The Yeomen have been devastated by injuries this season, including a number of starting linemen and leading rusher RV Carroll, 2007 NCAC Offensive Player of the Year, who suffered a knee injury four weeks ago.

Defensively, sophomore linebacker Austin Richards leads a Yeomen squad that has struggled this season. Richards has 55 tackles, two sacks and a fumble recovery for his defen-

sive squad, which ranks just 224th in the country in total defense.

The game will start at 1:00pm Saturday at Byron P. Hollett Stadium.



ALEX MOSEMAN | WABASH '11

Junior defensive back Chris Schweigel goes low to lay a hit on Wooster receiver Zack Gust in Saturday's win. Schweigel had five total tackles.



## It's Not All Yellowtail or Olivier

**JACOB STUMP**  
FEATURES EDITOR

Few drinks have the allure of wine. Whether in the context of the foremost sacrament of Christianity, libations made by Greeks in offerings to Zeus, or a sorry attempt by a penniless college student to impress a date with a bottom shelf bottle from Kroger's, wine is respected as the drink of society and sophistication. Said young Hemingway, "Wine is one of the most civilized things in the world, and it offers a greater range for enjoyment and appreciation than, possibly, any other purely sensory thing."

So, is any wine good wine?

"Oh my goodness no", Professor of Classics David P. Kubiak said. A classicist by trade and Romanist by conviction, Kubiak's affection for wine began as an early teen. Wine was the business of his father, whose job it was to make the brand Château Mouton-Rothschild popular in the U.S. "Unfortunately, he succeeded", Kubiak said. "I wouldn't drink the stuff if it were the last drink on earth."

Make no mistake – Kubiak likes wine. But to say he merely "likes" wine seems wrongly pedestrian.

Wine inspires Kubiak, and the inspiration is not the type that meddles in grocery store wine aisles. Nor is it the type that becomes satisfied with taste. Many wines taste good, but those that appeal to Kubiak are excellent not for the chance effect they produce on the palette – rather, the appeal of wine is about a French word: *terroir*, meaning the whole cultural meaning and significance that comes from the specific land in which a particular wine is produced.

"To me these wines are artifacts", Kubiak said. "They are artifacts just as much as a painting in a museum would be. They are products of culture – products of more than a thousand years of culture."

What more fitting way for a classicist to think about wine?

Kubiak specializes in French Bordeaux and French Burgundy, and self-admittedly knows very little about any other wine. He only drinks American wine when given to him, and mentions the trendy wines now being produced in California with a scoff and tone of ridicule. One recalls the moment from Plato's Allegory of the Cave when, having been brought from the shadows of ignorance and been enlightened to the true

ways of the world, those enlightened insist on staying in the light and look with a distant disdain on their former shadowy peers. Having been initiated into the otherworldliness of fine wines, all others seem merely the dregs of the drink. But a beginner must start somewhere.

"There is nothing really that compares with the French Bordeaux and Burgundy in terms of an aesthetic experience," Kubiak said, "and to know what that experience is, you have to start tasting. You can start with the generic wines, and then move up the ladder."

First and foremost, Kubiak explained, is the proper technique of drinking. Use stemware, and always hold the glass by the stem so not to heat the wine or smudge the glass. Swirl the glass to aerate the wine, and then bring it to your nose and breathe deeply. "To me," Kubiak said, "the nose is about 70 percent of the wine, so I tend to spend a long time smelling the wine." Next take it in your mouth and swoosh it around as if you were using mouthwash. Different parts of the tongue have different receptors, so you want to make sure the wine hits all of them. Then swallow, and make your judgment

about the total experience of the wine. If its mark eludes you the first time, try again. Repeat.

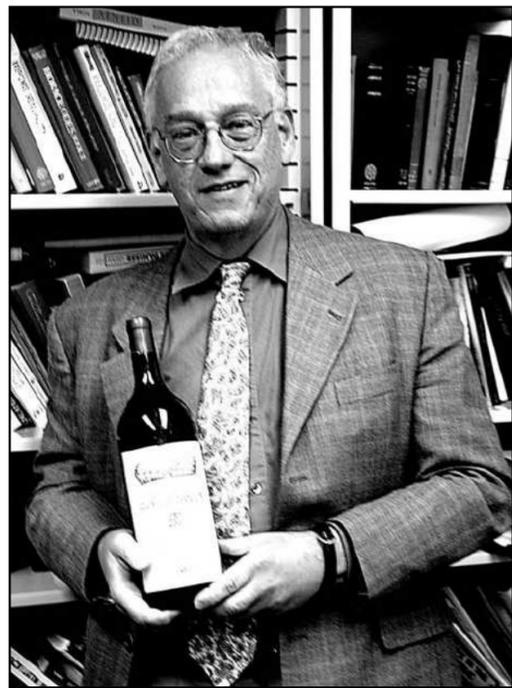
If the event excites you enough, you might become a classicist.

"Classicists have a reputation wherever they are of being interested in wine and food", Kubiak said. "Wine is civilized, and one thinks of Latin and Greek as civilizing subjects. I suppose it's something to do with the traditionally conservative nature of the profession and its association with Oxford and Cambridge. The common rooms of Oxford and Cambridge sort of float on a sea of sherry."

Kubiak admits being addicted to wine, but the addiction, like the wine being drunk, isn't your normal type.

"The addiction is distinctly not to drink", Kubiak said. "I never feel compelled to drink, but I very often feel compelled to buy. Getting the catalog, opening it up, and looking at the range of the estimates, it releases some kind of endorphin. Drinking is obviously not the least part of the pleasure, but it is not 100 percent."

For the Wabash student, gaining a similar thrill from browsing wines may perhaps come while walking the wine aisle of a gro-



CHAD SIMPSON | WABASH '10

Professor of Classics David P. Kubiak stands in his office with a magnum - just something to drink from home, he said. He keeps most of his wine in a storage in Chicago.

cer. Bereft of a genteel supplier, students are left to choose from those wines not meant to be aged but drunk immediately. Left to such, Kubiak has one suggestion: the Ecco Domani Pinot Grigio, which he thinks a "perfectly reasonable \$8.95 bottle of wine that is great to drink. It is what you'd call an easy quaffer."

And, indeed, it is a wine – that is, it is made from a grape. "Wine is the fermented juice of grapes and nothing else", Kubiak said. So what one calls elderberry wine and strawberry wine isn't really wine but simply fermented juice. It makes sense – "In Strawberry Vino Veritas" just doesn't have the same ring as the original.

## No Attendance in Austria?

**PATRICK GRIFFITH**  
WABASH '10

Studying abroad in Vienna, Austria this semester, I've observed many cultural oddities. The most glaring one is education.

Part of the study abroad experience is getting to know local people. I've a much easier time than some other IES students, because I live with an Austrian college student who was born and raised in Vienna. He is our RA – of sorts. Other IES students in my apartment building and I soon realized our RA still acted like he was on vacation, even though our classes had begun weeks before. We asked him why.

He told us that his classes didn't start until mid-October and that the semester ended in February. That sounded O.K., until he proceeded to tell us that they get about four weeks off for Christmas and New Year's. This is a significantly less chunk of time than what we spend from August to December in the classroom, receiving only one week off for Thanksgiving and two days off for mid-semester. Already this European style of education was exciting!

My RA then told us that, being a student at the very large University of Vienna, their schedules were full of classes offered at nearly all times of the day, everyday – including Friday nights and

weekends. I've taken some courses at IUPUI and have been reading up on programs they offer for post-Wabash study, and not once did I notice a class met on Sunday. As for Wabash—all of our classes are done by 4 PM on weekdays. As he was sharing this information with us, he was laughing, because of what came out next. There is no attendance policy for class!

The professors are accommodating, however, and supply the students with the information and books they will be teaching throughout the course, and they expect to see the students for the final exam, the only time progress is measured. The tests are strictly over the book—no class material is covered.

Even in my Institute, I am able to experience somewhat of a European approach to courses. We do have an attendance policy to ensure students are in class – a bit ironic, I think, since we are the ones used to mandatory attendance policies – and the usual quiz or test throughout the semester to measure our progress. We even have a week for midterms following a required German test. That is far from a true European education. The similarity, though, is that my professors have given out a syllabus with the required readings and what will be covered in lecture for each day. There aren't assignments for what to read, and one brave student asked one day why that was. The professor sim-

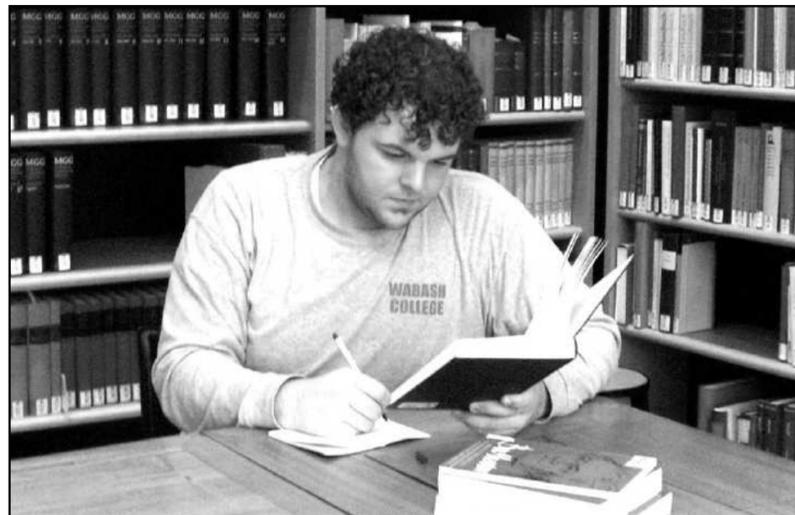


PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK GRIFFITH

Patrick Griffith '10 is one of the many juniors studying abroad in the fall semester.

ply responded, "All readings [on the syllabus] are applicable. The more you read, the more you are informed." He left it at that.

I've learned from my Austrian friends, though, that Austrians and most other Europeans view the American education system to be much better. They think this exactly because of the items mentioned: students are provided with educational structure, they go to class, they can speak with their professors, and participation is

encouraged. For yet another point, American students learn and get through school faster! My RA is 25 years old and still has a year to go for his Bachelors degree in Sports Journalism. He just told me this week that 25 is the average age of students at his academic level. I shared with him that I could be finishing up a Master's degree by the time I'm 25, and that would be after picking up 3 Bachelor degrees! His comment to that was, "Yeah, that's just how we do it in Austria, though."

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# The Absolute Importance of Alien

I had originally intended to review *Saw V* this week, and I had counted on being able to savage the film relentlessly. Then I decided that you've all probably made up your minds about the series at this point, and that I didn't actually want to see the movie. At all.

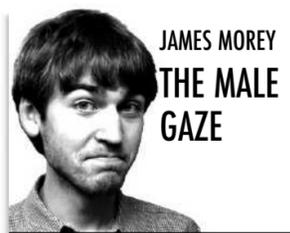
Instead, I'll take inspiration from the screening of *Aliens* that several students from Professor Porter's freshman tutorial held and talk about the *Alien* series. Consider this a set of DVD reviews.

The four films that comprise the *Alien* franchise (I'm excluding both *Aliens* vs. *Predator* films on the grounds that they make no sense) cover wide thematic and stylistic grounds. They have also received mixed critical and commercial success. Interestingly enough, all four films were directed by directors who either had a good deal of fame, were in the process of becoming famous, or would go on to achieve fame. The first, *Alien*, was directed by Ridley Scott of *Blade Runner* fame. The second, *Aliens*, was directed by a James Cameron who had just finished his breakout smash *Terminator 2*. *Alien 3* was the directing debut of David Fincher, who

went on to direct *Se7en* and *Fight Club*. *Alien Resurrection* was directed by french filmmaker Jean-Pierre Jeunet, director of *Delicatessen*, *Amelie*, and *A Very Long Engagement*. Also of interest is the writer of *Alien Resurrection*: Joss Whedon, best known as the creator of the Buffy television series and *Firefly*.

This is a franchise with pedigree, and it has had a cultural influence to match. The first film, *Alien*, is first and foremost a horror film, and it is easily one of the most effective horror films of all time. *Alien* took the basic premise of a slasher film - a dwindling number of survivors stalked by a single, ruthless aggressor - and transplanted it into the total isolation of a small craft in outer space. H.R. Giger's design for the titular alien blended ambiguous sexual imagery with a host of nightmare-fueling traits, all of which were revealed only in the smallest glimpses by Ridley Scott's astute direction.

The concealing of a threat to heighten its terror to and draw upon the audience's imagination to fuel its fears was nothing new at the time, but *Alien* proved decisively that a seldom-glimpsed nightmare is altogether more horrifying than one



revealed all at a once. The attention to detail in the design of the human technology showed a remarkable consistency that lent every moment an authentic immediacy. While *Alien* inspired a host of films that stole its trappings without capturing its soul, it's lessons in horror are still being applied.

Perhaps most exciting was *Alien's* portrayal of a female protagonist who's allowed to be capable, in control, and fully human without being presented as a male fantasy. Throughout the series, Ellen Ripley remains a complex and inspiring hero once devolving into a stereotype.

Arguably more influential than *Alien* is its action-adventure sequel *Aliens*, which for all intents and purposes created the modern concept of a space marine: *Starcraft* directly quotes *Aliens* and draws Marine behav-

ior from the film; every cigar-chomping sergeant and tough-talking trooper in the Halo series is the very image of those in *Aliens*; and, of course, there's Doom. Though Heinlein's novel *Starship Troopers* is possibly the earliest defining work on the characters, it is *Aliens* that modern fiction draws its imagery from. Ironically, the 90's film adaptation of *Starship Troopers* features soldiers more clearly based on Cameron's film than the novel they're ostensibly taken from.

In addition, *Aliens* set new standards in in-camera special effects. The end-film creature is still a marvel to behold, even to our CG-pampered eyes. It's remarkable that even our best CG has yet to match a well-constructed set of animatronics from the 80's in realism. Good engineering lacks that CGI shine that pulls us out of the moment in modern effects films.

*Alien 3* is remarkable primarily for its poor reputation among fans of the franchise, although it is by no means a bad film. A number of director David Fincher's later themes of humanity and the depths and heights to which it can plumb and soar make appearances, and the film fills the "dark

and brooding" trilogy spot more usually covered by the second. In addition, *Alien 3's* return to the single alien concept of the first, combined with a suspenseful exploration of body horror, made for a film that had a great and stylized tension throughout. I do think that it's the low point of the series, but, again, it's well worth a watch.

*Alien Resurrection* is by far the greatest departure from the rest of the series, though it takes several plot elements directly from the first. Of the four, *Resurrection* is easily the least horror-themed, as well. Again, it's well worth seeing, especially if you have the time to run a four-film, ten-hour marathon of the self-titled "quadrilogy."

Most of what works in modern horror owes at least a part of itself to *Alien*, and anyone who has ever taken the role of Master Chief has seen *Aliens'* influence. Above all else, what makes the *Alien* films supremely watchable is skill with which a talented director and crew gave their unique vision to each one. All four come highly recommended, with the caveat that they should be seen in order.

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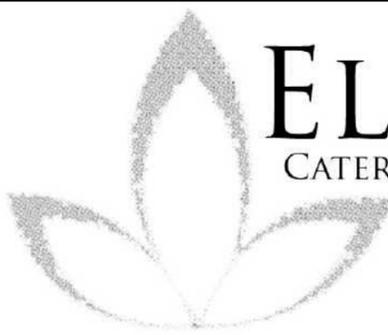
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# Breaking Down Records, Building Up the Youth

**DREW PARRISH**  
**WABASH '10**

When Elijah Sanders is not in the pool breaking records, the junior history major from Mt. Vernon can be found working with kids. In fact, working with kids is how Sanders plans on making a living. He is currently the president for College Mentors for Kids, which is a program that brings in about thirty at risk kids from grades 1 through 3.

"We like to bring the kids on campus and show them what higher education is and what it can do for you," Sanders said. "We pair each kid with a Wabash student, so the whole program runs on a one-to-one basis. I really enjoy it. All we do is have fun with kids."

College Mentor for Kids gets a lot of support from the faculty as well, even though the kids mainly deal with the students.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Junior swimmer Elijah Sanders does the backstroke in a meet last year.

Sanders mentioned that professors will often lecture the kids and teach them the importance of education.

"I really appreciate the youth. Kids don't have to worry about the same things we do," Sanders said. "They don't care about politics or the economy. They're just ready to show up and have fun, which creates a stress-free

environment."

After Wabash, Sanders hopes to be in the Teach for America Program. However, he got a glimpse of what the program will be like this past summer when he had the opportunity to be a teacher's assistant in an inner-city school in London. The school was a primary school called St. Clements/St. James.

Sanders was a teacher's assistant to year-six kids. One of the most striking things Sanders found was the supportive faculty.

"The school had a very supportive staff," Sanders said. "It was inspiring to see the teachers working together to benefit the kids. I think that is why small schools work."

Being a fan of the small school atmosphere, it is no wonder that Sanders chose Wabash over Indiana. Of course, having the opportunity to swim helped too.

"I chose Wabash for the education, of course, but I also wanted to continue swimming," Sanders said. "I didn't want swimming to be my life, but I wanted swimming to be in my life. Once I got here, I expected support from faculty, but not from students. Everyone is so supportive of one another, and it creates a sense of brotherhood." Hopefully the lessons

Sanders learned in London this past summer will help him in his future career. Even just having the multicultural experience will help him in the future, and it will be an experience he won't forget.

"It was fun getting teaching experience, especially in the multicultural setting," Sanders said. "The food was terrible and people went to the pubs at five o'clock. Everyone goes to the pubs after work to socialize. I also noticed that the politics are more real over there. The media is straight forward."

It's always good to have a fall-back plan. If Teach for America doesn't work out, Sanders plans on going to law school, or just graduate school. However, with his experience working in an inner city school overseas and his experience working with at-risk kids for College Mentors for Kids greatly improves his chances.

## Weitz Sees Improvement in Swimming Opener

**PETER ROBBINS**  
**WABASH '12**

Head Swimming Coach John Weitz had reason to be optimistic as this year's swimming season began. "We have a great group of freshmen, and our older guys are swimming well too", Weitz said. "This is year two of a very different training system for the team, and we've been able to hit the ground running and really accelerate the training."

Freshman swimmer Logan Falley has benefited from the upperclassmen on the team, who are already accustomed to the rigorous training of college swimming that Weitz mentioned.

"I have learned a lot from the upperclassmen," Falley said. "I have learned about commitment and teamwork. Practice at six in the morning is difficult, but they all encourage you to be there. They also organize team events, which is helpful for getting closer as a team."

This past weekend's relay meet at Kenyon displayed the level of preparedness Weitz mentioned. "Around 90 percent of the guys who swam in

**"We figure to be third best in the conference, if not better."**

*John Weitz, Head Swimming Coach*

that meet last year had better times this year," Weitz said.

The team finished fifth out of nine in the Kenyon relay meet last weekend after finishing third at the same meet last fall, but Weitz said that figure was misleading. "We were a bit disappointed by the lower place this year, but it's buoyed by the fact that we swam very well individually and improved on our times from last year," Weitz said. "We weren't better at that meet last year, despite our lower place."

"Also, we were only about four tenths of a second in any event from being in a three way tie for third place," Weitz said. "We've mainly been working on building up endurance so far this year, and the Kenyon meet is mostly short-distance events, but we really excelled in the

longer ones."

Falley agreed that the Kenyon meet was a success in context of what the team is ultimately trying to accomplish. "We are training for bigger meets at the end of the season, so the meets we swim right now are more like stepping stones to see where we are and what we need to work on," Falley said.

The nearly missed three-way tie at the Kenyon meet is indicative of what Weitz said is Wabash's current standing in the NCAC.

"We figure to be third best in the conference, if not better," Weitz said. "The two top teams in the conference are probably the best teams in the country this year, with Wabash, Wittenberg and Wooster being next in line and very competitive with each other, which should make for a very exciting conference season."

With eleven more scheduled meets, the swim team has quite a demanding winter ahead of them. The improvements from last year that were on display at Kenyon, coupled with the team's emphasis on endurance training, will hopefully lead to a successful season near the top of the NCAC for Wabash swimmers.

## Attack

From Page 9

year's team is averaging 39 rushing attempts per game, a big change from last year's 29 rushes per game. That approach has a lot to do with what the coaches saw in preseason. "During the preseason, we were hoping with the linemen we had back and with the tight ends we had returning, we were hoping we could be successful running the football," coach Raeburn said.

When faced with the desirable problem of having three skilled guys at the same position, coach Raeburn took an objective approach to determining carries. "We try to evaluate the guys and when guys are even, they [have] to rotate; their snaps have to be even," Raeburn explained. "They are so even that we didn't see any other fair way of doing it. Right now those three guys, they are all three doing really well. Hopefully all three will continue to run the ball hard."

While Kimp continues to garner the most carries of the group (104), both Sobceki (31) and Yoder (75) have been major factors in the offense. Each has multiple touchdowns for the season and all are averaging between 73 and 48 yards per game. Each player has his own style of running that he brings to the offense.

"Bobby (Kimp) has the most speed of the three of them," Raeburn said. "That's a real advantage for him, and Evan (Sobceki) is

really good between the tackles... he certainly looks real comfortable and patient between the tackles. I think [Yoder] is a combination of the two. He is quick as well and can hit the hole and he is comfortable between the tackles as well."

Heading into the final three games of the postseason, it appears as though the running game should continue to put up impressive numbers. Games against conference foes Oberlin and Hiram, which feature porous run defenses (7th and 9th in the NCAC, respectively) could mean even more carries for the three-headed rushing attack. With wins in its last two conference games, Wabash can secure its third playoff appearance in the last four years. As the season wears on, it will be the team that can grind it out that will come away with the victory. With Wabash having three capable, explosive options in the backfield, don't be surprised to see Coach Raeburn and company put it on the shoulders of his offensive line and running backs when he needs those big yards in that big game.

**"They are so even that we didn't see any other fair way of doing it."**

*Erik Raeburn, Head Football Coach*

**1/3**

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