

Class of 1966

Cal Black

blackc@wabash.edu

Squier Neal

SQUNEA@Safeco.com

Stan Walker

walkerst@tctc.com

Class Agents

February 2004

The winter meetings of the National Association of Wabash Men took place this past weekend. Our class is well represented on NAWM: Charlie Bell, Jay Fisher, and me. Meeting at the same time was the College's Board of Trustees. We were fortunate to share Friday evening hospitality and dinner as well as Saturday lunch with the Board members.

Jay and Charlie work on the Alumni Admissions committee, while I work on the Career Services committee. Jay and Charlie explained that the lifeblood of the student enrollment process was the alumni. The Admissions staff is very overworked, but is doing a fantastic job of interviewing and following prospects in the admissions process. An important contribution of the alums is the referral of prospects to the Admissions Office. While the College remains the darling of *US News and World Report* and several other publications, which helps us maintain a competitive edge in attracting students, there may come a time when that honeymoon cools. Jay and Charlie are concerned. For instance, alumni referrals are down from an all-time high last year. Referrals are 120 below last year while the application goal of 1400 is only at 1224 today. (1224 is a terrific number, but our committee members aren't satisfied until the goals are reached.)

The Alumni Admissions committee is proposing a goal to have 18 alums or 8% of each class refer at least one new prospect. These numbers were arrived at by considering the number of alums in each class. As it would be unfair to expect the older classes that have experienced attrition in their class size to provide the same number of alums referring students as the younger, more populous, classes, the 18 or 8% numbers were proposed. This mission, gentlemen, is merely sending to the College the name of a prospect. (Recently, I advised the College of two students, one an eighth grader and the other a ninth grader. The College should have plenty of time to work on these young men.) While we are focusing on the '66ers, I want to note that our Lee Cline annually refers more than 50 prospects. Jay expressed the concern that should Lee decide to take a break at some point, there will be a huge dent in the alumni referral program.

The Admissions office has at least two programs in place from which it continues to attract stellar students. In addition to the Lilly Fellow program that stems from Honor Scholar Weekend, the College has embarked on a separate program through which it identifies and invites National Merit Finalists and class valedictorians to a dinner hosted in Indianapolis. The College extends 6 full rides to the best of this group, determined by an essay and other competitive components of the program. Last year, 16 young men attended. This year, 34 finalists and valedictorians participated.

You will be receiving a letter from Jay advising of the alumni referral program and asking you to help in the referral effort. You may know a prospect as a neighbor, player on a team you coach, or the friend of your child(ren). Send the young man's name to the college; they will do the rest. The referral program involves a competition among the classes as there will be rankings and awards based on participation.

Another NAWM project concerns efforts to re-energize the Chicago area alumni association. As you may know, in addition to NAWM, there are a number of regional alumni associations through which alums maintain contact and interest in all things Little Giant. These associations help the work of the class agent system and NAWM by keeping the information flowing and furthering college interests such as alumni admissions and career networking. A number of factors have caused the attendance at functions in the Chicago area, once a very vital group with active and successful programs, dwindle. If you are in the Chicago area, we hope that you will assist in revitalizing the Chicago Association of Wabash Men (CAWM) through participation at the luncheons, mixers, dinner-dances, and golf outings.

Squier's committee, Career Services, reported that the staffers at Schroeder Career Services (SCC) had many programs in place for not only the undergraduates, but for alumni seeking or needing new career paths. SCC has a four-year program for the students that includes resume drafting, interview techniques including manners and etiquette, internship placement, and job fairs and interviews. SCC is doing an admirable job in what had been a down market, particularly for a college with under 200 placement candidates that is not on a main path for the busy employer-recruiter. NAWM has identified two roles for alums: 1) Service as a mentor for students seeking information in the alum's career field; and 2) Offering internship programs. Either role is very important to the college's mission of providing networking and support to the student before and after graduation. The best way to participate is to visit the college website and complete the Alumni Career Network application. Students can then contact you based on a geographical or career interest.

CAMPUS NEWS

Regrettably, Professor and Dean Paul McKinney '52 passed away December 20, 2003 from cancer. To the end, Dean McKinney maintained that soft countenance, kind word, and gentile smile. He moved gracefully and without complaint. Please visit the college website [www.wabash.edu] to read a glowing tribute by Jim Amidon that begins:

When Paul McKinney passed away on December 20, I was literally on my way out of town to spend the holidays with my family. The time away gave me ample opportunity to reflect on the legendary chemistry professor and dean of the college who for 50 years had a profound impact on this community and the men who attended Wabash College.

CLASS NEWS

Bill Berry wrote to President Ford and shared the following news:

“I’m entering a new phase in my life. I’ve just been ordained into the ministry and will be retiring from my 32 year career in speech pathology at the VA Medical Center Memphis to move into full-time ministry leadership in our church... Central Church in Collierville, IN [www.centralchurch.com <<http://www.centralchurch.com>>].” Bill has his ordination speech posted to the church website and he encourages us to visit the website. Bill continues on: “I’m excited about this “commencement” in my life; and I look forward to what God can do through this very humble Wabash grad in the future. You can also see more of what our ministry, Battle Plan Ministry, is all about at www.battleplanministries.org <<http://www.battleplanministries.org>>.” You can reach Bill at the church or 6943 Fords Station Road, Germantown, TN 38138. Email him at billb13@bellsouth.net.

Included with this Class Letter is an article about Devin Bennett, one of Bill Cook’s kids. Bill was on campus for Homecoming and visits the College regularly to check up on his kids and their sports endeavors.

Cal Black came across an article from the Crawfordsville *Journal Review* about the demise of The Snacker Grill and I have included that article. I drove by The Snacker Grill on my way to the NAWM meetings and recalled many memories.

Don’t forget your stewardship to the College.

Go Education!

Cal
Stan
Squier

Snacker Grill, other businesses making way for 'progress'

By Maria J. Flora
maria@irpress.com

Sixty-five years of cozy, working-class dining will pass into history when Bert Brack hangs up her apron Christmas Eve.

"It's pretty sad," Brack, **Snacker Grill** owner, said. "I dread the day because it's just part of me.

"I hate it, but they say it's progress," the 75-year-old said.

The **Snacker** is one of several buildings on East Market Street scheduled for the wrecking ball this winter. Nextel Wireless, Carquest, Crawfordsville Monument Company and Morgan Glass and some vacant buildings at the corner of Market Street and U.S. 231 will all be razed to make way for a new **Walgreen's** 24-hour pharmacy.

The deal was three years in the making, Crawfordsville real estate agent Gregg Morrison said. He organized the property acquisitions for W.A. Brennan Jr., Indianapolis, a developer for **Walgreen's**. The property owners were willing to work with Brennan, but three, Carquest, Morgan Glass and Crawfordsville Monument, wanted to remain in business. Morrison had to find them new buildings.

Walgreen's architects worked with the Crawfordsville Downtown Historic Preservation Committee, designing a building unique to the **Walgreen's** chain. "It's going to be a very pretty building and the brick will match the Old Jail Museum as much as possible," Morrison said. "It will look like an old building."

The 14,250 square-foot store should open by October. There will be 68 parking spaces and a double drive-up prescription window. Sidewalks and traffic flow are designed with safety in mind for walk-in customers.

The **Snacker** got plenty of walk-in business 24 hours a day during the week, but instead of aspirin and chewing gum, Brack soothed customers with coffee, her Big Joe omelets and genuine concern.

"When you come in here, whether the people know you or not, they speak to you," 30-year customer Beverly Craft Denton said. Her husband Mike added, "In here you don't meet any strangers."

"I've come in here with rollers in my hair and people don't laugh because they know me," Beverly said.

It's one of the last restaurants where smokers aren't hassled. There are plenty of ashtrays to go around in the 27-seater and customers take their time. If all the booths are taken, they sit on stools at the counter until a table clears.

There's one grill and one cook flipping eggs and fresh hamburgers so you have to wait your turn. But she cooks in plain view and the conversation and jokes flow on both sides of the counter. The coffee never runs dry and the dishes are mismatched, adding to the homey charm.

Brack, 75, whips up ham and beans for lunch every Monday. "They love my Swiss steak and beef and noodles too," she said. The Dentons eat supper there almost nightly and rave about Brack's meat loaf and chili. The couple spends Saturday mornings there sipping coffee and gazing out

the windows or reading a newspaper. "I don't know what we're going to do now," Beverly said. "I guess we'll stay home," Mike offered.

Brack won't stay home. She'd like to be a Wal-Mart greeter "if they'll have me ... I've been active and in the public too long and I just can't stay home ... I love my customers and I'm going to miss them terribly, but I've done it and I can't take it back."

Brack and her late husband Richard bought the **Snacker** Grill about 30 years ago from Don and Betty Thompson, who owned it one year. Brack is not sure of the exact lineage, but believes the restaurant kept the same name since its opening on the front of a large house 65 years ago this summer. The house is more than 100 years old, she said, adding that a couple first opened the tiny restaurant as a coffee and snack shop for their son to operate.

Brack's son Richard David owned the house and lived there with his family, while Brack owned the restaurant. Richard David and family recently moved to Florida.

The other business owners in that block will soon relocate.

Nextel Wireless Work will move to a new building in Crawfordsville, but the location has not been determined, a spokesperson said. The company's phone number will remain the same.

Crawfordsville Monument will be housed in a new structure at 1799 Lafayette Road. Fred and Janet Clements bought the business in 1985 from her parents, Carl and Margaret Downen. It's been in operation since 1919.

They sell cemetery memorials, do cemetery lettering and repair work, and sell monuments and foundations within a 45-mile radius of Crawfordsville.

Morgan Glass and Paint will move to the former Hoosier Beverage building, 1205 E. Market St. Owner Aaron Morgan bought the company from his father Bob Morgan this year. It previously belonged to John Line and was once in a building across the street from the current location.

The company performs just about any service pertaining to glass or screens, Aaron said. That includes commercial, residential and automotive applications, new storefronts, remodeled storefronts, replacement windows and other repairs. They also sell mirrors, frames and Pittsburgh Paint and painting supplies. They offer 24-hour emergency service.

Carquest will move into part of a remodeled John Deere building, 301 N. Washington St.

Fred Humphries has managed the store since 1972. They sell auto parts to dealerships, garages and the do-it-yourselfer, Humphries said. The current building was constructed in the 1920s and may have been a stable, he said.

The new building is larger, more convenient and offers more parking, Humphries said, adding, "We're moving out of the way for progress."