



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1956

Class Agent

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Dear Fellow 56'er and Golden Little Giant,

Aside from the fact that I have not written to you for a while, there are some matters I need to inform you about.

First is the thing I hate most about being a Class Agent. That is to inform you of the passing of our Classmates. In this instance it is doubly difficult since it involves two of our brethren.

RON DICKERSON died earlier this year, March 1, to be exact. He was living in Bradenton, FL which is not far from where we have our home in Florida but unfortunately we never made contact. Ron moved to Florida from Potsdam, NY after he retired in 1990. He had been a college administrator for the University of Connecticut and later for the State University of New York at Potsdam. In addition to his degree from Wabash he also received an academic degree from Springfield College in Massachusetts. You may recall that Ron was President of the IMA and was a Sphinx Club member while at Wabash. He was also a member of the Naval Reserve and was discharged in 1961. Our condolences to his wife, Janet and his family.

E. GORDON "GORDY" PULLAR, died on May 6, of this year. Gordy was a bit older than most of us, 79, since he was a veteran of the Korean War. As I recall, Gordy was President of Lambda Chi and married while we were still in school. His first wife died in 1988 and he remarried in 2000. Career-wise he spent most of it working for International Paper in the sales operations and retired in 1995. He was an active golfer, camper and traveler but enjoyed time with his Grandchildren most. We express our sympathies to his wife, Rose and his family.

SOME LITTLE GIANTS!!!

I am sure we have all felt the effects of the economic downturn in the last year or two. I know Dorothy and I have. Without getting into detail, I can say that while at Wabash, I never dreamed of earning as much as we have lost in the last 18 months. We can sit and point fingers at who is to blame which would be of little avail since there probably is enough blame to go around. At present too, we have the on-going debate as to what to do to "fix" the problem. I do not presume to have the answer, but in my estimation, having been the product of the Van Sickle/Rogge and Adam Smith school of economics, I think the less intrusive the government is, the better off we will all be in the future. These certainly though are the times to test men's souls.

Our Alma Mater has likewise experienced economic difficulty. As you are probably aware, the endowment has shrunk by something like 35%, in the magnitude of \$150,000,000. Having been a trustee, and having watched our investment policies through the years, I can assure you it was

only through prudent management of our resources, that results were not considerably worse. As a matter of fact, on a relative basis, Wabash has fared better than many of our contemporaries. I saw Pat White in Chicago at Christmas last year and he said he had conversations with some of his peers who envied the Wabash position. None the less, it has hurt and has caused the College to experience the loss of investment income which has affected the operating budget this year. The school has not stood idly by and has taken a lot of belt tightening measures including, but certainly not limited to, the postponement of certain projects such as the improvements to the athletic fields. As would probably be expected contributions to the Annual Fund have declined and are about \$1,000,000 short of the goal for the year. In typical fashion, the Men of Wabash are responding.

THE CHALLENGE

Recognizing the urgency of these uncertain economic times, 30 loyal Wabash alumni have offered to leverage their annual gifts to Wabash totaling \$500,000 with a challenge to hundreds of their fellow alumni and friends: Help the College raise \$1 million for the Annual Fund by June 30! Doing so will help us reach our Annual Fund goal of \$3.125 million — a new record at a time when Wabash students need it most.

I had already made a fairly substantial gift to the College earlier this year but I am willing to do more. So I offer a “mini challenge” to my Fellow ’56 ‘ers. I will match any contributions from the Class of ’56 up to \$100 individually and up to \$2,000 in the aggregate between now and the end of this fiscal year (June 30). This would mean that a \$100 gift becomes \$200 which grows to \$400 when coupled with THE CHALLENGE. Of course any contributions in excess of \$100 are most welcome and will go farther in assisting the College to meet this goal. I refer you to the Wabash web site www.wabash.edu for further information and direction.

I realize you are being asked to sacrifice for many worthy causes. Such is natural, especially in tough economic times, which makes it necessary to evaluate our priorities. These are decisions we each must make. I would only say that I view support of the College not in terms of a “charitable contribution” but more in terms of an investment in the future to help foster the goals of Wabash College to develop young men to “think critically, act responsibly, lead effectively and live humanely”.

“WABASH ALWAYS FIGHTS”

Best Regards,

Howie

“Thy loyal sons shall ever love thee”