



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1956

Class Agent

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May 2008

Dear Fellow 56'er and Golden Little Giant,

Let me introduce myself. I am "Howie" your long lost class agent. It has been so long since I have written I would not be surprised if you might have forgotten me.

I do apologize for the long delay but the past year or so has been an exceptional one for Dorothy and me. I will not go through a whole litany but Dorothy has had a hip replacement, neck surgery for degenerative discs, cataracts and some other lesser problems. I have been reasonably healthy but am preparing for knee replacement surgery fairly soon, thanks to an old football injury at Wabash which has just continued to degenerate through the years. As I am sure you know, getting old is not for wimps but it sure beats the hell out of the alternative.

In terms of class news, there isn't any which I guess is good news in and of itself since the news of recent vintage seems to be on the sad side.

On a bright note, **THE BACHELOR** is celebrating its 100th year as the college newspaper. It has come a long way since our days on campus and in this past year earned 22 specific awards from the Indiana Collegiate Press Association. This is quite a distinction especially when you consider Journalism is not a major (or minor) at Wabash. Wabash men do not participate on the campus for plaques or certificates. They do not earn grades for their work and any stipends are minimal in consideration of the time and effort they invest in chronicling the history of the College. They do it because they care, because they are curious, and because they believe in continuing the tradition of being the students' voice at Wabash College. Check the College website for more about THE BACHELOR.

On a personal basis, I am happy to say that another member of the family will become a "Little Giant" this fall. He is Jack Ruddy and my first cousin's grandson. His father, Jack Ruddy III is a graduate and was a member of the football team when they played in the Stagg Bowl in 1978. You may recall Wabash lost that game 39-36 in a real thriller. Young Jack is an outstanding football player (and wrestler) and we are looking to him to help avenge that loss.

You may have heard that Coach Creighton has left Wabash College to go to a Division II team. It was a real loss for the school since he is not only an outstanding coach but a real builder of men and character. I had the pleasure of a lunch with him a few years ago and was greatly impressed with his sincerity and genuine interest in the young men in his charge. We wish him well.

Fortunately we have been able to acquire the talents of a new coach, Erik Raeburn, who has an impressive record. I append a brief write up about him which I lifted from the college website. As you can see he is an alum of Mt. Union which has been the perennial Division III Champion.

Of course no class letter would be complete if I did not say at least a few words about fund raising.

I am delighted to say that without my usual prodding the Class of '56 has again distinguished itself in the 2007 fiscal year and so far in the 2008 fiscal year. As you will recall the school fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. I do not have the numbers handy for last year but we were well over 50% and in the top 10 classes. Not as good as our "Golden Year" 2006, when we hit 62.3%, but certainly admirable. So far this year we are slightly behind last year at the same time being 39.2% versus 42.3%. There are a number of you "regulars" who have not yet contributed so I encourage you to do so now. You can make a gift easily online at <https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/egift>.

But there is yet an additional reason to send your gift this year. We have been hurled a challenge by DePauw Alumni to reach an all school average participation of 39% by the end of this fiscal year. At this point both schools stand about equal – around 37%. So while we, as a class, have exceeded that level, there are others – mainly the more recent years – which are far below so it falls our task to help make up the gap. So please, if you have not done so already, send your donation in now.

I promise not to be so long in writing again. It sure would be nice to hear from some of you once in a while. Class agent can be a lonely job sometimes but none the less fulfilling.

I missed sending you my favorite Christmas greeting this year but I see no reason why it has to be limited to a season. In the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us all, every one."

"Thy loyal sons shall ever love thee"

"Howie"

PS – Some words about Coach Raeburn.

Raeburn comes to Wabash after eight years as head football coach at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he posted a 57-26 record. Prior to arriving at Coe, Raeburn was an assistant coach at his alma mater, Mount Union College, where he served as offensive line coach and offensive coordinator.

At Coe, Raeburn coached 65 All-Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference players, 40 All-Americans, and two Academic All-Americans. He guided Coe to its first IIAC title in school history in 2002, and followed with conference championships in 2004 and 2005. He was the 2002 IIAC Coach of the Year and Regional Coach of the Year. He led the Kohawks to their first-ever playoff appearance in 2002, advancing to the second round, and also led Coe to the playoffs in 2005.