



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Office of Alumni Affairs

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### Class of 1963

#### Class Agents

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Dear classmates:

There are some good things to report about Wabash – past and present-future, 2008.

First, the Big Bash reunion was just what it was supposed to be.....a fun weekend. There were 24 of us who showed up for one or more of the events. Big banquet Friday night was just what it was billed. But there was plenty of time to visit with one another before and after.

Saturday started out at Tom and Suanne Milligan's home where they graciously hosted "tea and crumpets" for us. The crumpets included a variety of breads and fruit...really nice...and we filled their spacious dining room with a lot of chatter. This contrasted sharply with our next activity when we met at the gym to sing 'ole' Wabash in competition with other reunion classes. We had a lot of enthusiasm but didn't fare so well.

Saturday afternoon was highlighted by a political presentation by former Indianapolis Mayor, Steve Goldsmith. He was entertaining! Then we had our class dinner at the Phi Psi house. We all gave a little commentary on our past, present and futures and, believe it or not, no one over-extended their floor time. Many of us retired to a Crawfordsville bar for a few rounds of drinks and more fun.

The Alumni Office organization was superb. Our weekend was marred by severe rain and winds but we did not miss a beat. The only flaw was my accommodations... the Lew Wallace. It was even more of a dump than it was several years ago. I made Polizotto laugh when I told him I thought the "Lew" charged by the hour. So don't include it in your plans when you visit the campus.

Our class did pretty well in the alumni fund competition which ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>. 65 graduates donated out of 136 for 48%. Eight more attendees plus one widow brought the total to 74. The big news is that the College exceeded \$3,100,000 in contributions.....a first!

New football coach Erik Raeburn is off to a winning start by defeating Denison University last Saturday, 41-27. He has a good number of experienced lettermen back from a year ago so expectations are high. You may know that Raeburn coached at Coe College for the past eight years. He replaced Chris Creighton who became head coach at Drake University in Des Moines, IA. Wabash will be tested by some league opponents but its toughest game could well be DePauw. This year's game will be played in Crawfordsville on November 15. Once again it will be nationally televised.....a real treat for those of us who can't make the game in person.

Did you see the **Forbes** rankings of America's Best Colleges? It was a stunner because Wabash made the top 20.....a resounding 12<sup>th</sup>!

Read the attached article from the **Pasadena Star News**. It was written by the editor who sounds off cluelessly about Wabash. If you want to check out the website for the Forbes report, type in the following: [http://www.forbes.com/2008/08/13/college-university-rankings-oped-college08-cx\\_rv\\_mn\\_0813intro.html](http://www.forbes.com/2008/08/13/college-university-rankings-oped-college08-cx_rv_mn_0813intro.html).

Hats off to those of you who have been affected by Hurricane Ike, one of the worst storms in recent memory.

Tom

Rounding out the top five after the New Jersey outfit and Our Fair Campus: Harvard, Swarthmore and Williams. Best deal, with a catch: No. 6 West Point, with its \$0 tuition. Weirdest school up high: all-male Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind. at No. 12. Next local college to crow about: Pomona at No. 20.

It turns out that the ranking, which uses a lot of student input, is heavily biased toward small liberal arts colleges. The big state research universities, even the best and hardest to get into, score abysmally: the University of Texas at Austin, for instance, comes in 215th. Only one school with more than 10,000 undergrads — University of Virginia — cracked the top 50.

Best deal for a top-ranked place after graduating from which you don't have to go fight a war: New College in Sarasota, Fla., at less than \$16,000 a year. (Go to Forbes.com to be amazed by most of these top private colleges that approach \$50,000 a year, with Yale, among a few others, surpassing that.)

Perhaps we don't need more such rankings, none of which answer the only question that counts: Which colleges might be right for you or yours?

But, like all such lists, that doesn't mean that it isn't kind of fun.



Semi-academic issues: Neighbors of San Rafael Elementary School in Pasadena write with concern about the campus' "dead lawn, water coming out of the ground from an unknown source on the east side of the school, very dirty windows which haven't been cleaned in years, dead or dying bushes with trash collecting underneath, the neglect of the olive trees in the front courtyard, wild 'trees' growing in the west corner of the courtyard." They say they've contacted school administrators and the district to no avail. Maybe this will help create some avail.

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Public Editor Larry Wilson's blog is <http://insidesocal.com/publiceye>.



Larry WILSON

## Caught up in college rankings

A recent brief on our Student Life page about Caltech being named No. 2 college in the nation in the first Forbes.com ranking of 569 institutes of higher learning caused a couple of readers to write or call with the same question: "So who's No. 1?"

Fair enough. Actually, entirely fair. As a community newspaper, we sometimes get so caught up in the local angle, in being houseproud, that we ignore the fact that, say, some hoity-toity, Ivy League, eating club-infested, Tiger-tailed joint slipped by ahead of our Beavers.

Princeton. That's it. Princeton's No. 1. Supposedly.

Actually, the Forbes' list is a really rather more interesting version of the famous U.S. News & World Report ranking of universities — on which Caltech several years ago came out No. 1.

Its rankers at something called the Center for College Affordability and Productivity say its "methodology attempts to put itself in a student's shoes" by answering these questions: "How good will my professors be? Will the school help me achieve notable career success? If I have to borrow to pay for college, how deeply will I go into debt? What are the chances I will graduate in four years? Are students and faculty recognized nationally, or even globally?"