June 20, 2006

Dear Fellow 56’er and Golden Little Giant,

I am sure you have all seen the TV commercial where the victorious quarterback in the Super Bowl is walking off the field and a voice from no where says, “Now that you’ve won the Super Bowl, what are you going to do?” and he responds, “I’m going to Disney World”. Well that’s what Dorothy and I did right after our Super BIG BASH Reunion. We took the family, children and grandchildren to Disney World and on a Disney Cruise. This is simply by way of explanation as to why I have not written sooner to recap the events of the BIG BASH weekend.

An exception to our trip was our son Jim ‘95, and his family. Those of you who were there know he had to miss the trip due to emergency back surgery. Many of you have asked about his status and I am happy to report he is doing well and the prognosis is very favorable.

For those of you who were there, you know it was a wonderful weekend. We had an excellent turnout with 40 out of 98 classmates returning although the school record reveals a lesser number since you need to sign “the book” to be “official” and some of them did not. We also had a few from the class of ’57 join us. The complete roster of those attending is attached.

The format of the weekend was the BIG BASH dinner on Friday evening where all classes attended. The following evening each class had its own private dinner. The Fifty year reunion class holds its dinner on the stage of the Salter Hall in the Fine Arts Building. The next day, Sunday, is a Brunch at which the various awards are presented.

For those of you who missed it, the class of ’56 showed its usual class and dominated the awards.

We received the 1909 Class Trophy which is awarded to the class which had the highest % of alums attending.

We almost won the award for the greatest number attending as well, however we were edged out by the class of ’81 which won the 1928 Class Trophy (by just a few, partially because of the non signers of “the book”).

The class of ’56 also received the Edmond O. Hovey Award for having the highest participation percentage in the Annual Fund with a rousing 60.2%.

A real highlight of the BIG BASH dinner on Friday night was when Bob Ehrich made the presentation of the Class gift to President Andy Ford. The grand total was a whopping
$2,510,000. The gift took the form of a large ceremonial check about five feet in width. I think we were all astounded at the amount which had been kept a secret. I know I was. You are all to be congratulated for a superb effort.

While we did not receive the top honor for the Chapel Sing we did place third. **Fred LaCosse** did a magnificent job as our song leader and very cleverly created a “pony” for the words to the school song. We were out “shticked” by the class of ’66 though, which arrived at the Chapel steps in an entourage led by a siren blowing, lights flashing Crawfordsville police car, a golf cart bearing huge “W” flags, a pick-up truck similarly decorated, an antique mint condition Pontiac and each member of the class in specially made “T” shirts and Rhynie Pots!!!

A personal honor to each member of the class at the BIG BASH dinner was to receive their 50 year medallion. Each class member was called forward and the medallion was placed around his neck by President Ford. We were especially honored when the widows of two of our brethren received medallions in their stead. **Mary Lou Kough** accepted on behalf of Bob Kough and **Liz Gregor** on behalf of Wes Gregor.

Our class dinner on Saturday was a nice combination of fun and sentimentality. We had our own series of awards that night.

Bob Ehrich and the Kappa Sigs received the award for the highest living unit percentage attending (4 of 5 for 80%).

**Bob Schwab** received the award for the largest living unit number attending. He was able to get 7 of 12 Phi Psis to attend including **Dick Sylvester** from Australia. He even managed to resurrect **Dave Cameron** from the dead (he had previously been erroneously entered into the school records as deceased).

Special recognition was given to **Paul Kimball** for the absolutely outstanding job he did in creating our reunion book, of which you all received a copy. It is truly something we will all cherish as a keepsake.

**SOME LITTLE GIANTS ALL!!**

**Wally Shaw**, coming all the way from Scotland, made a special presentation of the Indiana Tartan tie to President Ford as well as a mini bottle of the Indiana Tartan single malt scotch (I believe you will read more about it in the next issue of the Wabash Magazine) which concluded with Wally, Andy and yours truly toasting the group with a shot of the scotch!

A particularly touching part of the evening was a few minutes of silence while Fred LaCosse read the roll of our departed brethren. Fred did a fine job of a very difficult task which produced many a throat lump and tears as we thought of those no longer with us. In line with that, I just received word yesterday from **Frank Rasmussen** that **Don Everingham** passed away recently, a victim of Pancreatic Cancer. Our thoughts, prayers and sympathy to his family.

Throughout the course of the weekend, the class of ’56 maintained a hospitality suite at the Holiday Inn which was opened in the afternoons and for the “afterglows” (a term coined by our old friend Bob Mitchum). **Bob “Slewfoot Getto”** and his lovely wife **Mercedes** acted as hosts and did a great job of seeing we were all “fed and watered” as well as decorating the room
(including a specially made lollipop tree). In all truth, Mercedes did most of the work as “Slew” “delegated”. Thanks Merci, you too are SOME LITTLE GIANT.

Tom Runge and the many members of his staff as well as others at the school worked very hard to make the BIG BASH weekend a real success. Any efforts at explaining it would be inadequate but to get a flavor of what went on, I suggest that you visit the college website at www.wabash.edu and look at the Alumni section. There are more complete write ups and several slide shows with some great pictures.

While it sounds a bit like “tooting my own horn”, I was greatly honored to receive the Dorman Hughes ’43 Award which is given to “the class agent or reunion chair whose work in organizing the BIG BASH weekend is far above what is expected”. This was only possible by the support of the best class ever to graduate from Wabash College. Thank you.

Well, that sort of wraps up a half century. Doesn’t seem that much as we look back. But let’s keep looking forward. There’s a lot more out there. Remember we are now all Golden Little Giants. I will do my best to keep us in touch, but let me know what is happening with you.

“at thy shrine of cherished memories”

Best Regards,

Howie

’56ers attending:

- Marion Amick
- Jack Benson
- Cliff Clemons
- Ralph Fenesy
- Howie Hawksworth
- Paul Kimball
- Bill Kriegbaum
- Stan Matheny
- Al Pavlikowski
- Bob Remley
- Wally Shaw
- Fred Stark
- “Skip” Thacker
- Kevin Zachary
- Mary Lou Kough
- Liz Gregor

*Members of the All Star Committee for organization and class gift

’57ers attending

- Don Caplinger
- Clancy Mann
- Ken Groskopf
- Bob Hobson
- Bill Lovett
- Frank Rasmussen
- Bob Schwab
- Larry Slagle
- Mike Takahashi
- Jere Weliver