



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1959

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Dear 59ers,

There were two reunions in September, and I was lucky to attend both. At the Beta reunion during Homecoming (September 22-23) Lane (Hairs) Ferree and I represented the class of '59. A week later at the Glee Club reunion Bob Russell and I represented 59ers. I recall that the previous Glee Club reunion included about fourteen 59ers. At that reunion Bob (perfect pitch) Nelson produced copies of Bob Mitchum's music from our student days and we had enough men to stage our own private concert for family members. This time Russell and I missed the likes of Sherm Franz, Hoyt Miller, Arturo Fontanes, Bob Wild, and George Million, to name a few who attended the earlier reunion.

Ah yes, George Million. We lost him to lung disease on July 7. His wife, Linda, said to pass on to his classmates that he would have loved to be joining in at the reunion. I regret having to report others who have left our ranks. On January 11, Ray Picket passed away. June 28 we lost John Hawks, August 14,

Phil Johnson, and September 9, Don Nordlund. All great guys who will be greatly missed.

The College is generally in good shape. New students total 246, which has been the usual number for several years. The great majority continue to be Hoosiers: 181. In addition there are 18 international students, and 5 or more each from TX, OH, CA, IL, and MI.

Wabash recently received an unrestricted anonymous gift of \$7 million and used it to finance a new Residential Life District on Crawford Street (on the West side of campus near the Sigma Chi and Delt houses). Named after John N. "Fuzzy" Ott, class of 1920, the Residential Life District buildings (6 of them) are now the homes of 130 Wabash men. Speaking of housing, the Deltas are back in their house; the students moved in this fall.

I often wonder what would happen to top liberal arts colleges like Wabash without the availability of government-backed student loans. The loan program already has a trillion dollars outstanding! If the government shuts off the spigot someday I hope that Wabash will have the endowment to cope. Wabash continues to be one of the best colleges in the country. U.S. News & World Report rates Wabash among the best of the 239 ranked liberal colleges.

Last Saturday in Chicago, while attending a symposium on Lincoln the Lawyer, I spent some time with one of your other class agents, Wedgie, who was in mourning for his Chicago Cubs' loss in the playoffs. That hasn't dampened

his support of Wabash, however. He is actively trying to recruit students from his old high school in Kansas City! Are you working on your grandchildren?

In the interest of brevity I will close. By the way, speaking of reunions, do we want to defy the odds and shoot for an unprecedented 60th in 2019?

Your obedient servant,

Roger '59