



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

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Class of 1961

Class Agent

J.B. Bachman

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August 2018

Dear Many Miler;

For the first time in many years, The Little Giants start the football season out of the top 25 Div. III rankings, but we are ranked #2 in NCAC league! The ten game schedule kicks off at Hiram College on Sept 1. Coach Don Morel told me at the Robert Mitchum Crock that he has 165 players showing up for first practice. That's a whole bunch of guys!!! The balance of the schedule:

9/8 - U of Wisc – Stevens Point	1:00 pm
9/15 - @ Kenyon	2:00 pm
9/29 - Wooster (Homecoming)	2:00 pm
10/6 - @ Denison	3:00 pm
10/13 -@ Ohio Wesleyan	1:00 pm
10/20 – Oberlin	1:00 pm
10/27 - @Wittenberg	1:00 pm
11/3 – Allegheny	1:00 pm
11/10 – DePauw – Monon Bell	1:07 pm

Note: This is the 125th Monon Bell game between these schools. Tickets will be hard to get unless you jump on it early.... (Series: W-61 -54 - 9)

Wabash 's overall record for 131 seasons is 680 - 381-54. If you are too far way, go to Wabash.edu/football for the broadcast on your computer or Iphone....

Big Bash 2018 was a Big Success! Great turnout, and good sessions under the banner "Citizen Wally" Brandon Clifton '05 is Deputy Sec to IN Sec of State Connie Lawson. Emeritus Professor David Hadley is heavily involved in Montgomery County activities. Rob JohnsonH'77 was an assistant Track & Field coach for the 2000 Olympics and continues to ply the Wabash campus, always ready for a friendly chat. Steven Jones '87 is Dean for Professional Development at Wabash following a career with IU Health. He oversees the Schroeder Center for Career Development, the Center for Innovation, Business & Entrepreneurship as well as the Malcolm X Institute.

Stephen Goldsmith '68 (former Indpls Mayor) teaches Government at Harvard's Kennedy School of Govn. He was sockless, as were most of the 50 year reunion guys!

You will remember that Many Milers established a new record giving level for a 50 year class @\$4.7 Million, thanks to several of our members stepping up with excellent gifts and Chair Denny Sheridan working on all of us.

Well, hold your hat..... the Class of 1968 gave \$10.8 Million from 101 class members!!! Congrats to them for their outstanding record amount, number giving, and I believe tied their own record (*set at the 45th*) for returning classmates.

Ran into Aus & Lucy Brooks and Jim & Pat McMichael at the dinner. We enjoyed visiting with Sam & Susie Hildebrand who continue to hold down the fort in Crawfordsville.

From John Birdzell:

I'm embarrassed to say that after 30+ years of having it on my bookshelf, I just finished reading "Wabash on my Mind." What an amazing, interesting, & insightful book! For the life of me, can't figure out what took me so long to get it read, but sure glad I finally did....Keep warm! (We're in AZ....ha!).

> Well, Hell! I think I beat you on Trip's book by about 5 years. I had the same reaction....J B

Guess I don't feel quite so guilty if you only beat me by 5....What were the real reasons he resigned as Prez. It was obvious he was truly pained to write about his tenure. Bird

> You'd be pretty dumb to be in IN now.... enjoy.

Was planning to drive over for basketball game tomorrow but not going to be on the road with -10 deg temps! The house is warm & comfy & liquor cabinet is stocked! JB

From Panzer:

Road trips -- Forever I've been a Waffle House lover, best 0200 when grill lady has cigarette dangling from her lips while serving up your eggs. Waffles, sausage & eggs! Carlos Carroll had a Waffle House in Decatur, GA. (Wrong corner of the state for my road trips) Ever hear from him? I think Bob Spilman once had a 7-11-type place in Harrisonburg, VA. Bob roomed w/me @ Fiji house when he returned to school after his USAF tour, until his wife came up to C'ville.

Nashville was always a milestone city when on road trips -- until you settled in Pegram. For me producers of the "Nashville sound" ruined old country & rockabilly. I focused on Bakersfield & Lukenbach as homes for country, but your home was in Pegram, & had I not gotten drunk in Lexington, KY, I could have visited Pegram. (Had b'fast at WH next morning driving south) Are there any statues of the civil war general to be carted away as the PC rewrite history? Anyway the reports of the Waffle House shooter awakened memories -- so I dropped you a note. Many miles of Waffle House memories, Panzer

<tconlon@bendcable.com> wrote:

JB, Thanks for producing the recent Wabash Class of '61 newsletter. I learned how my class mates are dealing with aging and illness.

>> Mary Beth and I recently celebrated our 51st Wedding Anniversary. You recall we were married in San Francisco's Chinatown in what social historians defined as "The summer of Love."

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>> We both are blessed with good health--MB is faithful about doing daily yoga, weight lifting and walking routines. I could be somewhat more athletic, but Bend does invite one to get out of the chair and walk the trails of the city's Parks.

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>> Recently I emailed Bill Kilgore to see how he and Linda are doing. He and I are in the same Broad Ripple High School Class of 1957 (with Doug Burns, deceased Dave Cushman and Chris Witteveld.). I think Bill and Linda moved from CA to South Bend, IN where one of the children married a Notre Dame professor.

Again, thanks so much for your commitment to Wabash and to your class, Tim

GILBERT M. "GIL" SHOAF

Gilbert M. "Gil" Shoaf SCHERERVILLE, IN - Gilbert M. "Gil" Shoaf, 82, devoted husband of late Patricia for 50 years, passed away on July 4, 2018. Late of Schererville, formerly of Crown Point. Loving father of Dawn (Bruce) Ekblaw and Candy (Grant) Shoaf-Butler. Cherished grandfather of Evan, Emma, Erika, Bonnie, and Carlie. Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. He was known to many as a "gentle giant". He was born in Grindstone, Pennsylvania, and son of the late Joseph and Julia (Pollak) Shoaf. Gil is survived by his brother Joseph Jr.; predeceased by three brothers: Jake, James, and Bernard, and sister Genevieve. Gil was an exceptional athlete. He was a 1957 graduate of Wabash College where he played football, wrestled, and member of Phi Delta Theta. During his senior season, he was named All American and was listed as one of the great "Big Men" in Wabash football history. After graduating from Wabash, Gil was drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles and then went on to play in the Canadian Football League for the Toronto Argonauts. He was the proud owner of Gil Shoaf Enterprises. He was an inductee of the: National Sporting Goods Association Hall of Fame, SGAA Agents Hall of Fame, Nokona Hall of Fame, and Wabash College Athletic Hall of Fame. Gil volunteered numerous hours with the St. Anthony Hospital Auxiliary and St. Michaels Church. He also was a founding member of the Knights of Columbus St. Michael the Archangel Council #12177.

>In spring of '57, I attended a Phi Delt rush party. At the time a 190# Offense tackle planning to play football at Wabash. Suddenly this big smiling giant (265#) grabbed my hand with a big "Hi, kid!" I revised my plans & went to find Bob Mitchum whom I had met at a choral festival @ C'ville HS... Gil was the only footballer to go to the pros until Pete Metsallars! RIP....**J B Bachman**

From: Robert L. Hobson

My first Bell Game was the fall of 1952 which was my senior year in high school. I came down from Crown Point with my buddy Jerry Johnston and his parents. Jerry's brother Tim was a sophomore on that team, which had been undefeated the year before. Tim was a Beta and I had met a couple other Betas on the team the prior summer when they came home for a few days with Tim. John Stoner and Tom Shepherd both Betas. Later that year, after a couple rush parties, I pledged Beta.

Jerry, Tim's brother, went to Northwestern and was a Beta there. I think that is Rho Chapter. I visited Jerry there a couple times and he visited Wabash several times. It is too bad Jerry did not come to Wabash as he was a very good basketball player. He walked on at Northwestern and was the last guy cut. An interesting factor about the Beta House at Northwestern is that the Big 10 wrestling champion was a Beta. His name was Donald Duck!! How many people know that Donald Duck is a Beta!!

Tim was a pretty good running back but I think Owen Huntsman discouraged Garland Frazier from using him very much. Tim was one of the 4 runners on what was at the time our championship mile relay team. Huntsman did not want him to get hurt playing football. As Jerry and I watched the teams come onto the field for that 1952 Monon Bell Game we noticed that DePauw was big. The players were big and the brought a lot of them for the game. Wabash (Little Giants) seemed to be quite small. After all, Vaino Grayham was one of our quarterbacks. We thought it was going to be pretty tough going for Wabash. Final score was Wabash 49, DPU 0!! I think that held as the biggest score against DPU until a few years ago when we repeated with a 49 - 0 game. My son Mike and I were there for that one also, as I am sure you were too. Hobby

>Thanks for the great email. I recognize all of the names you mention. My Dad brought me to Wabash Bell football games three times while in grade school. In 1957 Trippet hired my Dad as admissions counselor in the Chicago area where we lived in St. Charles. I saw the Bell game that year and every year until I graduated in '66. I have seen every Bell game since 1974 except in '99 when my daughter was captain of the Illinois swimming and diving team, and I had to go to her meet in Champaign. This year will be my 50th Bell game in person, and I have seen five games on TV. Marsha and I are now back at our house in C'ville for the football season. The coach expects 70 freshman and 100 returning players! I love being back in Indiana for the Fall season, and I hope to see you this Fall. The 125th Bell game is on 11/10, and I have volunteered for the committee to put together the celebration in Little Giant Stadium. WAF! **Cal Black'66**

>Great reading! Thanks fellows. We had a bunch of Regionnaires and PA guys around when I and 2 buddies from Bishop Noll arrived in 1957 and bunked at the Phi Delt house during fall practice. Stories of Shoaf and Marchando and Lodovisi abounded. Bill Gabbert and Mort Graham were there, and Vaino was around selling life insurance. Guys from Gary like Scott Polizotto and Mike Molchan were around, and there seemed to be the start of a downturn in football records as Frazier et al were upgrading the quality of our opponents. There has obviously been quite an upturn in records somewhere along the way. (Maybe Bill Boone's Football at Wabash book explains just when.) Owen Huntsman was still there and a living legacy. Wonderful people, wonderful experience at WC. WAF! **Mike Hughes '61**
Thanks, JB.

Here's a few tidbits: (**Tom Billings'63**) I recall that Gil was injured in the Philadelphia Eagles training camp. I heard he would have had a good chance to make the team. Also, we played Heidelberg College in 1956. Both teams were loaded with a lot of talent and ranked at the top of small college ball. Prior to the game start, Shoaf got injured in pre-game drills, a real fluke. Who replaced him? Rhine, Brian Bragg. The referees were quoted that they had never witnessed such a hard hitting game. One we lost 21-20. Brian Bragg was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings and was one of the last players cut in 1962. Wabash had another outstanding player, Dave Husted, drafted by the Oakland Raiders. I think it was 1969 or 70. He was a defensive lineman who was fast enough to play linebacker for Oakland. He did not make the team because he was drafted into the army. Stan Huntsman was drafted by the Chicago Cardinals but he never gave the pros a sniff after incurring several concussions his senior year. Thanks again for the Shoaf news and obit.

>Thanks JB. I can resonate since I really enjoy still waking my dog a few miles each week. All things considered, life isn't berating me up too badly - considering this age. Hope all's well with you.
Paul Olexia 7/31/2018

The College Advancement Office reports that 51.4% of Many Milers donated to Wabash this past year. Congrats and thank you!!! Our official class number has now dropped to 103, sadly. Overall, Wabash had a record 5,184 givers who went above goal to \$3.323 Million for 44.2% participation. This should be in the very top tier of all Liberal Arts Colleges. And, at last check 283 deposits are in for Freshman Saturday August 18. This year ALL students must live in College housing (includes fraternities)

Most everybody who communicates with me asks if I have heard from anyone. Please take a minute to forward an email. We've been together a long time, so now is not the time to drift away!

In January, I sent Hal Sommer a birthday card, and his reply was:

Thanks John I hope to run a 5k tomorrow and I hope it's all downhill!

So, may all your races be all downhill and your summer loads of fun!

Many Miles Before the Night.....

J B