

Wabash Class of 1963

December 24, 2017

Fellow Classmates:

It's Christmas Eve Day and time for a quick end-of-year letter.

First, some sad news. We lost a great classmate, Henry Rodgers on October 24. Many will remember his tall and tough athletic frame joined with his Division One mind. His close friend John Doherty (Doc) emailed earlier, and here's a little more news. He died peacefully in his home with family on October 24 in Hyde Park, NY at 76. A member of Delta Tau Delta at Wabash, he majored in mathematics and was invaluable on the football field. Joining IBM in Poughkeepsie after graduation, he met Irene (Reenie) and they were married in 1966. He then earned an M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh in 1967. His career at IBM spanned 36 years, and he led the Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union transforming it into one of the largest credit unions in the U.S. After retiring from IBM, he opened his own consulting firm and became an adjunct professor of economics at Marist College.

On a lighter side, Wabash regained the Monon Bell after a one-year absence, and the classic was once more preceded by an attempted "theft." The game that followed was a typical Wabash-DePauw squeaker, but the bell is back in Crawfordsville. Newspaper articles at the end of this letter have more.

The principal motivation for this letter is to encourage all who have not sent a check to Wabash to do so before year-end to take the tax benefits. Although Wabash's fiscal year ends in six months, June 30, 2018, this year's tax deadline may be more important than others due to the new tax law's effect on charitable contributions. (There's more on this issue at www.wabash.edu/giving/taxreform.)

While we hear almost daily about student loans and the repayment issues of the current generation, including our grandchildren or their friends, effectively we all received "zero-liability student loans" due to the subsidy we all received in our tuition bills – thanks to the endowment way back in the 60's.

Here's the status of classmates of record from the College as of December 23. (Note that mine is not in yet – it's in my end-of-year checks still to write!) Here are the ways to give:

Online: www.wabash.edu/give

Phone: [877-743-4545](tel:877-743-4545)

Mail: Wabash College / Annual Fund / PO Box 352 / Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Frank Cassell
Len Clark
Steve Coons
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Kent Evans
Warren Ford
Susan Hatfield^
Pete Hedges
Dave Hockensmith
Steve Jay 1832
Rusty Johnson 1832
Steve Kain
Steve Klug

Bob Kruse, Jr.
John LaBounty
Nancy Litzenberger^
Tom McCully 1832
Earl McGimpsey
Lincoln McGurk III
Norman Meeker
Tom Milligan 1832
Rusty Nichols
Norm Schumaker 1832
Tim Steele
Peter Toll, Jr.
Tom Verachtart
Bill White, Jr.
Jan Woodfill^ 1832

Gotta go and get the Christmas music going. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a great New Year to you and yours.

Alan, for Bruce and Tom

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317-432-8074

GREENCASTLE – Look around Blackstock Stadium after the madness of a Monon Bell classic passed, and you'd find no less than a dozen people — almost all in Wabash Little Giants gear — cleaning up the mess left behind.

Some had to be there after Wabash's 22-21 victory, while others stuck around by choice.

Up near the top row of DePauw's home stands was Schuyler Nehrig, the Wabash place-kicker who helped three other Wabash students attempt to steal the 300-pound Monon Bell last month.

Seeing as how they'd spent six hours breaking into the Lilly Center in Greencastle before trying to swipe the massive trophy, Putnam County Prosecutor Tim Bookwalter had to hand them a sentence beyond a slap on the wrist.

So there was Nehrig, who became a revered member of the Wabash community, serving his time, cleaning up Blackstock Stadium after the game. Because he didn't want to risk getting in any other legal issues — this was a serious case, after all — Nehrig didn't want to talk. But he would offer this:

"This is what makes this rivalry great."

Indeed, after the 124th meeting of DePauw and Wabash, it was easy to see what makes this matchup one of the best in small college football. As the Little Giants rang (and rang, and rang, and rang) the bell from the west end zone after a wild win, their fans came together to help ease the punishment handed down to four kids who were playing their part in a tradition dating back to 1932.

And know this: DePauw fans took no mercy on their home bleachers. They were a mess. A great rivalry indeed.

The 60 minutes of football before weren't too bad, either.

Host DePauw took control early when offensive lineman Andrew Saunders recovered a James Deaton fumble in the end zone for his first career touchdown. They traded scores to go into the half tied at 14. during the 124th Monon Bell Classic football game between Wabash College and DePauw University held at DePauw in Indiana on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017.

Wabash's tying score before the break came after a 17-play, 72-yard drive that included two successful fake field goals. Things were simply working in their favor.

"Whether it's true or not, guys just started to believe in the magic," Wabash coach Don Morel said.

And that was only the beginning.

The third quarter was virtually a stalemate. Six offensive drives ended in punts. Nobody could get an edge in field position. The DePauw defense gathered on a two-high set of metal bleachers about 10 yards off the playing field between series.

Guys were bandaged and bloodied, noses and elbows alike dripping red. They were fired up, shouting after big plays, but they looked tired all the while.

Then DePauw's Chandler Nicholson took an interception 52 yards to the house.

The defense didn't look tired any longer. His Tigers were in control with just 1:20 left in the third quarter. Guys were smacking that metal bench loud enough to drown out the constant ringing of the Monon Bell, being rung by fans about 25 yards away.

Wabash looked doomed when it had to punt with just 7:53 left in the fourth quarter, still trailing by seven. Like Morel said, though, his team was already buying into the magic.

Wabash's (1) Ike James makes a touchdown during theBuy Photo

Wabash's (1) Ike James makes a touchdown during the 124th Monon Bell Classic football game between Wabash College and DePauw University held at DePauw in Indiana on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017.

That Wabash punt was fumbled by DePauw inside the 5-yard line. The Little Giants recovered, setting up sophomore running back Ike James to score his third touchdown of the day, bringing his season total to 20.

Then, the Little Giants went for two. Morel didn't want this wild game going to overtime. Fans would point out later the conversion, called a successful catch on the field, looked short of the end zone on television replays.

"He got in," James said with a laugh. "We'll take it. Whatever was called on the field, however we can get it, we'll take it. No matter what people saw, we'll take it. ...

"Wow," he continued. "We were going back-and-forth. We had a lot of things not go our way, but we told ourselves, 'Something is going to go our way.'"

DePauw nearly won the game with wide receiver Nolan Ayres in as an emergency quarterback, but he, too, coughed up a goal-line fumble that cost what would have likely been the deciding score.

Wabash, of course, was willing to clean up whatever DePauw left behind — whether in the stands and on the field.

"Taking the Bell back is the greatest feeling ever," said senior defensive end Deonte Simpson, as the bell continued to ring out in the end zone and his teammate kept cleaning up the stands. "We just did it for the community, that's what it's all about."

<https://www.indystar.com/story/sports/college/2017/10/24/wabash-students-attempt-monon-bell-heist-wearing-trump-obama-masks/793604001/>

Wabash students attempt Monon Bell heist wearing Trump, Obama masks
Oct. 24, 2017

INDIANAPOLIS – Three Wabash students in white jump suits — one in a Donald Trump mask and two in Barack Obama masks — just etched their names in Monon Bell lore.

They spent six hours hiding under bleachers at the Lilly Center in Greencastle, according to Putnam County Prosecutor Tim Bookwalter, before sneaking out and unfastening the 300-pound bell. Which, of course, was set up with a pressure sensor that alerted police as soon as they lifted it from its stand.

The massive trophy has been handed back and forth to the winner of DePauw and Wabash's annual football game since 1932. Sometimes, though, the exchange isn't so peaceful.

► More: At long last, DePauw takes Monon Bell back to Greencastle

In 1965, a Wabash student posed as a Mexican dignitary and was given a tour of the DePauw campus. He returned after learning of the bell's location with a group of students and stole it.

The next year, DePauw students stole it (from their own school!) and buried it in the north end zone of Blackstock Stadium for safe keeping. This is a tradition full of scandalous stories of thievery, with the last successful heist coming in 1998.

► More: A failed heist in 2012

This latest chapter will ultimately result in a Class A misdemeanor criminal trespass charge handed out to four students. The three that snuck in the building: Aaron Scott, Mason Owen Simmons and Wabash placekicker Schuyler Nehrig; plus their getaway driver, Brendan McCoy.

Nehrig's part in the brazen thievery attempt actually drew some praise from Bookwalter.

"They always talk about football players looking down their nose at the placekicker," he cracked. "(Nehrig) had a set of guts on him, for a placekicker."

That charge is about as light as Bookwalter could have offered. He spoke with DePauw officials, local police and the Montgomery County Prosecutor because — even though this is tradition — he had to make some example of them.

"We're cognizant that this is a college prank or whatever," he said, "but when you go into a building and hide out for six hours, we've got to do something."

They were confronted by police as soon as they got outside, seeing as how that sensor was going off before they even wheeled the bell outside. They did very little damage, leaving only a few scratches.

Bookwalter has reviewed the officer's body cam footage, which revealed that the officer had some fun before letting them off.

"Oh the looks on their faces," he laughed. "(The officer) played like they were going to jail."

The Greencastle Banner Graphic reported this exchange:

"Can you tell me why I shouldn't charge you with theft?"

"Tradition," one of the young men responds.

"Theft is not a tradition," the officer counters.

Though Bookwalter has worked in Putnam County for 13 years, he's not dealt with a Monon Bell case — or any case, really — quite like this. He's sure it'll be remembered for a long time among the DePauw and Wabash communities.

"They'll be cracking jokes about this at their 25-year reunion," he said.

He's offered the four students a deferment program that will allow the case to be wiped from their record if they stay out of trouble through the school year and do some community service.