



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1964

Class Agent

Ron Nichols

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Dear Classmates,

Hopefully, everyone has enjoyed a relaxing summer. Connie and I continue to travel as much as we can, and visit children and grandchildren from Virginia and North Carolina to Flower Mound, Texas.

It's hard to imagine that fifty-six years ago we were well into our first semester, having survived the browbeating we received from Bob Mitchum in Campus Center to learn the lyrics to "Old Wabash" in the next two weeks, "or else".

Last week I received a communication from Mike Warren in the Alumni office forwarding an email from college Archivist, Beth Swift. Beth remarked that someone had asked her about the origin of the term "Dannies", This was my reply:

Dear Beth,

I've changed my mind and have decided to email you my version of the origin of "Dapper Dannies". I will phone you tomorrow morning in case you have any questions or have received different versions of the story.

When I entered Wabash as a freshman in 1960 I first heard of this term. At the time designer "in" apparel began to take hold in popularity on colleges around the country. Labels such as Gant, Izod, English Leather, Bass Weejuns and so on became overnight hits with those men who deemed themselves "cool" (a term our generation coined, by the way). An innate disdain for and a traditional dislike of the pretty boys south of us made the DPU male student population natural targets for the phrase "Dapper Dannies".

This is just the story that I learned fifty-six years ago, but was substantiated some years later by a reliable source who informed me that the closet Greendingle ever came to a student riot was when the local men's store ran out of Gucci Loafers. Oooh, they were in such a snit.

Today I carry on the tradition of Wabash "chic" by favoring Sketchers sneakers, Wrangler jeans (favorites of author CJ Box), and a selection of numerous Wabash tee shirts and sweatshirts which I have accumulated over the years in order to reaffirm my loyalty to the school and to help the Wabash College Bookstore thrive.

Regards,

Ron Nichols '64

Beth responded that while she has received several replies with similar content, and that she has traced the term back to 1956 and 1957 when it appeared in a "Bachelor" article.

If anyone has knowledge of the origin of the term, please forward it to swiftb@wabash.edu.

On a sad note, we have learned of the passing of Robert Allen, Class of 1957. Although we remember his commitment to Wabash as we enjoy the Allen Center facility of campus, Bob Allen's contributions to the college date back nearly sixty years.

Fellow classmate of ours, Dudley Burgess, who was employed under Bob at AT&T for thirty years, recalls how devoted he was to his family, friends, and Wabash College all of his life. We will truly miss Bob, and will remember him fondly as "Some Little Giant!"

I am composing this letter on the eve of Homecoming 2016, and will report events of the weekend much sooner than the gap between this letter and the one before.

Yours in 'Bash,

Ron