January 14, 2015

Dear Men of ’65,

Remember when pot was something else entirely? A pot (if it was intact) was a green beanie with a red bill and a red cherry on top. Boy, have times changed.

I bring the pot issue forward at this time, because as I was reading through the Bachelor, Vol. LIV, September 20, 1961, I noticed a small article about freshmen receiving the first pot warnings of the year. They were Chuck Gillespie, Don Schick and Jerry Zook. Also addressed at the meeting, a freshman was cited for entering the Chapel through the middle doors. Dave Arnett.

The previous Saturday, the Little Giants defeated Hanover 24-0. Dr. Keuffel’s single wing was off to a good start. There was anxiety in the Bachelor concerning the size of the Wabash players. It seems that Roger Colehower was the only 200-pounder on the team.

What was playing at the Strand that weekend? Walt Disney’s “The Parent Trap” in Technicolor starring Maureen O’Hara, Hayley Mills and Brian Keith.

What do all these tidbits have to do with our reunion which is the weekend of June 5-7? How do we celebrate our reunion, our relationship with Wabash and our relationships with each other? We tell stories. We reminisce. We remember. Or we used to remember. As old as you guys are, I’m not so sure about your memories any more. These days my mind wanders, and one of these days I’ll go with it.

Speaking of memories. Phil Wescott is working on the memories book for our class. I worry about the concept of memory, but I understand that long-term memory is the last to go. The book will be really valuable for all of us, please be willing to help Phil out with an early contribution so that you can be included. Phil would like your memories and photos by February 15, if at all possible. Remember—there’s that word again. Remember the enthusiasm when you entered Wabash, and see if you can find it again in your contribution. Phil Wescott just sent me a short note which I include next.
Here is some suggested brief verbiage urging our classmates to compose their Memory Book submissions and then moving promptly to click on the Big Bash 50 link:

• Each of us has led an interesting life since we departed Crawfordsville back in 1965. Some of us have maintained close ties with the College or with a few classmates. But now we’d like you to tell us about some highlights of your life since college. We need you to write down your meaningful life events and also select a relevant photo or two for our Class of 1965 Memory Book.

• We’ve made it easy for you to contribute to a successful Memory Book by downloading the model template at www.wabash.edu/alumni/docs/MemoryBook.docx

• Then, please reflect on your Wabash experiences and your life thereafter and plug in [it’s the Paste from Word button] your brief narrative story on the Alumni Office Big Bash website.

• Alternatively, if you don’t want to use the College template, you can email your Word document with your photos as attachments directly to Kim Johnson. Her campus email address is johnsonk@wabash.edu

Thanks for doing this and for doing it now. We need your Memory Book contribution ... and we need you back on campus the first weekend in June!

Even if you are not able to attend the Big Bash, you have friends who would like to catch up with you and know what you’ve been doing. It is a chance to reconnect with people who have remained friendly with you over the silence of the years. I still have a couple left, although I have tried to annoy everyone I could over the past five decades. Now I’m old enough to be a curmudgeon. (I haven’t changed much; just less hair and more body.)

Phil “Forever” Young has been working hard to bring this reunion together. It’s a big job, and he would like to see as many classmates attend as possible. It is always good to see old faces, but, of course, at our age that’s all we’ll see when we get together. Your living unit volunteer should be contacting you in the near future.

Allan Anderson has already sent out his first appeal for our class gift. Please, keep this in mind. I’m sure he will contact you again. You have always been generous with Wabash, even without me pestering you for a contribution. When I have looked at the giving over the years, we have regularly been in the top three classes by participation percentage-wise of all classes with at least 100 alumni—somewhere around 53% participation.
I’m looking forward to seeing you all there; the following classmates have already registered.

    Phil Young
    Ross Zumwalt
    Peter Pactor
    Jerry Boyer
    Larry Niemann

Don’t leave us hanging. I remind you, also, that spouses, significant others, family members are welcome at the Big Bash and our reunion activities. Go to the Wabash website and sign up now.

https://www.wabash.edu/alumni/reunion/signup2

If you found any humor in this letter, it was intentional.

You still are Some Little Giants.

Peter

P.S. If you are interested in helping out with the reunion, contact Phil Young:
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