



WABASH COLLEGE

Class Agents Letter

Alumni and Parent Relations

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Class of 1966

Class Agents

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Classmates,

I just attended this year's BIG BASH (or rather one day of it). I decided to go down on Saturday to Wabash to honor the work of Duane Hile and Earl Houck as Class Agents for the Class of 1967. It was fun to see their Class as crowded and active as was ours. They also were energized to exceed the success of our Class Gift amount. I think we may have started something with our Class of 1966 turnout, enthusiasm, fun and generosity. The pressure is now on the Class of 1968 to meet the challenge laid at its feet by '66 and '67.

I wanted to attend the lecture by Wabash Coaches Rob Johnson and Greg Birk (*Greg is also a Wabash graduate and former Wabash Director of Admissions*) on the topic of "Wabash Cross Country, the past 40 years." Greg is a friend of mine, a World Class distance runner still today, and presently working in college counseling in Switzerland. Rob is now retired as Head Cross Country and Track Coach at Wabash but, since he lives in C'ville, he never really really retires and helps out. It is the lucky Wabash Coach Clyde Morgan who has Rob adding historical knowledge as to what works, when, where, how ... and the present students really respect him.

So ... couple of observations. Wabash is the same on the outside as it was when we visited last year ... except a little more sunshine. The College learned from holding the Chapel Sing competition in the Chapel last year, and it was held inside. More fun, easier environment for viewing, and a great venue for the activity. The Class of 1967 won the sing competition ... they had numbers, enthusiasm, and a fun skit presentation. Imitation being the grandest form of flattery, they even utilized our Class of 1966 "W" skull cap from years ago in their presentation.

I spent time with both Greg and Duane in the tent tavern on the green across from the Allen Center Entrance. There was a 3 piece guitar group of Wabash guys performing and lots of

Wabash graduates' craft beer was being had. I spent time with the Wabash Sports Equipment Manager there (if you REALLY want the scoop ... go to him and not to the head coach). He reported:

- Wabash Football has a good crop of recruits in number and size. They expect a football turnout of all footballers in the 150 range for the beginning of fall practice.
- A couple of good transfers (one from St. Josephs College ... a stud running back who was admitted to Wabash but enrolled at St. Joe on a football scholarship prior to St. Joe closing this spring. A Merrillville, IN ... da Region ... kid.) and one from graduation from a California Junior College (a QB of the height of Rice and fast and good passer).
- In Addition the QB from State Champ Roncalli will be a freshman at Wabash this fall.
- The O line and D line will be experienced as well as having perhaps the best receivers in the Conference.
- Good experienced kickers are returning.
- He noted that there are 6 home games next year, and he hoped the stands would be full as the team will be ready.

Duane Hile was really pumped (as he should be) about his Class's performance.

- Bettered our record with the Class Gift at \$9.6 million.
- Tied or else bettered (not sure from his effusiveness which it was) our attendance record.
- Won the Chapel Sing.
- And utilized our idea ...a hospitality suite ... which really magnified fun and Class cohesiveness.

All this was and is good for Wabash (and good for our Class) to see the momentum we started and drove home last year as the 50th Reunion event ... took on a continuing momentum of what should be bigger, better, stronger. Just remember, the Alpha mark was established by the Class of 1966.

The College was on display. Spoke with our President and he was effusive about the momentum. Hile said he had obtained Freshmen recruiting information and reported he was told the number of Freshmen should meet or exceed the 250 goal. Alumni Director Emeritus, Tom Runge, was around ... enjoying NOT being in charge. Alumni Director Hoffman was doing a grand job at the BIG BASH and promising next year to get out to Michigan and other states to press the flesh.

On the way down to C'ville, I went through Rensselaer, Indiana. I drove past Saint Joseph College. Gorgeous grounds, stately buildings AND deathly quiet. Deathly quiet. No

students. No faculty, just the wind playing on an empty flagpole. I felt so bad for all involved. Truly a tragedy. And long time, well established, mainstay of so many families, community, State. Now closed. Students scattered.

And I passed all this and went on to Wabash ... a vibrant, forward looking, optimistic, major contributor of higher education, stability to families, community, State, country. Point Counter Point.

WABASH IS OUR BENEFIT. IT IS OUR LEGACY. IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY. **MAKE WABASH FASTER, STRONGER, BETTER. KEEP IT THAT WAY ALWAYS.** As this fiscal year comes to a close the end of June, I ask you ... if you have not yet contributed to Wabash, please please PLEASE do so. The Annual Fund needs you. The students need you. Actually ... and this is not overstated, our Country's future needs you. So much has been given us. It is TIME. **FASTER, STRONGER, BETTER. WAF**

Jay

PS. Almost forgot (sign of being a "Golden Alumnus"). Our Class of 1966 holds the **ALL TIME HIGHEST RECORD** of 75% gift participation in the 50th Reunion Class Gift. All you guys are simply amazing. In the vein of the Greenwood, Indiana phrase I learned there as a child: "Keep on keepin on".