



## Class Agents Letter

**Class of 1967**

**Class Agents**

**Earl Houck**

**Duane Hile**

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Dear Classmates,

January 25, 2021

Wherever I travel (which hasn't happened for quite some time!!), I always try to connect with other alumni, especially guys I knew on campus. One of my more frequent contacts is **Paul Robinson**. He and I have stayed in touch over the years. More recently we've met up in Phoenix, where Robbie resides, on winter trips Mary Ann and I've taken to AZ. We've had a great time reliving our Wabash days and, in the process, boring the heck out of our wives.

Both Robbie and I enjoyed our Wabash days. Somehow, those recollections got funnier, more detailed, and greatly embellished since 1967!

I had the pleasure of meeting two of Robbie's grandsons, both Wallies, at Homecoming in recent years. I was curious to see thru Robbie's eyes, the Wabash of 1967 and the Wabash of today. He was kind enough to prepare this reflection.

### ***The Legacy Continues***

Duane and Earl,

Thanks so much for your Class Newsletters. I always look forward to their arrival.

I have two grandsons at Wabash. Both hail from Billings, Montana, where my daughter Kim and her husband have lived for over 25 years. Paul Haesemeyer is a Senior this year. And his brother Wade is a Junior. Paul, a Phi Delt, is 7th in his class. Wade, a Lambda Chi, is 4th in his class. Both are doing well, unlike their Grandfather 50 years ago.



Needless to say, I am ecstatic that they are attending Wabash, but I was stunned when they chose Wabash. It was a total surprise to me. I admit to pushing for Wabash as a Grandpa. We had family pictures taken in Wabash sweatshirts when they were little. And when Wade, in the 7th grade, mind you, told his Mom that he was worried about college, my daughter shoveled him off to me. And all I knew what to do was to do some sort of book study on selecting colleges. And here is where I got lucky. I chose Loren Pope's book "Colleges That Change Lives". It discusses "...40 schools that will change the way you think about colleges..." ; and it did. So Wade and I went plowing through the book, 2 schools per week on Skype. And then his older brother Paul and I went through the book, and I just finished up with their sister Kate, who is a Junior in high school. I feel like I am a co-author of the book, after going through it 3 times.

Because college costs are staggering, scholarships became a dominating factor. And here is where Wabash came through, in spades! For that I was extremely grateful. It reinforces the fact that Wabash has always been there for me over the years; for that, I am her loyal son.

This year, Paul graduates in May. And I hope I can experience that, and compare it to my graduation days. What I don't envy is that Paul has orals (1 hour) coming up in a week. But he doesn't seem worried about it like I did. Comps seem to be much more civilized today. For one thing, they are in January, and not in the Spring. So they don't ruin your entire Senior year, like they did in our time.

One thing that seems constant between then and now is fraternity pledge-ship. I hated pledge-ship and my grandsons also hated it. I guess some things never change. But both, now, embrace their fraternity life.

Overall, I think the education at Wabash is better today than in our day. Today, students have a myriad of opportunities to study abroad, as well as being exposed to a number of summer internships, albeit non-paying. My grandson Paul had 2 summer non-paying internships - one in Massachusetts 2 years ago, and one in Santa Fe, New Mexico last summer. The Santa Fe opportunity vanished however when Covid-19 arrived. Incidentally, Paul had a Wabash Scholarship in Massachusetts, so he wasn't broke all the time. Only Wabash would have a scholarship for non-paying summer internships. Incidentally that scholarship was set up by Mike Dill, a strong Wabash advocate. Paul was grateful for that significant stipend. Wade has just shipped off to New York for this semester. He'll have a ton of stories when he gets back, I bet. Looking forward to it.

And now, Kate is waiting for Wabash to go co-ed so she can experience Crawfordsville! Like that is going to happen!

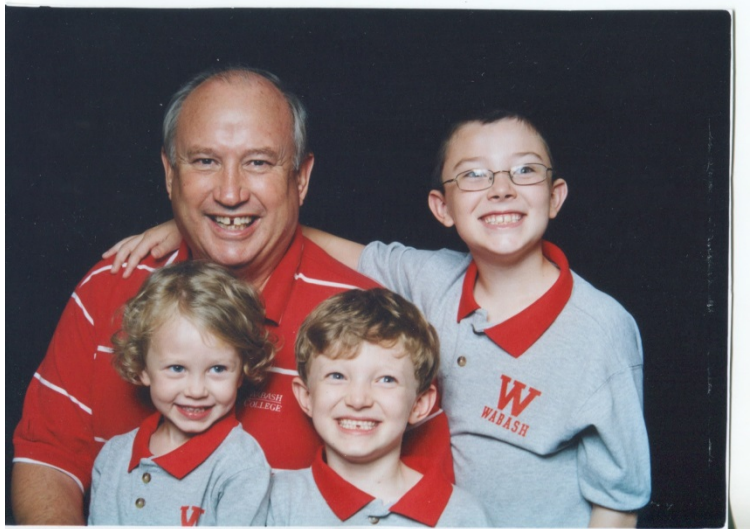
My next project is my 8 year old grandson, Rex. Notice that he holds a Wabash certificate that proudly names him a Wabash Little Giant. I'd love to live long enough to see him attending Wabash. We can dream, can't we?

WAF

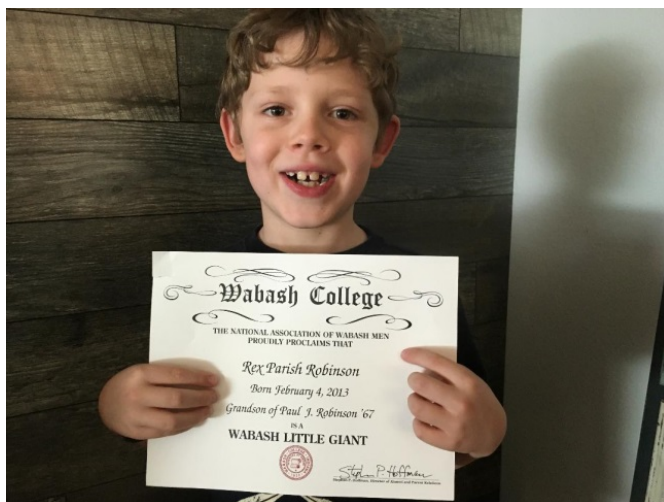
**Robbie**



Wade, Robbie, Paul in 2020.



The grandkids in 2007.  
Robbie with Paul, Wade  
and Kate.



Grandson Rex, getting ready for  
Wabash.

## ***Classmate Comments on “Regrets”***

We received a response from **John May** to Earl’s request for comments on “regrets”.

Duane and Earl,

The Best of the Season to You and Yours. It’s finally getting to be a sorta christmasy here in NE Indiana; blowing snow, temperatures in the low twenties and grocery store are scenes of milling eddies of masked consumers. Last minute reaping of essential - Bush Noels, peppermint bark, and maybe some greens - evergreens that is. Still hoping for that “Wells Fargo Wagon” to appear with those mail order wonders which will make this a “virtual” Christmas.

There was something about the trip to the Big Stores downtown and spying upon the enraptured faces of the youngsters as they wander from one decorated window to another, that long line to Santa’s lap, and the angst of the harries parents just looking to ensure that this manic energy and anticipation is not detonated by some offhand remark or perceived slight.

We went to school with some really neat guys. Some times just wonder how I wasted the opportunity not to meet and associate with them. Even as small as Wabash is /was, time was limited and the need to be as productive academically was always nagging at the back of your mind. God, What a Great Time!

And now to point of this reply: Earl’s comment about regrets. I shall share a few:

- Not writing letters - to the friends and acquaintances made at school and maintaining the connections and common bonds of those four years;
- Cutting Jack Charles’s ancient History class. Could rationalize - being married, working, and book fees. Humbug! Too damn lazy and that I DO REGRET!
- Not taking the time to watch and to share in all the other activities that I now stress to every new college student to be; and lastly
- Not being daring enough after graduation to take the career opportunity presented by Dean Moore and Coach Keuffel.

Other than those, I really liked where I went, what I did, and all the little nuances that life has presented to me. Again - Happy and Merry to All

WAF

**John May**

And, some helpful, but belated by over 50 years, information, also from **John**: This would have been useful way back when PhysChem was the bane or necessary evil of us all. Yeah, the math savants just laughed, but Bullet Bob still was able to humble us all. **A “no math” (but seven-part) guide to modern quantum mechanics** Welcome to “The curious observer’s guide to quantum mechanics”—featuring particle/wave duality.

## ***From An Alumnus With A Film On Operation Frijoles***

Wabash Class of 1967,

Over the past few months, I have been working on a film about the 1965 theft of the Monon Bell. It's a story I have been fascinated with since my time at Wabash in the early 90s.

Some of you have already had a chance to watch my film, and a few of you even helped with my research. Thanks again to everyone who assisted me. Because you were on campus at the time of the heist, I wanted to share the film with you if you haven't already watched it.

This is a rough cut of the film. In the future, I'd like to add original music and professional narration. When I do that, I'll also make a few minor edits. For example, I know that I mispronounced a few names, and I'll make those corrections.

Here is the link to the film. I hope you enjoy it and it brings back some great Wabash memories. <https://youtu.be/M51D8eITsbk>

Happy New Year.

Scott Simpson (**Phil Trueblood's** nephew)

PS. I might start researching a new project, also related to Wabash. It concerns Gavin Lodge and his military service in Vietnam. If any of you knew him, I'd love to speak with you. I think that this could be a good story for a future issue of the Wabash alumni magazine.

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***Classmates, please note:***  
***If you have any info on Gavin you'd like to share, please email Scott Simpson:***  
***[scott.simpson95@yahoo.com](mailto:scott.simpson95@yahoo.com)***  
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And a related article on The Monon Bell in Wikipedia ---

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monon\\_Bell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monon_Bell)



## **Comps Are Coming!**

I'm certain we all remember those three frightening words and the signs the juniors so thoughtfully placed around campus in the spring. With current schedule changes, comps have been completed. Whew!!!

Several profs have posted words of advice on preparing for comps. I think this one is especially relevant: from *Associate Professor of Political Science Ethan Hollander*: For years, I've been giving this advice, I usually give it to seniors...at which point it's too late. The best way to do well on comps is to have been a good student for the last three-and-a-half years. No amount of cramming can make up for neglecting your classes when you took them. Once it's time for you to take comps? It will all be right there.

I have it on "good authority" this was one of the questions for orals: *"When will all the rhetorical questions end?"*

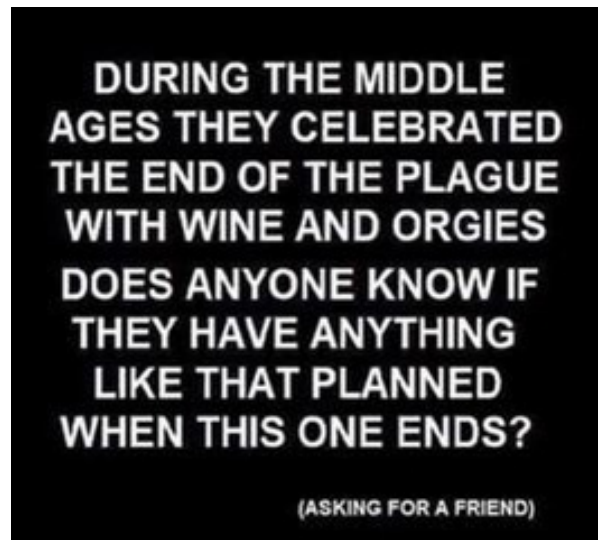
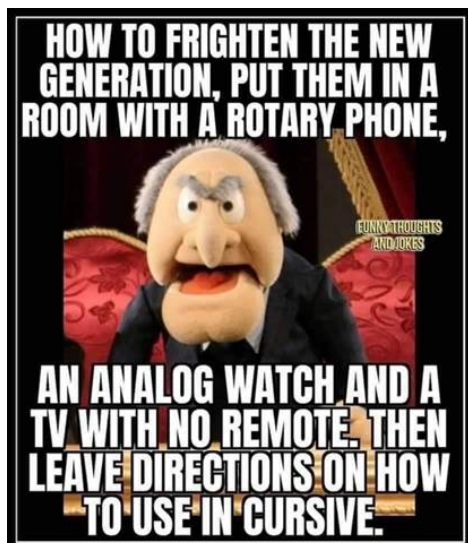
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***Please note:***

***For those of you who use Facebook, there is a group "Wabash Class of 1967".***

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## **On The Lighter Side**



(ASKING FOR A FRIEND)

*New Year Thoughts (from an anonymous contributor)*

1. *My goal for 2020 was to lose 10 pounds; I have 14 to go.*
2. *Had a dinner salad of mostly croutons and tomatoes. Well, just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce. . . and cheese. . . and pepperoni. . . (OKAY, it was a pizza!)*
3. *A recent study has found people who carry a little extra weight live longer than those who mention it.*
4. *Kids today don't know how easy they have it. When I was young, I had to walk nine feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel.*
5. *Remember when we were kids and the temperature dropped to zero and school was canceled? Yeah, me neither!*
6. *I enjoy the free time that accompanies aging. I learn something new every day ---- and forget five other things.*
7. *I may not be that funny or talented or athletic or smart or handsome . . . Sorry, I forgot where I was going with this.*
8. *I just had an argument with my wife and she told me I was right! Now what do I do??*

Send us your news and comments!! Stay healthy!!

*Duane*