

**Class of 1967**

**Class Agents**

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Greetings Gentlemen of '67,

First and foremost, MANY THANKS to all of you who provided news and to those who contributed to our 8<sup>th</sup> Day of Giving! Now, sit back and relax with a TWR and enjoy the various subjects covered in this edition of our class letter: **Virus, G.P.A, Wabash Traditions, Day of Giving Results, Senager Thoughts**, and an **Inspirational Suggestion**.

### *Classmate Messages on Virus*

The first subject is perhaps the largest medical test case in history and begins with an exchange from one of our frequent contributors, **Rick Helm**

Earl and Duane,

I am responding to your solicitation of Covid experiences. I am guessing there is a lot of uniformity. The two branches of participants would be conservatives and the "it's just the flu, and wearing a mask imposes on my rights" group. Indiana has more than its share of both. Freida and I have quarantined, but with some modifications. I have gone to the office one or two days a week, seldom for a full day. Our office was "no visitors, phone us from the parking lot and we will bring out papers for signing" for a couple of months. Then, and currently, masks mandatory, client meetings in the conference room with distancing (it is not really "social") and sanitizing after client departure. This remains our system as I write. I saw my first face to face client last Monday after a span of 10 months, except for a few court appearances that could not be phoned in. Mediation by Zoom a couple of times. With precautions we have still had 3 of 5 assistants, and 2 of 6 attorneys afflicted at some point.

I was installed as Master of my Masonic Lodge in January. That has been my only activity I have regularly attended for the last year, under strict guidelines from the state Grand Lodge, and a with complete shutdown of several months. And one five person fishing trip in September - very carefully orchestrated. A 365 square mile lake does allow for a great deal of isolating; no one had to sleep outside the cabin due to Covid.

This has left a lot of time for reading, movies, going through "stuff" and discarding as appropriate. And walking - over the past 2 plus years I am down to my "graduating from Wabash" weight. More than when I began my freshman year but 50 pounds or so less than

recent adult life. Diet, portion control, and 2 miles in 30 minutes every other day. I think I am in better shape than previously, but I am still old, dang it.  
I hope my classmates are faring well. And that we will soon be able to return to things such as the Big Bash and other normal activities. The vaccine, at least the Moderna, was survivable and the side effects did not come close to the Covid I had a year ago.

Regards  
Rick Helm  
WAF

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Rick,

Thanks for the update. Really glad to see you are doing well. More often than not I am hearing more bad news from contemporaries than good. But then I guess that is par for the course at this time in our lives. I've got a little 8 acre farm on the end of a cul de sac with small farms on both sides of my property, so I am kind of isolated. And my trips out are to the grocery, the gas station, the feed store, and the doctor. I have amassed a fair collection of masks... maybe for a post-COVID attempt at being a burglar or bank robber! Stay well... and thanks for being not only a regular reader but also a contributor to our letters.

Earl  
WAF.

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Rick

Thanks for the update. Your experience is very similar to what we are seeing in our area. I have a Wabash "subway alumnus" I meet regularly for lunch -- restaurant service has been "open". Unfortunately, for bar/restaurant owners, the eat-in traffic has been insufficient to eliminate a number of permanent closings because of political actions.

Mary Ann and I received both our shots with no after-effects. We continue to walk and ride the stationary bike and have just recently gotten back outside for REAL cycling! I am eager to return to Big Bash and other campus events, but that seems questionable and/or limited under current restrictions.

Stay well!  
Duane

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Earl,

My favorites are a WAF mask and an Indiana Masonic Home mask, both washable, both more comfortable. But I burn through a fair number of disposables provided by my firm.

I did not mention doctor visits, assuming that our classmates are smart enough to go when the medical people make themselves available. A visit to I U Medical in Indy, from my home in Warsaw, has been an adventure, with a pre-visit 3-4 days ahead of surgeries for a Covid test. It doubles the drive, but that is approx. 2 hours each way and manageable. Even so, my specialist had to bump one procedure while he quarantined due to an exposure.

Rick

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**Tom Brown:**

Earl,

You aren't doing badly. My oldest grandchild is 8. I didn't start late but all my children did. 3 new grandchildren for us in 2020 makes a total of 6. After Linda gets her 2nd Pfizer shot we'll probably be flying to see those new grandchildren in person for the first time.

Your newsletter asked about reactions. I had no reaction to my first Moderna, free courtesy of Dallas County for residents age 75 and up. The day after my second Moderna I had a one-degree temp and felt sluggish. Linda had no reaction to her first Pfizer.

The record cold snap was hard on a lot of people here in Dallas but my street was OK. The grocery stores and most of everything else in my neighborhood was closed for four days. Gas stations and oil change shops and pretty much anything automotive stayed open. Personally I loved the novelty of being out in the frigid weather. If people hadn't been suffering I would have wished it to go on much longer.

Some very well-to-do people were in cold houses, some without water. The hotels were full so no place to go. It was kind of like the Titanic in that you couldn't buy your way out of the problem. Though it is well to the south Galveston got hit hard. Even the Medical Center eventually lost power and water. I have a niece in a Ph.D. program there and before her apartment lost power she had 15 friends from elsewhere on the island sheltering overnight. Once she lost water she improvised from melted snow and rain gutters.

I've done a lot of subbing at the school I retired from. Such was the toll of Covid on the faculty that I subbed almost every school day in January.

Cordially, Tom

## ***Still Focusing on G.P.A.***

### **Tom Werner:**

What caught my attention (in the article from football coach Don Morel) was "... the Freshman (football \*) class had an average GPA of 3.66...".

Didn't know Wabash dropped the beloved 3.0 grading system. Was 3.0 too challenging? Assuming Wabash now has a 4.0 system, it's hard to believe that a whole class of football players maintain close to an A average (grade inflation?) Maybe they have a 5.0 system???

Our first semester at Wabash was an important "life changing " experience for me. Having been an "Honor Society " student in high school the real world of academics hit me at Wabash. The hated 3.0 system...one of the many aspects of Wabash that changed my life. Also.. in hindsight...The good natured ribbing by some of you guys was also helpful. Thank you.

(\*Footnotes on football: First is this quote from Coach Lou Holtz: "You wanna make God laugh, tell him what your plans are!" Second is this list of twenty quotes from Woody Hayes -- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziDOjmDqBlQ>)

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### **Tom Burns (one of our PBKs):**

Ah, YES, The Good Ol' days, those that started us all along our paths to becoming the adults we learned to be. What I recall most about the crazy 3 point grading system was the absence of plus and minus despite the fact the pros gave out pluses and minuses in abundance. Nor was there uniformity within the college itself. For example, the College calculated class rank on the 3 point system, but Phi Beta Kappa used a 9 point system to do the same thing. But most shocking was the minus 2 for an F ! I too am rather dubious about the 3.66 average of the freshmen footballers. When our pledge class won the freshmen housing units award for highest GPA in the autumn of 1963, we had about a 2.4. Lambda Chi won the unit trophy every year after pledging us, and we never broke 2.5. So 3.66 must reflect something totally different.

Almost every night and on many afternoons during exams our dining room in the House was full of brothers helping brothers study. It was beautiful. Actually those scenes are among my most treasured memories; other than, of course, meeting Carol in the Spring of 1967, when neither of us wanted the mixer with the ADP women from Wittenberg to happen. So thanks to all of you who voted against their treasurer to have us host that event.\*\*

(\*\* Footnote on this event from Duane: one of my high school classmates was an ADP at Witt. I was visiting Witt one weekend and ran into her. We were both social chairman/woman of our Houses at the time and over a beverage discussed the

possibility of her sorority spending a weekend at Wabash. We thought it would be interesting! Both the ADPs and LCAs had intensive discussions about the propriety and expense of the idea. After a tentative “okay” from my Brothers, I gingerly presented the idea to Dean Moore, who said he would not only approve, but would allow females in non-public rooms of the Lambda Chi house during daylight hours! For the record: The young ladies spent Saturday night with four to a room at the infamous Riviera Motel – no overnights in the fraternity house!! A few short term relationships started and Tom Burns’ long term marriage is a result of that weekend.)

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#### **Mike Butler:**

Wabash shifted to the 4.0 system, and replaced “hours” with “course credits” sometime in the ‘70’s. The 4.0 system eliminated the “-2” for an F and also allowed for gradations, e.g. B+, B, and B-. We needed 120 “hours” to graduate. Today’s students need 34 “credits”. I think the college changed to align with other schools and make comparisons among colleges easier for prospective students, not to mention rating services like US News & World Report, Fiske, etc.

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#### **John May:**

AND if you earned a D you got a fat ZERO. Thank you very much Bio 1. Apropos of nothing in particular, but the final had a major section on the Krebs Cycle. I of course refused to be swayed by one and all who professed to “know” about the fore mentioned Krebs Cycle. Not I; in lieu of onset of digestion in the mouth, I chose to go all in on the development of a leaf! Can’t recall a single item or term! However, latter working with dairy nutritionist and milk producers, my rudimentary grasp of that same said Krebs Cycle did provide me some cachet with the guys who really knew the hows and whys of a ruminant’s miracle ability to transform high fibrous feed stuff and other wise garbage by products into a cash crop. Not counting the excessive exhalations of methane, ammonia, and tons of manure, ruminates may be the single largest source of greenhouse gases, but they DO eliminate a ton of ingredients that otherwise would be piled high awaiting some other practical- read profitable reuse - application. One way or another, Wabash does provide a way to succeed or at least not to be mistaken for an idiot!

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#### **Peer Lykke:**

I loved the 3 point system and considered a **B-** to be the perfect grade!

## **Wabash Traditions**

I frequently read other Class Letters, especially those of or near our era, to compare notes. One of my recent views was the March 2021 letter of Jon Pactor '71. This paragraph brought back a flood of memories:

*"Many Wabash traditions departed in 1967-1971, and some departed with fervid disagreement. Chapel had been required since the start of the college, and it ceased to be required. Saturday classes stopped. The pole fight ended. The W-haircut given to a freshman who did not know Old Wabash well enough was discarded. Even our yearbook abandoned tradition, and behind the editorship of Jim Czarniecki, our yearbook had an avant garde design and themes. We had an innovative 9.0 grading scale. Wabash had three presidents in 1967-1971. Change seemed to be everywhere."*

A number of other traditions come to mind: POTS!; no Freshmen walking on the grass; no stepping on the College seal just inside the library entrance; Freshmen tipping their pots to ladies, professors (all male), letter jacket wearers, Senior Council members on campus; Sphinx Club was honorary. I am happy I had the opportunity to enjoy many of these unique traditions. I remember trips to campus during the '67 to '71 years (that Jon mentioned) and having the distinct impression there was "change for the sake of change", and, an apparent reduction in Wabash spirit. Many students of that era expressed to me their disappointment at the extent and/or nature of some changes.

**So, that prompts a new request for your comments: Which traditions are you pleased the old Wabash had and which traditions are you pleased no longer exist?**

## **Highly Successful 8<sup>th</sup> Day of Giving -- 2021**

Statement from Wabash President Feller: "This year set an all-time record for the most money raised on a single Day of Giving, \$1.34 million and counting and this marked the fourth consecutive year that we've exceeded \$1 million, and we received gifts from members of 77 classes. The Day of Giving met all eight challenges throughout the day — from the student response fund challenge to the athletics challenge — to unlock \$520,000 in pledged gifts, and set the #AllforOneWabash hashtag trending nationally."

The tentative final results and details of the challenges and affinity groups are available on the Wabash website. Among the **fraternities**, FIJI led the way with 365 gifts (for clarification, an **individual** may have made **gifts** to multiple affinity groups), followed by Phi Delt with 336, and Lambda Chi with 294. The Class of 1991 led all **alumni classes** with a total of 175 gifts. The participation of **our class** was a considerable distance behind -- we finished 17th of 22 class challenges with 50 gifts.

However, I do want to say a big "loud and greasy **Ooooo Waaah Waaah**" to 35 classmates who participated, per Alumni Office records, and to **Earl** for his challenge:

David Bickell	Dave Bloomer	Ronald Brown	John Brumbaugh
Mike Butler	Stephen Claffe	Edward Cook	Philip Coons
Edward Culver	C David Decker	Dave Decker	Clark Dickerson
Dennis Harrell	Richard (and Freida) Helm		Duane Hile

Earl Houck  
Peer Lykke  
Bob Myers  
Jack Robertson  
Gene Snipes

William Ingle  
John Marshall  
Joel Bruce Newby  
Paul Robinson  
James Stahler

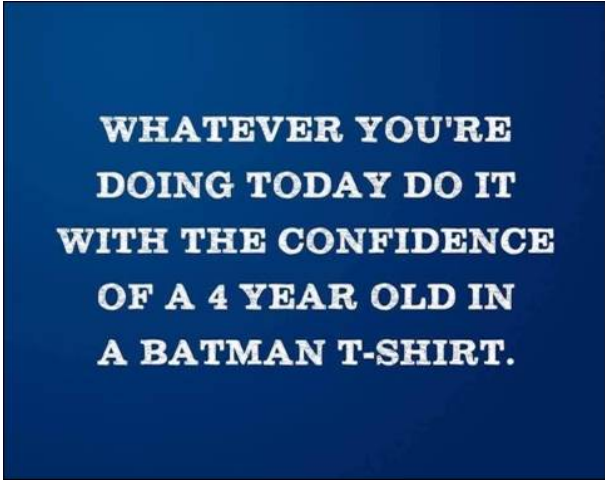
Larry Landis  
John May  
John Newport  
Frederick Siegel  
Rex Stratton

John Lawson  
David Montieth  
Alan Pyle  
Roger Smith  
Tom Werner

### ***Senager Thoughts***

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60+ years later --- no school or work, a monthly allowance, my own pad, no curfew, a driver's license and my own car, no acne, and I hang around with people who are not scared of getting pregnant.

### ***Inspiration from our 4 year old Grandson***



**WHATEVER YOU'RE  
DOING TODAY DO IT  
WITH THE CONFIDENCE  
OF A 4 YEAR OLD IN  
A BATMAN T-SHIRT.**

Keep the cards, letters, and emails coming! And, send your thoughts on Wabash Traditions or any other Wabash subject!

***Duane***