



## WABASH COLLEGE

### *Class Agents Letter*

Alumni and Parent Relations

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**Class of 1973**

### **Class Agent**

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### **Greetings, Class of 1973!**

How have you been? Here in Crawfordsville, we keep getting reminders that Spring is just around the corner – just to have Winter step back in force. I’m looking forward to a steady streak of days of 50 degrees plus and sunny.

I’ve also been getting reminders from Mike Warren ’93 and Michele Ward that we have our **45<sup>th</sup> Reunion** this June (1-3) at Big Bash.

For this letter, I’m simply going to encourage you to head to the Alumni webpage, select “The Big Bash” from the list on the right margin, and get signed up. The site has the weekend’s schedule, a link to register, lodging suggestions, a list of extra activities, and a page showing those who have already signed up. As of right now, there are 3 of us planning to attend – and I will take responsibility for the meager registrations since it is mainly due to my lack of contact with you all.



So, head to [www.wabash.edu/alumni/reunion/schedule](http://www.wabash.edu/alumni/reunion/schedule) and get registered today!

One item on the Extra Activities list is a trip to Turkey Run. Since my normal Friday routine is to head to one of the state parks nearby, I’m interested to see if anyone else has an interest in doing some hiking there early Friday morning. We could easily make it back to campus for the 11:30am Welcome Back Luncheon.

I hope to see registrations of class members planning to attend our 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion sky-rocket in the near future.

And while you’re at the college website, please consider making a gift to Wabash - <https://www.wabash.edu/ecommerce/>. They also make it possible to add a donation as part of the Big Bash registration process. This is convenient, but it doesn’t allow for Matching Gifts if that is how you normally contribute.

I’ll plan on getting another class letter out shortly that contains some updates from classmates. We had a mini-reunion at a home football game last Fall with Jim Gould, Jack Foos, Tom Stocks, and myself.

I did receive an interesting email last month.

A couple years ago, I included a newspaper photo showing classmate Wes Allerdice and Father Fred Hofheinz attending to the Crawfordsville teen who set himself on fire in front of Center Hall. That photo has generated more response than anything else I've included in these letters. After that letter came out, I was contacted by Fred's daughter who said she just happened to find it on the college website, and she shared it with her dad.

A few weeks ago, I was contacted by a member of the class of 1988, Jotipalo Bhikkhu.

Here's a portion of his email to me:

"I am a Wabash grad, class of 1988, and have been a Buddhist monk for the last 19 years. My father, Don Sperry, used to be the business controller of the college.

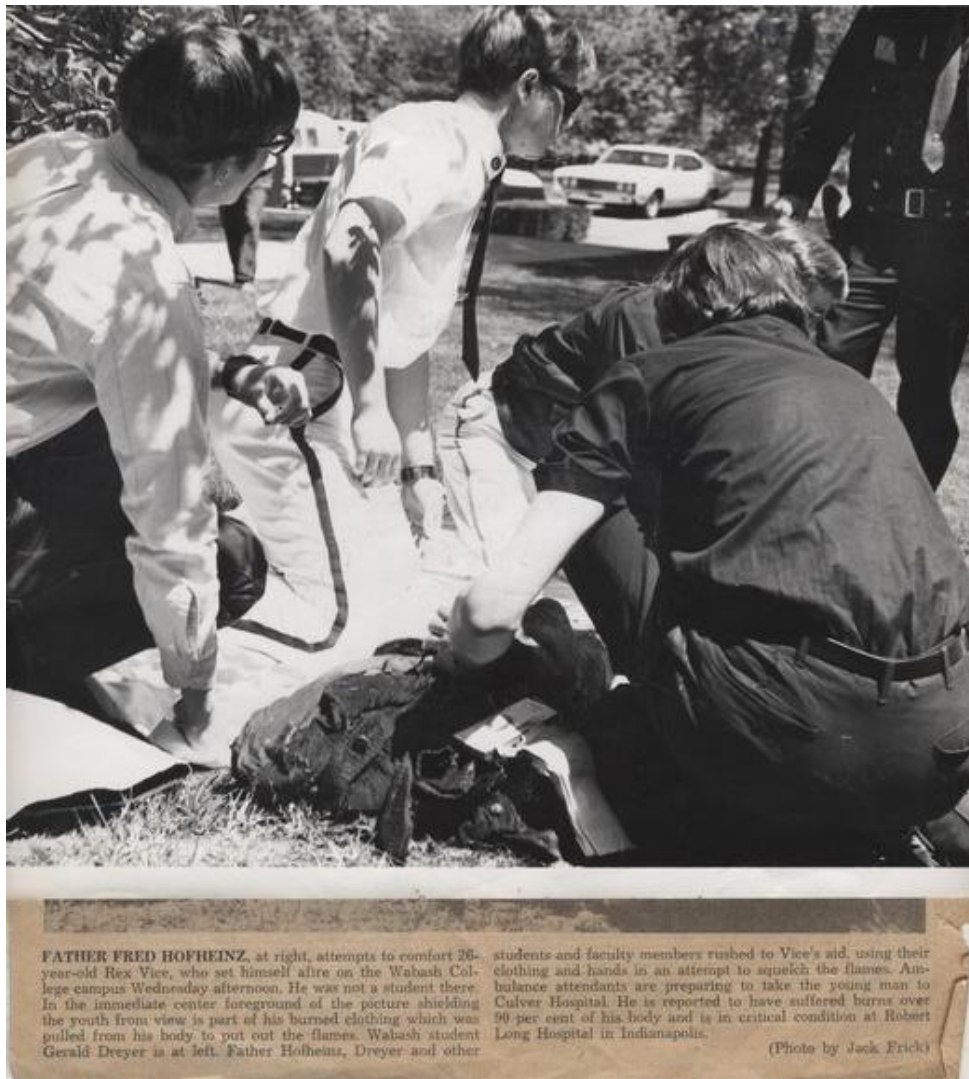
Recently I had a memory of seeing a self-immolation at the college when I was a young child. I'd had this memory at times throughout my life but assumed I had imagined it. I asked my mom about it today, and she told me I was sitting in our car, in the parking lot by Center Hall waiting for my Dad, when it happened. I would have been 5 years old at the time.

I started doing some research on-line and was pleased to see the note that Thom Liffick wrote about his recollections of the event, which you posted in a July 2010 class agent letter. Interestingly you comment in that newsletter, "I often wonder if anyone is taking the time to read them (the class agent newsletters)....!" Do you have Thom's address or Wes Allerdice who is mentioned in the letter? Could you check with them, to see if they are willing to correspond with me about that event?"

Imagine having flashbacks of this throughout your life, and wondering if it was fact or fantasy!

He was hoping to get some feedback from some who were Wabash students at the time of the event, as well as my thoughts about having a memorial service to mark its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. One of his neighbors is actually friends with Rex Vice's (the burn victim) sister. I suggested he contact her out of respect for the family. When he contacted her by phone, she asked that we just let the anniversary day pass when it arrives since she and her sister would like the memory to "just fade away".

If any of you have any personal thoughts/opinions of an impact this had on you or the Wabash community, please let me know and I can get you in touch with Jotipalo.



Please consider attending Big Bash this June. We can use it as a trial run for our next Big Bash, aka our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion!

The following are links to YouTube videos from Scarlet Yarns from the 2013 Big Bash. See if you recognize any one:

- Coming to Wabash: From Boys to Men - [https://youtu.be/GuDQK\\_SG3K4](https://youtu.be/GuDQK_SG3K4)
- Professors: Turning Boys into Wabash Men - [https://youtu.be/Q8r\\_9zP3OKs](https://youtu.be/Q8r_9zP3OKs)
- Sports: Wabash Always Fights - <https://youtu.be/ulsim9jU6So>
- Fraternity Life: Wabash is Better with Brothers - <https://youtu.be/rHuQ3vhcb2s>
- Music: Sons of Wabash Singing - [https://youtu.be/wGtl\\_GDDSt4](https://youtu.be/wGtl_GDDSt4)
- Student Life: Tales of Fun and Foolishness - <https://youtu.be/JxJlvsZaQxY>

That's it for now. Not much, but a start.

Thanks, gentlemen,

Pete

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