



The

Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.
Member of the great Northeastern District since 1947.

We meet Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, Vermont -- Call 802 985-8714

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You just never know... a heart touching tale from the HarmoNet!

Houston, TX -- Once again, life has reminded me that you never know how sharing the barbershop experience will affect people.

Recently, my quartet was doing a "Ladies Night" for a big shopping mall; strolling to give female shoppers a rose and a song. (What a fun gig!) While we were taking a break in the food court, the crowd's roar suddenly softened to a dull murmur and our attention was drawn across the room to a huge fellow in a very oversized wheelchair. He had to be well-over 500 pounds. As he slowly maneuvered the motorized chair through the walkways, the cruel crowd either stared at the "freak" or they turned their eyes to avoid any visual contact.

We returned to our refreshments and were discussing quartet business when the monster chair suddenly bumped into my chair! The driver was in his early thirties, his clothes were disheveled and he clearly was in terrible physical condition. Yet, his eyes sparkled as he extended his hand and said, "Hi, I'm Bill. You probably don't remember me, but you saved my life."

He went on to explain that in the late-80's, he was doing his best to be a high school drop-out. One Saturday, he hung

around the school auditorium because there was some kind of choir event and he was going to harass the wimpy boys who chose to sing rather than do sports or join a gang. It turned out that the event was a Young Men In Harmony Workshop and I had the privilege of being the Dean. I found Bill standing near the registration desk, in the hall. Not knowing (or caring) that he wasn't in the boys choir, I coaxed him into singing some tags. He was good. He loved it. And, he wound up staying for the whole session!

Bill went on to say that that was a turning point in his life. He joined the choir, graduated high school and went on to become a policeman to work with "problem" kids -- just as he had been.

Then, about ten years ago, he stepped in to break up a fight, was thrown to the ground and broke his back. The damage also did something to his nervous system, causing him to fall asleep without warning (narcolepsy) and he began to retain fluids; eventually reaching more than 540 pounds! Years of medical treatments and diets seemed incapable of reducing his incredible bulk and without special surgery, he soon

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Easter Bonnets: very creative!

by *Gary Brunell, Program Chairman*

Last Tuesday evening we held what may become an annual event, as several chapter members arrived clad in their finest creations for the Burlington Chapter's First Easter Bonnet Contest.

The following members were all declared winners:

Reid Allen,
Gary Brunell,
Bob Cauley,
Neil Cerutti,
Charlie Church,
Gary Gile,
Michael Hermann, and
Jerry Huetz.

You had to see it to believe it!



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DIRECTOR'S

Goals: long term and short!

by Greg Morrill, Musical Director

I was very interested and pleased to hear several of you want to set more aggressive goals for the Fall contest based on our results at the division contest. Last year when we tried to solicit a discussion of goals, not much happened, but I sense there's more motivation and confidence this year. And I think that's great! I believe the type of goal-setting and motivation that works comes from the bottom-up not the top-down.

Realistically, we could set a goal of getting a ribbon this Fall, but it won't be achieved unless each person is motivated enough to put in the necessary work. Whatever effort it took for us to bring our singing scores up those 5 points, it will take more effort to bring them up another 5 points! And that's what it's going to take to put us into ribbon contention. If you guys are up for the challenge, I'll be glad to do my part in leading us to that goal.

For a shorter term goal, we really need everybody working on the new music by listening to your learning tapes. We'll be debuting some of the new music at the 20 Week Club next week and our show is basically a month away! These songs are not easy. We all would like to do a quality job; so try to listen to your tapes every day!

HarmoNet2 from column two heart you're going to touch.

Steve Shannon

Houston, TX

AHSOW VP - Education

Vocal Performance Coach

Chapter Development Consultant

Director - Quartet Guy - M.C.

Tenor - Gulf Coast Reunion



Harmony College Northeast

August 8-10, 2003

by Jim Dodge, VP-Music & Performance

The place: Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

Our guest quartets: Gas House Gang (1993 International Champs), Freestyle (heir-apparent to FRED as our best comedy quartet), and the Four Rascals (NED's first best quartet). We're hoping to have ALL of our active NED Champion quartets on hand also (that's one of the details!) That means Northeast Connection, Road Show, Overdrive, and Prelude might be on staff too.

Tuition: Same as last year, \$120 full tuition and \$85 for commuters.

We do know for certain that we have room for 36 quartets to be coached if we can find enough coaches and we are in the process of signing them up. We also know that we only have room for 288 non-commuting students because two of the dorms are undergoing renovation.

The NED website is now able to accept both individual and quartet registrations for HCNE this summer. Go to <http://newebgroup.com/ned/> and click on Schools, then Harmony College Northeast. You will be guided to the Course Descriptions and through the registration process.

HarmoNet from front page would die. Not surprisingly, this situation also affected his attitude. Major surgery was scheduled, but he didn't see any reason to live.

Then, he happened upon our quartet, remembered his high school experience and decided to take charge of his life, once again. With tears in his eyes, he asked for our quartet card, saying, "Next time you see me, I'll be 300 pounds lighter, and I want you to sing at my wedding. Thanks, man. You barbershoppers are the best."

Whew! You just never know whose

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20 Week Club Winners

| Date | No | Winner | Seller |
|-------|-----|--------------------|--------------|
| 12/10 | 219 | Deana Higgs | D. Higgs |
| 12/17 | 101 | Murielle Rugg | D. Blouin |
| 1/07 | 225 | Carol Hathaway | E. Bechtel |
| 1/14 | 136 | Virginia Charlotte | D. Labrecque |
| 1/21 | 129 | Arletta Allen | A. Allen |
| 1/28 | 222 | Terry Bechtel | E. Bechtel |
| 2/04 | 119 | Bob Goudreau | D. Brochu |
| 2/11 | 231 | Randy-Kay Lavalley | E. Bechtel |
| 2/18 | 209 | Rick Kotulak | J. Walter |
| 2/25 | 222 | Terry Bechtel | E. Bechtel |
| 3/04 | 43 | Corrine Bissonette | J. Walter |
| 3/11 | 65 | John Huetz | J. Huetz |
| 3/18 | 18 | Walter Fisher | E. Bechtel |
| 3/25 | 140 | Pat Bates | G. Brunell |
| 4/01 | 116 | Andre Blouin | D. Blouin |
| 4/08 | 74 | Michael Blouin | D. Blouin |
| 4/15 | | Pat S | T. Crowell |



| | | |
|------------------------|----|---|
| April 29 (Tuesday) | -- | Show quartet contest/ audition |
| May 2 (Friday) | -- | 20 Week Club Banquet S. Burlington K of C |
| May 3 (Saturday) | -- | Saratoga Springs Show 1:30 and 7:30 Featuring The Boston Common Contact - Bill Pupkis wrpupkis@nycap.rr.com |
| May 13 (Tuesday) | -- | Early Singout - Holy Cross Sr. Housing, Colchester Warm up 6:30 |
| May 31 (Saturday) | -- | 55th Annual Show Featuring 2002 Champs Four Voices |
| June 6 (Friday) | -- | Package Show Morrisville, VT |
| June 22 (Sunday) | -- | Package Show Tunbridge, VT |
| June 25 (Wednesday) | -- | Mini Retreat - Dan Signor 7:00 p.m. St. Francis School |
| June 29 - July 6 | -- | 2003 International Convention and Contest MONTREAL! Sign up now! |
| July 11 (Friday) | -- | National Anthem Vermont EXPOS Warm up 6:30 |
| July 27-August 3 | -- | Harmony College St. Joseph, Missouri Sign up now! |
| August 1 (Friday) | -- | National Anthem Vermont EXPOS |