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Northeastern District — The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Volume 44, No. 3

Fall 2003

Hooray For Our Guys At International



Northeast Connection

Don't Pay The Ransom

by **Rick Barry**

DVP, Marketing and Public Relations

In some chapters, there is someone missing, but don't pay the ransom. He may be right next to you, or maybe it's you. When you have a chapter show, he's the guy who puts together a packet that includes pictures of your chorus or quartet, a list of other performances, how many people you expect at your show; then shows it to potential advertisers. He's the guy who writes a press release, or calls a radio station to promote your event. He is not missing at all; you just haven't named him. He's the chapter's PUBLIC RELATIONS man. (Cont on page 11, col 3)



by **Steve Tremper**, Harmonet Reporter

The *Granite Statesmen*, from Nashua, NH, had a baseball themed set, singing a heartfelt ballad, *There Used To Be A Ballpark Right Here*, recalling the good old days when they were younger and the best place to be was at the old ball field, enjoying all of summer's finest treats. They painted a beautiful word portrait of a sunny day, a green ball field, hot dogs, beer, and fireworks. It made me think back to those simpler times as a kid, when getting together with my buddies at the local school ball field was the best part of summer vacation. Their second song, *The Best Times I Ever Had*, was a fun poke and a tribute to dear old Dad, who was such a klutz. He seemed to struggle through the simplest things in life, yet his son looked up to him as the most positive influence on his young life. They did a nice job on the whole set. I enjoyed the believability that flowed from the chorus, and the sincere emotions that grabbed me and took me back to my childhood.



You Might Be A Barbershopper If . . .

collected from the Harmonet

- You've NEVER gone into an elevator and listened to actual elevator music.
- You hear a car horn and immediately reach for your pitch pipe.
- You wonder why the seats on a plane aren't FOUR across.
- The person sitting next to you at the symphony suggests you stop humming the seventh of every chord played.
- You sat through the movie *Vanilla Sky* thinking "Jeez, that guy looks just like the bass from *The Four Voices!*"
- You've ever gotten a weird look from the Dry Cleaner when you ask if they can do sequins really well.
- You've ever woken up in bed ALONE, and found makeup all over your pillow. (Cont on page 5, col 1)



Human Interest Stories from Montreal

collected from the Harmonet

Leonardo DiCaprio saves the day!

. . . well perhaps not him personally, but his movie set crew did! During the Montreal Convention, we were trying to set up the sound system for the mass singing at Place du Canada. But we couldn't get any power from the city's outdoor electrical outlets although we had previously arranged for it. It was getting closer to curtain time, and we were beginning to freak out waiting for the city's electrician to show up. Then someone got the bright idea of checking with DiCaprio's movie set trailer-cade which was parked along the adjoining street. And guess what! With their gracious permission, we hooked up our main to one their portable generators! (Cont on page 10, col 3)



Road Show

Support the Future of Barbershop Harmony Explosion Camp

by **Steve LeClaire**, Coordinator
Harmony Explosion Camp

As I write this article, I'm finalizing the plans for this year's NED Harmony Explosion Camp. We estimate that 120 high school students and 11 music educators will participate in camp this year. The hard work and persistence of all participating chapters has paid off. This should be the largest Harmony Explosion Camp in NED's history.

By the time you read this article, the camp will be up and running. We will teach the students six songs, including three barbershop tunes. Our district staff will coach 13 high school quartets. **Jim DeBusman** and Dr. **Bill Adams** will instruct the Harmony Explosion Chorus. (Cont on page 11, col 1)



Recognition

by **Alan Lamson**
NED President

Each of our chapters thrives and survives due to the hard work and the initiative of many members of the chapter. This is not unique to barbershop; it's true of many volunteer organizations. And while we, as individuals, do not do such work seeking any form of reward, glory, or compensation, being recognized for our devotion and effort is both rewarding and compensation enough. (Cont on page 11, col 2)

From a Competition Rookie Impressions of an International Competition

by **Tim Butterfield**,
Nashua *Granite Statesmen*

Was I really going to participate as a *Granite Statesmen* representing the Northeastern District in Montreal? Competing with the chorus seemed like a distant goal when I joined the group earlier this year. I have never had any formal voice training nor been part of any singing group. My horses, the shower and church had been my previous audience. How did I slip through the cracks and get approved to sing with the chorus? (Cont on page 11, col 4)

The *Nor'easter* is the official publication of the Northeastern District (NED) Association of Chapters of the *Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.* It is published four times a year: April, July, September and December. SPEBSQSA is a non-profit educational and charitable organization. The *Nor'easter's* goal is to promote barbershop quartet harmony by publishing stories of interest to barbershop singers in the NED. We welcome articles and letters, but reserve the right to edit or decline submitted material. We do not accept unsigned material. Accepted material becomes the property of the *Nor'easter*. Articles without a by-line are by the editor. Opinions are the authors', and may not be those of the District or the Society. Articles may be reprinted, with credit, please. The *Nor'easter* is printed by the Beacon Press Corp., Warwick, R.I.



Shown L to R: R. Guiggey; P. Arnone; R. Dunning; T. Dilanni; E Viens; J. Donovan; B. Kelly; R. White. Not shown J. Dowd. D. Washington; A. Mond; D. Casavant.

Beverly Finds Its BOTY Breakfast Club

by Jack Dowd

In its 55 years as a society charter, the Beverly *Northshorem* have given out a lot of Barbershopper Of The Year awards. So **Bob Kelly** got to thinking what a great time could be had by all if we formed a club of former recipients of the BOTY award and got together once a month to enjoy breakfast and a little singing.

Well, the rest is history. At 10:00 AM on June 25, 2003 the first meeting of the Beverly Northshorem Barbershopper of the Year Breakfast Club (BOTYBC) was held at the New Brothers Delicatessen in Danvers MA.

And what a meeting it was! Dignitaries from all over turned out for the event. The treasurer of our Society, **Bob Guiggey** was there, as well as international board member **Paul Arnone**, noted author and writer **Bob Kelly**, society Judge Emeritus **Bob Dunning**, and one of the most famous faces in the society, **Dan Washington**, Bari of *Northeast Connection* and Society web page personality.

The event was a grand success. A new motto authored by Mr. Kelly was adopted for the group; "Friendships like unattended flowers, die if not nurtured with the food of attention." Monthly dues will be levied on each member and penalties will be assessed for missing too many breakfasts. All dues and funds will be donated to the incoming chairman of the Quartet Super Bowl Committee each year at the chapter's installation banquet.

The Beverly BOTYBC welcomes guests (other chapter BOTYs) at any of its meetings. The group meets the last Wednesday of the month at the New Brothers Deli in Danvers MA. Fees for members and guests alike are \$5.00, and you buy your own breakfast.



The Camden *Windjammer* Chorus was one of Maine's seven chapters which met for an All-Maine Barbershop Interchapter Event on June 21

The Natural Forces That Created The "Do, Re, Mi" Scale

by Robert Fink
edited from the Internet

Here's how the *do, re, mi* scale was created. When a note is played on any instrument, the pitch is determined by how many vibrations per second it makes. Concert "A" for the orchestra is 440 vibs per second, for example. If you play or sing the octave to any note (the same note, only higher), it has twice the vibs. The ratio between the notes is 2 to 1 (or 2:1). Simple ratios sound pleasant or harmonious; complex ratios sound unpleasant or dissonant.

Whenever a single note, like "A," is played, we hear a mixture of other notes at the same time; they're called overtones. They're faint, but the different strengths of the mixture is what tells us whether we are hearing a trumpet, a piano or a voice. But all seem to sound like the same single 'A' note.

Now here are the grabbers:

- The overtones of any one note make up its major chord, when played loud rather than as overtones.
- The most audible overtones of a tonic or keynote all have simple ratios, like 2:1 (octave), or 2:3 (fifth note of scale), and the fourth note of the scale, whose first different overtone is the given tonic, has a ratio of 3:4. These three notes are present in virtually every musical scale known on earth.
- If you write out the overtones of these three notes and string out the most audible ones of each within an octave, you will get the major scale.

Tonic C:

Overtones are: C, G, E, and Bb

Fifth G:

Overtones are G, D, B, and F

Fourth F:

Overtones are F, C, A, and Eb.

In the beginnings of harmony, only the three chords of the tonic, dominant (5th) and subdominant (4th) were used to harmonize the seven scale-notes in most folk melodies. This underscores that these three notes and their overtones were fundamental influences in forming the notes of the scale. Even the names that evolved for them represent their acoustic roles, although the names (dominant, sub-dominant and keynote/tonic) were coined by people without knowledge of acoustic science.

Now either all this is the greatest coincidence on earth—that is, people who knew nothing of acoustics came up with a scale that reflects these acoustic properties purely by chance—or else, their ears were instinctly able to differentiate between harmonious or dissonant sounds. I believe the latter.

This letter was addressed to both Steve Wheaton and Murray Phillips for their work on the International Convention in Montreal.

Gentlemen-

May I say a sincere Thank You for the beautiful gift you gave to us at the beginning of the convention. It is a wonderful book and will be a most enjoyable memento for years to come. Your thoughtfulness in giving us a gift that lives on and on is gratefully appreciated.

The Convention Committee, the volunteers, and the NED should be justifiably proud for the outstanding work that led to an outstanding convention. Total registration will be reported at 10,200, the largest since 1997. The positive comments are running about 100 to 1 ahead of negative comments about the convention—and most of the negative comments concern a person's dislike of their hotel room or of things over which the Convention Committee and organizers had no control.

Murray [Phillips] and Steve [Wheaton] were everywhere they needed to be. They were at the ready to handle any situation or any request and they did an absolutely marvelous job. I believe that the people who sat in the seats during the convention had no idea of the problems that were encountered behind the scenes—and that's perfect, a true testament to leadership and execution of a plan.

I can't thank you all enough. I'm extremely proud of the committee, the volunteers and the results of this convention. Let's do it again sometime.

John Schneider

The Boston Common & Prelude

Are Coming to Cape Cod to Appear in the Cape Cod Surftones'

25th Annual Barbershop Harmony Show

Also Featuring:

The Cape Cod Surftones Chorus And Their Quartets:

The Cape Cod Sandpipers

The Harborside Harmonizers

The Lighthouse

Sunday, November 2, 2003 at 3:00 PM

Arts Center Auditorium, Cape Cod Community College, Route 132, West Barnstable, MA

Show Tickets:

In Advance: – \$15

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Juvenile – \$10

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Saratoga Springs Report

by **R. B. Eggleston**
Saratoga Springs Chapter

The *Racing City Chorus* was proud to add **Jim Albini** to the list of members who have earned a Bachelor of Barbershop Harmony.

The chapter has sponsored a Watervliet High School barbershop group named *Delta Force*. They also sent one of their quartets and their director, **Terry Conroy**, to Harmony Explosion at Fitchburg College in August.

The *Racing City Chorus* helped to open the Saratoga County Fair on July 15. In addition, some chapter quartets wandered through the fair during the week to add atmosphere and “spread the gospel” of barbershop singing.

On August 23 and 24, chapter quartet, *Saratoga Sound*, was part of the official opening each day of the Empire State Aero-sciences Museum’s 2003 Air Show. The show featured the USAF’s *Thunderbirds* as well as many other spectacular acts. It was a great opportunity to have tens of thousands of people hear the National Anthem sung as it really should be sung.

Finally, they sang on the Charter Show for the Bolton Landing Chapter on Friday night, August 29 at the start of the Bolton Barbershop Festival.

You Can Underwrite The Greatest Show Ever

from the Harmonet

No one could have guessed how much traffic the webcast of the International Competitions would create. In negotiating the bid with our service provider, we provided logs of last year’s webcast. The bandwidth budget was based on this. But we did not anticipate the overwhelming number of broadband listeners. About 15% of North American households on the Internet are connected via broadband. But for our webcast, more than 80% of the connections were at high speed.

Our service provider’s technicians were stunned. They had never seen an audience like ours, which connected at high speed and stayed connected for so long. The audience size was 250% larger this year. To offset the cost of these unexpectedly increased requirements, listeners began to respond with donations, challenging others to match them. By Friday evening, 409 listeners had contributed more than \$23,000, about \$57 apiece. We’re grateful for their support.

If you loved what you saw and heard, make a donation. Ensure that there will be future webcasts. Become a sponsor now! <http://www.spebsqsa.org/patron>

COTS and CAPCOTS, Help Us Make Them Better

by **Leo Ouelette**, DVP, CSLT

The Society has a goal to revamp the annual Chapter Operations Training Seminars (COTS) to make them more meaningful and enjoyable. The officer classes are informative for first-time chapter officers. But perhaps veteran chapter officers do not obtain much additional data that would re-energize them for the upcoming year. Am I off base here? Let me know if I am wrong, please!

Additionally, we would like to attract non-officer members to COTS to create a basis for potential future chapter officers. But perhaps the curriculum does not entice them to attend, either?

So my request to *Nor'easter* readers is this: Please send me your ideas on how we could make the annual chapter operations training more informative, enjoyable, and even more fun. My e-mail address is: Leolead@maine.rr.com, or you can call me at 207-646-0907. I anxiously await your ideas!

The Story of Sweet Adeline

from *Key Notes*

bulletin of the Worcester MA Chapter
contributed by **George Swanson**
originally from *Biography* magazine

Q. Was there a real Sweet Adeline?

A. Yes, but she wasn’t always so sweet. In 1903 composer Henry W. Armstrong and lyricist Richard H. Gerard wrote the song that has become a barbershop quartet signature, *You’re the Flower of My Heart, Sweet Adeline*. Their inspiration is said to have been opera star Adelina Patti (1843-1919), who dazzled the world for decades. Her admirers included Charles Dickens, Queen Victoria, President Franklin Pierce, and Russian Czar Nicholas II. Ardent fans broke windows trying to see Patti perform at concerts and threw themselves at her carriage.

Always a prima donna, even as a child, Patti often refused to sing unless given a new doll. As an adult, she ignited a scandal by carrying on an open affair with a married co-star who was the father of five children; during one performance of *Romeo and Juliet*, they steamed up the stage by kissing 21 times. He eventually left his family to become Patti’s second husband. At 56, she married her third husband, a Swedish count 30 years her junior.

The Origin of the Musical Scale

by Professor Gaetano Cipolla
 excerpted from *The Masters Voice*
 bulletin of the Santa Fe, CA, Chapter

In the 11th century, an Italian monk named Guido D'Arezzo invented a way of writing music. D'Arezzo's system placed notes on a four-line graph, which later became a pentagram, revolutionizing music.

He also invented the names of the notes in the scale we all know, using a religious hymn by Paolo Diacona, another Italian. The text of the hymn which asks St. John to intercede with God to cleanse his devotees from sin was: **UT**queant laxis / **RE**sonare fibris / **MI**ra gestorum / **FA**muli tuorum / **SOL**ve polluti / **LAB**ia reatum / **S**ancte **I**ohannis. He used the first syllable of each verse to name the notes in the scale. "UT" later became "DO."

The Search for College Quartets

by Todd Lamson, VP, YMIH

In the International Collegiate Quartet Contest, *Men In Black* placed a strong 13th, a monumental improvement over last year. The most incredible aspect of their growth is that they climbed so far despite the improved performance of ALL the quartets. It was an amazing contest.

Now, with September upon us, we have the opportunity to increase the number of collegiate quartets in our district. The College Quartet Committee (**Ken Hughes, Dan Signor, Scott Domaratus**) have done an outstanding job of providing snazzy promotional materials; they have already proved effective. What is needed is an effort from the chapters to make themselves known to quartets and get these materials to them. Remember, they don't want to join our chapters—they just wanna sing and pick up girls! But we still need to let them know the chapters are near-by so they'll have a place to direct questions. Nobody wants to email some guy in Connecticut when they are in Maine.

Last year, the committee knew of six college quartets in our district! That's a tremendous increase over past years. Some were generated and inspired by our members; some already existed and were singing, and we just had to find them. Four of those quartets competed in the CBQC, the second highest number of competitors in the Society. With the density of colleges in the Boston/Worcester area, we

ought to be able to have 10 college quartet contestants by the Spring of next year. To prepare them for the contest, we should find out about them now. The committee will arrange for free coaching to any existing college quartet, competing or not.

Visit the webpage for more information (www.nedistrict.org/ymih), contact info for the committee, and for a list of known college quartets. This will make it easy to hire these eager lads for shows, singouts, or whatever. Contact any member of the committee to get strategies or assistance in contacting local college programs or students.

Ten collegiate quartets in 2004!

Campbell's Labels in Canada

by Gordon Kent, Halifax Chapter

For the past three years, four Sunrise Division chapters have been taking part in the Campbell's Soup Labels for Education Program. The program allows eligible Canadian organizations to redeem labels for audio-visual and other types of useful equipment.

We have chosen to donate our Campbell's Soup labels to the Landmark East School, in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. It is an independent international day and boarding school that serves students with learning disabilities, special needs, and attention deficit disorder. There are 79 students (ranging in age from 9 to 19 years) enrolled from USA, Canada, Jamaica, Bahamas, Hong Kong, Thailand, Philippines, Dubai and Bolivia. Their students have average and above average IQ levels, and face challenges acquiring essential math and language skills. Landmark East has had tremendous success helping young people to manage their disabilities and reach their potential. 74% of their graduates have gone on to pursue post-secondary education.

Rose Spicer, Director of Development at Landmark East School, reports that since April, 2000, the Kentville *Dukes of Kent* Chapter has given 8,675 Campbell's labels. The Bedford/Sackville *Millstream* Chapter has given 22,679 labels. The Halifax *Atlantic Swells* Chapter has given 58,502 labels. The Dartmouth *City of Lakes* Chapter tops the list with 70,068 labels.

The Landmark East School has used donated Campbell's labels to obtain a 675X telescope. The students have used it to observe the International Space Station as it passed overhead. Their next purchase may be a big-screen TV. The students appreciate the help

they are getting from the Campbell's Soup Labels for Education Program, and thank barbershoppers for sending the soup labels to their school.

Chapters And Schools

by Todd Lamson, VP, YMIH

September is here. Teachers and students are thinking about returning to school. Now is the time for the chapters to begin to implement their plans for the school year.

What can your chapter offer? An appearance in the annual show? A separate day for barbershop for local schools? Allowing the school to sell concessions or tickets to your annual show for their profit? A workshop with a district coach in their school program? A free performance by a good, youthful quartet? Sponsoring more students than last year to the HX Camp?

Does your chapter have a VP for YMIH? Has any member shown an interest in the job? COTS in January has a terrific YMIH track which will give a great introduction to a new man, or provide more ideas for the veteran YMIH activist.

Whatever your chapter decides it can offer the local school program, the

implementation needs to begin in September when teachers are starting to execute their plans. If you have any questions, email me at lamson8@cox.net, and we can discuss hundreds of strategies. For an approach to a school, see the webpage (www.nedistrict.org/ymih) for a document called *How Do We Get Into The Schools?* which also appeared in the Spring edition of the *Nor'easter*.

The College Quartet program is growing. Harmony Explosion Camp is growing. One-days youth festivals are cropping up all around our district, most recently in Nova Scotia. It is a good time to be a youth in the great North-eastern District. How is YOUR chapter helping?

That's Why They Sound Like That!

from the Internet

The Scottish Highland Bagpipe is tuned to a scale that cannot be represented in orthodox notation. It is roughly that of the white notes of the piano with the C and F about a quarter of a tone sharp.

Executive Director S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

- Opportunity:** Serve as COO of this 31,000 member Barbershop Harmony Singing Society.
- Opportunity:** Lead planning. Align and inspire staff and volunteers to achieve the Society Vision.
- Opportunity:** Demonstrate expertise in program, employee, systems and public promotion development.
- Opportunity:** Provide guidance and support for all activities to accomplish membership growth.
- Opportunity:** Lead and direct 50 person staff during transition period into new headquarters facilities.

Up to the Challenge?

View Position Description and Performance Expectations at:
WWW.SPEBSQSA.ORG/XDSEARCH

- 1) "SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING ITEMS REQUIRED IN AN APPLICATION PACKAGE WILL BE LISTED ON THE WEB PAGE < www.spebsqsa.org/XDSearch > ON AUGUST 1, 2003"
- 2) "APPLICANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW THE POSITION DESCRIPTION, PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS, GOALS AND DESIRED COMPETENCIES THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB PAGE AUGUST 1, 2003."

Submit confidential resume to Executive Director Search Committee by email to: XDSearch@SPEBSQSA.ORG

The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

DEADLINE: September 30, 2003

Barbershopper (Cont from page 1)

- You watched the first round of American Idol and made a list of potential recruits in your city for your chapter.
- Your most prominent bumper sticker is "I Can't, I Have Rehearsal..."
- The only magazines in your John are *Harmonizers* (or *Pitch Pipes*)
- You have 1-800-876-SING on your speed dial.
- You've ever gotten a punch in the face for asking a stranger in the bathroom if he'd like to learn a tag.

Matt Swann

Coral Gables, FL
Baritone, the *Miamians*

- <http://www.spebsqsa.org> is your home page in your web browser.
- You and your husband can share stage makeup.
- The first words your son sang at 18 months were "Yip, Yeah" (from *Acoustix, Unchained Melody*)
- You drive seven hours to International with your seven-week-old baby while still on maternity leave.
- You break into song when the microwave beeps, or the electrical lines make your radio hum and crackle, or the construction crew at your office turns on the saws.
- Your kids are used to curling up on a sofa in the corner of a hospitality room and going to sleep with all the singing going on around them. They actually think it's cool.
- You sneak around your office with your sheet music and Casio mini-keyboard, looking for an open conference room where you can rehearse.

- You take your kids to a Gerswhin concert by the local symphony, and the kids can name more songs than you can.
- When you play a CD, you can already start to sing the first words of the next song, in the right pitch, just as the previous song finishes.
- The circle of fifths is tantamount to the circle of life!

Ann McAlexander

Capital City Chorus, Region 4, SAI
Associate Member, Area 4, HI
SPEBSQSA wife and mom,
Greater Indianapolis Chapter
West Palm Beach, FL

- You've accidentally tried to blow a pitch on an Oreo.
- You let your wife think you're having an affair so you can slip in one more rehearsal before contest.
- When the pastor starts reciting the Lord's Prayer, you can't help but hear the chords.
- When listening to an oldies station, you think they're singing the song wrong because it's not how *Boston Common* sang it.
- You've tried to get your dog to howl just so you can harmonize with someone.

- You think *Air Supply* would have been much better with a good bass.
- You've tried to tune your wind chimes to a barbershop seventh, or wine glasses!

- And finally - After conjugal relations with your wife, you yell, "You Bet!"

Paul Agnew

Mercenary Bass

- The greeting on your answering machine starts with "Hello, hello, hello, hello; well, hello" as sung by *The New Traditions* quartet.

- You plan on celebrating Valentine's Day on February 15th because you know your spouse will be busy February 12th-14th delivering Singing Valentines.

Tina Gunther

HarmonetLite Mod Squad
Whittier, Calif.

- You are at a New Years Eve party. Someone blows a noisemaker horn, and you wait for a quartet to take pitch!

Shelley A. Herman

Whittier Chapter

- The first song your kid sings is the Tenor part to *Down Our Way*.

- You go to an estate sale and spend all your time looking at old sheet music instead of furniture, as you had originally planned.

Harriett & Charles Feltman

- Your doctor schedules your heart surgery on a rehearsal night and you gotta think twice about it.



A Pitchin' Good Time

Did you notice that quite a few quartets in the competition sounded a pitch after blowing the pipe. Weren't there some fine pitch pipe players in Montreal? They didn't just blow it. That's the Band Director in me noticing that.

Bob Landry



Things Kids Say!

When my son was about four, I took him to a park which, in addition to the playground he loved, contained some very scenic spots.

Around mid-afternoon, a wedding party came by, the bride's part on one side, and the groom, best man, and two ushers in full ascotted tuxedos on the other. The precocious little bugger showed me he was already doomed by asking me loudly, "Daddy, do we know that quartet?"

Roger Payne

Tenor, *Reveille*
Associate Director,
The *Big Apple Chorus*



Applause Quartet, 2003 Yankee Division champion. Left to right: Glenn Ballard, (CT), Dave Rourke, (MA), Steve Isherwood, (RI) and Ken Distel, (CT). The quartet has been together since January of this year. Their first time on stage was at the International Prelims. They had been together seven weeks and came in third. A month later they competed in the Yankee Division contest and won first place. They will compete at the District convention in October. Look out, world!

A ROYAL PROCLAMATION

Whereas, *The Granite Statesmen* is a barbershop chorus which meets in Nashua, New Hampshire, for reasons known only to themselves, and

Whereas, *The Masters of Harmony* is a fellow barbershop chorus which meets in Santa Fe Springs, California, for obvious reasons, and

Whereas, both choruses are members of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (which apparently includes New Hampshire), and

Whereas, *The Granite Statesmen* shall shortly be competing in an International Barbershop Chorus Contest known as "the International Barbershop Chorus Contest"

Therefore, abiding by a centuries old tradition which decrees that last year's championship chorus shall present each of this year's competing choruses with a gift, then under the powers vested in me as King of *The Masters of Harmony*, I hereby appoint Sir Jonathan Ahmanson and Sir Lovell Stoddard, members of my Royal Court, to present *The Granite Statesmen* with this embarrassingly small (though actually quite heavy) gift in recognition of their reaching this most prestigious contest, in which they will most certainly be a star performer.

Signed, on this whatever day of July, 2003

Bernard Priceman

President and Sometimes King

Masters Of Harmony

Santa Fe Springs, California

This proclamation was presented to *The Granite Statesmen* by last year's champion chorus, *The Masters of Harmony*, shortly before the International chorus contest in Montreal. The proclamation was accompanied by a gift, a gold star paperweight, that had the following inscription:

GRANITE STATESMEN
"Star Performer"
Montreal 2003

The First Annual All-Maine Sing

by **Walt Dowling**
Greater Portland *Downeasters*

Shortly after 7:00 AM on Saturday, June 21, Barbershoppers from all across Maine began gathering at the Orion Center for the Performing Arts in Topsham, Maine, for the first annual All-Maine Sing. A sunny, warm morning helped set a positive tone as **Mike McBride, Greg Goforth** and **Robb Sorensen** set up the registration table in the lobby of the Orion.



Steve Tramack conducts the All-Maine Chorus during a rehearsal.

Within ten minutes, the first gentlemen arrived. From then on, there were nonstop activities: making new friends, singing, breakout sessions of pertinent topics dealing primarily with musical excellence and outreach.

The idea of an all-Maine sing was conceived by **Michael Martin**, director of the Greater Portland *Downeaster* Chorus. The activity brought together choruses from all around the state: Bangor, Camden/Rockport, Norway/South Paris, Brunswick, Waterville and Greater Portland. Granite & Pine Division Manager **Ted Tracy** and Greater Portland *Downeaster* member **Walt Dowling** joined Martin to implement the day's activities.

Director Martin had no refusals as he gathered a teaching team from around the Northeastern District, (NED) both for breakout sessions and musical activities. And they all donated their time and expertise. "It was a great day for barbershopping," Martin said, "The All-Maine Sing was all about making barber-shop better for all of us."

Jim Dodge, Todd Lamson, Steve LeClair and **Bill Bolis** led seminars in Singing A's, Young Men In Harmony (YMIH) and Standing O's Programs, respectively. Bill Bolis, a member of the *Granite Statesmen* Chorus, observed, "I felt good emotions when I arrived, and they continued all day." YMIH instructor **Todd Lamson** felt that regions which could do something like The All-Maine Sing, would be all the stronger. NED President **Alan Lamson** said he felt The All-Maine Sing was a terrific new barbershop experience for the participants. NED VP for Music and Performance **Jim Dodge** believed that activities such as The All-Maine Sing expanded barbershoppers' lives. **Charlie Swanson**, President of the host Greater Portland *Downeaster's Chorus*, conducted a President's seminar for visiting chorus officers. Former *Downeaster* Director Charlie Mansfield served as Master of Ceremonies. Mansfield had also coached the highly successful *Management* quartet, one of whose members was Director Michael Martin.

Steve Tramack, Director of Nashua, New Hampshire's *Granite Statesmen* Chorus, was excited

about the day. He did an outstanding job as guest director. He conducted combined chorus rehearsals, led a director's seminar, and conducted the combined chorus in their evening concert.

The Mainely Harmony Chorus provided food goodies throughout the day, and the Cosmopolitan Club supplied a fine evening meal.

At a concert that evening to an audience of approximately 300, Steve Tramack directed a chorus of 85 singers from four choruses; they delivered a mind expanding performance. Rounding out this exciting concert were rousing performances by individual cho-

rus, the *Soul To Sole Dance Co.*, as well as two NED champion quartets, *Overdrive*, the 2000 champs, and *Northeast Connection*, current champions.

For the presenters listed above, it was a day of



Chad Arms, Waterville Chapter, receives a certificate of appreciation from Walt Dowling

giving, as all donated their services, time and expertise. For participants from around the state, it was a day of education, singing, camaraderie, new friends and fellowship.

If the enthusiasm demonstrated at this gathering is any indication, a second annual All-Maine Sing in 2004 has solid support from around the state.



L to R: Hosts Ted Tracy, G&P Division Mgr.; Walt Dowling, Event Coordinator; Michael Martin, Event Chorus Mgr.

Harmony Foundation, Today and Tomorrow

by **Clark Caldwell**,
Executive Director,
Harmony Foundation

Many of you will have noticed and wondered about the changes coming from Harmony Foundation this year:

- An announcement of a new, full-time Executive Director in the March *Harmonizer*
- The Foundation Annual Report in the May *Harmonizer*
- A variety of new involvement at the International convention in July:
- A concert with *Rockapella* sponsored by the Foundation
- A live auction, Sing and Dine with the Champs co-sponsored with the AIC
- An expanded exhibit designed with a variety of opportunities for the membership to communicate with the Foundation
- A strong response at every level of leadership (Society, District and Volunteer) to join in and help shape the new role of the Foundation.

The feedback so far to these changes is almost exclusively positive and optimistic. One district president puts it this way,

"One of the keys to this new role will be creating a partner relationship between chapters, districts, and Harmony Foundation."

"With HF training and support of local efforts, and local efforts feeding on the overreaching role of HF, we can begin to realize the synergy of our cause, diminish the sense of competition for our charitable efforts, and bring all our guns into play. We all realize that building this new team and structure will not be an overnight slam-dunk, and that it will be far more important to get the right people involved. We are at the dawn of a new era here. It's exciting to be part of it."

Between now and the end of the year, there will be more changes to report:

- A major effort to get the right people involved at every level
- New giving programs tailored to our memberships' beliefs, values and goals
- Continued commitment to partner with every 'thought-leader' in our talented and passionate membership

If you have a talent or life-skill that is especially suited to helping grow Harmony Foundation for the year 2050 and have not yet made yourself known, please contact the new Executive Director with a bit of your background and your interests.

ccaldwell@harmonyfoundation.org.

To every member: please support the efforts of Harmony Foundation as they exist. Continue to contribute through scholarships (Harmony Explosion and Director's College), memorials and tributes, and through your estate plan.

However, be ready to receive and process new information. Be assured it will involve big changes in thinking and methods. If we all give our very best, we may well be given the chance, in our lifetime, to help our beloved Barbershop Harmony Society and its Foundation accomplish much more than we would ever dare to dream!

Proper Hydration Means Better Singing

The following article contains excerpts from a workshop at the University of Minnesota, where the main speaker was Dr. Van Lawrence, otolaryngologist with the MacGregor Medical Clinic in Houston, Texas, and company physician to the Houston Grand Opera. These excerpts were originally published in the *Harmonizer* with Dr. Lawrence's permission.

Stress causes dehydration and dehydration causes laryngitis. Since I became a voice teacher, this has been the most valuable advice for overworked voices, voices with colds, etc., that I have worked with. For years, I have told my singers, "Drink lots of water!"

General Hydration The normal nose will manufacture from a quart to a quart-and-a-half of watery thin mucus every 24 hours. Of this enormous volume, the majority is evaporated into the air that we breathe in through the nose. This fluid must be replaced!

In addition, there is further fluid loss each day from the waste products of the body. For all these reasons, water is of extreme importance in the normal functioning of the respiratory tract and of the vocal tract in particular. Probably two liters of water is necessary daily to replace this so-called "insensible" loss of water.

Stand in front of a mirror with your mouth open and your tongue relaxed. Look at the pink, wet membrane which covers the inside of the mouth, the side walls of your cheeks and near the lips themselves. This should be a healthy pink in color, smooth, shiny, and covered with a thin watery secretion. It should quite simply, demonstrate the "wet look."

Now take a deep breath or say "Ah" and look at the back wall of your throat. This surface is normally irregular and dotted with small bits of orange/pink lymphoid (tonsil type) tissue. Small blood vessels will be visible on the surface between some of the bits of lymphoid tissue. Overlying all of this, however, should be the same "wet look" from normal, thin, watery saliva.

On the other hand, if, instead of seeing clear, watery, thin mucus on the throat wall, you see blobs of white, thick goo which looks and feels like wallpaper paste, or a combination of the two, and which you may have been calling "post-nasal drip," this represents a good example of what I mean by dehydration. This thick, tenacious mucoid secretion produces a sizzling sound when it gets between the vocal cords during speech or singing, and you will certainly be aware of it each time you swallow.

NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

Saratoga Springs, New York – October 24-26, 2003

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Individuals only, not Chapters
Registrations are transferable but not refundable

Complete this form and return it to the address shown below – Please print neatly

All Events Registration	\$25.00
Junior (Under 15) All Events Registration	\$13.00
Single Event Registration	\$10.00
Junior (Under 15) Single Event Registration	\$5.00

Last Name	First Name	Chapter	All Events	Single Event

Registrations will be held at the NED Registration Desk in the Headquarters Hotel. Single event registrations may be picked up at the door of the contest site.
Cut-off date for pre-registration is October 1, 2003.

Check here if you would like to add a \$5.00 donation to support **Young Men In Harmony**

Clip and mail to: Michael R. Strianese
7 Hurlburt Drive
East Haven, CT 06512-1109

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____
to cover registrations ordered above. Make
check payable to "NED Fall Convention"

..... clip here clip here

NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

Saratoga Springs, New York – October 24-26, 2003

APPLICATION FOR HOUSING

List of hotels. Please pick one.

Prime Hotel (HQ), formerly The Sheraton. <i>2 night stay required</i>	Single	Double
Holiday Inn, Saratoga Springs	\$133.00	\$133.00
Hilton Garden Inn	\$120.00	\$120.00
Carriage House Inn	\$127.00	\$127.00
	\$112.00	\$112.00

Hotel Choice: _____ Arrival Date: _____ Departure date: _____

Room Choice: Single __ Double __ Triple __ Quad __ Single Bed __ King __ Two Beds: __ Non-smoking: __

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov. _____ Zip _____

Phone No. (____) _____

Clip and mail to: Michael R. Strianese
7 Hurlburt Drive
East Haven, CT 06512-1109

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

MC ___ VISA ___ AMEX ___ DISC ___

Name on Card: _____

Card #: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cutoff date for reserving rooms: Sept. 1, 2003

Chances are also good that you will stop and clear your throat to rid yourself of the annoying secretion, irritating and inflaming your larynx in the process. *Don't do that!*

Your vocal cords vibrate and rub against each other approximately 256 times per second on middle C. To keep one mucus membrane surface from becoming irritated and causing friction against the other, a quantity of thin lubricant is necessary. That lubricant is usually composed almost entirely of water.

Environmental Moisture During the initial space flights, NASA found that superbly healthy astronauts invariably caught colds while they were in the space capsules. When the cabin humidity was increased to a minimum of 40 percent, virus propagation was interfered with. Most of the common respiratory tract viruses (which are now probably living in a state of uneasy alliance in your own nose and throat passages) don't like moisture and don't propagate as well in its presence.

How does this affect you? To main-

tain the proper humidity level at home, get a steamer, a vaporizer, or a humidifier and run it at night. Once the room humidity has reached 40 percent, your larynx will be happier.

Maintain Body Hydration Monitor your body water levels by paying close attention to urine color. Take in enough moisture (all liquids count, but water is best) so that the urine you produce is the color of tap water. If you do so, you will not need to worry about your liquid intake adequacy. "Sing wet" and you should be right on.

Busy "B's" in Sunrise Division

by **Mark Radcliffe**
Sunrise Division Manager

Greetings to those of you who spent some of your vacation time in the Sunrise Division this summer. It was a busy time for Sunrise barbershoppers.

On May 21, we had an interchapter night hosted by the Dartmouth Chapter. Over 90 barbershoppers and their guests from Halifax, Bedford/Sackville, Kentville, Truro and Dartmouth attended. We had a blast—with gang singing, tags, individual chorus singing, quartet singing, learning a new song, the "mass sing" and lots of food, drink and fellowship.



Top female quartet, *Teacher's Pet*

On June 18, Dartmouth also hosted their annual Quartet Cavalcade designed to encourage male, female and mixed non-registered quartets to strut their stuff. The evening was a huge success with 19 quartets participating. They were judged in one Entertainment Category by non-barbershoppers **Roger Aalders** (Chester Brass Band) and **Jennifer Moir** (Halifax Music Teacher). As a twist this year, we allowed registered quartets to perform as well, but they were ineligible to win any prizes. **Stan Selig** (*City of Lakes*) made the medals and ribbons for the top three quartets. Certificates were awarded to 4th through 10th place. The first place and top male quartet was **Q3**, while the top female quartet honors went to **Teacher's Pet**. Our top mixed quartet this year was **Joe and the Teeny Boppers**.



Top Mixed Quartet, *Joe and the Teeny Boppers*
Mary Gaudreault (*ScotianAires*) made little "violin" participation pins for everyone who performed. The *City of Lakes* auxiliary provided the edibles and drinkables, and everybody enjoyed a good social time of fun and entertainment.



ScotianAires directed by Shelagh Radcliffe

From June 29 to July 6, over 100 men and women barbershoppers (and their guests) from the Sunrise Division and Area 1 attended the SPEBSQSA International Convention in Montreal. Many of us went on bus tours, which were excellent. The contest and other performances during the week just blew us away, especially the comedy routines—they were hilarious. It was also a great time to meet new friends and catch up with old acquaintances. How many times was *Auld Lang Syne* sung that week?

On July 18-19, Sunrise held its annual coed barbershop music school, Harmony Homecoming. This year, it was extremely successful with over 170 men and women from SPEBSQSA and Harmony, Inc. participating, including staff. This year, we added a one day YPIH (Young Persons In Harmony) component by creating a *Harmony Youth Festival* which ran concurrently with HH03. Our local HEP team coached seven quartets. Our guest quartet this year was **Saturday Evening Post (SEP)**, top 10 at International and great teachers, too!



Saturday Evening Post

And speaking of the faculty, we had excellent instructors again this year: **Jim Dodge** (Dean, Singing A's and Vocal Production), **Jeanne O'Connor** (Chorus Directing and Jill Barbershop Chorus), **Katie Taylor**



Jill Barbershop Chorus directed by Jeanne O'Connor

(HYF), **Larry Bean** (HYF), **Brian Beck** (*SEP*, Vocal Production and Music Category), **Allen Gasper** (*SEP*, Vocal Production, Singing Category and MC's), **Bobby Gray Jr.** (*SEP*, Presentation Category and Parody & Comedy Writing), **Johnny Sherburn** (*SEP*), **Paul Grimm** (Joe Barbershop Chorus), and



Joe Barbershop Chorus directed by Paul Grimm

our HEP Coaching Team—**Dianne Jackson**, **Winnie Beliveau**, **Judy Robichaud**, **Carolyn Prime**, **Bill Smart**, **Perry Jackson**, **Don MacRae**, **Boyd Clory**, **Paul Creasar**, **Dave Bain** and **Mark Radcliffe**. **Todd Lamson** (NED VP YMIH) visited us again this year, making a solo driving and camping trip from Connecticut to Nova Scotia, and helped out considerably with our *Harmony Youth Festival*. And speaking of *HYF*, 18 girls and 1 (lucky) boy took part in our youth camp! Each teen was sponsored through a scholarship made possible by a \$3,000 grant from the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism & Culture, procured for us by **Ian Ferguson** (Dartmouth Chapter). The "Harmony Youth" sang to a standing ovation in our Saturday Night Show, which also included performances by all the quartets that were there; the Master of Ceremonies class who MC'd the whole show; Joe and Jill Barbershop Choruses; the **Abegweit Chimes** (Area 1 demo chorus for the Director's Class) from



Abegweit Chimes introduced by Alan Gasper Charlottetown, PEI; the **ScotianAires** (Area 1 champs) from Dartmouth; and a set by **Saturday Evening Post** that brought the house down after several standing "O's" and encores. Following the show was a lively afterglow with much singing and camaraderie, aboriginal and Chinese songs by *SEP*, and *She's Called Nova Scotia* by the massed HI Area 1 chorus. What a night! The Sunrise Division and Area 1 are grateful to our outstanding faculty. Special thanks to our HH03 and HYF administrative committees: **Allen McKenzie** (Chairman), **Susan Tucker** (Area 1 Rep.), **Jane Risley** (Area 1 Faculty), **Theresa Weatherbee** (HYF), **Paul Grimm** (HYF), **Jerry Atwater** (Registration, Housing, Gifts, etc.), **Dave Bain** (HEP Team), **Ian Ferguson** (Grants), **Ian Flemming** (Treasurer), and **Mark Radcliffe** (Communications and Transportation).



HYF Chorus directed by Larry Bean

During June, July and August, the Halifax Chapter members staged several waterfront singouts at the famous Historic Properties both to entertain the tourists and to attract new members. They graciously invited barbershoppers from other chapters to sing with them in these performances.

From July 27 to Aug 3, the Saint John, New Brunswick, chapter sent their director **Debbie Hatfield** to Director's College/Harmony College via the Directors College 2003 Scholarship. Also attending from

the Dartmouth Chapter was **Bill Smart** (Director) and **Aubrey Wallace** (Section Leader).

On Aug 8, the NED House of Delegates held their meeting, which may be historic for the Sunrise Division. At that meeting, the HOD voted on holding the NED Fall district convention in Halifax in 2005. Your SDM rallied chapter delegates from Sunrise to travel to Fitchburg, Mass. and vote "YES"!

There will be a Sunrise Division Membership Summit on Sept 6 in Truro, at the Howard Johnson's Hotel, from 10 am to 5 pm. This will be modeled after the NED Membership Summit held last Apr 26. The school will be staffed by **Walt Lane** (NED VP Membership Development) and **Brian O'Leary** (Chairman of the International Membership Development Committee). All Sunrise chapter presidents, VPs and any other members interested in membership have been invited to attend.

On Sept 13, the Kentville Chapter will host an interchapter "Golf Day" organized by Past President **Dave Talbot**. It will be open to both past and present members of SPEBSQSA and Harmony, Inc. This event promises great fun and prizes for attendees, and may bring back some old friends to barbershopping.

On Sept 18, the Truro Chapter will hold a Guest Dinner and Entertainment Night, developed by **Dennis Grant**, **Reg Loughead** and **Keith Goudge** (Director). The evening will include a membership presentation, barbershop videos, visiting quartets and possibly choruses and a delicious meal. This is another terrific idea for member recruitment in Sunrise.

A visit to the St. John's, Newfoundland Chapter is scheduled for Sept 29 by **Cotton Damon** (NED VP Contest and Judging), **Mark Radcliffe** (SDM), and possibly **Allen McKenzie** (Chapter Counselor) and **Gerald Farrell** (Past Div. VP). We are consulting with Newfoundland's **Albert Spurrell** (President) and **Cal Squires** (Director) as to what we might present at their chapter meeting night and possible other sessions.

On November 8 and 9 we will hold our annual Chapter Officer Training School (CAPCOTS) in Brookfield (near Truro) at a brand new high school. We are adding a music component by hosting our Northeastern District Champion Chorus and International representatives, the Nashua, New Hampshire **Granite Statesman**. Nashua will conduct Master Classes and sing on the Saturday Night Show. Their members will be billeted by our local chapters and friends. Their transportation costs will be covered by a \$2,000 US NED Education Fund (spearheaded by **Alan Lamson**) and a \$3,000 CAN Nova Scotia Tourism and Culture Grant (obtained by **Ian Ferguson**). We'll try to get more funds from our fellow Sunrise chapters to support this great "happening." Many thanks to **Aubrey Wallace** (Truro/Dartmouth) for being CAPCOTS Chairman again this year.

The members of the PEI Chapter continue diligent preparation for hosting our division convention on May 4, 2004. **Brian O'Leary** (perennial Sunrise Division Contest attendee) has generously offered his assistance to PEI for an entire week before, during and after the contest. Way to go, Brian!

Meanwhile, **Bill Galloway** of the Bedford/Sackville Chapter recently won an International 2003 Outstanding Achievement Award from PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors). Bill earned this honor "For his supportive work promoting online communication for Barbershoppers. It was his design of the chapter and NED Sunrise Division Convention web sites that created a successful presence for several chapters in his area and for the convention." Congratulations, Bill.

Ken Kingston of the prospective Antigonish Chapter reports that he has received a "Chapter Starter" box of goodies from NED, and public service announcements have been sent out to the local media. Enquiries are flooding in and there will be an interview with the local weekly newspaper. Ken says he is receiving tremendous support from our district board and Sunrise choruses, especially the Halifax and Sydney Chapters.

The Moncton Chapter continues to look for engagement opportunities with the independent Mirimichi Chorus in New Brunswick. They are looking at the possibility of including Mirimichi in their 2004 annual show.

And finally, the Fredericton Chapter has recently strengthened its relationship with their sister chapter in town, the **Elm City Echoes** of Harmony, Inc. Both chapters are currently involved in planning and producing various functions such as shows, community performances and fund-raisers for the benefit of all.



Do's and Dont's for Building a Relationship with High Schools

by **Edward Tyler**, Director of Choirs and Drama
Manchester High School, Manchester, CT

I've been a high school choral director for 15 years. Five years ago, through a generous gift from **The Silk City Chorus** of Manchester, CT, I was able to attend Harmony College. I had a great time singing, taking classes and attending the performances. I ate about three gallons of ice cream and spent countless hours talking with members from every place in North America.

Since then, I've taken some time to think about the nature of the relationship between my school program and my local barbershop chorus. This is a list, by no means complete, of some do's and don'ts of dealing with high school directors and students. Hopefully you can use it to find some common ground.

DO #1 - Remember, You Are "Cathedral Builders"

DON'T #1 - Don't Ever Forget **DO #1** The last thing your barbershop chorus needs is a handful of boys aged 14-18. Boys that age are prone to over-extend themselves, have terrible time-management skills, and have no problem quitting just about any activity. However, what you do need is that same handful of boys after they've graduated from high school, gone on to college, taken a steady job, moved in to a community and grown some roots. In fact, the life blood and continued success of your organization rests on the shoulders of those boys, now aged 33-43. You must look 15 to 25 years into the future when planning relationships with these boys.

DO #2 - Be a Helpful Presence

DON'T #2 - Don't Add to The Workload There is nothing better than someone showing up a week before a concert or the big spring musical and saying, "What can I do to help?" There is nothing more exhausting than getting a call from the XYZ Choir saying, "Let's schedule a meeting to see how we can improve our relationship with this school." A meeting has never made my life easier or given me less work.

DO #3 - Give the Students an Experience

DON'T #3 - Don't Try to Change the World in a Day

Every January, **The Silk City Chorus** holds their annual concert. Recently, they've procured not only championship-caliber quartets, but also regional collegiate a cappella groups. The choir brings the college group to several area schools the day before the show for some mini-concerts, usually lasting 30-45 minutes. My students love them. They are always asking if another group is coming as January draws near. And they associate the collegiate groups with the sponsoring barbershop choir, not because it's drilled into their heads, but because they are being provided with an experience. Provide an experience and a link forms, period.

DO #4 - Provide Fundraising Opportunities

DON'T #4 - Don't Ask for Money My select choir has been running concession stands for the January concert for years. The students can count on making around \$400 selling coffee and baked goods. We do all the work, but we keep all we make. We've also run a lunch-counter concession for Regional Competitions, which were held at our school. On two separate occasions, we made nearly \$2,000 making and serving sandwiches and pies. **Silk City** also gives us about 50 tickets to their afternoon show - we can send students for free or we can sell the tickets and keep the profits for our own causes. These are little things, but they provide two significant links: an opportunity for the students to raise money for trips, uniforms and music, and a knowledge that there are people in the community who support what they do.

DO #5 - Every Once in a While, Do Something Big

DON'T #5 - Don't Forget the Little Things - As I said earlier, five years ago, **Silk City Chorus** presented me with a scholarship of my own to attend Harmony College. They paid my tuition and my air fare, and my week was memorable. **Silk City** has also invited my Jazz Choir to sing at their January concerts, and then turned around and made a donation to their trip fund as payment for the students' services. They have buried fledgling student quartets in sheet music, and they even invited a distinctly R&B a cappella group of students to take some time at their January show.

These relationship builders are like the support columns of a bridge: I look back at my fifteen-year history in the school and see those events as high points for me and my students. But the high points aren't the relationship any more than your last vacation with your wife is your marriage. The relationship is built with the countless little things. I have never put on a concert or a show in fifteen years where at least one member of **Silk City** hasn't been in the audience. The members who own local businesses are quick to take out ads in our Spring Musical programs. Members are always saying hello to me and my students. ("Mr. Tyler! I ran into some guy from **Silk City** at the mall. He said [insert concert or musical here] was fantastic!"). And moreover, I know that if I really needed some help, I could call these guys and they would be there for me and my students.

In September 1989, I set foot in Manchester High School. By November, I had met two members of **The Silk City Chorus**. After introductions, their first words to me were, "If you need anything, we're here to help." They have always lived up to those first words, and I am proud that my students have gotten to know these fine gentlemen. And if some 33-year old walks into your choir this year and tells you he's from a town just east of Hartford, CT, give the guys of **The Silk City Chorus** a big "thank you," because they built that little cathedral a long time ago.



The Secretary's Notes

by **Doug MacLean**, NED Secretary

We all love to sing, but every chapter must be incorporated under the laws of the state or province in which the chapter is located. While singing is our main business, there are some business considerations that we as Society members must know and follow. Perhaps the least understood and the most potentially problematic is the area of incorporation.

The Society requires that all chapters be incorporated as not-for-profit corporations. The Internal Revenue Service has determined that the Society and its chapters, as educational and charitable non-profit corporations are exempt from federal income tax as organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Incorporation generally protects the chapter members from claims made against the chapter for damages, injuries or debts for which the chapter might be liable. To be chartered by the Society, a chapter must be incorporated in its state or province.

Many chapters have not kept up with their incorporation responsibilities within their states or provinces. This must be done on an annual basis in some states and provinces, and the process varies from state to state to province. Please check with your state or provincial governments to be sure what is required of your chapter to maintain its corporate status.

A chapter that is not incorporated technically is not in compliance with the Society Bylaws, Statements of Policy, Rules and Regulations, and not eligible to compete, have a vote in the House of Delegates meeting in its district, register quartets as part of its chapter (which will affect their ability to compete) or be covered under any of the Society's liability insurance coverage.

To properly charter a chapter, the following steps must take place:

1. The group licenses with a minimum of four members.
2. The licensed chapter applies for a Society charter with a minimum of 12 members, at least 50 percent of whom are new to the Society or have been out of the Society for more than one year. The Society will furnish an Incorporation Kit providing detailed instructions as to the sequence of the next steps, which must be followed in the chartering and incorporation process.

Generally, those steps are:

1. The licensed chapter forwards the following documents to the Society's Laws and Regulations Committee (L&R) for review and approval:
 - Resolution to incorporate
 - A copy of the articles of incorporation that the chapter intends to file

with the state or province. Preparation of this document may require the assistance of a local attorney.

- A copy of the Standard Chapter Bylaws, which has been completed by the chapter

- The Chapter Code of Regulations (if any)

- The Chapter Statements of Policy (if any)

2. The L&R Committee must approve these before the chapter files its incorporation documents with its state or province.

3. Once the documents are approved by L&R and returned to the chapter, the chapter files its articles of incorporation with its state or province.

4. The chapter then provides the Society office with proof of its incorporation together with two signed copies of the Chapter Agreement (one will be signed by Society officials and returned to the chapter for its records).

5. Upon receipt of proof of incorporation, and the two signed copies of the Chapter Agreement, the Society issues the Society certificate of charter to the chapter, entitling it to full chapter benefits within the Society and district.

Most states or provinces require that corporations annually file a statement of continued existence or annual report, in order to remain in good corporate standing in the state/province. Because we are sensitive to the IRS requirements and regulations as they have to with our not-for-profit status, the Society will be considering a requirement that all chapters provide proof of compliance with the state/province annual reporting requirements on a yearly basis. Failure to provide that required proof could be cause for suspension of the chapter and could lead to charter revocation by the Society. During the suspension period, current Society regulations require that members of a suspended chapter not receive *Harmonizers*, the chapter chorus cannot compete and the chapter loses its vote in the House of Delegates meeting.

While no one wants to enforce any of these rules to that degree, we all must realize the importance of following our rules. Once that's done, we can all reach for the pitch pipes knowing that we haven't got a care in the world.

Direct questions to Ev Nau, 800-876-7464, x8478 or enau@spebsqsa.org.

In Nova Scotia, an Incorporated Society must register annually a list of society officers and pay a \$25 fee to the "Registry of Joint Stock Companies".

Please forward your State or Province requirements to me so that I can create a district data base. I can be contacted at:

doug.maclea@ns.sympatico.ca or
Doug MacLean,
88 Oceanview Dr.,
Bedford, NS, B4A 4C5

Human Interest (Cont from page 1) Lassie, Look Out!

Did anyone besides me notice the dog on stage, lying in front of the risers with the *Chorus of the Genesee*? It was very well trained. I wonder if this is a first for an International?

Nancy Maass,
Sierra Gold, SAI
Auburn, CA

Nancy,

You did, indeed, see a dog on stage with the *Chorus of the Genesee*. Her name is **Wendy**. She is a seven-year-old black Labrador who is the Guiding Eyes for chorus member **Joe Kristan**. This was Joe's first International competition. There was some discussion as to whether or not he should take Wendy on stage. Wendy is afraid of thunder and lightning, so we were not sure what her reaction might be to applause and the stage lights.

However, she had been with us in three district contests with no problems, so we left the decision up to Joe. He said, "I want her to go where ever I go." So when the curtain went up, Wendy was lying just behind the front row, two from the end, stage right. Joe was just above her on the first riser step.

As we waited for the pitch, I could hear Wendy panting heavily (I think it was picked up by the mikes). I was concerned that perhaps the lights and applause had, indeed, startled her. But as we began singing, it was obvious that she had everything under control. I was probably more nervous than she.

We were the only chorus in the competition to have a female on the risers!

Larry Robinson
Lead, *Chorus of the Genesee*
Rochester NY

You Gotta Give A Little, Take A Little

Only at a hotel completely booked to barbershoppers during an International Convention would a valuable piece of jewelry dropped in a hallway be returned to the hotel's "Lost and Found" as it was in Montreal. But my favorite story about barbershoppers' integrity happened in 1993 in Calgary.

Early in the week someone posted a notice on the convention bulletin board, offering to sell a registration. Pinned to the board with the notice were the tickets. We all commented about this level of trust—how representative it was of barbershoppers. Later, when we came back, we saw that the tickets were gone, and in their place was pinned the cash.

We had to see what happened. We kept checking, and eventually the money was gone. In its place was a note from the ticket seller thanking the buyer and saying he had received the money.

Martin Grandahl

Harmony Homecoming in Truro, Nova Scotia

by **Jim Dodge**
VP, Music & Performance

The most successful jointly run barbershop school in the history of our hobby had chords ringing in the rafters of Nova Scotia Agricultural College in Truro, NS, on the weekend of July 18-20. The men of the Sunrise Division combined their talents with those of the women of Area 1 of Harmony, Inc., to make Harmony Homecoming 2003 a brilliant success and a model for how two organizations can cooperate to create a school that fills both of their needs. Over 165 barbershoppers took advantage of the opportunity, the second biggest school on record in that area.

And why wouldn't they come! The staff included *Saturday Evening Post*, tenth place quartet in Montreal and one of the best teaching quartets in our Society. The quartet members, **Bobby Gray, Jr., Brian Beck, Alan Gasper,** and **John Sherbourne**, three of them with gold medals around their necks, can teach anything. Representing Harmony Inc. was **Jeanne O'Connor**, a two time gold medal winner as a quartet singer and perennial Gold Medal director of the *Village Vocal Chords* chorus.

A wonderful adjunct to the school was the first Harmony Youth Festival in the Maritime Provinces. Organized by **Paul Grimm** and **Teresa Weatherbee** with financial grant support through the efforts of **Ian Ferguson**, the festival drew 15 high school students (14 girls and Greg, the ever-smiling only boy). They learned two songs under the direction of **Katie Taylor**, gold medal bass of *For Heaven's Sake*, and **Larry Bean**, lead of *The Management*, and received a well-deserved standing ovation for their efforts.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first school to be co-run by two barbershop organizations. Other schools have allowed women to attend men's schools and vice versa, but in this one, the two groups shared in planning and designing the school to fit the needs of both. This success can be traced to the efforts of a committee of barbershoppers put together three years ago. Representing the men were **Jerry Atwater, Dave Bain, Gerald Farrell, Ian Ferguson, Ian Flemming, Paul Grimm, Allen McKenzie,** and **Mark Radcliffe**. On the distaff side were **Winnie Belliveau, Judith Newman, Janet Pilon, Jane Risley** and **Susan Tucker**.

They seem to be on course for an even better school in 2004. They've already announced that their guest quartet will be the *Boston Common*.

Camp (Cont from page 1)

By the time you read this article, the camp will be up and running. We will teach the students six songs, including three barbershop tunes. Our district staff will coach 13 high school quartets. **Jim DeBusman** and Dr. **Bill Adams** will instruct the Harmony Explosion Chorus. The educators will not only observe, but they will also attend seminars to learn more about barbershop, witness quartet coaching, and read through each other's music selection for their individual schools. Then they will attend the Saturday night show and enjoy *Saturday Evening Post*, *Gas House Gang*, *Free Style* and *The Four Rascals* along with the 2003 Harmony Explosion Chorus.

We'll video tape rehearsals, seminars, student/teacher interviews, quartet coaching, the chorus' performance on Saturday night and much more. After camp, we will produce a ten-minute video tape about the Harmony Explosion Camp experience, and it will be for sale at \$6.00 per copy. You can watch it just for fun or your chapter can use it to recruit for next year's program. I'll let all of NED know when the tape is ready.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved to make this year's camp a success. In the next edition of the *Nor'easter*, I will give you the bottom line about this year's camp.

For more information on Harmony Explosion and how you and your chapter can help, please contact me at:

Steven M. LeClaire
415 S. Rolling Acres Rd.
Cheshire, CT 06410
Home Tel: 203-271-0664
Email:
steveleclaire59@yahoo.com

Q: What's the difference between a Wagnerian soprano and a Wagnerian Tenor?
A: About 10 pounds.

PROBE Award Goes to Nova Scotia Man

In July, at the International Convention in Montreal, PROBE, the association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors, presented its 2003 Outstanding Achievement Awards.

One of the awards went to **Bill Galloway** of the Bedford/Sackville Chapter in Nova Scotia. Bill received the award for his work promoting online communication for Barbershoppers. His design of the chapter and NED Sunrise Division convention websites created a successful presence for several chapters in his area and the convention.

Recognition (Cont from page 1)

Therefore, for 2003, I decided to recognize the volunteers who have in the past, and will in the future, provide services, leadership, and devotion to our hobby in the Northeastern District. At the House of Delegates meeting in October 2002 in Lake Placid, I asked each chapter to focus on what they do best, dream of what could be, and PURSUE THE DREAM. I have also challenged the district board members to be creative and imaginative, to create their dreams for the Northeastern District, and to involve the district membership in the pursuit of those dreams.

During the spring, we held three exciting and well-organized convention/contest weekends. It could not have been done without the hard work and able leadership of three of our chapters and the men in those chapters who volunteered to chair the weekend conventions on the local level. At each of those weekends, I recognized the chapters and leaders who were such an integral part of that success. My further public thanks go to:

- The Beverly, MA chapter (President Jack Dowd)
Convention Chairman:
Leon Pelletier
- The Troy, NY Chapter (President Henry DeMartino)
Convention Co-chairs:
Fred Schonenberg and
Ken Abbott
- The Bedford-Sackville, NS Chapter (President Tom McCarron)
Convention Co-chairs:
Wally Graham,
John Heath and
Earl Lohnes

Then in June, the Pine portion of the Granite & Pine Division held an All-Maine Festival in Topsham, ME. A full day of chorus rehearsal with craft sessions led by the talented **Steve Tramack** from the Nashua *Granite Statesmen* culminated in a show that featured each of the choruses in attendance, a combined chorus of about 90 men, and a fine performance by *Northeast Connection*. While the impetus for this (and many other great things that are happening in the NED) was from **Ted Tracy**, Division Manager, it could not have occurred without the support of the Portland Chapter. Presidential Awards of Recognition were presented to the following men at the August HOD meeting for this great event:

- **Ted Tracy**, Division Manger, Granite & Pine Division
- **Mike Martin**, Director of the Portland Chapter, for conceiving the idea
- **Walter Dowling**, Chairman of the event
- The Portland, ME Chapter (**Charles Swanson**, President), sponsors of the event

At the NED Membership Summit in April, several chapters asked that the district prepare material regarding the activities of the district that could be made available to local chapters for recruitment assistance. **Ken Hughes** of Gansevoort, NY, offered to prepare the document. He created a trifold brochure that is now available to all chapters; it may be downloaded from the district web page. To access the brochure go to: <http://www.nedistrict.org/memberservices/Articles/nedbrochure.pdf>

With the International Convention in the Northeastern District, we felt that it was appropriate to place an advertisement on the big screens at all the contest venues wishing the best to our contest representatives (*Granite Statesmen*, *Road Show* and *Northeast Connection*). Ken again created a great 30-second presentation. For this, I want to recognize and thank Ken Hughes for all of his efforts.

If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?

Ransom (Cont from page 1)

When we set up a Yahoo group to share PR resources and ideas from the district, PROBE, and the Society, we found that only a small percentage of chapters have actually designated someone for public relations. There are so many resources and ideas available to you that will help promote our hobby, your chapter, your membership and income. It's all there, but for some reason, some chapters haven't put anyone on it. It has finally come to the attention of the Society that Public Relations is one of our biggest opportunities. The expression, the "best kept secret," is due to the lack of public relations in the past. **THAT'S GOT TO CHANGE**

For the second year, the Northeastern District has budgeted funds to advertise that the public is invited to our district convention.

Next January at the Midwinter Convention, the Society has requested that the district Presidents, COTS Administrators, and district DVPs of Marketing and Public Relations gather to form a Public Relations plan for the future which will include increasing the public relations education at COTS.

It is important that when you nominate your officers for next year, that you also nominate someone to manage Public Relations, and that they attend the Public Relations class at COTS. Numerous opportunities have already been missed by not having a PR Manager. Be ready—there are a lot more opportunities to come.

So don't pay the ransom, just find the man.

Impressions (Cont from page 1)

Roger Menard, as the chorus Membership VP and newcomer greeter, coaxed the new members to learn the competition package and "go for it." With his encouraging low key manner, I never fully realized the enormity of what I was attempting to do.

Our bass section leader, **David Paterson**, offered many section rehearsals and patiently helped us work through the difficult passages. Our director, **Steve Tramack**, just wouldn't quit. He seemed to have enough optimism and belief for all of us. "Sing tall, lips off the teeth, place it forward. You guys sound great; hit the vowel target; remember breath support. You guys sound great; I am so proud of you."

Steve made me want to work hard to sing my part right. The sessions with **Gail Jencik**, **Dwayne Brobst** and **Tony DeRosa**, each with their incredible expertise, went a long way to focus the effort. Then one evening at a section rehearsal, David announced that I would join the chorus in Montreal. The pressure was really on now. My first singing competition. What was I doing? Before I knew it my wife, Sharon, and I were headed for Montreal.

At the first practice in Montreal, my immediate riser buddies assured me that things would go well. "Keep the fluids going, have a piece of hard candy, remember to breathe, don't try to kill it, sing pretty and sing with emotion."

Then the morning arrived. We met in the rehearsal hall, were bussed to a staging area, chorus photo, to the Bell Center, and lined up. There was no turning back now.

I had a flashback to my first roller coaster ride as a kid. Knowing there was no turning back on the ascent of the first hill seemed a much less anxious position than standing on the risers, waiting for the curtain to open.

"Remember not to sing flat, breathe, sing tall. David said not to hold back. Here we go." A thumbs up and a confidence touch from riser buddies again offered comfort.

Then the M.C. announced, "From Nashua, New Hampshire, The *Granite Statesmen*."

"Don't lock your knees. Let them shake." We were into our performance, and it felt good—as comfortable as that well-oiled baseball mitt of long ago. And the audience seemed to love it.

Because we performed early, the rest of the chorus performances were ours to view. WOW! I couldn't believe the caliber and variety of the presentations. This was truly the Olympics of four-part harmony.

In reflection, I am thankful for all the individuals in the chorus who made the whole thing work. How fortunate I am to be associated with and included in this fine group of men.



Nor'easter Staff

Editor Ed Dunn 81 Kenney Lane Concord, MA 01742 978-369-1456 edunn2nd@aol.com	Granite/Pine Div. Reporter Roger Arend 23 Woodmore Drive Hanover, NH 03755 603-643-2273 arend@terramap.com
Advertising Research Manager W. Jon Lemoine 138 Piedmont Street Woonsocket, RI 02895 401-766-7666 barbershop@cox.net,	Patriot Division Reporter
Distribution Manager Dan D'Ambra 40 Plum Point Road Saunderstown, RI 02874 401-294-3941 logcabin@cox.net	Yankee Division Reporter Bob Bartley 190 Whisconier Road Brookfield, CT 06804 203-775-9317 bbartley@snet.net
Sunrise Division Reporter Paul Offer c/o The Doctor's Inn PO Box 92, Tyne Valley P.E.I., Canada, C0B 2C0 doctorsinn@pei.sympatico.ca	Mountain Division Reporter Carl Phillips 112 Birchwood Drive Colchester, VT 05446 802-878-8232 kc1wh@hotmail.com

Nor'easter Policies

Changes of Status or Address
Please do not send address changes to the editor. We get our mailing list from the Society, so such changes should be sent to the International office at:

SPEBSQSA., Inc.
6315 Harmony Lane
Kenosha, WI
53143-5179

If you have a computer, update personal information on the Society website, www.spebsqsa.org, "Members Only" page. Have your last *Harmonizer* and your member number handy for identification.

Non-member Subscriptions

U.S. non-members may subscribe to the *Nor'easter*—U.S.: \$6/yr, \$15/3 yr. Please send your address to the editor with a check made out to "NED-SPEBSQSA."

With our mailing system, we can't promise to notify you when your subscription expires. Please keep track and renew in time to keep your *Nor'easters* coming.

Advertising

Ads must be barbershop-related, to size, and camera-ready. Payment must accompany the ad—a check to "NED-SPEBSQSA" in U.S. funds. Mail or e-mail both to the editor before the deadline. Scan photos or art work at 170 dpi.

Advertising Rates

Ad Size	Mbr. ¹	Com. ²
Full-Page (9.75" Wide x 12" High)	\$250	\$375
2/3 Page (7.25"W x 10"H)	\$170	\$255
1/2 Page (9.75"W x 6"H / 4.75"W x 12"H)	\$130	\$195
1/3 Page (7.25"W x 5"H / 4.75"W x 8"H)	\$90	\$135
1/4 Page (7.25"W x 4"H or 4.75"W x 6"H)	\$70	\$105
1/8 Page (4.75"W x 3"H or 2.25"W x 6"H)	\$40	\$60
Business card	\$20	\$30
Display ad in 2.25" W column:		
per Col. In.	\$7	\$10.50
	¹ SPEBSQSA Activity/Group	² Commercial

To Submit An Article

Anyone may submit an article. Naturally, barbershop activities in the Northeastern District are our primary interest. Submit your article to the editor by one of the following methods:

1. e-mail, with article included or attached, to edunn68@aol.com. We prefer *Word*, but can read other major formats.
2. mail, typed (min. 10 pt. type).

Include your name and identification as you want it to appear in your by-line. Also include your phone number and e-mail address so we can contact you if we have a question. The editor's addresses are in column 1.

We like pictures and prefer a photoprint. Identify the people and the activity of any you submit. It will be returned if you ask and your address is on the back. If you want to email a photo, scan it in tiff format at 170 dpi.

2003 NED Officers

President Alan Lamson 860-647-9523 janlam314@cox.net	VP, Marketing & PR Rick Barry 978-452-4777 rpbarry@attbi.com
Executive Vice-President Greg Caetano 603-424-3425 gjcaetano@worldnet.att.net	VP, Member Services Walter Lane 518-762-8259 walrus@klink.net
Immediate Past President Arthur Lively 603-744-3755 natart@aol.com	VP, Music & Performance James Dodge 603-749-2084 jamesdodge@attbi.com
Secretary Doug MacLean 902-835-4499 doug.maclean@ns.sympatico.ca	VP, YMIH Todd Lamson 860-721-9336 lamson8@cox.net
Treasurer Dan Robillard 978-840-8161 dryrcats@earthlink.net	Div I, Sunrise Mark Radcliffe 902-462-7852 radcliffe.family@ns.sympatico.ca
Society Board Member Paul Arnone 781-324-7874 arnonep@worldnet.att.net	Div II, Granite & Pine Ted Tracy 207-882-9795 tandetracy@earthlink.net
VP, CSLT Leo Ouellette 207-646-0907 leolead@maine.rr.com	Div III, Mountain Norm Mendenhall 518-587-0811 normkath@capital.net
VP, Chorus Director Dev. Chuck Eaker 518-580-0056 ceaker@nycap.rr.com	Div IV, Patriot Mike Klein 978-764-1923 meklein@hotmail.com
VP, Contest & Judging W. Cotton Damon II 207-743-8545 wcd2@megalink.net	Div V, Yankee Garry Ashdown 845-883-5509 bigbutch29@aol.com
VP, Events Michael Strianese 203-467-1143 mikstrspeb@aol.com	

NED Barbershop Events for 2003

If you know of an event that should be included in this list, please send the information to the editor. First, be sure to clear the date with the District Secretary.

DISTRICT AND SOCIETY EVENTS

FALL CONVENTION – Oct. 24-26, Saratoga Springs.

CAPCOTS, Sunrise Division, – Nov. 8-9 Truro, NS

DIRECTORS' SEMINAR – Nov 14-16, St. Thomas Seminary, Bloomfield, CT

COTS – Jan. 9-11, Sea Crest Resort, Falmouth, MA

CHAPTER SHOWS

PROVIDENCE, RI – Sept 6, 8:00 pm at Providence Performing Arts Center. Featured: *Keepsake, Road Show, Men in Black*.

MID-COAST, ME – Sept 13, 7:30 pm at the Camden Opera House. Featured: *Northeast Connection*.

BANGOR, ME – Sept 20, 2:00 pm at Hermon High School Auditorium. Featured: *Limelight*. Call 207-942-3594

BRIDGEPORT, CT – Sept 20, 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm at the Veterans Auditorium, Milford. Featured: *Gas House Gang, Prelude*.

PITTSFIELD, MA – Sept 20, 1:30 and 7:30 pm at Berkshire Community College. Featured: *Reveille, Men In Black* (NED College Champs).

NORWAY-S PARIS, ME – Sept 27
No Further Information

PORTSMOUTH, NH – Sept 27, 7:30 pm at Portsmouth High School. Featured: *Overdrive, Scollay Square*.

SCHENECTADY, NY – Sept 27, 2 pm and 8 pm at Proctor's Theater. Featured: *Prelude, Four Voices*.

WATERVILLE, ME – Oct 4

If you'll send information about your event to the editor, he'll replace the "No Further Information."

No Further Information

CONCORD, NH – Oct 12,
No Further Information

DANBURY, CT – Oct 12,
No Further Information

NORWOOD, MA – Oct 18, 7:30 p.m. Location TBD. Featured: *P's&Q's* and *The Coastline Show Chorus* (SAI). Call 781-762-6131.

WATERBURY-DERBY, CT – Oct 18
No Further Information

NEW LONDON, CT – Oct 19, 2:00 pm at Evans Hall, Conn. College. Featured: *Prelude, Men In Black, Coastline Show Chorus* (SAI).

HARTFORD, CT – Nov. 1, 7:30 pm at Newington High School. Featured: *Metropolis, Men In Black* and The Coast Guard Academy *Idlers*. Call 860-408-1350.

NORWICH, CT – Nov 2, 2:00 pm at Three Rivers Community College. Featured: *Northeast Connection* and *Sound Wave*. Afterglow. Call 860-886-8035

CAPE COD, MA – Nov 2, 3:00 pm at Cape Cod Community College, Barnstable. Featured: *Boston Common, Prelude*. See ad on page 3.

POUGHKEEPSIE, NY – Nov 15
No Further Information

WORCESTER, MA – Nov 21-22, 7:30 pm at Mechanics Hall. Featured: *Surprise* (SAI Regional Champs) *Men In Black, Theatrix, Big Tom's All Stars* (NED High School Champs)

BEDFORD-SACKVILLE, NS – Nov 28-29 in Dartmouth, NS. No Further Information.

Deadline for the Next Issue: October 31, 2003