

Harmonotes

September 2003

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2003, Issue 9

BILL, DWAIN AGREE: HOA UP AND RUNNING

by Jim Bagby, Ye Olde Arm-Waver

What an exhausting, exhilarating, encouraging, eye-opening week! A 3-hour coaching session with singing guru **Bill Biffle**, followed four days later by a 7-hour workout with PRES ace **Dwain Brobst**.

Lots of changes and fixes await us, and we gotta work on qualifying all the 80-plus signed up for Cedar Rapids. But the goal is in sight, not to mention a newly emerged plan that the B-boys both agree on: the chorus needs to be at international-qualifying level by the time of the Sept. 26 retreat begins.

That's not some pink-cloud suggestion; it's a quantifiable goal. We need to be singing/performing at a minimum 82 level in the next month. That's about one point higher than we averaged per judge last fall in Wichita.

Here are some specific reminders from the Albuquerque Quid: basses lift all 5ths. Baris lift all 5ths. Leads lift allatime. Tenors be brilliant on roots. Baris can't afford to be lazy, and must produce a consistent richness—to assure the sacred flavor of barbershop. (Maybe dynamite section leader **Grant Hunget** will come up with a "SFBS" button!)

More Biffleisms: basses anticipate the downbeat; think "get to the target sound ahead of the leads." Tuning demands attention and intention, from everyone. Never weight the sound. Hmmm...not much we haven't heard before.

Let's check into the Dwain Domain: Employ a new freedom for "Changes." Strut, enjoy, make the music who you are. Gestures (of their own) are weak; make a statement. Exhibit attitude. Front row, work as a unit and lead the parade.

Lemme add one more to the front row admonition: more is expected of you, because you get more glory in exchange for more responsibility. If you cannot commit to 99 percent attendance—meetings and performance—let me know, because we can find guys who will pay that price. You were chosen for your skills AND your dedication.

Finally, I think it's worth mentioning again what a great group of new members we've gained in recent months. You'd really be impressed if you heard the pre-meeting auditions that have been going on to get these guys into the performing chorus. So wear your nametag (how else they gonna learn 100-plus names?), greet 'em each week along with your friends—and encourage them as they make the transition into the HOA tradition of excellence.

Remember how hard you had to work when you joined; the bar has been raised since then. And aren't we all glad! ~



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Chorus Photo by **Matt Bostick**

Harmonotes

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a non-profit organization. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

Heart of America Chorus

The Kansas City, MO. Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis.

The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, phrasing, and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop chapters as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged.

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter.

However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:

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CHAPTER INFORMATION

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110th & Holmes · Kansas City, MO 64105

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Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888

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12TH STREET TAKES A WEEK OFF!

by Mark Fortino



Well, after a busy year, we all took a week off the first week of August for time at home with the families and/or family vacations. Now it's time to get back to work!

We are continuing to work on a number of new pieces of music for our religious CD and upcoming shows. Ever since Internationals, the number of calls for show bids has really picked up, which is very encouraging!

You can only have so much fun singing for the kitchen table week after week...singing for people is a heck of a lot more fun!!! I am trying to balance producing the CD for the chorus, producing the CD for *12th Street* and now my church wants me to assist them in their second CD production. I think I'm going to rent a room at the studio and move in! Oh, well...it's all A LOT of fun, and I am very excited about all of these projects. As a chorus or quartet, sharing our music with others is a wonderful thing. The quality of a professional CD recording is an awesome vehicle for doing just that!

Have a great month!!! ~

A VIEW FROM THE TOP

by John Stucker, Chapter President

I really don't know where to start. I know you all are curious about why my attendance (or lack thereof) Tuesday evenings. I guess an update with all the latest news, both good and bad, would be fitting.

The first significant event indicating a major change in the progress of my cancer occurred in early June. I had my regular appointment with my oncologist where I found out that I could no longer take chemotherapy. The chemo was causing more problems than it was curing. I subsequently had to have two pints of blood to build me back up. There were other indications that the body wasn't fighting back as much. Needless to say this was quite a blow. Right out in front this meant that my life expectancy dropped from maybe years to probably months.

My wife and I had been planning to attend the International convention and right then I made it a goal to get there (and return). To keep along story from getting much longer, I achieved that goal – just barely! We drove my pickup pulling my 5th-wheel trailer up to Montreal—no problems. Took in the convention and contest sessions. Toward the end of the week, I had to vomit my food up. This got worse as the week progressed. We made it home late Tuesday evening after the 4th. I kept getting worse to the point where I could not hold anything down. Finally on the following Monday I went and saw my surgeon. He did a few tests in then sent me straight to the hospital, and scheduled me for surgery Tuesday morning. When I woke up from the surgery, I found out that the outlet from my stomach the intestines had a complete blockage—nothing was getting through. The doctor bypassed the blockage by reconnecting the intestine to the stomach at a different place. My recovery from the surgery has gone fairly well until I started to not be able to hold food down. This time I didn't wait a week before going back. I saw the doctor, he probed on my stomach and sent me straight to the emergency room. At the hospital, they put a tube up my nose and down to the stomach to suck off all the junk in the stomach that was causing such discomfort. Bottom line: Went in on Tuesday, got out Sunday. Tube was in the entire time. By Sunday, the inflammation in the stomach had cleared up and I actually felt good.

Where do we go from here? I hope you all keep me in your prayers. I am now in a Hospice program to assist in whatever is waiting for me in the coming weeks and months.

I plan to keep on doing what I can for as long as I can. I would like to be able to be on the stage in Cedar Rapids this fall when we qualify for International in Louisville. That may be optimistic, but with your prayers I sure am going to try. ~

Heart of America Chorus

ELEVEN-TIME Central States District Champion!

CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists

Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)

HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion

Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead),
Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)

Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion

John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)

BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion

Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)

The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Tom Taylor (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)

The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Byron Meyers (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)

The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion

Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead),
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Corner Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilmann, (lead)
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion

Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)

KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion

Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)

12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

5th Street Four

Niel Johnson (tenor), *Rob Vay (lead),
*Al Fehlauer (bari) and *Bill Varney (bass)

12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists

*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)

Arpeggio

Marlin Weidler (tenor), Rick Dunaway (lead),
Ralph Tallmon (bari), Don Newman (bass)

Crosstown Four

Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)

Heartland

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Matt Moore (bari), *Dale Comer (bass)

New and Used Parts

Jerry Garrard (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

Sound Alibi

Tom Elefson (tenor), Jerry Garrard (lead),
Shawn Jeffries (bari), Don Koehnlein (bass)

SureFire!

Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Don Young (bass)

The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray

Raymond Schwarzkopf (tenor), Todd Anderson (lead),
*Randy Carney (bari), *Burt Bray (bass)

Tone-Henge

Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

Uranium

Dale Neuman (tenor), Charley Drake (lead),
Tom Steele (bari), John Stucker (bass)

*Member of other chapters

MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



Does anyone know how long we've been going to Atchison for our fall retreat? 10 years? 15 years? More? I guess I could look back at old issues of the *Harmonotes*. However long, it's become an annual tradition and an important part of our quest to improve our musical abilities. I have good memories of past retreats and I'm sure you do, too. I remember

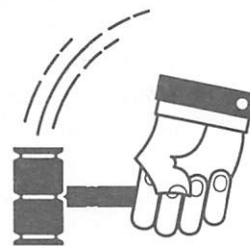
working with lots of great coaches, the best our Society has to offer. I remember long Saturdays of hard work trying to perfect our contest sets. I remember late-night tag singing and poker games. I remember "singing for the nuns" on Sunday mornings when we were still suffering the effects of late-night tag singing and poker games. I remember stopping in the chapel to sing "I'll Walk With God." Mostly, I remember the amazing improvement we have made in those 35-40 hours of concentrated work and the growth of our relationships with each other. That's what the retreat means to me—great coaching leading to great improvement, fun, tradition and fellowship all jammed into one weekend.

As I said, I'm not sure how many retreats we've had, but the 2003 retreat promises to be the best ever. **Bill Biffle** and **Dwain Brobst** are our returning clinicians. They proved they are a great team at last year's retreat and are both looking forward to coming back to Atchison this year. We are increasing our numbers and, as of this writing, we have 82 signed up for Cedar Rapids. So, with our increased numbers, our improved contest package and the retreat to pull it all together, this WILL be the year that we qualify to return to International. I BELIEVE!! ~

AUGUST BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

by John Winfiel

The board set this years retreat cost at \$55 per member. This will allow the portion of the retreat costs paid by the chapter to be within the budget. That amount will be about \$3,000. Music VP **Keith Schweer** told the board that this year the Sunday morning retreat session will actually be a productive session, not merely a social event.

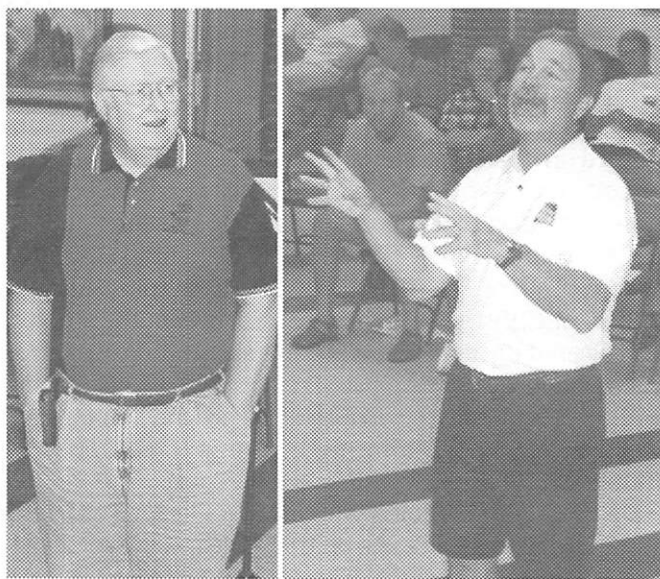


Chapter Development VP **Ken Neujahr** is looking for a couple of men to assist him with membership activities.

Marketing VP **Dick Korek** has secured two sponsors for next year's March Show, and expects answers from others he has talked to soon. Dick would like for any HOA members who know a contact person at any potential sponsor to give him that name and their phone number.

Harvey Shapiro has agreed to take over the Entertainment Book Sales drive.

Executive VP **Marty Oldehoeft** agreed to visit our ailing President **John Stucker**, to find out if John has anything on his "To Do" list that someone needs to take over while his health is keeping him out of action. ~



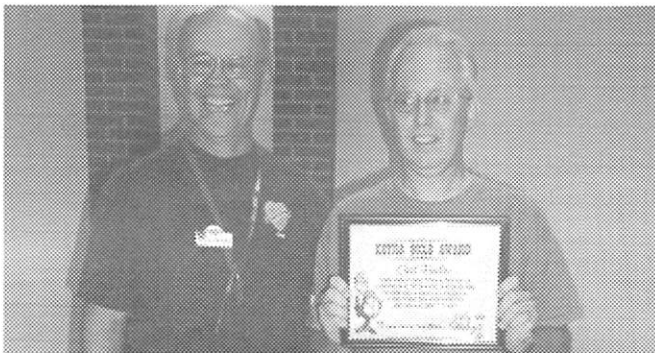
Dwain Brobst and Bill Biffle are shown above during their most recent coaching session with the Heart of America Chorus. Photos provided by Ron McIntire.

JULY Barbershoppers of the Month



Vince Perry, Joe Mathieu, Jerry Garrard, Carter Combs and Rich Huyck:

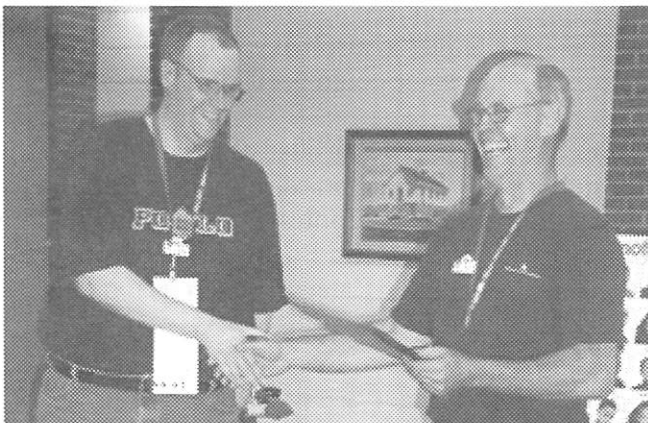
In grateful appreciation for upgrading the chapter website by adding new information, making access easier, and for keeping the website in top working order.



JULY Xtra Mile Award

Carl Turlin

Exec VP Marty Oldehoeft presents Picnic Chairman Carl Turlin with the July Xtra mile Award



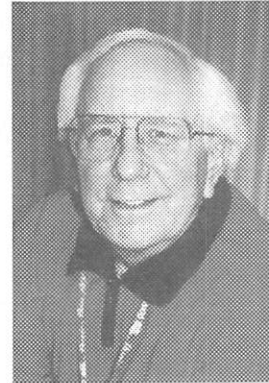
AUGUST Xtra Mile Award

Thom Tisdall

Exec VP Marty Oldehoeft presents Thom Tisdall with the August Xtra mile Award...in grateful recognition for your devotion and extra work to becoming a proficient barbershop singer by taking it upon yourself, as a new member of the Heart of America Chorus, to attend Harmony College. (Photos by Ron McIntire)

MUSIC IN THE PARK

by Dick Korek



In 1996 it was an opportunity to bring the sound of 4-part Barbershop Style Harmony to the city of Overland Park. It's the old "right place at the right time" story. Being a member of the City Of Overland Park Arts Commission at the time and a member of the decision making

team regarding free-to-the-public entertainment at the Santa Fe Commons Park in Overland Park...ho, ho, it was a natural decision to include Barbershop Style Harmony as part of the entertainment package.

Initially it was just quartets, then in 1999 HOA wanted to include the entire chorus. With the help of Metcalf Bank, to help pay for additional lighting and sound, it seems we're "regulars." The key to being "regulars" is the fact that we ATTRACT A LARGE AUDIENCE. It's important to tell all your friends, neighbors and especially family to be there for this FREE to the public performance, to keep a large audience coming for our performance. The city does a head count of the audience and it makes a difference when it comes to planning the entertainment for the following year.

Some of the quartets that have appeared at Music-In-The-Park include: *12th Street Rag*, *Hubbub*, *New Deal*, *Old Mission Messengers*, *Tone-Henge*, *New Horizons*, *From The Heart*, *4's Company*, *Fusion*, *7th Heaven*, *Men In Tux*, from Olathe East High School, *Melody Lane*, from Olathe East High School, *Statesmen*, a college quartet, *Gentlemen of Note* and *Surefire!*

Almost overlooked a quartet called *A Family Affair* with Mike Mathieu and his three sons (shown at right).



Photo by Dick Korek

JUST FOUR FUN

Feel free to submit humorous anecdotes and/
or thought-provoking quotes to the Editor!

QUOTES!

"Exercise is a dirty word. Every time I hear it, I wash my mouth out with chocolate."

— **Charles M. Schulz**

"Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea." — **Robert A. Heinlein**

"Don't spend two dollars to dry clean a shirt. Donate it to the Salvation Army instead. They'll clean it and put it on a hanger. Next morning buy it back for seventy-five cents." — **William Corone**

Don't take a butcher's advice on how to cook meat. If he knew, he'd be a chef."

— **Andy Rooney**

"If it weren't for marriage, men would spend their lives thinking they had no faults at all." — **Unknown**

"I have wondered at times what the Ten Commandments would have looked like if Moses had run them through the U.S. Congress."

— **Ronald Reagan**

DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF *Harmonotes*

Articles and photos are due by

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

For more information,
call Todd at 816-373-8633

Ten Years Ago- September, 1993

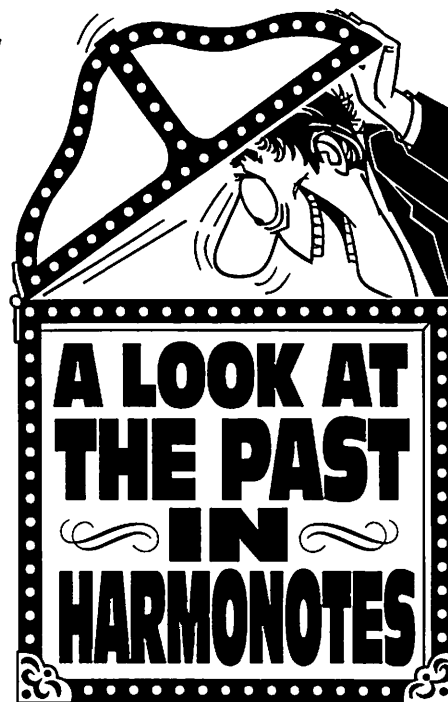
HOA was putting the finishing touches on preparation for the CSD fall contest in Des Moines on October 8-10, with the goal of qualifying for the 1994 international competition in Pittsburgh. According to Music VP **Ron Abel**, the contest songs were to be the same that we used at Calgary: "My Mother's Eyes" and "Loading up the Mandy Lee." (Wonder why I can't remember how either one went. Could be it's because I reached the octogenarian plateau of life on the fifth of last May.)

President **John Pennington** reported that the search for a better meeting place, after much hard work on his part, was "now approaching reality." The chapter had been meeting regularly in Room 600 at the Music Hall at 13th and Wyandotte Streets, a place that left something to be desired. Two drawbacks that I recall were the high rental cost and the difficulty in finding an inexpensive parking place. Two months later we moved to our present location at St. Peter's United Church of Christ at 110th Street and Holmes Road in South Kansas City. (Wonder how many of you noticed at that time that your editor was showing it as "St. Charles" church. If you did, why didn't you let the poor sap know so he could get it right, for Pete's sake?)

Our own **John Stucker** became certified as the only contest administrator in the CSD. This action came following an intense four-day seminar on the Society's Contest and Judging Program at DePaul University in Chicago. **Jim Bagby** was to become certified in the new Presentation Category when he took his final in October of that year.

Twenty-Five Years Ago - September, 1978

New members included **John Stucker** and his son, **Dave**, both transfers from the Leavenworth chapter. At the time, John was a Civil Service employee at Fort Leavenworth, and the 22 year-old Dave (just think, John, he's 47 now!) was a student at Kansas State University, working on his master's degree and on educational leave from his job as an associate nuclear engineer with Westinghouse. (Continued on page 7)



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

(Continued from page 6)

The HOA chapter board okayed the submission of a bid for the 1983 international convention to be held in Kansas City. (It went to Seattle.)

The 1978 CSD fall convention would be hosted by the Kansas City chapter. **Clyde Mensen** was convention chairman, the late **Don Stewart** was chapter president, and **Gil Lefholz** was *Harmonotes* editor (with lots of help from **Donna**).

Fifty Years Ago - November 23, 1953

This nearly 50-year-old issue of *Harmonotes* contains a reproduction of a Society membership certificate issued to one **R. Gerald Tanner** in 1940. It was signed by both **O.C. Cash** and **Rupert Hall**. Other signatures can't be identified, but the document attests to the fact that Brother Tanner "is 1940 an active member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America and is entitled to harmonize at any time, day or night, to his heart's desire, subject to the by-laws, rules and regulations of the order and conforming always to the appropriate state laws relating to the public peace." Quite succinct and to the point, don't you think? I can't find my certificate to see how it was worded 38 years ago, but it's around here somewhere. ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY *to the following chapter members!*

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Dick Irwin | August 20 |
| Thom Tisdall | September 5 |
| Jerry Garrard | September 6 |
| John Braden | September 8 |
| Rich Huyck | September 10 |
| Walter Bates | September 13 |
| Ron Abel | September 15 |
| Sam Solomon | September 16 |
| Phil Veltkamp | September 23 |
| Kim Hoffman | September 24 |
| Frazier Allen | September 24 |

COACHING SESSION GEMS

"Basses sing Lead and Leads sing melody" - **Bill Biffle** during HOA coaching session 8/12/03.

"You've got to change something if you want something to change." - **Bill Biffle** during HOA coaching session 8/12/03.

"Every single man bought into the program. They just decided it was better that way." - **Bill Biffle** speaking on the Chorus of the Alliance during HOA coaching session 8/12/03

"Relax the neck." - **Bill Biffle** during HOA coaching session 8/12/03.

"I'm talking to you!" - **Greg Lyne** as related by Jim Bagby during HOA coaching session with **Bill Biffle** 8/12/03.

"Allow the music to sing." - **Dwain Brobst** during HOA coaching session 8/16/03.

"We're not here to compete, we're here to sing and that's taking unfair advantage—its dirty pool." - **Phil Veltkamp**, HOA, amplified by **Dwain Brobst** on Auld Lang Syne during HOA coaching session 8/16/03.

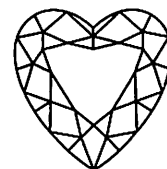
"You see, there's more than notes and words." - **Dwain Brobst** on Auld Lang Syne during HOA coaching session 8/16/03.

"Your security blanket is ALWAYS to make eye contact. Find the eyes in the darkness to tell the story to." - **Dwain Brobst** on Auld Lang Syne during HOA coaching session 8/16/03.

"Get into that zone where it's almost an out-of-body experience." - **Dwain Brobst** on Auld Lang Syne during HOA coaching session Aug 16, 2003.

"The audience is not there for you to entertain, they're part of the performance." - **Dwain Brobst** on Auld Lang Syne during HOA coaching session 8/16/03.

"Allow yourself!" - **Dwain Brobst** during HOA coaching session 8/16/03.



THAT DOG WON'T HUNT! (OR WILL HE?)

by John Winfiel

On Saturday, Aug. 16 Dwain Brobst told us about the amazing commitment level of the individual members of the Greendale chorus. His comments reminded me of an analogy used by the evangelist at a revival I had attended the night before. The preacher told us he was a rabbit hunter. He told of a time he loaned one of his beagles to his father in law. When his father-in-law returned the dog he said, "You sure have a smart dog there." He ask what his father-in-law meant by that, and was told the dog wouldn't go into the briars to chase out a rabbit. "If you wade into the briars and kick the rabbit out, he'll chase 'em all right. But he's not going to get cut up himself." The preacher questioned us as church members to ask if we were willing to go into the briars to our duty for God, or did we just wait for someone *else* to risk the jabs and cuts of the briars and only when they had kicked out a "rabbit" did we join in the chase?

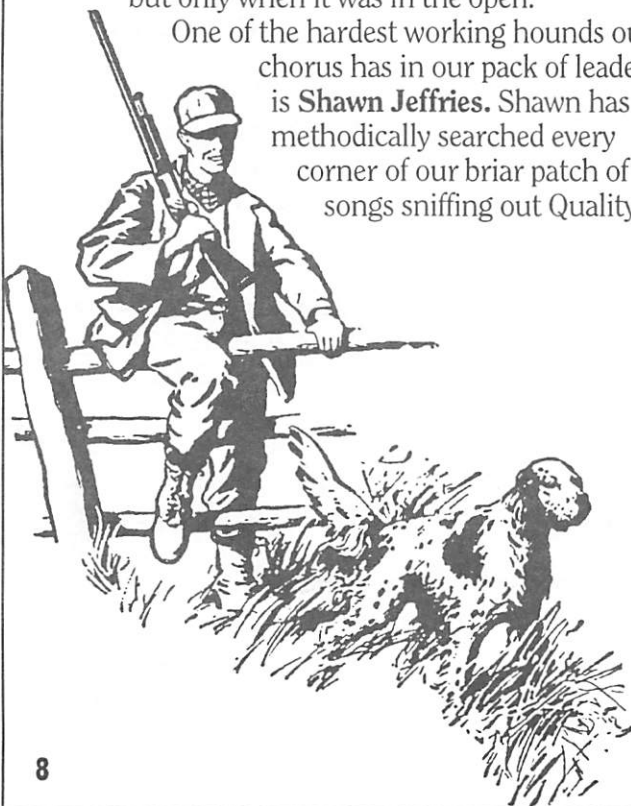
I have to ask myself now, am I willing to do the hard work and make the mental commitment necessary to do my best for myself and my chorus at our upcoming district contest? Too often I have sat back while our music and presentation team leaders have gone in the briars after the rabbit named "Quality." I eagerly joined in the chase of Quality when they put it in front of my nose, but only when it was in the open.

One of the hardest working hounds our chorus has in our pack of leaders is **Shawn Jeffries**. Shawn has methodically searched every corner of our briar patch of songs sniffing out Quality.

He has given us detailed evaluations of emotional targets appropriate for each phrase of our songs. I have never asked him how many hours he has spent doing this, but I'm sure it would put my feeble efforts to shame. What makes his efforts even more admirable is that he does this work for our benefit, not his own. Just like the beagle who works so hard but never is allowed to eat the rabbit himself, Shawn does all this work for us. Any one who has ever observed Shawn while he is singing knows that he doesn't need those targets himself. He automatically applies those principles long before he puts them on paper for us.

I have long thought that these detailed phrase by phrase emotional targets shouldn't even be necessary for the rest of us. Dwain's comments last Saturday reinforced that opinion. If I and those of you on the risers with me will make the commitment to personalize these songs, we will be able to perform as well as Shawn does without the detailed directions. Of course in order to do this, we must get in the briar patch, we must open ourselves up to emotional risks. We might even get hurt. (God forbid, someone might see us cry!) But somehow the cuts and scrapes don't seem to be such a bother when you have *quality* between your teeth. I remember the exhilarating exhaustion of giving my all emotionally and physically on the international stage. It was great fun!

Dwain also mentioned the physical commitment we need. I have recently found myself sitting and watching others working on the risers far too often. When it is due to aching feet there isn't much I can do about it. But I can do something about the times I become an observer due to tiredness. I can exercise to build my stamina. I can go to bed a little early to get the rest I need. I can eat a healthier diet. I have made the commitment to myself to do these things, and now I'm making that commitment to you. Any one else care to join me and our leaders at the front of the pack? Together we can make short work of any briar patch. Let's not make a few do all the hard work and take all the risks. Let's all work a little harder and we'll all have more fun. ~



A SLOW MONTH FOR *HENGERS* by 'Ol Bruce



Tone-Henge has had a slow month, so instead of telling you what we did, we'll tell you what we did not do:

1. We did not rehearse. Well, *once*, maybe, but who's counting? Besides, we made sure we wouldn't peak too soon by bringing out the beer early. (cf. any previous *Tone-Henge* article)
2. We did not perform anywhere. Had to rest up for our quartet spot on the Music in the Park show coming up. Hey, these blast-furnace atmospheres are tough on old guys. (cf. *Dan's* birth record)
3. We did not move. That is, the quartet did not move. **Keith** and **Connie** did, but they didn't move far—just 30 blocks south. Somebody else does the lawn-mowing, so Keith will have more time now for quartet rehearsals. (cf. #1 above)
4. We did not make a pilgrimage to Harmony Hall. Been there, done that. (cf. last issue of the *Harmonotes*)
5. We did not go to Harmony College. The quartet, that is. **Jim** did, but he was on the faculty again, and anyway he's an over achiever. (cf. any issue of the *Harmonotes*).
6. We did not opt out of the fall CSD quartet competition. That's right—we are officially entered in the contest. We're trying to keep the advance news from the judges, though—if they find out they'll bring extra pencils. (cf. previous CSD contest scoresheets)

A TIP OF THE HAT!

1. A big TOTH to Director **Jim Bagby** and the Music Team for bringing in **Bill Biffle** and **Dwain Brobst** for chorus coaching sessions.
2. A TOTH to the 60 or so guys who came out for an all-day Saturday coaching session with **Dwain Brobst**.
3. To VP Marketing, **Dick Korek**, for his work in establishing sponsors for the HOA Chorus.
4. A special TOTH to **Bill Biffle** and **Dwain Brobst** for bringing their excellent coaching techniques to HOA.
5. A TOTH to **Ron McIntire** for publishing the 2003 Kansas City Chapter chapter directory. Ron says it's a bit late, but published nevertheless.
6. To **Vince "Every Man" Perry** for his on-going work to put current performance and contest information on the HOA website.
7. To **Brooke Meyers** for making sure new members have obtained chorus uniforms.
8. A TOTH to new members **Walt Patterson, Gary Mahalick, Thom Tisdall, Tom Forsyth, Tony Strub, Rob Varney, Al Fehlaue** and **Chris Meeks** who have earned a spot on the risers by learning the chorus repertoire and passing their audition tapes. ~

Have you noticed our new SPONSORS on page 2? Let's show them we appreciate their support. Remind friends and family to support these businesses whenever possible! They help US, so let's help THEM!

THE LATEST ALIBI: NOTES ON A JAM-PACKED WEEK AT HARMONY COLLEGE 2003

by Shawn Jeffries, Baritone of *Sound Alibi*

In preparation for writing this *Harmonotes* article, we asked **Jerry Garrard** (our fearless lead) to send us a compilation of the e-mail diary/journal that he kept while *Sound Alibi* was at Harmony College and posted daily to the HOA list-serv. Wow!! When we read it we realized two things: 1) how much darn stuff we had actually done that week and 2) how tired Jerry was when he wrote those e-mails. But all in all, it was quite an effort to write those e-mails and we appreciated looking back on the enriching week we spent at Harmony College 2003. We had numerous experiences that made us better quartet members, better individual singers, and better people. With the likes of **Ed Waesche, Jim Coates, Hank Hammer, and Gary Plagg** constituting our "pod" of top notch Society coaches/judges, it was hard not get tons of good feedback. And the difference we found was immediate: we started locking more chords, feeling the emotions of the songs more deeply, and generally having a LOT more fun. We also had guest coaching from **Ev Nau, Val Hicks, Mel Knight**, and other cameos. Who could ask for anything more? It seemed that everyone was very supportive (not to mention other quartets such as HOA's *SureFire!* and Albuquerque's *Finishing Touch* who sing with **Bill Biffle's** chorus).

It seemed like a week of "Win-Win" attitudes where everyone wanted to see each other's quartets do well. Hard to measure the value that week did for us in developing strong relationships with members of our chapter and district, as well as Society members from across the county, many of whom we intend to keep in close contact with.

Perhaps the greatest benefit, however, amidst the coaching, the classes, the ice-cream, and the fellowship, was the way in which *Sound Alibi* really hung tight for each other that week. Speaking personally, I have had some real tough times emotionally lately, and I was amazed and very grateful for the way in which **Jerry, Tom, and Don** looked out for my well-being. I left Harmony College feeling as if I had really deepened my friendships with these gentlemen, and I have no doubt that that improves my ability to perform as a quartet member. We feel *Sound Alibi* has really turned a corner in the last couple of months. We've made a number of emotional and vocal adjustments, and look forward to continuing our upward trajectory. We feel strongly that by working hard and committing to excellence in our rehearsals and performances, we can continue to improve from here. So, watch out Cedar Rapids, here comes *Sound Alibi!!* ~

(Oh yeah, and for anyone interested in rooming with Jerry Garrard at the Atchison retreat, Tom was right about the ear plugs; I could hear Jerry snoring on the other side of the suite, and I had even brought my white noise maker from home. Love ya, Jer!!)



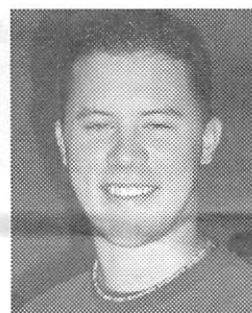
Sound Alibi demonstrates performance improvements learned at Harmony College

NEW MEMBERS!

Be sure to welcome these new faces into our HOA family!



Chris Meeks



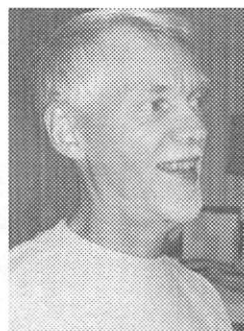
Jake Pimer



Mike Hellenburg



Tony Strub



Walter Patterson



New member photos provided by **Ron McIntire**



Zing!



2nd Annual Golf Tournament

October 19, 2003

PRIZES

FOOD

FUN!!

When: October 19, 2003

Where: Western Hills Golf Club, 8533 S.W. 21st Street, Topeka, 785-478-4000

Entry Fee: \$50.00 per person (includes cart, prizes, 1 hot dog and soft drink)

Registrations: Prefer teams of 4 (if you don't have 4 players, sign up anyway and we'll pair you up with some others.

Tee Times: Your Team Captain will be notified by October 12th...please contact him/her for tee time. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to your tee time.

For more information please contact **Susan Ives at 785-266-0444**
or **ssives@juno.com**

Team Captain Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail/Fax _____

Captain Signature _____

☐ I do not have a team and wish to be paired up with others.

Other Team Members

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Paid ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date _____

Check# _____



Heart of America



September-October Calendar

- Sept. 13 Garden City Community Choir Ice Cream Social, 5 p.m.,
Sycamore Grove Mennonite Church
- Sept. 18 Extra rehearsal, HOA competition chorus
- Sept. 26-28 HOA Retreat, Atchison, KS
- Oct. 2 Final extra rehearsal, HOA competition chorus
- Oct. 7 HOA Cedar Rapids send-off, 8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 10-12 CSD convention and contest, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Oct. 18 CSD Harmony Explosion, Topeka, KS
- Oct. 25 - Nov. 1 Caribbean Cruise with *Aliens* and **Jim Bagby**

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