If you host it, they will come
Skyline and New Tradition Chorus take top honors by Craig Rigg

You'd like to think that barbershop conventions aren't about money, but district officials were a bit nervous as the time for our fall convention and contests drew near. Spring convention was poorly attended, and thus, the district lost money. Natural disasters and the resultant $3 a gallon gas threatened to keep marginal attendees at home. So, what happened this fall in Peoria? Not much, except one of the best attended conventions in recent memory with some of the best singing, especially in the chorus contest, we've heard in a long time.

Friday Night Semis

Master of Ceremonies Bob Cearnal, he with the whirl-ybird digit, got the crowd whoopin' and hollerin' to kick off the contests Friday evening in the quartet semifinals. Retiring district champions Lakeside Edition set the music standard as mike testers. Then came a parade of 22 quartets--some new, some familiar, some re-shuffled. Whether it be physical appearance or song selection, the evening entertainingly zipped by. Also refreshing was the number of novice quartets who displayed some quality singing.

Other highlights included a strong performance by new quartet BoomTown (with old pros Pat Henders, bar; Jerry Metzo, bass; Chris Kirkham, lead; and Craig Hall, tenor), which put them in the lead after the first round. Old pros John Muir and Andy Isbell found a couple of strong vocalists to form The Good Guys. Their rendition of the Les Paul and Mary Ford classic "World Is Waiting for the Sunshine" was stunning. Seniors quartet Medium Rare brought international champion bass Tom Felgen back to the stage, along with Lynn Hauldren, Rick Anthoney, and Tom Herrick. What started as a possible novelty act--Stolen Basses--
turned out to be a remarkably talented quartet, but then with Joe Krones singing lead and George Sotos singing baritone, what else would you expect. Especially if you add Doug Smith at bass and Craig Ahlgrim at tenor. Their pre-singing routine playing rock/paper/scissors to see who would not have to sing baritone was a hoot.

Two father-and-son quartets brought a touch of nostalgia to the stage. Father and Son Reunion from Belleville and Sterling-Rock Falls have appeared together several times before. However, the sentimental favorite had to be an unassuming quartet from Coles County--Dads and Lads. If you've ever had the blessing of singing in a quartet with your father, then you'd understand the "lump in the throat" a few of us got when we saw Tom and Tim Woodall come on stage with newcomers Randy Turner and son Ray (who had to be the youngest performer in the quartet contest). Their heart-warming "Singing Here with Dad" coupled with a clever cell-phone assisted parody earned them not only standing O's but also a top ten placing and an appearance in the finals.

President's Reception

Once the top ten were selected, the crowd adjourned to the Pere Marquette ballroom for some refreshment and entertainment. Former district president Jack Windsor and his recent bride made the trip up from Arkansas for the weekend. Music was provided by retiring district quartet champions Lakeside Edition. Following them came the quartet Friends, who were celebrating the 25th anniversary of their district quartet championship. However, lead Dick Kingdon was pulling "Music Man" duty back in Chicago, so Mark Keever's wife Lynda filled in at lead. Maybe "filled in" isn't quite the right phrase. Though singing in a slightly lower register than usual, Lynda was enchanting with the phrasings and showwomanship she brought to the quartet's performance. They sang several songs, both old standards and innovative non-barbershop.

Saturday Morning Anything Goes (SMAG)

Not much went Saturday morning at the SMAGfest. Only six groups performed, one of them Ollie Williamson in a solo duet (trust me, that's not a paradoxical statement). All the remaining groups sang pretty straight-forward barbershop. The winning foursome--Across Five Decades--came from the Springfield Chapter and featured a 13-year-old lad singing a very strong lead.

Quartet Finals

Selecting a new district champion was not going to be an easy task. Though we didn't know it at the time, only eight points separated the top three quartets going into the finals. Only 40 points separated the quartets from number five to number 10. And of the 11 quartets appearing (counting the mike testers) eight of them were new quartets. It was anyone's guess how the scores would turn out.

Once again, the unexpected was the norm. Stolen Basses featured a stymied George Sotos trying to finagle his way to sing bass (or any other part but baritone). Sure enough, on several bass pickup notes, all four chimed in on the same note before wending their way to their respective parts. Doug Smith made back-to-back appearances in quartets Skyline and Stolen Basses. He then accidentally on purpose traipsed across the stage in front of the subsequent quartet Capitol Collection. John Muir and Andy Isbell pulled out a couple of odd arrangements--one of them a Peter Pan tune about Never-Neverland. Even Dads and Lads made a valiant effort and thanked their wives/mothers in the audience.

Eventually, the quartet that came out on top did so by singing straight barbershop. Skyline, with former quartet champions Doug Smith and Tim Carter, blended with Daniel Starr and Mark Betczynski to amass a 16-point win over second place Stolen Basses. BoomTown, leading by six points in the first round fell to third, while tsunami and The Good Guys rounded out the top five.

Chorus showdown

After about a four-hour hiatus, a modest audience sat scattered throughout the auditorium lower floor awaiting the appearance of 16 choruses, the winner of the contest earning the
right to represent the Illinois District in nearby Indianapolis next summer. The evening got off to a charming start with the mike-tester chorus—the Kankakee Chorus. The chapter had been in severe decline in recent years, but it has recently rebounded. Singing at convention is just one step in the return to being an active chapter and chorus.

As might be expected, the contest started with the "smaller" choruses. Several groups put on ambitious staging, whether by tableau or by choreography. Aurora gathered its 18 singers around a campfire, so that a third of the singers had their backs to the audience. In fact, director Bob Squires carried keeping his back to the audience to the extreme. When the curtain opened, he was sitting cross-legged in front of the fire and basically never moved, not even to acknowledge the audience at the end of the songs. Elgin staged a gregarious bunch of guys on a night out at the beer garden. South Cook strutted their stuff on "Sentimental Gentleman from Georgia." Belleville held bivouac with squad of "shapely" soldiers marching off to war, but not before spending some time peeling spuds. Springfield and Champaign/Urbana chose less flamboyant routines but sang solid, evocative barbershop to remain in the top 10.

Then the big boys came out. Rockford Metro created one of the most elaborate stagings we've seen in a district contest. In fact, there was too much to take in at one time. From set design, to props, to costumes, to constantly changing singing levels, the chorus wowed the audience with a Broadway style production. Their Oliver medley was a visual and aural extravaganza with song after song from the musical. Bloomington No. 1 began with a passionate number about flooding rivers and gave several of its members high profile acting roles and made full use of the stage.

Chicagoland West Suburban and Lake County chapters took a more traditional approach, but the West Towns Chorus wheeled out a couple of props to assist in a major costume change for some of the performers. The Great American Chorus started with Matt MacFayden directing and then brought out Dr. Greg Lyne for the second number. While elaborate staging may not have been part of their respective routines, both choruses displayed powerful singing skills, and both choruses may be considered as wild card entrants for international.

Once again, however, Northbrook's New Tradition Chorus rose to the occasion and earned enough points from the judges to win the contest by 43 points. They, too, featured a change of costume in its dance corps to carry out the "Strike up the Band" theme. One of the most haunting moments of their performance occurred with the ending of the ballad "If I Loved You." Director Jay Galliombardo allowed the final chord to fade into memory, keeping just enough tension in the audience to reinforce the mood of the song.

With all the competitors on stage this weekend (rough count of 700 singers, but some of those were probably dual members or dual quartetters), the district financial personnel ought to be breathing a little easier. Conventions cost money to stage, but they also bring in revenue. Still, the music is what matters, and barbershop harmony made the last weekend in September a sweet memory.
President’s Reception entertainment

1980 District Champions *Friends* with Lynda Keever singing lead in place of Dick Kingdon

2005 District Champions *Lakeside Edition*

Former district president Jack Windsor pays a visit from Arkansas

Saturday Morning Anything Goes (SMAG) Fest

Across Five Decades

Enthusiastics

Ollie Williamson Duo

A Cut Above

Field of Dreams

Past Presidents and Friend
Fall 2005 Convention
Special Awards and Recognition

Novice Quartet Champion
The Good Guys

Illinois District
Quartet Champions Association (QCA)
Music Man 2006
Doug Smith

SMAGFEST Champions
Across Five Decades

Chapter Charter E077
Kankakee Chapter

Ed Wilson Quartet Service Award
Alchemy

Chorus Plateau 3A
Springfield

Chorus Plateau 4A
Belleville

Chorus Plateau 5A
Northbrook

Singing Order for Spring 2006
Chorus Contest
1. Kankakee
2. Chicago Metro
3. DuPage Valley
4. Quincy
5. Greater Rockford
6. Decatur
7. Bureau County
8. Galesburg
9. Arlington Heights
10. Okaw Valley
11. Elgin
12. Collinsville
13. Waterloo
14. Danville
15. Chicago No. 1
16. Chicagoland North
17. Coles County
18. Kishwaukee Valley
19. Joliet
20. Alton
21. Rock Island
22. Macomb
23. Harrisburg
24. Peoria

Scoring Summary
Quartet Contest

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<td>874</td>
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Scoring Summary
Chorus Contest

1. Northbrook…………..1044
2. Lake County……….1001
3. Chicagoland West
   Suburban…………….971
4. Bloomington……….942
5. Belleville…………...831
6. Champaign/Urbana…827
7. Rockford Metro……..808
8. Springfield…………...806
9. Sterling-Rock Falls…..804
10. South Cook…………772
11. Elgin………………...768
12. Coles County………..767
13. Aurora………………730
14. DuPage Valley…….687
15. Decatur………………629
16. Peoria………………628
The Fall Meeting of the Illinois House of Delegates was held Sunday morning at the Pere Marquette Hotel in Peoria. After the opening “The Old Song,” led by Dale Jergensen, Secretary Tim Pashon conducted a brief memorial for those members who had passed away during the last meeting.

John Marshall, our district’s international board member, brought news from the Society about a variety of issues. He especially called attention to a letter from Society President Rob Hopkins. Society membership has fallen below the 30,000 threshold (as of August 1). He encouraged members to attend the international convention in nearby Indianapolis, and promoted attendance at the mid-winter convention in Sacramento. Marshall shared his views of the Society’s new CEO, Ed Watson, lauding his military background as well as his passionate for singing. Finally, Marshall complimented the district on its new Quartet Promotion program, on the Saturday Morning Anything Goes fest, and on our singing. However, he did express dismay at the lack of attendance of chapter representatives for the HOD meeting (only 11 chapters were represented).

President Will Thorndike urged more communication. He indicated that plans are being considered for a more convenient time for an HOD meeting but no decision has been reached. Thorndike also complimented the Kankakee Chapter for their resumption of barbershop activities.

VP of Financial Development Bill Ward spoke of Harmony Foundations activities. He indicated that the Society has gained a sum of over $2,630,000 from the sale of Society headquarters in Kenosha. These funds will be used when a decision is made for a new location for Society headquarters. As of now, main contenders are the Chicago-Milwaukee area; Dallas, Texas, and Nashville, Tenn. Ward also urged members to consider donor options to Harmony Foundations and possible dollar returns to the district and to chapters. At present $196,000 has been allocated to support a variety of Society programs.

Jim Graham, chairman of the Illinois District Endowment Assurance fund, indicated that the fund is in good shape, having earned 6.9 percent return in the Janus fund during the last year. Donations for the year have been sparse, totaling $250 so far. Interest earned from the fund is available for district programs. Graham moved to approve Bill Stock as a trustee through 2010. Motion carried. Other members of the committee are Bob Cearnal, Wally Ryan, and Earl Holtz. At present, $38,787 is in the fund with approximately $3,000 available for distribution.

Awards chairman John Cain indicated that the Frank Thorne award will be discontinued. The Sol Gamis award (for quartets) and the Charlie Hecking award (for chapters) will be revised to be based on contributions to Harmony Foundations or Young Men in Harmony programs.

In Old Business, Bob Squires and Will Thorndike indicated that they have retrieved several boxes of historical and archival material from district historian Jim Vliet. Squires is especially interested in any old show programs or information about divisional or district events with photos.

John Cain indicated that paragraph f of the regulations for selecting Award for Barbershop Excellence (ABE) honorees has been eliminated so that anyone is now eligible for nomination. Prior interpretation prevented nominating district officers.

In New Business, Rich Hansen gave an update on YMIH festivals throughout the district: at Illinois State (Oct. 4), at Eastern Illinois (Oct. 13), and at Grant High School, Fox Lake (Oct. 22).

The UCANSING2 program is still too recent to conclude about success, but Greg Gray indicated that district membership was up 44 members.

District Executive Officer Phil Rolfs urged chapters to send officers and other interested personnel to Chapter Operations Training Seminar (COTS) in Peoria and the Holiday Inn downtown on Nov. 19-20. A new format will be employed, encouraging more of a seminar style. (see page xx)

Music VP Bob Squires called attention to documents that inform of Illinois District Academy of Harmony (IDAH) in February. The guest clinicians and quartets have been invited, and plans are already underway for IDAH 2007.

President Thorndike instituted a new feature to the meeting— an open mike. This would encourage any in attendance to make a statement to the board or to ask questions of the board.

In Memory

Norman "Chip" Rehg (ray) Belleville
Tom Brown Belleville
Ronald Friese Bloomington
Edward Hoover Arlington Heights
Morton Glickman Chicagoland North
Bill Ward asked John Marshall about Society plans for use of money from the recent sale of property and for relocation.

Bill Gallagher urged greater attention to scheduling of chapter and district events, especially for the northern and metro divisions where population is more compacted. Specifically, the Arlington Heights cabaret show is the same evening as the YMIH festival at Fox Lake. Arlington Heights has been active in support high school quartering and would like to have been a part of the festival.

A member of the DuPage Valley Chapter asked if the Barberpole Cat program is being reviewed for possible changes since our music is changing so much. He also asked if any service song (like the old "We Sing That They Shall Speak" or the newer "Teach the Children to Sing") is being proposed.

Some question was made of the number of choruses that compete in the fall and whether more could be expanded. The response was that 15-16 choruses was suitable for fall, but more choruses should be urged to enter competition in the spring.

There being no other business, Craig Rigg presented inane resolutions, and the meeting was adjourned.

Thoughts on the HOD meeting
by Wayne Wright
VP Contest & Judging

I am throwing out some thoughts on the HOD meeting for barbershoppers in the Illinois District. Many of us are disillusioned with the turnouts at the Sunday morning meetings held after the contest in Peoria. I will make some observations and suggestions for your consideration with hopes that by putting the issue on the table we can come up with a better time to do the district’s business.

The Sunday morning HOD meeting time has what would seem to be a good advantage—that is, a lot of chapters members are in attendance, so it would seem to be a good opportunity to have a meeting. The disadvantages are also obvious. A lot of us are competitors and we sometimes have to choose between going to the HOD or going to our chorus or quartet evals. In addition, many of us like to stay up late in the hospitality rooms until the last quartet has sung its last song and having to get up early for a meeting is not an attractive option.

Holding the HOD meeting on Friday afternoon is worthy of consideration. The advantage is that we could get business done BEFORE the competition begins and then be free to enjoy the convention the rest of the weekend. Also, any important developments arising during the meeting could then be shared with the attendees over the weekend. The disadvantage, I suppose, is that some would have trouble getting off work early enough to make it to Peoria by noon or two o’clock. It would seem to me that since it only happens twice a year and we know the dates far in advance that this might not be an insurmountable obstacle.

Another option would be to hold the HOD meeting at COTS. Since it is logical to assume that most chapters would be represented, it should not be an inconvenience to work in a meeting with a good percentage of the chapters represented. A minor objection might come from past district presidents who would have to make a special effort to attend. However, the meeting is for the purpose of giving the district chapters the opportunity to have input in district policy, and this should take priority.

President Will has made it clear that he covets input, questions, and suggestions from all interested members and chapters. If the time of the meeting is the reason for poor participation, then let’s find a more conducive time. The options I have laid out may not be the only ones. If you have any ideas, please share them with us.

Thanks for listening!
Society Mourns Passing Of Three Notables

Einar Pedersen

Noted arranger and songwriter *Einar Nedland Pedersen* died Sept 11, 2005 at Bass Integris Baptist Hospital in Enid, Okla., at the age of 88. He was cremated and a private family memorial has been held. A larger memorial service will be held in the New Orleans area when possible.

A memorial fund has been set up at:
Bank of America
300 W. Randolph
Enid, OK 73701

Bob Bisio

A great "unsung hero," Bob Bisio died September 5, 2005. Through five decades of barbershopping, his influence was felt as a judge, historian, events coordinator, and in outreach through the World Harmony Council and annual Jamboree.

Memorial contributions can be made in his name to
Harmony Foundation
225 W. Washington Street, Suite 2330
Chicago, IL 60606

Glenn Van Tassel

Two-time quartet gold medalist Glenn Van Tassell died September 13, 2005 at the age of 69, following a long struggle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease.) Glenn won gold as lead of The Auto Towners (1966) and bari of Gentlemen's Agreement (1971).
COTS
2006
Nov. 19-20
Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria

Activities include
- Facilitated brainstorming sessions
- Leadership training
- Understanding “styles”
- Panel discussion
  *problem resolution
  *gaining acceptance or “buying in”
  *building, maintaining, and motivating a “team”

Results
- Chapter specific 2006 goals and plans (music, program, membership, marketing)
- Contact and resource listings
- CD with standard manuals
- New ideas and concepts

Discounts
- Register before Oct. 15 and receive a 10 percent discount
- Pay for four registrations from a single chapter and receive the fifth one free
- Pay for five registrations from a single chapter and receive the sixth
IDAH

February 3-4, 2006     Peoria, Illinois
Individual students - Quartets  Choruses

Featuring

Vocal Spectrum - Saturday Evening Post

Individual classes:  Joe Barbershopper 101  Brian Odell
                   History of Barbershop  David Wright
                   Vocal Production  Dan Signor
                   Arranging Made Easy  Don Gray
                   Successful Performance  Ev Nau

TOP GUN Coaching  (by invitation)  Saturday Evening Post
POP GUN Coaching  Vocal Spectrum and Illinois District Coaches

Fee Schedule per attendee:  
Postmarked before 12/31/05  $105
Postmarked after 12/31/05  $125
Chorus coaching  Per member  $  90

Fee includes three meals Saturday - Music - Saturday Night Afterglow
Housing separate directly through Holiday Inn City Centre

SIGN UP NOW - DON’T WAIT
Forms available on district web site:  www.harmonize.ws/ILL/
Questions:  Contact Bob Squires  bobsingslead@aol.com
            (815) 609-8644

Complete details on next page
I.D.A.H.
The Illinois District Academy of Harmony

The Illinois District once again is pleased to present the finest in District Harmony Education schools. Launched in 1983, IDAH has continued to be one of the best district schools in our Society. The opportunity to be part of this school again is open to all barbershoppers. Special attention will be given to quartets seeking to move up a level from their current status, and the doors are wide open to every barbershopper for a fantastic weekend. You will find registration forms on the Illinois District website <http://www.harmonize.ws/ILL/> for both the school and for your hotel registration. School registrations are to be directed to Tim Pashon and hotel registrations directed to the Holiday Inn. If you have any questions, you will find both Tim Pashon and Bob Squires, co-ordinators information on the forms. Additional information on faculty will be posted on the website as we “lock them in.”

Class Offerings

**TOP GUN Quartet Coaching:** Our 2006 TOP GUN “staff” consists of the Saturday Evening Post quartet. Current international finalists and past medalists, SEP consists of Scott Delude, Allan Gasper, Brian Beck, and Bobby Gray, Jr. They come to us with years of coaching and performing experience. Allen and Brian are both singing judges, and Bobby is a presentation judge. Brian and Bobby both wear gold medals from previous championship quartets. TOP GUN coaching is by invitation only.

**POP GUN Quartet Coaching:** This level of quartet coaching is open to any quartet who seeks to raise their performance and/or contest level. Members of the Vocal Spectrum quartet, along with the coaching talents of the best in the Illinois District and surrounding area will be available for these sessions, and you and your quartet will leave the school at a new level.

**Vocal Production:** Learn the basics of good vocal production, proper singing, and most important, proper tuning. Dan Signor, director, coach, and judge from the Northeastern District, is back with us again to work his magic. Choose this class and you will experience the joy of expanded sound, ringing chords, and proper vocal technique.

**Successful Performance:** Ev Nau brings his expertise and performing talents to IDAH. Popular emcee, judge, and coach, Ev’s style brings excitement to this class. Want to know how you chorus and/or quartet can obtain standing ovations every time? Here’s the class for you.

**Arranging from a Piece of Sheet Music:** An interesting approach to arranging by noted arranger Don Gray. Tips on using the clues appearing on a piece of sheet music to guide you through the arranging process. If you can read music and play a few chords on the piano, then this class is for you.

**History of Barbershopping:** David Wright returns again to present his masterfully entertaining journey through time and our beginning roots in this great hobby. You will get to see and hear what those early quartets and their style of music as really like. David’s presentation will hold you spellbound, and you will be asking for more.

**Chorus Coaching:** A maximum of two district choruses will be accepted to take part in the very same coaching experience as our POP GUN quartets. This is a great opportunity to help bring your chorus to a new level of singing and entertaining. Your audiences will see and hear your new level of performance. Enrollment will be accepted on a first come basis. Please direct your inquiries to Bob Squires at (815) 609-8644 or <bobsingslead@aol.com>

**Joe Barberhop 101:** Bruce Odell, from the Land o’ Lakes District, presents this unique class for the barbershop rookies to our senior members. It covers everything you want to know about barbershopping but were afraid to ask. This class is designed with the student/member in mind. You will come away with a better understanding of our hobby. Bruce is the lead of our 2004 Senior Champs Downstate Express.
7th annual YMIH/YWIH Festival
Young central Illinois singers hear the best in barbershop

Put 400 high schoolers (and a few middle schoolers) together on a college campus on a beautiful, but warm October day, and you might expect chaos to ensue. Such was not the case at the 7th Annual Young Men in Harmony/Young Women in Harmony festival held at Illinois State University Oct. 4.

YMIH chairman Rich Hansen once again pulled together a program that was rich with music opportunities, both as performers and as audience. Can there be any doubt that the Illinois District, through Rich's talents, have one of the best, if not the best, youth programs among the Society's districts?

The date of the festival was earlier than usual, mainly because Rich wanted to enlist the services of Dr. Jim Henry (bass of Gas House Gang and director of international champion chorus The Ambassadors of Harmony from St. Charles, Mo.). The 4th of October was the only date he had available, fortunately for the nearly 100 boys who attended, and fortunately for the handful of music educators (and a couple of barbershoppers) who attended his seminar.

Once all the schools arrived, with introductions by Bloomington's Greg Gray, Society music representative Bill Rashleigh led the combined group through a hilarious warm-up session. Then the boys and girls separate for sectional rehearsals and mass chorus rehearsals. Both groups shuffled back and forth between several meeting venues, and apparently no one got lost (though one suspects a student or two found a way to take a wrong turn).

Henry first met with the guys after sectional rehearsals, which were conducted by members of the Bloomington Sound of Illinois Chorus. Hansen had given him complete control of the music he wanted to conduct, and Henry chose quite a pastiche of songs. He first introduced Johannes Brahms's "Gaudeamus igitur" in Latin, a short piece celebrating the vitality of youth and a carpe diem theme. Musical taste then shifted to a pop song performed by the Everly Brothers -- "Bye Bye Love," arranged in the barbershop style. Another barbershop favorite, "The Irish Blessing" arranged by Don Gray allowed Henry to emphasize the same attention to vowel production that was so critical to the Brahms piece. The piece de resistance was an unfamiliar (to barbershoppers) Pennsylvania Dutch folk song entitled "Johnny Schmoker." At first glance, the song seemed impossible to sing, let alone learn in the space of a day, but Henry worked out the problems and had the chorus performing the song with pizzazz. It turned out to be the highlight of the evening performance.

Not surprisingly, about 200 girls were in attendance to learn about the barbershop style. Guest clinician for the ladies was Krista Chmiel, a Sweet Adeline from the Vermillion Valley Chapter. She was assisted by several women from her chorus who served as section leaders. She chose the traditional barbershop "Wait 'til the Sun Shines, Nellie," a Renee Craig arrangement of the famous Beatle tune "Yesterday," and Chmiel's own arrangement of Dan Fogelberg's pop song "Longer."

Just before the lunch break, the boys and girls regathered in the Center for the Performing Arts facility to witness some quartetting. Two groups from Rich Hansen's school of Mt. Zion performed because they were unable to stay for the evening show. The boys group, Outspoken, was followed by a girls quartet known as HK3. Since their baritone was unable to be there, Rich filled in on a falsetto baritone. Finishing the session was Bloomington's Harmony Guaranteed.

Throughout the day, quartet coaching was available for both boys and girls. Assisting for the boys was Bob Squires and Wayne Wright and Rich Knight
After lunch, the groups rehearsed again. However, because of room university needs, some of the performance facilities were not available. Jim Henry had to hold his boys’ chorus rehearsal in the lobby of the Center. His physical stature does not lend itself to a group of boys standing in a circle around him in order to rehearse, but he kept his cool in the rather warm and distracting surroundings.

That evening, the boys and girls got to demonstrate what they had learned to each other, to their parents and guests, and to some the music academic community. Bloomington High School's Treble Chorus (conducted by Bloomington No. 1 Chapter’s Dennis Morrissey) sang the national anthem. They were then followed by a boys quartet known simple as The J's, the YMIH Chorus, and the YWIH Chorus. Once all 400 singers were back in their seats, they were treated to performances by 
Shine! (a Sweet Adelines regional medalist quartet), by Illinois State's own a cappella group known as Encore!, and finally by Bloomington No. 1's The Sound of Illinois Chorus.

Clearly the highlight of the evening was the appearance of international medalist quartet (and past college quartet champion) Vocal Spectrum from St. Louis. Two of the singers—lead Eric Dalbey and tenor Tim Waurick—also served as quartet coaches during the day. Clearly, these young singers connected with the audience, whether with standard barbershop tunes, or highly complicated barbershop arrangements, novelty numbers, and ballads. Good news for the Illinois District is that this quartet will be back in our area for IDAH in February.

By the time this file gets through your computer, another YMIH festival will have been held in Charleston at Eastern Illinois University on Oct. 13. Hosted by the Coles County Chapter and chaired by Chris Prince, the festival will draw a number of students near that area. Featured clinician will be Rick Spenser from Society headquarters for the boys and Gina Summer (of Main Attraction) for the girls. Guest quartet for the evening will be Afterthought from Terre Haute, Ind.

Not to be outdone, Bill Ward is helping to organize a festival in the northern area at Fox Lake High School on Oct. 22. Clinicians will be the ladies of the Sweet Adeline quartet Contagious for the girls and Dr. Greg Lyne for the boys. Once again, can there be any doubt that Illinois District is more than pulling its weight when it comes to spreading our style of music to a new generation of potential barbershoppers, both male and female.
More YMIH/ YWIH activity

Girls quartet rehearsing

HK3 with Rich Hansen

The J’s

Harmony Guaranteed demonstrates barbershop style

Shine!

Encore!

ISU jazz ensemble

Vocal Spectrum
Henry meeting with music educators

Girls’ chorus warming up for evening performance

Boys’ chorus in rehearsal

Henry meeting with music educators

Outspoken

More from YMIH and YWIH
The First Annual Big Weenie Tag Singing Contest held on August 13, 2005, was a success! The tag singing contest is the invention of Cathy and Doug Wehrwein and designed to raise money for Young Women in Harmony (YWIH) and Young Men in Harmony (YMIH). Through contest entry fees, a 50/50 raffle, general donations, and bribes to the judges and scorekeeper, a total of $200 was donated and will be split evenly between YWIH of Region 3 of Sweet Adelines and YMIH of Illinois District of SPEBSQSA.

Everyone who attended had fun, and those that sang in the First Annual Big Weenie Tag Singing Contest were all big winners for making the silly occasion a success. People started to gather about 2:00 p.m. Some came to just enjoy the day’s activities and others with the hope of finding three other singers to join up with to enter the contest. There were a total of seven competing quartets; from non-singers to quartet Gold Medal Champions and everything in between. It was an entertaining day to say the least.

A very special thank you goes to the judges, Bon Pressley, Jarmela Speta, Adam Woods, Randi Pickley, and Patrick Tower. Bribing the judges with “a cash donation” was encouraged since all monies collected went to YWIH and YMIH. Kim Jackson, from Prairie Echoes Chorus, was the panel secretary and shamelessly took her own bribes for order of appearance. Every quartet got an award, and the awards were “Cheap and Tawdry” as promised.

Bill Kerschbaum (director of the Blackhawk Men’s Chorus in Joliet, Illinois) was Master of Ceremonies and winner of the “Sharp Wit” award. Bill did a masterful job introducing the seven competing quartets. He even competed in the FAMILY TREE QUARTET with his wife Lori Kerschbaum, his daughter, Tori Hicks (director of the Midwest Crossroads Women’s Chorus in Joliet, Illinois) and son-in-law, Dan Hicks. Bill also spearheaded the 50/50 raffle, which raised $32 for YWIH and YMIH. Sue deNeveveu, from Prairie Echoes Chorus, DeKalb, Illinois, won the other $32.

The WITH AND WITHOUT QUARTET (Gary Sinagra, Brotherhood of Harmony Men’s Chorus – tenor, Sandy Sobon, Melodeers - lead, Steve Johnsrud - bass, and Nate Anderson - baritone) won pencil sharpeners for “whittling down” a couple of tags to being virtually unrecognizable. Steve, bass with our current International Chorus Champs the Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe, Calif., not only traveled the furthest but was also delighted to sing with nephew, Nate.

THE REQUESTORS QUARTET (from Brotherhood of Harmony Chorus Doug Wehrwein sang tenor, Mark Keever of BOH, Alchemy and Rendezvous sang lead, Steve Johnsrud – bass, and Nate Anderson – baritone) took nouns and verbs suggested from the audience to use in their tag parodies. They sang the same tag repeatedly replacing some nouns and verbs, completely silly.

GAS GANG QUARTET (from Prairie Echoes Cathy Wehrwein sang tenor, Wendy Rank – lead, Doug Wehrwein – baritone, and Ron Rank – bass) won the “Most Twisted” award (Strawberry Twizzlers) for their tag theme about “breaking wind.” Cathy and Wendy wore gas masks and Ron operated the remote control for the portable fart machine. Everyone was aghast!

The FAMILY TREE QUARTET (Lori Kerschbaum (Midwest Crossroad Chorus) – tenor, Tori Hicks – lead, Bill Kerschbaum – bass/baritone, and Dan Hicks – baritone/bass) was awarded the ‘Families Should Stick Together Award’ (four glue sticks) and also won third place overall, received the 3rd place bronze medal.

THE GOODBYE GIRLS QUARTET (Cathy Wehrwein – tenor, Sandy Sobon – lead, with Cindy Cassens, Director of the Prairie Echoes Chorus singing baritone, Lynda Keever of Melodeers, Rendezvous and The Four Betties sang bass) took the contest seriously. Their first set, on a western theme, came complete with costuming: cowgirl hats and
bandanas. In their second set they all wore baby bonnets and sang “Every Time I See You I Cry Again” and “Who’ll Dry My Tears When I Cry / You Made Me Cry Medley.” They not only won “Gratest” Costume/Tag Combination (winning teenie weenie cheese “graters” on black ribbons) but also won second overall and received silver medals.

The **RLMT QUARTET** (Rick Anthoney of Alchemy sang tenor, Lynda Keever - lead, Mark Keever – baritone, with Tom Felgen, Four Renegades and Chicago News teaming up with Randy Roger of BOH singing bass) won first place overall and were presented with the Gold Medal. With that lead / bass combination of Lynda’s ‘Four Betty’s’ silken lead and Tom’s two-time International Quartet Champion bass, they wowed the audience with their first set. When Randy Rodgers was called to fill in for Tom “had-to-leave-early-to-catch-a-flight-back-to-Pennsylvania” Felgen, he rose to the occasion and performed with outstanding basso-profundo ability cinching the Gold. Sorry, Tom, Randy has your Big Weenie Tag Sing 2005 Gold Medal and says, “If you want it, come get it, but you’ll have to pry it out of my cold dead hand.” There are hopes the “quartet plus one” will come back next year to do a “swan song.”

As a special treat a Senior’s Division Quartet, **SECOND WIND**, (Rick Anthoney, Tom Herrick, Lynn Hauldren and Tom Felgen) entertained the audience during the intermission, before the finals. Look out, Seniors, the competition just got tougher!

All in all about 50 people in attended the **First Annual Big Weenie Tag Singing Contest**.

There were people from six states, three barbershop districts, two Sweet Adeline’s regions, Harmony Inc., six active quartets, 11 chapters and maybe more.

Kudos to **Catering by Sinagra** who provided an exceptional barbequed pork chop, chicken and Italian sausage dinner. Rumor has it they will return next year!

Many thanks to all those who made this **First Annual Big Weenie Tag Singing Contest** a success! So much so that the **SECOND Annual Big Weenie Tag Singing Contest** will be held on **August 12, 2006**. We hope to have twice the quartets competing, have twice the people in attendance, and generate twice as much in donations for YWIH and YMIH. Having twice the fun will be a big challenge, but we’ll give it a try! Mark it in your calendar today! Don’t miss it! **August 12th, 2006.**

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**It just keeps getting better!**

by Bob Squires, DVP

Music & Performance

Illinois District, BHS

It has been some time since I last touched base with each of you. I hope your year, thus far, has been filled with many musical experiences. I would like to draw your attention to several great events that will soon take place in our district.

* **YMIH Festivals** -- The 7th Annual Festival was held in Bloomington on October 4, and others will be held in Charleston on October 13 and in Fox Lake on October 22. If you can help inform the music educators in the areas of these festivals it would be greatly appreciated. Your attendance at these all-day workshops and evening shows would show our young students how much we appreciate their efforts in singing barbershop harmony.

* **Illinois COTS** -- If you haven’t heard by now, Illinois COTS will be different from any other district COTS throughout the entire Society. Bottom line is that the text book has been thrown away and you will become an important part of the learning process. Our EVP, Phil Rolfs, has left no stone unturned in making this COTS…YOUR COTS. Don’t miss it!

* **IDAH 2006** -- On the horizon promises to be perhaps the best IDAH music schools we have ever scheduled in the Illinois district. We will provide something for every barbershopper to sink his vocal chords into, ranging from quartet coaching, chorus coaching and classes that cover

continued on next page
everything from the basics to how every performer can get a standing ovation. Two of our Society’s best quartets, Vocal Spectrum and Saturday Evening Post, will be with us to share their skills. Information is available on the web page and at our convention in Peoria. Send your chorus, your quartets or find a way to send as many members as possible. It will be a weekend you will never forget.

* Quartet Promotion Workshops -- Coming soon to a chapter near you! Ron Rank, chairman of the newly formed district quartet promotion committee, is in the process of putting together venues for every member of the district to avail themselves of the opportunity to get into a quartet. For contest...for fun...part time or serious. It doesn't matter. If you have ever had the urge to take the “quartet plunge,” you will get your opportunity at one of these weekend workshops. Be a participant or ask you chapter to host a workshop. Keep your eyes and ears open for information and announcements in Peoria next weekend.

As you can see, the district board and our leadership have once again provided opportunities for every chapter member to grow within their hobby. You have just read about four ways you and your chapter members can get the most out of our wonderful hobby. Don’t drop the ball or miss these great opportunities to learn, enjoy and have fun.

**Ireland Barbershop Tour 2006 with Jim Clancy**

All barbershoppers wishing to join Jim Clancy, 10-time international chorus champion director, and several others from the Vocal Majority, consider yourself invited to travel with us August 13-21, 2006.

We can accommodate only 90 individuals for our tour, and we expect to fill this tour before the end of this year. Already we have booked and received checks for over 40 barbershop family and friends---with bookings coming in on almost a daily basis! If you are truly interested in joining our wonderful and exciting tour, I suggest you check all important details on our website, and then send your check to Leo Larivee to reserve your seat as soon as possible.

For more information regarding our Ireland tour, please go to our website at www.tlcTours.com

Even if you cannot attend this FUN tour, you should enjoy our interesting and extensive website. Jim Clancy, will be directing a special chorus called “Ireland Barberpole Cat Chorus!” For more details, please “stay tuned!”

Jerry (Ireland Tour Coordinator & Escort)
& Kim Orloff
(Music Coordinator & Escort)
831-688-0909
orloffs@ix.netcom.com
Harmony College/Director College 2005
Observations from (some of) the student body

Thanks to input from two members of the Sterling-Rock Falls Chapter, we have an insight into the latest version of the Society’s Harmony College experience.

Harmony College is a learning experience for singers of all ages and also a week of great entertainment. It is a thrill to join 400-500 men in barbershop harmony at the morning assembly. Students from the USA and foreign countries, learn songs, tags, and vocal techniques from the best instructors in the Barbershop Society. Medal winning quartets and choruses perform at the evening sessions. If you like quality singing and barbershop harmony, you’ll love Harmony College.

Cal Schuneman

Harmony College 2005 was a wonderful experience for all who attended. One of the classes that I participated in was Vocal Techniques with Nick Papageorge. In this class I learned proper breathing and how to relax while singing. Another class I took was the History of Barbershop with David Wright. This was a very interesting class where I learned how barbershop started out. I also took Creative Interpretation with David Leeder. In this class I learned how to put my heart and soul into a song. Some of the other classes I took included convention videos and tag singing. Last but not least was the Next Generation Chorus. This class was a blast; we had about 35 guys, but we sounded awesome. Rick Spencer does a wonderful job of bringing out the very best in us.

This year I got to room with my good buddy, Fred Ray. It was nice talking to Fred and really getting to know my fellow chorus member. Every night I would try to sneak into the room after tag singing without waking him up, but I did wake him one night. I also rode down with Cal and I got to learn a lot about him and his son.

This year I was able to meet new people as well as talk to a few that I had met the year before. It is wonderful getting to meet people from all over the county as well as people from other countries. Everyone there is very kind and always willing to sing a tag or two with you.

Saturday night was the show. The Next Generation Chorus sang “The Chord Busters March,” “Old St. Louis,” and “The Lion Sleeps Tonight.” The show was great. We blew the crowd away as the Next Generation Chorus does every year. Then the Harmony College Chorus sang a few songs and the Directors College Chorus also did a few numbers. Then The Alliance Chorus from Columbus did several songs. They were absolutely wonderful. International Champion Gotcha also sang a few songs, and they did an outstanding job. After the show I sang tags till about two in the morning. When I was done, I lost my voice.

Harmony College is really all about meeting new people and coming together to sing barbershop. It is a wonderful experience, and I strongly recommend it to anyone. If you go, you will not regret it.

Matthew Deets

Just a partial record of the Illinois District members who attended Harmony College 2005
Do your wife and kids know that we open on November 1?

www.barbershopgifts.com

Get stuff you want this year!

FREE BUSINESS CARD ADS
Hey, you guys in quartets who have spent some money on business cards. We'll feature any Illinois District quartet's business card in this electronic version FOR FREE!
Out of district groups can submit their cards as well, but a $10 charge will be assessed.

Just send a card to the following address:

Craig Rigg
108 Honey Lane
Colchester, IL 62326
or email to crigg@winco.net
Oct. 13  First Southern Illinois YMIH/YWIH Fall Festival  
        Eastern Illinois University
Oct. 16  Pride of Peoria Barbershop Chorus 64th Annual Show  
        “Steamin’ down the River”  
        featuring Alchemy
Oct. 22  Arlington Heights Cabaret Show  
        “As Time Goes By”  
        featuring BoomTown
Oct. 22  First Northern Division YMIH/YWIH Festival  
        Grant High School, Fox Lake, Illinois
Nov. 5   DuPage Valley Show  
        “A Touch of Ireland”  
        featuring Jukebox and Skyline
Nov. 19-20  Chapter Operations Training Seminar (COTS)  
        Pere Marquette Hotel, Peoria
Dec. 2-4  Northbrook New Tradition Chorus Holiday Shows
Dec. 9-10  Chicagoland West Suburban West Towns Chorus Christmas Shows
Dec. 10  Chicagoland North North Wave Chorus  
        “This Is Christmas 2005 … And Home for ALL the Holidays!”

2006
Jan. 15-22  International Mid-winter Convention  
        Sacramento, Calif.
Feb. 3-4   IDAH 2006  
        Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria
April 21-23  Illinois District Spring Convention and Contests
July 2-9   International Convention and Contests, Indianapolis
Aug. 12    Second Annual Big Weenie Tag Singing Contest
Sept. 29- Oct. 1  Illinois District Fall Convention and Contests