



*International Medalist*  
**GREAT NORTHERN UNION**  
**CHORUS**

HILLTOP CHAPTER • SPEBSQSA

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT



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**GNUsNews**

May 2005

## GNU Quartets do well at International Prelims!



**What a contest it was in Wausau** on the last weekend of April! The official name of the convention was "**2005 Land O' Lakes International Preliminary Quartet and Packerland Division Contests**". Twenty-nine quartets prepared well, and competed. It was a fast-paced and exciting weekend for the contestants and the audience alike. All the quartets did a wonderful job. It was so close, that we in the audience thought more quartets might have qualified; but we ended up with two that advanced and will represent the Land O' Lakes district at International this summer in Salt Lake City.

These deserving gentlemen are **QUEST**, (Jay Althof, Mike Laurel, Brent Graham, Tim Milbrandt) pictured above left, with a score of 2830 (average: 78.6) and **AFTER MIDNIGHT** (Tom Matchinsky, David Bailey-Aldrich, Jim Emery, Steve McDonald, with a score of 2753 (average: 76.5). We will be there with bells on, cheering for some of our favorite sons as they compete in the nearly-new and truly wonderful facility on the Mormon campus in SLC.

Also doing an admirable job in this contest were **AARPS-A CHORDS** (Mark Conlon, Gary Jacobson, Robert Griffith, Lance Johnson). They qualified for participation in the fall district Seniors contest. GNU quartet **NOUVEAU** (Jim Olson, Tony Blackwood, Duane Rygg, Dave Boyd) did very well, with a grand total of 2639 points (or 73.3%). **BRAVO** (Marty Monson, Dan Schroeder, Dave Roesler, Mike Faris) was well prepared to go to Wausau; but, regrettably, sickness prevented them from attending.

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**There's more to life than competition.**

**WHAT?**

What am I saying?! I love contest, especially International. It's my favorite barbershop event of the year. Why wouldn't it be? The chorus guys seem to get more focused, some old familiar faces start showing up at rehearsals again, and the singing level is extremely high! So what's my point?



The point is that I wouldn't trade this level of excitement for anything. In fact, I am convinced that it is possible to keep it all year long. I believe the Performance/Marketing Team's new yearly plan, as well as the long term (5 yr) plan is making it very easy to ride this wave of energy right into our next show season. Are you tired of the usual "ramping up" for International and District and then settling for something less than great in our annual shows and other performances? We are no longer a 2 song chorus. The new schedule, consisting of the collegiate concert (Feb), Duluth retreat (May), On to Fame (June), International (July), District (Oct.), and Bethel Show (Nov.) SHOULD help us to maintain an extremely high level and make it easier to build on each event.

Don't get me wrong, we need everything you've got to medal this year in Salt Lake City. But, let's think of this contest as ONE of the highlights rather than THE highlight of the year. We need to memorize the "International feeling", become addicted to it, and settle for nothing less.



Thanks.  
PETE



Guys,

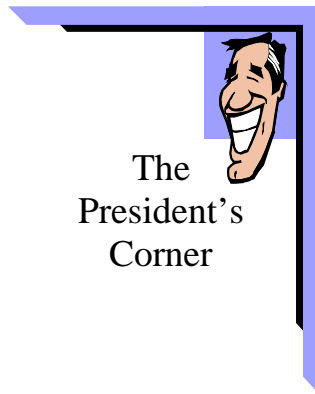
I hope we all recognize how fortunate we were when Loring Harrop decided to join Hilltop after moving to the Twin Cities, and then was willing to become VP for Marketing. If you have not yet acknowledged and thanked him along with those who have helped him, such as Wally Brink, Miles McDonald, and Roger Stanfield, (I apologize to any others whose names should be included) please do so. A review of his reports to the board in just the last few months shows the following items and activities:

1. Establishing a yearly concert schedule, with a single printed program for the series.
2. The first of what we expect to be an annual joint performance with a college choral group.
3. Performances on some Thursday nights by a cappella groups from local college campuses.
4. Sales of our recordings online, plus through Harmony Marketplace and Mainely A Cappella.
5. Developing a better web site (based on year-to-date, we expect more hits and visitors in 2005 than in 2003 and 2004 combined).
6. Online sales of tickets and GNU logo merchandise.
7. Arranging performances at Twins and Vikings games.
8. Developing group ticket sales for our shows.
9. PR releases about our activities and achievements.
10. GNU display booth for shows and conventions.
11. Media ads for our shows.
12. A number of other ideas just under way or for future (such as longer-range planning using a three-year calendar.)

Whew! See what I mean? And this is just a partial list. If we can keep him from burning out, we will see many results of these efforts over the next few years. So if you see an opportunity to help with some of these tasks, step up. Also, when you are asked to pitch in, give a hand. Anything you can do will help.



Bill Lydecker – GNU President



**Want a ballcap** that lists your voice part to wear to International? Or a t-shirt for your grandchild? GNU now has an online store for items with our logo. It includes t-shirts, sweatshirts, mugs & other items. You may find these items at <http://www.cafepress.com/gnunionmembers>

Get a GNU calendar with that terrific photo of our appearance at the Metrodome, courtesy of David Meyer, for \$5 or a GNU mousepad for \$12

Note that selection at this time is limited but will grow at least insofar as the images available for different items.

GNU recordings are also available online through both Harmony Marketplace and Mainely A Cappella.

Of course, we'll still offer CDs for sale at our concerts and I'll keep bringing Bound For Glory to rehearsals for a short time.

Jeff Aldrich will let us know when the links are active. He's worked especially hard with Mainely A Cappella to get them to devote a section just to GNU, so offer a pat on the back when you see him.

Thanks,

Loring



Newest member of the Pete Benson family, Luke, is sporting one of the T-Shirts available online at [cafepress.com](http://cafepress.com)



**Roger J. Lewis has been chosen** as interim **chief executive officer** of the 30,000-member Barbershop Harmony Society.

Lewis previously served the Society in many volunteer capacities, most recently as international president. He takes over for Don A. Harris while the Society Board of Directors conducts a search for a new CEO. Harris resigned April 20.

He has been a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society for 44 years. He is a competition judge in the Presentation category and has served on the faculty of various Society education programs and coached quartets and choruses. He sings baritone in Antiques Roadshow quartet and lead in Harmony Hounds, a quartet of which he has been a member almost continuously for 40 years. He currently belongs to the Battle Creek, Mich., chapter in the Society's Pioneer District.

Julie Siepler  
Media Relations Manager  
Barbershop Harmony Society

**Dr. Greg Lyne has resigned** his position with the Barbershop Harmony Society, effective Friday, May 6, 2005.

"I consider it a privilege to have worked for the Barbershop Harmony Society for over eight years as the leader of the Music Department," said Lyne in a letter submitted to Society Interim CEO Roger Lewis.

"Dr. Greg is one of my barbershop heroes," said Society President Rob Hopkins. "He is widely recognized as the one of the elite barbershop musicians, chorus directors and coaches. We know his influence will continue to be widely felt, as his musicianship continues to help others raise their level of barbershop performance."

No date has been set for hiring a successor, said Lewis.

"Meanwhile, Joe Liles, has agreed to manage the Society's Music Department as its Interim Director," said Lewis. Currently Music Publications Editor, Liles had previously served as Director Music Education and as Executive Director.



### Members: Get to know "em

the Great Northern Union Chapter President.

I have sung with many quartets, including **Vintage Sound**, 1994 NED Senior Champions. I currently sing with **Magic** (Mankato), a quartet I helped start in 1980. I have been in at least one vocal and/or instrumental music group for all but 3 of the past 50+ years.

I was born in New Jersey, and grew up primarily in northern New Jersey and Philadelphia. I graduated from a St. Paul high school. I have a BA (psychology) from Carleton College, and MS and Ph.D (clinical psychology) from Wisconsin/Madison. I was a staff psychologist at the St. Peter State Hospital from 1961 - 1965, professor of psychology at Gustavus Adolphus College from 1965 - 1992, and visiting professor of psychology at the College of the Holy Cross (Worcester, MA) from 1992 - 1995. I have been retired since 1995.



I married Marna Krueger in 1961. We had two sons: Peter (a GNU member) and Karin live in Columbia Heights; Andrew, Brandi, and Amelia June (born 2/24/05, my first grandchild) live in Memphis. Marna died of cancer at age 41 in 1977. In 1981, I married Ann Favor. She had 2 sons: Marty, living in Plainfield, NH, and Rich, who lives in River falls, WI, with his two sons. As most of you know, Ann, who was Chancellor at UW - River Falls, died in an auto accident in March, 2004.

I joined GNU because of our dedication to competition and the level of performance we strive for in all our repertoire.

### Meet Bill Lydecker!

I joined SPEBSQSA in spring, 1962, and have belonged to 7 chapters, in LOL, Mid-Atlantic, and Northeastern Districts. I have held virtually all chapter offices, been an assistant chorus director, a district officer, and a certified Sound judge. At present I am serving as

Don Challman sent us some pictures and information about his chorus and quartet in Arizona where he "winters".

Don is a member of GNU and the Leisure World Barbershop Chorus in Az. He is a 43 year Barbershopper and has held all chapter and District offices (except treasurer and DACJC & DVP), serving two terms as International Board Member. In addition, he is currently in his 23rd year as a certified Presentations Judge. And has been the Stage Presence Category Specialist and International Contest and Judging Chairman. More info about Don to the right.



**Anything Goes** quartet with members, picture left to right, Herm Bauer, Don Challman, Norm Wolf and Jack Payne

## Anything Goes Quartet

**Herm Bauer**, the tenor, is a retired sales representative of a painting firm in Missoula, MT. He has been singing Barbershop for over 40 years in Montana. He sang in several quartets, most **notable The Deluxe Edition** which made it to international in 1977. Herm also has been a chorus director for over 25 years.

**Don Challman**, the lead, is a retired school social worker from the St. Paul, MN public school district. He sang with the **Night Howls** comedy quartet for 27 years, performing in 24 states, 4 provinces in Canada, Sweden, and traveled 20,000 miles during the summer of 1971 for the USO entertaining hospitalized military personnel in Japan, Okinawa, The Philippines, Guam and Hawaii.

**Norm Wolf**, the bass, is a retired school teacher. He sang 31 years with the 1972 LOL district Champion **Roadrunners**. The quartet brought humor throughout the U.S. and Canada and has appeared in lounge shows at the Dunes and Mint hotels in Las Vegas. They also did an HBO special as well as the Grande Opening of Elliot's Feed Store in Deep River, Iowa.

**Jack Payne**, the baritone, is a retired optometrist from Lewistown, Montana. He is the senior quartet member in terms of age, yet the most junior in terms of barbershop experience (a mere 29 years). He has sung in quartets and choruses in Montana, as well as Sun Lakes, Apache Junction and Mesa Arizona. Besides singing, Jack is the director of the **Leisure World Barbershop Chorus** and is active in coaching, song writing and arranging.

Picture below, The Leisure World Barbershop Chorus





Congratulations to our friends from UW River Falls, **Beyond Cadence**, who won the Packerland Division College Quartet Contest April 29th. You made the GNU proud!

Having had several repeat invitations to one of the largest Lutheran churches in North America, GNU felt privileged to sing this spring at Mount Olivet for all four services on the Sunday after Easter. The ladies of the church served a lovely hot breakfast on spring-like decorated tables between services. This fueled our bodies for the full morning of congregational singing along with performing our own gospel numbers under the direction of Scott Kvigne.

This massive and beautiful Gothic edifice rang with not only our voices, but also from a fine trumpet and traditional organ music which enriched the thousands of souls attending. Hearty applause during services from this somewhat conservative congregation was a welcome surprise!

This is the home church of our own Corey Hanson and Ken Slinde. Guys, we will love to come back any time you invite us!



**Upcoming Special Events**

May 13th - 15th Duluth Coaching weekend

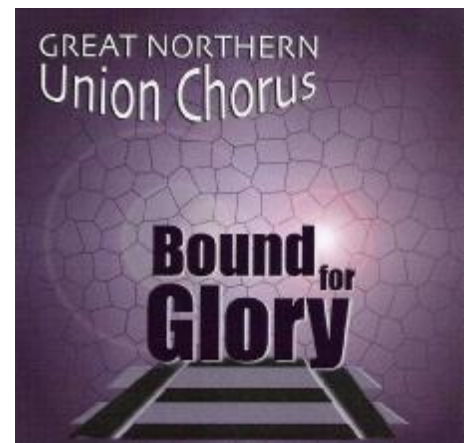
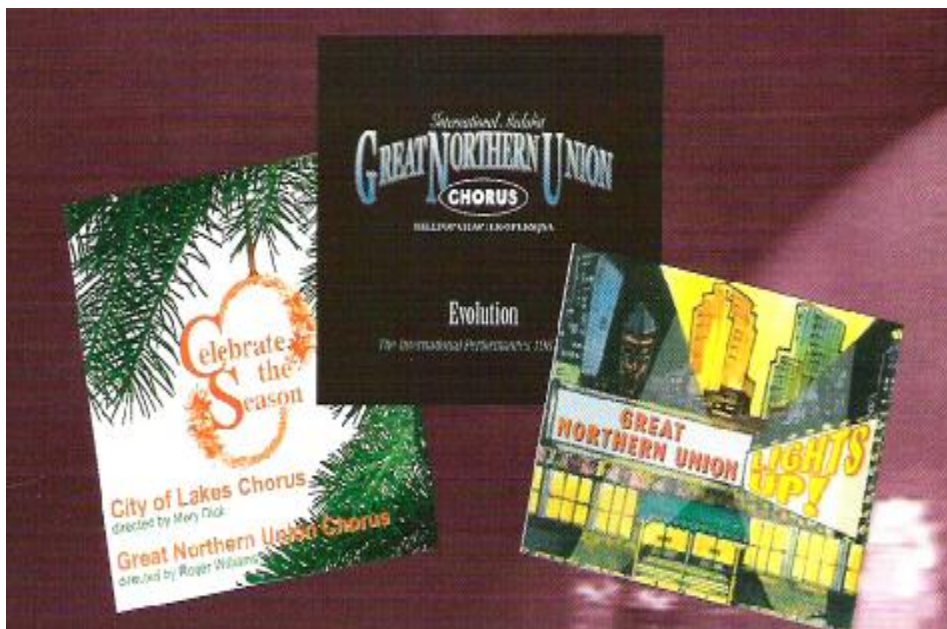
May 18th Twins Star Spangled Banner and O Canada

June 11th "On to Fame" show

July 4th - 11th Salt Lake City International Contest

*"Peter Benson, director of the **Great Northern Union** chorus, was interviewed April 12<sup>th</sup> on WWJC radio out of Duluth, Minnesota. The focus of the interview was the GNU's newly released **"Bound For Glory"** CD, although Pete and the host ventured into quite a few related barbershop and directing topics. The total air time for Pete, the GNU, our CD, and barbershop in general was about 37 minutes!*

*Kudos to Pete for an excellent interview and to the GNU's Marketing VP, Loring Harrop, for setting it up!"*



Remember that these GNU recordings can be purchased online at Harmony Marketplace and Mainely A Cappella.

**For those of you forming new quartets and having the wonderful task of picking a quartet name, here are some guidelines set forth by the society.**



Approval of quartet names is the responsibility of the Society office. Names are approved under the following guidelines:

**2.3.1 A name which is already registered cannot be used.**

**2.3.2 A name must be in good taste, containing no offensive innuendos.**

**2.3.3 A name cannot be registered which is phonetically similar to one that is already registered.**

(Four Bows, Four Beaus, etc.) or otherwise so similar as to be confusing or misleading.

**2.3.4 The use of 4, Four, Quartet or other designation or qualification before or after an already assigned name does not constitute a new quartet name.**

- For example, a registered quartet is named The Herdsmen. Another quartet could not register as the Four Herdsmen, the Herdsmen Four or the Herdsman Quartet.
- Similarly, if a quartet is registered as the Four Tiptoes, a new quartet name could not be The Tiptoes, (dropping a portion), or The Tiptoes Four (changing the order), or The Four Tiptoes Quartet (adding to the name).
- Adding to, subtracting from or changing a geographical portion of the "essence" of the quartet name does not constitute a new quartet name. For example, if The Herdsmen was a registered name, another quartet could not be registered as the Chicago Herdsmen. If the original name had a geographic connotation,

such as Sarasota Soundbuster, another quartet could not drop or change that portion of the name and register under Soundbuster, or Seattle Soundbuster, or Southern Soundbusters, etc.

- In instances where conflict seems negligible, the Society office may approve a request.

**2.3.5 The protection given is for the use of the name.**

A group of four men may not register as a quartet for the sole purpose of tying up a clever name. Also, acceptance of money or other consideration for release of a name for use by another quartet would be a breach of Section 7 of the Code of Ethics.

**2.3.6 Reuse of names**

A formerly registered name that has not been renewed, except for an international champion or international medalist name, is available to the next quartet requesting that name. One other exception is that the name of a district champion may never be used by another quartet in the same district. In the case of the latter, it is the responsibility of the district secretary to inform the Society office of the duplication. The quartet will then be notified by the Society office to seek a new name.

**The Great Northern Union Chorus meets every Thursday from 7:00pm to 10:00pm, at the United Methodist Church of Peace, 6345 Xerxes Ave S, Richfield MN 55423**

**“Early-Bird” rehearsals are held at 6:00pm for practicing choreography. Members are urged to call the GNU Hotline at 763-476-7383 weekly for the latest word on rehearsals, performances, and other pertinent information. Also find us on the web at [www.gnunion.com](http://www.gnunion.com)**





**After Midnight**  
A Barbershop Quartet

Contact:  
Tom Matchinsky  
952-931-9715  
tom\_bbshop@hotmail.com

Got Music?  
Have a  
**Nouveau**  
Experience  
with  
**Dave Tony Jim**  
**Duane**  
A Barbershop Quartet

Contact: Jim Olson  
14466 Everest Avenue  
Apple Valley, MN 55124  
Phone: 952-431-3110  
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Ellis Jones, Tenor  
Bruce Gray, Lead



**MAGIC**  
Barbershop Harmony & Sleight of Hand

507-934-2372  
bgray@gustavus.edu

Don Miller, Baritone  
Bill Lydecker, Bass



**PRISM**  
A SPECTRUM OF SOUND

STEVE - CLEON - DARREN - ALAN  
2404 McNair Dr., Golden Valley, MN 55422  
prism\_gnu@hotmail.com  
612.281.5609



—ROD JOHNSON - Lead— JIM FOY - Bass—  
—RICK ANDERSON - Bari— BOB DOWNUM - Tenor—

**HAPPINESS  
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BARBERSHOP  
QUARTET

www.HappinessEmporium.com  
CONTACT: Rod Johnson  
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Northfield, Minnesota 55057  
507.645.5750


E-mail: dougmtr@aol.com Tax I.D. #41-1903683

*Special Alliance*  
GLENN, DAVE, LANCE & DOUG (Barbershop Quartet)

Contactman: DOUG MILLER 4822 Rutledge St.  
612-447-8265 Prior Lake, MN 55372

Support  
these  
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quartets!

**Quest**  
BARBERSHOP  
QUARTET



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