

HOW DO I JOIN FFS?

Donald Smith, Jr.

THE FOUR FRESHMEN personally represent to me one of the greatest inspirations of my now 60-year life. In sad times or happy, they have timelessly been there to comfort and to share in life's triumphs and tragedies.

From the time of my first Freshmen concert, 1957, at Jamestown High School in beautiful little Jamestown, New York, I have been an everlasting and faithful fan to the greatest, most beloved singing ensemble in American History.

Although I never met the entire group, I was lucky enough to chat for a few minutes with fellow trombonist Bob Flanigan after a set at a club in Las Vegas in 1983. As with any Freshmen "encounter" it seems like yesterday for they keep the memories so near and so dear. And particularly in these most turbulent of times, they bring us all closer together by reminding us of the values that all Americans hold most dear.

To Ross, Ken and Bob and all the Freshmen present and past, and especially Don, please accept our Love, Best Wishes and eternal Appreciation for making all of our lives a bit more peaceful and calm, one beautiful and inspiring ballad at a time.

In closing, I would be honored if you would advise how I might become a member of THE FOUR FRESHMEN SOCIETY.

We Get Letters!

from Philip Sladdin (England)

In the July/August 2002 edition of Fresh News you published a letter from Peter Smith (England) informing us about Singers Unlimited "Magic Voices," advising us Fresh members to get it as it really is "magic."

I found I could get this 7 CD boxed set on the Internet, which I promptly ordered and received and he is right. I bought it "blind" on the assumption if a Fresh member praises it so much it must be good, and he is absolutely right - it is fantastic. I am grateful to Mr. Smith for taking the trouble to write to you and for you, of course, for printing his letter.

Changing the subject, I would like the boys to do a CD on the Carpenters' hits, also the hits of Michael Legrand and Jim Webb.

Best wishes to you and all members for 2003.

P. B. Sladdin
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England

MEMBER DECRIES CUTBACK IN "FRESH NEWS" ISSUES

by Mike Collins (TX)

It is with great sadness that I note that Fresh News will be coming out quarterly instead of bimonthly. To me, receipt of this publication is the single most valuable reason for membership in FFS. Every issue was like receiving a Christmas card from a valued friend or relative with a letter included. Only, Christmas came six times a year. Until now.

It's like learning that my daily newspaper won't publish on Mondays and Fridays. Or the evening newscast won't be seen Tuesdays and Thursdays. Or my weekly magazine only will arrive thrice monthly.

The calendar for FF appearances will suffer, as deadlines will result in more excluded appearances and the reduced ability of members to plan trips to see our favorite quartet.

Reportage will be more stale, as well. I think that the decision-makers have underestimated the value of the excellent publication that Charles and Sue Trafford have provided, and hope that by mid-year that they will recant and resume bimonthly publication.

Yes, you can get the information elsewhere. But many members do not have computers, and Fresh News certainly has been a vehicle to summarize FF happenings in a regular format on a regular basis. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. But the FFS brass, mistakenly, decided to "solve" a problem that didn't exist in curtailing coverage. I'd like my daily newspaper and evening newscast every day.

Editor's Note: We surely understand your concern, Mike. The quarterly format will be available this year. But remember, this gives us more flexibility for special issues and timely communications about important surprises!

WE NEED EMAIL ADDRESSES

Since publication of the Fresh News fanzine is now scheduled quarterly, it has been suggested that we try to establish an "update" process, particularly for schedule changes for the "live" performances of The Freshmen.

Although our website is updated frequently by our master database guru (Chaz Cone), if we had a better listing of Email Addresses we could economically transmit new info to our members. In order to protect your privacy, we will not share your email in such a way that would create more "spam" for you. Please email your info to:

<chazcone@mindspring.com>

Include your name, city and state plus your Email. Thanks.