

## Conspicuously Missing (at the 2001 Convention)

by Ann Smith, (N. TX Rep)

Noticeably absent from this year's convention were the following: (1) the Japanese contingent, (2) Ken Albers, (3) The Faux Freshmen, (4) Sue Raney, (5) the Thursday night jam session (it was primarily a performance), (6) the encore at the Saturday night performance, and (7) "Fresh Talk."

*(1) Only one FFS member made it in from Japan, and it was great that he was willing to make the trip. Hopefully they'll all be able to join us next year.*

*(2) We certainly hope that Ken Albers will be doing well and be able to be with us next August. Let's hope that (3) the Faux Freshmen and (4) Sue Raney will perform for us at (5) the Thursday night jam session next year. It's listed in the tentative schedule (shown in this month's Fresh News) as a jam session, so evidently that format will be followed. We heard that Sue Raney had planned to attend this year but had to cancel because of work.*

*A couple of brave souls did get up and sing at the Thursday night performance this year and Ray Brown played the piano for us. Ray explained to us at the FFS General Meeting how the Thursday night jam session got started. At one time, Thursday night was not included in the convention schedule. Then one year some people asked Ray to come in early for a jam session on Thursday evening - and it grew from there.*

*(6) At the Saturday night concert we were applauding the Freshmen back up for an encore - and they were waiting to come back out (according to Bob) - but someone grabbed a mike and started talking over it, which eclipsed the encore. Next year maybe we can have two encores to make up for this year. Sorry we missed it this year, fellows.*

*(7) And, last but not least, "Fresh Talk" is listed in the tentative schedule for next year in Reston, VA. It will be great to hear what the panel of current and former Freshmen has to say and what questions the audience will come up with for them. This year's convention in Bowling Green was fabulous and we're looking forward to an even greater time in Virginia next August.*

### Saturday Night Buffet October 20, 2001 - FFS

Table #13 - out of sequence with other table #'s - placed in rear of ballroom with a cemetery centerpiece. (In spite of such indignities & discriminations we enjoyed ourselves.)



At table R-L Bob Frye, Lorraine, Dave (VA), Chris Rank (MI), Tom & Donna Gallaway (OH), Jane & Colin Bishop (England), and Lois Frye (FL). Photo taken by Dr. Charles Dexter (FL).

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## BACK TO BASICS IN SCHAUMBURG, IL

by George Erwood

As Yogi Berra would say, it's "deja vu all over again." On November 18th, as we were finding our seats for this sold-out performance at the Prairie Center for the Arts, this fan experienced a 'flash-back' to 1952 Detroit at the Crest Lounge when I viewed the instrument set-up. This was my first FF concert since Curt joined the Group, so while I knew Bob has used the stand-up drum set for a while, missing were the electronic keyboards.

For many years the Group had performed with one or two keyboards, so I wondered if the musical accompaniment would be the same, after hearing the keyboard background for so many years. No worry, as they say 'down under,' as the Group led off with "Route 66" and worked their way through some of the newer charts like "Young and Foolish," older classics like "Day In, Day Out," and our anthem, "Blue World." Bob did a credible job announcing and singing "Love Dance." Vince has added a few whistle riffs while doing a stellar job on stick bass and guitar, as did Brian and his "If I Only Had a Brain" (was a big hit), and Curt's crisp horn statements were much appreciated as well.

One remarkable fact was that the majority of the audience were regular subscribers to the Prairie Center, not FFS members. A large stack of Fresh News, group photos and membership applications were gone by intermission. Speaking to several interested people, I encouraged them to sign up.