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### *Juniors Move Ahead*

Finding themselves faced with 165 eager juniors, the leaders of the group found it necessary to divide them and to form two groups on Tuesday, January 26th. The new groups are:

- A - preschoolers to 8 years old
- B - 9 to 14 years old

Whenever the older juniors were going to learn new songs they found themselves slowed down considerably by the very young members who likewise were having trouble keeping up with some of the harder songs and choreography. The young juniors will now stick with the easier songs and emphasize the basic

ideas behind Sing Out. For example, Vickie Leubka and Rosie Senn said that A group is going to make valentines in an effort to get to know each other better and to emphasize the idea of loving one another. Both groups, A and B, will be performing on February 23rd for the Boy Scouts of America. Good Luck Juniors!

### *A Tribute to a Dedicated Member*

There he is, an hour and a half before the show, setting up the mikes, making adjustments at the last minute, and then finally making certain that everyone is heard during the show, and yes, there he is taking down the mikes and loading them in his car after everyone else has gone. Most of us have pretty much taken for granted the sacrifice and hard work of Jim Schwartz. It takes the fact that he is leaving us to make us realize what he's been giving to our group. Thanks to a true Sing Out person for all the hard work, even if the thanks is pretty late in coming. As you leave for the Air Force, everyone is probably telling you to remember this or that. There are thousands of things you'll remember about your years in Sing Out and what Sing Out is all about, but we'd like to remind you of only one thing, that "The World is Your Hometown!" Good Luck, Jim!

### *A Challenge*


Sing Out Dubuque has really achieved a long range goal in creating a complete and almost professional show with their own style and creations. Considering that most of the residents of Dubuque gave the group about six weeks, I would say that it is an especially great showing to the citizens of our fair (sometimes too fair) city that the youth of Dubuque can set a goal and stick to their guns to achieve it.

Watching the faces of everyone on Clarke's stage as well as at other shows, however, it appeared as though something was missing. I won't say it was conviction. But I will say that what was there was synthetic. Plastic smiles look fine but they don't have the depth that a real heart-based one has. They don't generate the invitation that they should. An ordinary audience may not notice something of this sort, but if the smiles were more permanent (not all the time, as though they were painted on, but with the radiance of belief in the songs helping to set the mood) rather than, "Oh, I'm forgetting to smile at all those people out there," and then being struck with terror. I have a short opinion as to what the source of this may be and what has created the problem.

If you care, you'll read on through what looks like too much to be bothered with.

My first statement is that you people have conviction. If you did not, you wouldn't have had the spirit to put on a show and stick out the late hours of rehearsals or persuade your parents to let you stay in Sing Out through the weeks of every other night 6:30 p.m. departures and 9:30 p.m. arrivals. This takes something. For you guys it was the belief that Sing Out's message to create a closer to perfect world, has to spread. But why couldn't you show this in your singing? A more complete conviction was missing. Thank goodness the sound, the lighting and the choreography were almost flawless. It certainly helped your audience overlook this factor.

My answer to why is that too many members don't remember when they worked as a group or as individuals to make someone else's world better. Maybe some of you never really have had the opportunity to experience this type of pleasure even for just a few minutes. This is the source for real conviction. You will find that the greatest reward for you as a member of the group is to go and do something for someone else because you love that person for what he is-- another struggling person in need of the outstretched hand that many times he never sees when he needs it most. Every other person in the city of Dubuque has the same problems just by virtue of the fact that he is living in this maze called society. Every person in Dubuque has problems. Many of these he would never have to discuss with just anybody because he does have some friends to talk to him about his inner conflicts. But what about those people who do need someone to talk with, to pay attention to them, to listen to their thoughts and to their hang-ups? They aren't just sitting in the inner city ghetto or in Appalachia or the swamps of the southern United States. If you open your eyes just a crack farther you will find that your job is spread so far and wide right now that there is no way for you to catch up to it and conquer it. But then the goal isn't really perfection, it's bringing things closer to the way we think of Utopia.



As a teacher recently told us in class (though he said he couldn't take credit for this because it was someone else's line), "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its strength, what shall the earth be salted with?... You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden." Salt stings an open wound. Light attracts, is radiant and cannot be kept under cover. Unfortunately the light you are most familiar with is that of the stage. The bright lights of Broadway have captured your spirits while off in some corner there's still sitting some struggling person losing his wife and his spirit, dying to die. Why weren't you there? Why were you on stage making all those already content people more content? Your problem is that you enjoy being content with things the way they are. You remain secure in the hands of Sing Out yet afraid to approach the world outside Sing Out that you know is cold. Even after a show the audience is still cold in your eyes. You fear them. Your fear is of people who you don't know, who don't know you, what they might not say, why they weren't feeling that warmth from success that you are. You lose track of how people think of your show or anything else because you are not in contact with the real world, only the Sing Out showboat. When does it become a go boat?

Could someone please tell me where this security is getting you? You're leaving it in Sing Out. You aren't going out to the people to spread this security. Certainly this gift of security won't be long lasting if it is prompted by a one hour show, a two hour show, or even a three hour extra-vaganza. The real feeling of achievement for Sing Out persons comes when they can generate themselves to other people, stretching out an open hand or more. "Brothers you got yourself two good hands. I wonder whether it's trouble when you gotta reach out your own hand for him 'cause that's what it's there for. And when your heart is troubled, you gotta reach out your other hand, reach it out to the man up there 'cause that's what he's there for. Really still old philosophy from a modern day prophet anyway. But please think about this as a part of your commitment of conviction. This is what Sing Out should be doing.

Yes, just a bit more. I said I had the source of this problem: not knowing the joy that brings pleasure to your faces while on stage; the joy that makes you thoroughly alive. The source can be pinpointed at the Action Council to a very great extent. Not because they didn't complete their responsibilities out of negligence, but rather because they weren't informed of their jobs completely. The Action Council isn't for writing checks and paying bills. It's planning the development of the group toward the future for the kids in it, the people affected by it. The problem can also be traced to the members of Sing Out who have been thinking rehearsal and show instead of living policies and contacting people with problems. Forget that the third last chord in "Live it Live" wasn't in harmony and try some living harmony-- by living life live.

That's what it's all about. Every person in Sing Out has to come up with the ideas about where to go to accomplish Sing Out. Every member of the Action Council must support projects with an active part as leader. Every member has to work with the Action Council to motivate. The source for motivation should be in the head of every Sing Out member. The source for carrying out these marvelous ideas is the body of every person. Everyone had better start thinking seriously about what place Sing Out has in Dubuque and in their lives. Is it your time out of the house? Is it him or her? Is it fun learning songs, etc.? How about work? How about love? How about living--not high but, just people-caring? How about starting? Don't throw this out. Please think about it sometime. Remember that because you are doing nothing directly for other people to solve the problems you're part of the problem. It doesn't need to get any bigger--that won't help. Shrinking hang-ups won't hurt!

Trish Corken

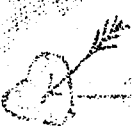
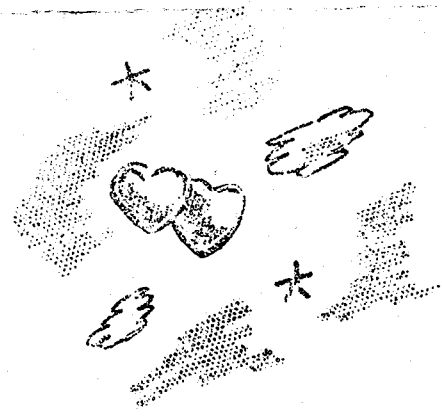
*Dare to be Different*

Dare to be different; life is so full  
Of people who follow the same push-and-pull  
Poor, plodding people who, other than name,  
Try to pretend they're exactly the same.

God made men different; there never will be  
A replica soul made of you or of me.  
The charm--the glory of all creation  
Rests on this very deviation.

Your charm--your glory, too,  
Lies in being uniquely you--  
Lies in being true to your best,  
That part of you different from all of the rest.

Helen Lowrie Marshall



Yours wishes you all a happy Valentine's Day. May the love of mankind fill your hearts full of joy.