

## Kuehn Interview

Tori: Interview of Bernie Kuehn, conducted by Tori Zuver and Karen Lillywhite on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM.

Tori: What is your background regarding Century and what has been your involvement or role during this school year?

Kuehn: uh...it was 8 years ago, uh, we were planning to build the school...I sat down with the architect and explained the things that we needed specifically in the choir room, in terms of the size of the room, the shape of the room, and uh, the general structure...any of the extra things we were gonna need around here, and so we made sure that the, uh, that there was a drinking fountain in the room, the clock was visible for the director, and made sure that the entrance was where the director could see who was walking in the room, those kind of things that were not present at Hilhi. And, uh, so we've got ourselves a room that's very functional and has good acoustics, and uh, so we've been very pleased with how's that's, uh, worked out.

T: And what exactly has been your involvement *this year* at Century?

K: uh, 5 choirs! Lots of rehearsals.

T: Sounds good! Um, alright, in general, how does this school year compare to others you've experienced, either here or at Hilhi?

K: it's been a very good year. Uh, we got, uh, most of our groups have been just about the as good as we've ever had, uh, and uh, we've looked at literature, and uh, learned literature that's been really challenging. I think, and uh, the public has perceived us well, we've had many opportunities to get out in the community and do special performances, so, spread the fame around a little bit...

T: um, for you, what has been the high point of this school year?

K: ohhh, well, I guess it was probably one of those special things that we did, um, you know, going over and auditioning for the Trail Blazers, and singing at the Blazer game, singing at the, uh, both of our ensembles singing at the Winterhawks games, and uh, those are, you know, usually the really fun things, riding in on the Max, and singing for all those folks who weren't expecting the get any music...

T: alright, well, I'm gonna talk to you a little bit about the uh, retirement, and the PERS, and the budget crisis right now. Um, what are your feelings on the budget crisis in general?

K: Can't wait until the state decides to get it's act together and decide that education is a high enough priority that it stops being a political football every stupid year. It's uh, be the very first thing that gets fully funded. Should be no such thing as, "well, we'll have to

cut education.” That’s, uh, that just shouldn’t be in our vocabulary. And, I think the electorate in this state is, uh, and I think the legislators reflect that thinking, is that, uh, the money is tight, then, uh, kids shouldn’t get a full education. I think that’s absolutely wrong thinking.

T: If you could change anything about the current education system, funding-wise, what would it be and why?

K: Well, what we need to do it, we need to pass a law that says that education will always be funded at a certain level, and uh, everything else will have to be figured out after that. But that needs to be the number one priority, and right now it’s not.

T: How do you feel about students being, becoming more politically active and involved in schools, like organizations like SAFFE, and how do you feel about what they’re doing?

K: I think that’s wonderful. I think that’s terrific. Um, I’m of course a child of the 60’s myself, so I understand about things like political protests and those kinds of things and I think that’s very healthy. What it does is it, uh, It develops a politically aware electorate people who will vote because they know it makes a difference and are not going to stand by idly and watch someone else make decisions for them that they’d have to live with and that they’re unhappy about. I think that’s a positive sign. I wish more students were that involved. Unfortunately, most of them are stuck in front of their computers playing games and such.

T: Any thoughts on the settlement, the almost-strike, etc.?

K: Well, I think the district came out right. We were all very well aware that financially we were strapped and that there were a lot of things the district wasn’t going to be able to do financially, like, we would all like to see ourselves get ahead...we all understand that. But on the other hand, we also saw ourselves being asked to take some serious steps backwards and we’ve gotta pay bills like everyone else...particularly, the thing that stuck in our craw was we were gonna have to take a pay cut for some bad decisions made by other people. We haven’t always been consulted about things...a lot of times we’re being told what to do, and feeling a little disrespected. It was as much about respect as money.

T: Okay, can we talk a little bit about choir department achievements? Maybe chronologically?

K: Sept-

Blazer Games

Retreat @ Tapawingo

Oct-

Willamette University Leadership Conference

Fall Choir concert

Bell Choir Auditions

Nov-

Mt. Hood Community College Jazz Festival  
Jesuit Fall Ensemble Festival

Dec-

Oregon Chorale Concerts  
Washington Square Concert  
Grotto  
Winter Choir/Band Concert  
Zoolights  
Sternwheeler Concert

Feb-

Winterhawks Games  
Solo/Ensemble @ PSU  
Rachel Chapman, Alto, 2<sup>nd</sup> alternate  
Jesse Prier, Tenor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate  
Reece Sauve, Piano, 1<sup>st</sup> in division  
USO show for HCA

March-

Lithuanian Independence Day Celebration  
Moses Hogan Concerts  
District Choral Festival  
Canada Tour!!!

April-

Metro League Choir Festival @ Jesuit  
ACDA Ensemble Festival @ Linn Benton Community College  
NHS Induction  
Western Oregon University Choir Concert  
Citizens for Schools Rally

May-

State Solo Contest- Reece Sauve  
Kiwanis Scholarship Dinner  
Krispy Kreme Groundbreaking  
Spring Concert  
Recording  
Music In May

June-

Graduation

T: Any last thoughts or comments, or anything quote-worthy you'd like to put on tape?

K: Alright, here goes:

Can I go to lunch now? ☺