

# THE SOONER TUNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA CHAPTER  
OF THE PIANO TECHNICIANS GUILD, INC.



BACK TO SCHOOL, WATCH THOSE SCHOOL ZONES!

AUGUST 14, 1993

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In lieu of an official president's message David asked for information to be presented for the picnic instead.



The Chapter picnic will be held on Saturday August 21 at the home of David and Rhaelynn Bonham. Their address is 10717 Eastlake Circle, in Oklahoma City. This is located in the Ski Island edition near McArthur and Heiner. The picnic will begin around 5:30 p.m. and end at dusk or so. David has asked that you bring something to grill for yourself and or family as well as something to share with the group like a salad, vegetable, or desert. For those of you who are culinarily challenged Mrs. Smith still makes some great pies.

Last year we were allowed to water ski but the cool weather prohibited some of us from being so adventuresome. Water skiing will once again be offered to experienced skiers and if the current heat wave holds there should be no one getting cold. Children will also be allowed to wade and swim.



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## The Sooner Tuner

is the monthly publication of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Piano Technicians Guild, Inc.; Norman Cantrell, Editor. All Articles may be reproduced without further permission. Send contributions to: Norman Cantrell, Editor; The Sooner Tuner; 2251 N. W. 19th; Oklahoma City, OK 73107

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1993-94**

President	David Bonham 721-0566
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**NORM'S  
NONCENTS**

I was unable to attend the last Chapter meeting as I had a commitment to be in Duncan for the first annual American Music Festival. They called to inform me that the photographer from the local newspaper would be there to capture me in action the first day. I dressed accordingly and sure enough the gentleman did appear after a while. He took several shots of me as I worked on the piano action of a fairly new Baldwin concert grand. He also took down the vital information like how to correctly spell my name and such. I was curious to see just what would become of this photo shoot.

The next day I came into town from Lawton where my father lives and I stopped to get a copy of The Duncan Banner. The headline in bold print read appropriately enough "American Music Fest opens today" and there to my amazement was a photo of myself working on the piano on the front page. I am accustomed to having the institute director or guest artists headlined and photographed for such occasions but

I was really surprised that the piano technician was the top story in pictures. This was one case where the "unseen artist" was in fact seen.

I do not share this to set the spotlight on myself but to hopefully show that the public is interested in our trade. I hope that the people in Duncan recognized that the talents of the piano technician are of equal importance to those of the showmen who entertain them. If any of you are involved in a similar situation where the public is made more aware of our occupation in a positive light, please share this with our chapter or myself as editor so that we can all benefit from continued exposure.

Norman Centrell, ED.

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# TUNER TALK

WITH

Bob Barnhoff



Hello this is Bob Barnhoff and this is Tuner Talk. Let's get right to the mail.

Dear Bob:

I have been wondering just what a piano technician should do to be politically correct in these changing times. Can you enlighten me?

Sincerely,  
PC in Poteau

Dear PC

I have given this a lot of thought in



these days. In fact I have come up with a glossary of terms which you may find helpful:

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS FOR THE POLITICALLY CORRECT PIANO TECHNICIAN

Tuning should be redefined as "pitch realignment"  
 Estimate this old fashioned term should be a "consultation of condition".  
 Statement no technician should leave one instead use a "capital requirement advisory".

### Technical Terms

Whippen This term conveys a much too violent image. Use Steinway's word (see PC pg 4)

## What children learn in church

by Travis Gordy

I tuned a church sanctuary piano today that had been given as a memorial about seven years ago and no tuned since. In addition to being terribly out of tune it was a half step flat (a two hour, 1 1/2 times regular fee job). I was called because they are having a group perform who had requested a piano at A-440. We should give thanks for such groups even if they do break strings.

I wonder if this church would ever have had it tuned had there not been such a request. They have a pipe organ so I said, "This piano is terribly out of tune. I don't suppose you use it very often." She said, "Oh yes, it is used every Sunday." To which I replied, "My, my, your congregation does not know what they are teaching their children." No, I did not ask if they play piano and organ together. I didn't want to know.

This has been related to lead up to one of my favorite stories which I have told many times to people like you who will understand the depth of its meaning. Several years ago I tuned a spinet for a young woman who looked to be somewhere between 20 and 30 years old. As always I first played a chord to get an idea of what lay ahead and quickly exclaimed, "Wow, is this piano ever out of tune! Has it ever been tuned?" She said, "I don't think so. My parents bought it for me when I was fourteen. It has finally gotten so bad that the only thing that sounds good on it is church music." Do you laugh or cry?

The children in your church and mine are fortunate indeed, and we all serve churches who are conscientious about keeping in tune their major pianos, at least. But there are many doing a poor musical ear training job, and public schools are right in step with them. Is the answer for them electronic pianos? Perish the thought. But on second thought, might not good ear training be to everyone's advantage in the long run?

## Oklahoma PTG Personal

The Oklahoma chapter expresses its sympathy to Gary Bruce in the loss of his father last month. Those attending the July chapter meeting sent flowers and condolences to the family. Gary contacted me and expressed his thanks for this expression of concern.

### PC (from pg 3)

"balancier" (use a heavy French accent so your clientele will think you even more sophisticated) for grands and "mid-point energy transfer unit" for verticals.

Butt Felt are you kidding? Just ask Clarence Thomas. This must be "jack rest felt".

Bridle straps watch your animal rights and call these "action tapes".

### PERSONNEL TITLES

Piano Teacher this must be replaced with "Keyboard Instruction Leader".

Piano Technician sorry not even the most avid advocate of political correctness could or would dare to improve on this most honorable title.

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2251 NW 19th  
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