

News in Brief

(Funeral for a friend, continued from page 7)

While I understand that your primary goal is to educate and impress valuable traits upon your young members...you should also be aware of the other perhaps unintended effects that you have on people along your way to the DCI Championship. On the behalf of all of us, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the entire Blue Devil organization. You gave Leonard one of his last moments of pure joy, where his physical and emotional pain was temporarily forgotten, and his world was filled with swirling precision movement of bright colors and the sound of great music shared with those he loved most."

Excerpts from a letter received by John Donovan and David Gibbs on Dec. 1, 2003.

"Dave and John,

This past Saturday we gathered for Leonard's memorial service.

One of the most moving parts of the ceremony was the solo bugle performance of "*You'll Never Walk Alone*" by your corps alumni, David Emmond. The full and beautiful tonal quality of his playing resonated within the large cathedral and moved many to tears (myself included). I was particularly touched by the fact that this piece is so deeply rooted in drum corps tradition and history, which made David's performance a tribute from not only the Blue Devils, but from the entire drum and bugle corps community as well. Speaking with him briefly after the ceremony, he was very kind and personable.

Thank you again from all of us. We look forward to cheering for you at your next regular season show in San Diego, as well as during the "Tour of Champions" in Southern California.

Sincerely, your ever-loyal fan,
Ian McIntosh, Spring Valley, Calif."

John Donovan

2004 Reunions in Denver, San Jose and Long Beach

The Blue Devils have tripled the number of alumni get-togethers from 2003! This year, we are planning three major opportunities for Alumni to get together and have some fun: The Alumni Association hopes to have wide participation. Alums should also keep their information up to date at the website roster <http://www.bluedevils.org/roster>

Blue Devils Family Day — June 12th

Inviting all alumni, family, and friends to come to BD Family Day. The show is scheduled to begin at 4:00 p.m. at DVC. This will be a great opportunity to see all of the Blue Devils units, and the new A-corps and B-corps uniforms! There will be an alumni get-together after the show at a "purveyor of adult beverages establishment" yet to be named. If you would like to help please contact Laurel Hansen at lhansen@bluedevils.org. If you can help with alumni activities at the show, contact Jeff Demello at demello@bluedevils.org.

DCI Week

DCI Finals will be at the new Mile-High Stadium in Denver this year. Being so close to home there will be several get-togethers during Finals week. There are two events being planned. The first, will be a special alumni performance from the Blue Devils A-Corps. The second event will be a party before and after semi-finals, on Friday August 6th. If you can help please contact Jay Long at jlong@bluedevils.org. Tickets to DCI are also still available at the Blue Devils online store at <http://www.bluedevils.org/merchandise/>

Tour of Champions — August 13th

This is a very special year for the west coast drum corps. In addition to having DCI finals "in our back yard", we also get to see the best-of-the-best, the champions of DCI: the Blue Devils, Vanguard, Cavaliers, Cadets, Madison Scouts,