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April 26, 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EIU CENTENNIAL TO END ON HIGH NOTE

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University extends an open invitation to all EIU staff, students, alumni and community members to put on their dancin' shoes and help the institution celebrate the finale of its year-long Centennial celebration.

Headlining the festivities on Friday, May 5, will be the "Centennial Ball" for the big band fans, featuring the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra in the Grand Ballroom in the University Union.

For those who prefer today's popular hits, Secret Society, will perform top '40s classic rock in the University Ballroom in the Union.

Both groups will play from 7 to 11 p.m. and visitors may come- and -go as they please. Admission is free. Non-alcoholic beverages will be served in both ballrooms.

Snacks will be served in the Union Bridge Lounge.

"We have tried to create an 'open house' atmosphere where people can feel free to go back and forth between the bands. While I expect that some people will dress formally for the 'Centennial Ball,' there is no dress code. We just want

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everyone to come out and have a good time," said Bobbie Hilke, Centennial coordinator.

"We scheduled the 'Centennial Ball' and other entertainment with graduating seniors and their families in mind. We wanted to provide a special activity for the Centennial Class and for parents and special guests who will be coming to campus Friday for Saturday's Centennial Commencement. This is our way of saying thanks to our graduates and the campus community and welcoming our visitors," Hilke said.

The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra, whose performance is sponsored by Consolidated Communications Inc., plays the music of the big dance bands of the 1930s and 1940s, including Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey and Harry James.

For those who are familiar with popular music, the titles of such Dorsey tunes as "So Rare," "Marie Elena," "Tangarine" and "Green Eyes" will bring back many memories.

Leading the 15-piece orchestra is Jim Miller, whose extensive musical career includes leading Navy bands and performing for United States presidents and world leaders, as well as appearances at Carnegie Hall and on the Johnny Carson Show.

His credits also include performing with Glenn Miller, Guy Lombardo, Bob Hope, Liberace and Red Skelton.

The featured vocalist with the group is Nancy Knorr, formerly the lead singer

with the Pied Pipers. She also has performed with the Warren Covington, Tommy Dorsey, Tex Beneke and Symphony Pops orchestras and shared the stage with Toni Tennile, Jack Jones, Hal Linden, Doc Severinsen and Les Brown.

The performance by Secret Society is courtesy of EIU students -- past and present.

During the past five years, Secret Society, based in Springfield, has become a popular draw throughout central Illinois due to their unique combination of music, both fresh and classic.

They have a reputation for performing difficult songs, such as "Bohemian Rhapsody," and then pulling an about-face and playing a pop song by Duran Duran.

The group has performed with several major acts, including Head East, The Tubes and Edgar Winter.

The Society consists of Brian Curtis (synthesizers), Jim Engel (drums), Howard Freitag (guitar) and Doug Kirk (bass).

For more information, call Bobbie Hilke at (217) 581-3315.

**NOTE TO THE EDITOR:** There are a considerable number of Eastern Illinois University alumni residing in your coverage area.