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**g.c.c.**  
**comments**

# Nationals & Year in Review Issue!

1973



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# Cover Comments

## FRONT COVER:

As the CNE Bulova Watch tower read 10:43PM on the Sunday evening of Sept. 2nd, the Optimists looked somewhat confused on the field as caught by our photographer. This was not part of the show, it's the off-the-field manoeuvre as the drumline reforms to parade off behind the bugles. Up top, the guy with the glove over his face could be the symbol for the 1973 Corps Season. Who is the guy? He is also featured on the back cover. Drum Major Mike Arsenault, in new uniform, completes the front cover.

## BACK COVER:

A third of a salute to Optimists Contra Section featuring Tim Watt. At the afternoon prelims at the Nationals the Mellophone section blows forth as the markers in the stands read 1-2-3---that turned out to be the placing of the 4 Jr. Corps in the night finals.

\*\*\*\*\*

Cover photos by Dennis Mori and Don Daber. The photos inside this issue by Dennis Mori, Dennis Mori, Dennis Mori and Don Daber.

\*\*\*\*\*

GCC. Vol. 13, #3. May, June, July, August, Sept. Issue.

Editor: Don Daber.

Feature Writer: Dennis Mori.

Interviews: Dennis Mori.

Photos: Dennis Mori,

Cartoons: Dennis Mori.

(This is a Dennis Mori Publication)

\*\*\*\*\*

# GCC

## "Sorry about that..."

We're missing an issue of Green Capsule Comments. It should have been published in July. Unfortunately, as far as time is concerned, running a corps and publishing a paper doesn't always go hand in hand. So, again, GCC got behind schedule. We can only hope you'll find this issue makes up for it.

\*\*\*\*\*

## A ONE MAN OPERATION (?):

As you page through this issue you'll notice one name stands out. Dennis Mori. Dennis is a former marching member of the Optimists (5 yrs., 1972) travelled with the corps on most of their trips this year and, as well as taking hundreds of pictures, observed the drum corps scene, from the Optimist viewpoint. His report is in this issue under the heading "THE YEAR IN REVIEW".

Dennis also did the "Profile" column and the drawings under the heading, "Afterthoughts". ...Watch out Daber, or you'll be out of a job!

\*\*\*\*\*

## JIM KANE AT THE MOVIES:

Jim Kane, and we found out later, Brian Hogan went "Hollywood" to bring back the movie column that was introduced a year ago, in the November 1972 issue of GCC. We hope you find it entertaining and that it will become a "regular" in GCC.

Jim is a member of the tympan section of the corps and gets his sense of humour from his brother Bill(?). "Yes," Jim admitted, "Bill is a very humorous character..."

Brian was in the bugle line this year after being "out" of the rifle line when the corps brought in a girls guard. Yes, Brian still likes girls...but he may get back at them by becoming part of the rifle line instruction section in 1974

\*\*\*\*\*

## OUR THANKS:

Our thanks to all those who contributed to this issue of GCC, even tho the corps hasn't seen an issue for so long some members are asking, "Whats GCC?" The motto is, the more you contribute, the more often we publish.

Get involved. Take a night off and put pen to paper. Who knows, you may write something, and it will be published in GCC and just think how proud you mother will be!

Make mother proud. Write today.

# Editorial!

PROFESSIONALISM...HOW FAR CAN WE GO?

Professionalism has arrived in drum corps. We have reached that point both in the senior and junior ranks. Granted, it is a mere handful of corps when one looks at the over-all scene, but professional none-the-less.

Now, when we talk of the "pros" it is natural for one to conjure up thoughts of football, baseball, basketball, all major league sports I'd say.

Also, we most always consider "the Pro" to be a fairly well-paid individual. This is about the only area that the top rated corps member fails to qualify as a professional...he or she receives no pay.

The top rated sanctioning bodies as we know them today are of course DRUM CORPS ASSOCIATES in the senior ranks and DRUM CORPS INTERNATIONAL handling the junior end.

Both bodies had a common goal in their establishment, to unite a body of select corps under one banner for the purpose of setting new standards in judging and greater flexibility in their approach to music and maneuvering. Not mentioned and probably the most important item in their plans was much greater prize money than had ever been offered before.

In looking over both groups we must consider that the seniors (or most of them) still treat drum corps as a weekend hobby.

Consider that many are married, have steady full-time employment and that at most, the circle of travel rarely exceeds 500 miles on their longest haul. Their budgets can be considered modest when compared to the DCI corps.

A look at DCI, shows that of their entire member corps, most are unmarried juniors (under 21) who are either students and part-time workers and who, because of scheduling, travel a good part of the summer on buses.

In this regard, it is not unusual that corps budgets often hit the \$100,000 and higher mark.

The instructors come at a high price and often arrangers and instructors are full-time paid employees to one or more corps.

Since it's birth shortly after the 'combine' affairs in the '71 season, DCI has professed to high standards of musicology and profit-sharing.

This establishment of goals brought with it mixed feelings from all circles of drum corps.

The question we must ask DCI is, where do the majority of corps in the United States and Canada fit into the plans of DCI? And most importantly just WHAT ARE the precepts of DCI and how do the member corps benefit financially and otherwise?

Such renowned events as 'Legion and VFW Nationals' became overlooked as "antiquated" and such boring things as inspection and military bearing disappeared from our sight.

Replacing other related items that made the excitement of a "Nationals" something never to be forgotten are the battery-operated cassette recorders we have come to know...over the past weeks I have done some heavy listening to the public's reaction of the DCI oriented shows...

Some have been pleased..."Well run show"... "Great music"...others show disappointment ranging from "Ho-Hum, when will they start their show?"..."What are they measuring out there? They still didn't get it straight"..."Too mechanical"..."What's that music they're playing?"

For the poll-conscious reader, we have determined that by far, the average on-looker feels the corps take too much time getting ready, that the warmup is useless (unless the corps arrives at the last minute from a long trip), that, while they love the music, half do not know the selection unless they have a printed sheet or programme containing the music, and most feel that they miss the "punch" of a spectacular "off-the-line".

Fifty percent felt that the final fanfare down in the end zone took less time and was just as effective.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 27...)

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# Green Capsule Comments

I Don't Believe It, Dept:

## NATIONALS: 79.0, 79.6, 79.6

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 2nd: Well, in the continuing programme of making corps more exciting at the Nationals for all you fans, it took a lot of effort to top last year's cliff-hanger, but we did it!!! (You'll remember last year, when .15 separated the 3 finalists!) Yes, this year we actually not only brought the three top scores close, we actually managed to tie THE TOP TWO CORPS. This took very considerable effort but we pulled it off without even delaying the contest too long. How can we top this next year, you ask? We're not sure, but we will be working on it. We also understand a special trophy could be presented, engraved ---"the Audrey Burns Trophy, For Making Nationals Retreats More Exciting" (Jr."A" Division and Jr."B" Division) The trophy could be in the form of a large coin.  
---The CdCa Executive.







# THE YEAR IN

↖  
AJAX  
PARADE  
↗



↖  
REHEARSAL  
STOP ON  
TOUR  
"ONE"  
↗

↖  
MARION  
WASHOUT  
↗



↖  
EAST TROY  
CARNIVAL  
↗





TO OTTAWA & FIRST CONTEST OF THE YEAR!

THE SUB!



# REVIEW...

HAMILTON FOOTBALL GAME



L OF BRASS PARADE

ISHPEMING FOREST



BOWLING-GREEN



story next page...

photos by Dennis Mori & Don Daber

6 U.S. OPEN  
MARION  
OHIO  
"SIGN OF  
THE  
TIMES?"  
→



← "RETREAT ETOBICOKE"



photos by Dennis Mori

VISION '73 ?

# The Year In Review...

by Dennis Mori



**\*SATURDAY, JUNE 2nd:**  
**OTTAWA AND GATINEAU WEEKEND:**

With the start of another season the Optimists found themselves heading to the Eastern part of the province and the Nation's Capital, Ottawa. For many this was their first opportunity to assess if the Cadets of Ottawa were the powerhouse that everyone had rumored about all spring...or if De LaSalle would prove as good as some rumors said they were. As for the Optimists, they found themselves back in a new "old" position, the newly crowned National Champions of the previous season.

The corps started their first trip in fine style with two deluxe Travelways buses...(little did they know at that time that this was about the ONLY trip of the year that they would travel in this manner).

Some cars were also taken to help out on the overflow and on bus #1 Ron Kaiser got aboard to teach the drum line part of their show during the 5 hr. trip there. At the beginning, for some strange reason, no one else wanted to travel on the drum bus...but it was "get on" or walk so some of the unlucky horn players managed to learn the drum parts along with the drum line guys.

The trip went smoothly with the corps arriving in Ottawa ON TIME which really was a bad sign. (How



many times have you ever known the corps to be ON TIME?) Obviously then, the scheduled arrival was a bad omen.

After an afternoon learning drill, which many others may call a drill practice, it was time to prepare for the contest. As has happened many times since, the Corps didn't have changing facilities. Therefore the members changed in the old reliable mobile ones, the buses. (This was a good omen).

A bad case of the "shakes" was experienced by many. You could excuse those for whom this was their first contest, but seasoned "old guys"? (another bad omen.) The corps DID manage to eat supper, brought to the field via "Harvey's". Anyway, everyone ate. (a good omen). Then it was announced that the contest was at Lansdowne Park, scene of many of the corps most upsetting defeats (another bad omen). There were others, so at this stage "good omens" trailed the "bad ones" by a score of 3 to 1.

Well, all the competing corps managed to do their shows, with the hometown 'Cadets' looking well ahead of the visiting corps, then the "bad omen" hit the show when, after the 4 corps performances, the show went on and on with baton groups, cannons, sea cadets etc. etc. before the final retreat and the scores:

1. Cadets LaSalle:60.1 2.Optimists:53.9 3.Del:51.25 4.The 4th Brigade:42.35. Cadets LaSalle were obviously superior in this contest winning top horns, drums and GE. while Del took top M&M.

After Lansdowne it was on to the A&W for a late supper then to a local Church hall for a few hours sleep, then back to the A&W in the morning for breakfast (was THAT the only restaurant in town?) then back to more familiar territory and back to the same school field we used on the Saturday.

Across the river and into the trees of Gatineau and a hot Sunday afternoon contest on a baseball field. A few hours later on retreat saw the Optimists drop to third position as LaSalle Cadets won their second contest and Del moved up to second. The scores: Cadets LaSalle:58.55. Del:55.0. Optimists:53.85 and the 4th Brigade:46.95.

About 5:00PM it was back to Ottawa and a short visit to Parliament Hill where the buses were parked and the corps got a whole hour to eat IN ANY RESTAURANT they chose.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 9th:

##### "PREVIEW OF CHAMPIONS"

##### Birchmount Stadium, Scarborough:

With the second week of competition in Canada, the Toronto drum corps fans who didn't travel up to Ottawa the week previous, were afforded their first opportunity to assess the new 1973 season and view their first contest since last year's Nationals in the same city. News had drifted down from Ottawa that the corps to watch was LaSalle Cadets, who had all but devastated both the Optimists and Del at the season "opener" the week previous.

It was obvious that both Toronto corps were determined not to let this happen again...and, as it turned out, Del had obviously done their homework by winning the contest by a .65 pt margin over the Cadets LaSalle and 1.25 pts over the Optimists, who had shown great improvement themselves from the previous weekend. The scores read, Del:60.25, Cadets LaSalle:59.6, Optimists:59.0, in the top three divisions.

DeLaSalle exhibited one of their patented "cool, calm and collected" shows, with a very dramatic presentation. They won high M&M (.1 above the Optimists and 2.4 pts over the Cadets.) as well as high GE (1.85 over the Cadets and 2.3 pts over the Optimists.)

The Cadets LaSalle introduced their own brand of sophistication and an audience-pleasing show. With a powerful hornline, they took the high bugle score with 2.15 pts over the Optimists and 3.2 pts over Del.

The Optimists, providing yet another concept to the sophistication and audience



appeal theme, came up with the high drum score (.2 pts over the Cadets and .6 pts over Del.)

The early season contests are the more interesting in that they present quite a few surprises, and surprises abounded at this contest! Besides Del's victory over the Cadets and the Optimists another big one was the upset of the Princemen by the Crusaders, and the Midlanders- who seemed to be the biggest victim of the new concept of "zero tolerance" in judging. Their scores were: Crusaders--47.1, Princemen--45.15, 4th Brigade--41.25, St. John's--40.4 and Midlanders--27.55.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 16th:

##### "KINSMEN HOME WEEKEND, AJAX"

Twist around again! LaSalle Cadets were back on top after all the smoke had cleared due to their superiority on bugles plus the slight edge on drums. The Boys in Green maintained an edge on the rest of the corps by virtue of their M&M score along with good drum and GE figures. The visitor, Syracuse Mauraders took top M&M with the Optimists second at .9 behind. Del took top GE honours with .1 above the Optimists and .5 over LaSalle. The final results were 1. Cadets LaSalle 63.45 including a .2 penalty, Optimists 62.4, Del 58.5, Syracuse Mauraders 48.7 St. Johns 42.25 (including a .1 penalty) and Peterborough Krescendos with 36.9 with a .3 pen.

Looking back on the day itself, it actually ran rather smoothly with the Corps actually arriving in Ajax 15 minutes EARLY!!!

Anyway, back to reality...most of the morning was spent in music rehearsal in eager anticipation of the "Big Parade" (the largest one in CANADA, that day). It was actually quite the parade that seemed to cover about every street in Ajax. After having been asked to quote on the parade, a famous Drum Major remarked, "...treacherous..." but later, after a moment of thought, he walked away just muttering something about, "...a memorable event."

Almost immediately after the parade, and before the drill rehearsal, the corps was treated to a video tape replay of the Optimists at the "Preview" the week before, courtesy of Jack Roberts. For most this was their first opportunity to view themselves as spectators and the opportunity was very much appreciated by the entire corps.

It was an odd scene after this contest. The members of Cadets LaSalle were obviously pleased with themselves on winning this one, but the Optimists seemed to be even more ecstatic over their results. In comparison to the week before, the Optimists had improved their overall score by some three points and had defeated last week's winner (Del) by 3.9 points. It appeared that the Optimists had reached an important turning point, defeating all corps, except one.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 10th:

##### OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL, Toronto:

The same weekend of Ajax the corps moved to Toronto for the Sunday night contest as sponsored by the Optimist Club of York-Toronto. At this one, just when all the drum corps 'experts' thought that they had the Canadian corps scene all figured out, LaSalle Cadets came through with their best show to date and all but destroyed the other competing corps. It was almost a repeat of the first contest in Ottawa June 2nd. In Ajax the point spread from 1st to 3rd was 4.95 pts. Tonight the same spread was 10.10 pts!!! Where the Optimists were a close second in Ajax, behind by 1.05 pts, tonight they trailed by 7.25 pts.

Cadets LaSalle put it all together tonight again by winning top drums, top bugles GE and finishing second in M&M, behind Syracuse, who won this caption, as they did in Ajax.

In retrospect, not too much can be said about the contest. All that happened was that LaSalle did a very good show while the Optimists and Del chose to have an "off-

night". It was good to see that Syracuse had improved their show from the one in Ajax and ended up just .35 out of 3rd place.

As for the organization of the contest itself, except for the contest running about a half hour late, it was run quite well after all the initial "bugs" were ironed out.

At this time, I would like to put in a plug for Bernie White who lent me his car so that I could make it to the contest in time. ---and Bob Bently, who drove me to the stadium. I would also like to thank the ticket takers at the gate who let me into the show without a pass (nice to know the sponsors).

Oh yes, the scores:

1. Cadets LaSalle: 64.70 with .1 penalty.
2. Optimists: 57.45 with .4 penalty.
3. Del: 54.6 with .4 penalty.
4. Syracuse Marauders: 54.25 with .1 penalty.
5. Crusaders: 47.1
6. St. Johns: 39.4 with .7 penalty.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### "PRE-TOUR" TOUR:

BOWLING GREEN & MARION OHIO

SAT. JUNE 23rd:

SUN. JUNE 24th:

FRIDAY NIGHT, JUNE 22nd: On this Friday night, after a "rip rousing" practice, the corps departed for their first trip to the USA from that old familiar "launch pad" that everyone else knows affectionately as "Keeting". The corps took off in fine style, in one Travelways Bus, as piloted by a former Optimist cymbal great, Bill Grigg...and...two school buses from Grover Student Services. Before departing, Don Daber called a quick huddle and explained the inner workings of the logic of who was to be on what bus and why...like, the girls would be on one school bus (with the Director) because they had Dorms for sleeping in Saturday night so the pain wouldn't be TOO bad...the drummers would be on the second school bus going down with George Wright because they could ride in the "highway cruiser" on the homeward trip on changing over with the bugles who went 'deluxe' on the way down.

But, to dispell any idea that things would now go smoothly, just because of the logic of the above, the drum bus, piloted by the ever popular "Harold" found itself at one time or another on the Don Valley Parkway, the Bayview Extension and a tour of downtown Toronto and the Gardiner Expressway in the quest to seek out the ever elusive Islington subway station (out first stop) to park the cars.

With definite instructions to travel "together", we immediately separated even before leaving the west Toronto city limits, as the Travelways bus was delayed by air pressure buildup, the drum bus went racing ahead and the girls bus missed the turning north the first time 'round so, when it finally did get on the highway the other two buses and truck were no where in sight. The second "lets all 4 stop" was supposed to be the Kitchener cutoff on the 401 but when the girls bus got there, the battery gave out, we did pick up our Kitchener members, who insisted the truck and other 2 buses hadn't passed yet (but they did).

To make a long story short, the bugle and drum bus made it to Bowling Green by 6:00AM and the Girl's bus with Don Daber (noted explorer, artist and cartographer) was yet to be seen. It wasn't until an hour later that Don and his girls came storming into town under a cloud of smoke and coughing all the way.

After being assigned billet space and having breakfast, it was off to section rehearsal until the parade at noon.

At the parade site the Optimists were asked to put on a pre-parade concert at the reviewing stand and from there they walked about 3/4 of the parade route to

their position and finally moved off to do the complete route. Marks!

After the parade, it was out of uniform, for some drill, till it started to rain, so it was off to the Cafeteria at the University for supper.

The draw at 6:00PM put us on first, so it was a rush back to the cafeteria area to break the good news to the corps who now had about 3/4 of an hour to change and be on the starting line. The corps was rushed and it carried into the show.

The scores were: Des Plaines Vanguard: 67.6...Optimists:61.9...Marion Cadets: 61.05...Seneca Princemen:58.05 and the Mariners:47.0

After the contest, it was back to the billets at the University, then off to a nearby Motel for a brief swim, when it started to rain again.

The next morning the corps had a good breakfast at the University cafeteria before bidding "goodby" to BowlingGreen and off to Marion, about an hour's drive south.

The corps reached the school OK where the practice areas were and the contest was being held...then we had a few problems, when the truck wouldn't move and the bus brakes locked (or something). Thanks to the help from the MARION CADETS staff the bus was fixed without too much trouble and Mr. Gault "worked on" the truck, so that it purred again. Meanwhile, the corps tried to laugh it off and then got down to a serious afternoon of practice.

At the contest the Optimists asked to go on first and miss Retreat to get the corps back to Toronto as early as possible. The show had improved somewhat from the previous day and the indications were immediate: Scores:

1.Optimists: 66.25...2.Vanguard:63.15...Princemen:58.7...Marion Cadets:58.3 and Mariners: 51.3.

The trip back to Toronto was uneventful for the Travelways bus. No problems. But driver "sleeping sickness" hit the other two buses before they hit London so it was tough going all along the 401 from here. But they did get to Toronto... driving along the highway all the way!

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## "TOUR ONE"

JUNE 28th to JULY 7th:

(twenty-third attempt on writing)

### DAY ONE:

As the sun aimed to set in the west of Toronto at the close of "Day One" the Optimists were in the middle of their pre-tour-panic, alarm, and frenzy at collecting the last minute \$10.00 initiation food fees, they finally "hit the road" only about 20 minutes behind schedule, with some one hundred and sixteen people on 3 buses. This included the corps members, executive, instructors, equipment dept, chaperones, mothers, fathers, and somebody's sister! (NO, the Score's dog did NOT go.)

Thus began, what was to be the corps longest tour and trip to date, and, as a change of pace (only a few hours longer, we were told) the buses went north and then west toward Sudbury and on to Sault Ste Marie. (It was hoped that we would catch the immigration people off stride who, we heard, had reinforced Buffalo and Detroit with all the corps crossing that weekend.) Seriously though, the route north was supposed to be the shortest distance to the first contest in Oshkosh, Wisc. and in theory the corps would get there faster than going via Detroit.

In actuality, with all the trouble precipitated during the trip there (flat tires, fuel and battery problems, navigation, etc.) the Corps could have taken a side trip to Walt Disney World and arrived before the corps actually did arrive.

An estimated time of arrival (according to the pre-printed schedule) was between 9:00 and 10:00AM! As it was the Optimists stormed into Oshkosh somewhere between 5:30 and 6:00PM. But, when you come right down and think about it, depending how long you've been in drum corps, what is 9 hours?

One of the many innovations that this tour brought forth was that positions



for most of the contests had been pre-drawn and the business manager's meetings then got down to judging etc.

Friday evening, June 29th:

Oshkosh, Wisc.

"THE NIGHT OF THE FOX" (Where do they get these names from?)

This evening the Optimists put on one of their patented "shows right after an epic odyssey", which they sometimes put on in Toronto. There was a bit of spark, but a bit less execution. Could be there were probably too many in "awe" with Santa Clara Vanguard and Racine on the same programme.

When it all got sorted out, the final scores:

1. Santa Clara Vanguard.....	77.6	5. Bleu Raeders.....	59.50
2. Racine Kilties.....	74.75	6. Racine Scouts.....	49.15
3. DeLaSalle Oaklands.....	67.65	7. St. Mathias Cadets.....	32.05
4. Toronto Optimists Keeting..	64.45		

Breakfast, the next morning was prepared by two very gracious parents of The Warriors Drum Corps, the sponsors of the contest. The breakfast was in their garage, across from the school where we had slept. The big highlight was for those who had remembered to pack their own cereal bowls.

For a good part of the rest of the day the big thing was those "accursed" drill changes...then on down the line to...

Fond Du Lac, Wisc and the

"FIFTH ANNUAL NIGHT OF SPLENDOR" (No kidding!)

It was obvious that the drill changes earlier that day had something to do with the outcome....along with the 4.7 penalty that knocked the Optimists out of first place. Three of these were assessed because the corps failed to make the afternoon parade which made the scores:

1. Precisionnaires	63.2	5. Colt 45	53.80
2. Optimists	59.05	6. Silver Sabres	50.90
3. Chevaliers	56.10	7. St. Johns, Brantford	49.30
4. "The Thing"	55.90		

The crowds on both sides of the stadium were really enthusiastic. This is something that you rarely have in Canada. Also out in full force tonight were the mosquitoes. (St. Johns' warned us about this, they were here last year.) That night the corps stayed in a church hall and a school right next to a church so that Sunday morning Mass was very convenient. That was also the night that our Assistant Director, Mr. White "cut the ropes"...we thought he was going to hang the caretaker!

Breakfast was a "stand up" affair around the buses before we hit the highway again and on to East Troy...

the afternoon started with a parade contest unlike any that the corps had ever partaken in before...you had to be playing past various checkpoints (without knowing where they were) and, at the end, the corps that played the longest total time got the \$100.00 prize. The evening show:

"GALAXY OF STARS" (Handle that one!)

Imagine that you're playing the CNE grandstand in the middle of the CNE midway that's going full force. Now, take away the CNE Grandstand and you've got an idea of what the corps had to tolerate. To say the stands were "small" would be an understatement (maybe there were 400 people there) so it was obvious that the parade paid the corps to come into town, and not the contest. Anyway, the corps put on an "acceptable" show and won over less impressive corps...they also took the parade prize which made up for the previous afternoon.

The results:

1. The Optimists	69.70	4. The Chevaliers	59.70
2. "The Thing"	64.60	5. St. Matthias Cadets	43.85
3. Americanos	61.15		



In the area of "problems on tour" we hadn't run into any great problems yet but East Troy was destined to break that. It all started with the parade and the miles of ice cold beer tins all along the route...also, the giant "budweizer" tent at the midway didn't help. (Nothing like that in Canada, folks except in Kitchener at Oktoberfest time.) So, naturally, a few guys weakened and got into the suds, partially on the theory that we had no uniformed events the next day. Oh well, it broke the tension, as someone mumbled. As all this was going on some kids stole equipment out of one bus but the East Troy police were "ten-fouring" it OK and caught the group about 3 o'clock in the morning.

About 6:00AM a real tornado swept past the school and the resulting 'rain storm' almost tempted the whole corps just to stay in bed. To partially offset everyone's bad mood, a terrific breakfast was laid out in the school cafeteria and just after breakfast the executive returned to announce the field they had looked for the night before (off the thruway near Milwaukee) was cleared so we had a spot to rehearse with high stands required by the drill staff. As we got on the buses the sun came out and the day turned into a hot drill session...thus backing up the theory, when on tour you'll have 100% attendance for all events and practices. The other aspect was the 'togetherness' one...after spending so much time together, you end up being a very closely knit unit...or you end up hating everyone's guts.

That night it was "relax time" so everyone climbed onto the buses again to go to a drum corps contest (what else?) It was the "BIG V" event, the top contest of the week at the University Stadium in Milwaukee. All the "big names" from the midwest, the west, and Canada (Del was on field, Optimists were in stands) were there and the contest started almost "on time" at 7:30PM. It was over at 12:30PM. With 5 hours of drum corps we could safely say, everyone had their fill.

The next morning we had another good breakfast at the school before cleaning up and taking the short drive to our next stop, Racine.

Tuesday, July 3rd:

THE "BOYS OF 76" CONTEST: (not as colourful a name as the others)

Our first sight on turning the corner of the highway and coming into the motel area where we were to meet our guides was seeing the buses and equipment wagon of The Dutch Boy Cadets. (For a minute we thought we were pulling into Kitchener)

After we got our guides, our billet area (a community centre, but more about that later) a rehearsal field (that we got lost going to) a good drill rehearsal we were driven to "a good Restaurant" and given 2 hours for "a leisurely meal."

At the stadium a few hours later the atmosphere, unlike Sunday night, was really drum corps. The stadium, medium size, was jam packed and the crowd was very enthusiastic, they were almost blowing the corps 10 feet back with their cheering. The corps took the field first and, as usual was a little rushed getting to the stadium and through the crowds onto the starting line.

At retreat, many thought the Optimists had placed third but it turned out to be another "shocker" when the scores were announced:

5. Optimists	61.50	2. Racine Kilties	79.0
4. Argonne Rebels	65.35	1. Troopers	80.40
3. Bellv.Black Knights	75.55		

Back to the billets, a later supper at a "big mac" across the street and early retirement in the community centre that we found out later wasn't exactly in the "best part of town". Except for some early morning visitors, which we heard about, but 95% didn't see and the 'no air' gym everyone slept OK, right girls?

The corps arose to the aroma of "roast pig". (We knew some of the crowd called the cops "pigs" down there but we didn't think the neighbourhood was THAT tough!

Anyway, as it turned out, they were roasting a pig in the park next door in preparation for the 4th of July celebration that day, as we climbed on the buses at 6:00AM and took the 3 hour drive north and west to Columbus...and another "midway stop".

We arrived in Columbus about an hour before parade time, and after settling the mixup where the sponsor didn't realize that the corps had gone coed, and getting more rooms than one gym, and having breakfast of orange juice and buns, and getting into uniform, and cooling the panic of those who thought they had left their uniforms back in Racine, and walking up the street about two miles to get into parade position, we stood around with Madison Scouts for about an hour till we finally moved off.

This 4th of July parade was of "medium length", the crowds were 6 deep and very enthusiastic. There was little beer displayed on route, more Dr. Pepper than anything else. The parade ended at the midway (that's where we found out it was another 'carnival event') but it was a short walk from the carnival back to our school to get out of uniform. The corps was then given a "two hour break" to relax at the midway and get something to drink...Patz Blue Ribbon had the beer tent at this one but after East Troy, the corps avoided that area.

CONTEST 12 IN THE CONTINUING SERIES OF OPTIMIST CONTESTS (rather long winded)

Early that evening (all these contests were early as there were no lights at the stadium) as we marched in uniform from the school through the back lots to the contest area, we first spotted the field through the smoky haze of the barbecue pits downwind where they were roasting chickens. THATS the kind of contest it was, although there were some good judges in the stands and that's why we were there. Again, the crowd was small, but unlike East Troy, the contest was not in the middle of the midway so the carnival didn't really effect the atmosphere.

There were only 4 corps (2 didn't show) so the results were:

1. Madison Scouts	75.45	3. Americanos	54.75
2. Optimists	66.40	4. St. Mathias Cadets	43.10.

And that was the end of the tour, as far as competitions were concerned. The bugles then dove into an intensive 3 hr. rehearsal in the school gym (till 1:00AM) while the Executive, under the direction of Mr. Donaldson, the new Tour Manager got on the phone to our next stop, Ishpeming, and got the wheels in motion for good billets, showers confirmed, rehearsal areas etc. The results of Mr. Donaldson's phoning really proved great when we did arrive in Ishpeming.

Thursday, July 5th...we left Columbus about the middle of the morning for the 7 hour drive north to Ishpeming, where, on arrival we had a good school with showers, a church hall down the street for breakfasts and "snacks" rehearsal facilities on the same field we would appear in uniform, a lake to swim in the next day (more about this later) a pancake breakfast etc. etc. Thanks, Mr. Donaldson.

Thursday night, some indoor rehearsal and an opportunity to make friends with the local Ishpeming Corps members. Friday morning the pancake breakfast and section rehearsal afterward. In the afternoon an extensive drill on the exhibition field...then, in the later afternoon that long awaited swim in a cool north lake. This turned out to be "the Great Hunt for the Swimming Hole" through the direction of the "Blue Notes" and Don Daber (Ph.D. in Navigation and Cartography) the corps finally "made it" after a perilous journey along a wrong trail through the brush that ended up on the front porch of a cabin deep in the woods. We did end up at the lake and just had time for a short swim (it was worth it), hot pop and cold pizza.

Friday night the corps put on their exhibition field show, and were asked to do it twice. The second performance turned out to be better than the first, perhaps because Santa Clara had finally arrived and were standing at the wings.

Friday night the corps was given "the night off" with a 1:30AM curfew and

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# LANCER CAPSULE COMMENTS

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## 1973 THE YEAR FOR THE LANCERS

After the thrill of winning our first Jr.C.Competition it seems incredible to believe that we went through the whole season undefeated - but we did it.

It was not only a thrill to win each competition but the friendships we made during the season with the Durham Girls, Kitchener Kavaliers and Brampton Senators will I am sure continue as we progress in our Drum Corps Life.

Much of our success this past year has been due to the wonderful instruction Lancers have received from:-

Drill - Mr. Slemen, Mr. Blandford, Randy Cochrane, Ric Brown

Horns - Mr. McLeod, Mr. Wakelin, Mr.McCormick, Mr. Wallachy

Drums - Mr. Ferrazutti, Mr. Ferraro, Mr. Larry Blandford.

We not only received expert instruction but much encouragement from our instruction staff for which all the kids say thanks.

Our week-end trip to Ottawa has to be one of the highlights of our year, especially coming second in the parade right behind La Salle Cadets who were first place winners.

We started off in the Green Submarine and another bus early on Friday morning - girls in one bus - boys in the other - what a drag - but orders is orders.

There were the 2 buses, the equipment truck and about 6 cars of parents all beatling down the highway and when we stopped I think people thought it was an invasion especially one little spot just outside of Ottawa they had no pop, no ice cream and very little of anything, except money by the time we left.

When we arrived in Ottawa the car loads of parents and the equipment truck made the right cut off to go to the University where we were to stay but the 2 buses kept going around the cloverleaf in circles until finally Mr. Oehm came back on to the expressway and showed us the way to get off the merry go round.

While in Ottawa we went to the National Science and Technology Museum, the War Museum, Parliament Buildings, the closed Malls and just about everything going. We also were allowed to stay at the Exhibition for the afternoon after the parade where there was a Rock Festival.

Imagine our surprise to see the Scarborough Kinsmen in the parade and also in the Jr. C competition in Maynard on the Sunday afternoon. But close to home or far away we proved to them we were NUMBER ONE.





# cadet capsule comments



DOES HE REALLY WANT ME TO DO THAT



I  
TOLD  
YOU  
GUYS  
100  
TIMES  
LOOK  
STRAIGHT  
AHEAD

## DIRECTOR

The 72/73 Corps year has come and gone, we didn't set the world on fire but we continued to make progress and we kept on growing, more Cadets, more people getting involved in the executive, so much so that next year we've decided that we're ready to move back into competition at the Junior "C" level. Also on the drawing board for next year — a big trip! Final arrangements have yet to be made but we have been in touch with Disney World — They want pictures and a short tape of some of our music before they send us an invitation to perform there and we'll be putting that together before the middle of November. Then there will be one small detail left — That will be the \$15,000.00 we need to get us there (and back). Our plans will be to fly there and stick around for a week and then fly back. Sounds like fun doesn't it? Our walk-a-thon on November 3rd will be our first fund-raising project with Disney World in mind so let's hope all Cadets and interested parties put some effort into this and other Fund Raising ventures we go into over the Winter.

Your executive has also agreed that we go to camp this year. There aren't too many old guys around so I guess our "rookies" don't have too much to worry about.

This year's snowmobile outing with the Markham Snowmobile Club has already been set for March 17th so lets hope old man winter co-operates with us a little better than he did last year.

Back to last year for a minute, we would be remiss if we didn't congratulate our brothers and sisters in Optimism, the Lancers from Etobicoke for bringing home their second Championship in as many years, this time the Junior "C" and also the Junior Corps for a terrific show, almost pulling it off for number 13.

We realized a few objectives too. New uniforms, new truck, quite a few parades including appearances in Stoney Creek, North York, Scarborough, St. Catharines, Woodbridge and Toronto.

Anyway, 'nuff said about the past — lets look forward to a good year coming up — We on the executive are anxious to work with you to make '74 the best year yet. Help Us Help You.

## HORN LINE — PAUL D. RANSON

*Hi,*

This is my first opportunity to contribute to this publication since joining the organization in June, and I'd like to make it known to all and sundry, that I think this is quite a crew. My wife, Bev, and I have very much enjoyed meeting the Club members and instructional staff of the Junior Corps, the Cadets, and the Lancers. I've only one gripe ..... I'm outranked by my wife!

Well, we've grown in the past couple of weeks to about 38 horns. Not too bad for an up and coming Jr. "C" corps. Six first Sopranos, 12 seconds, 6 French Horns, 2 Euphoniums, and all the rest are carrying baritones. With some help from Junior corps members, maybe all the rest will be "playing" baritones.

The horns are now playing Bert Kaempfert's "Milica", "This Land is Your Land", and they are working on "Playground In My Mind", "Delta Dawn", and "O Canada".

With this kind of Music, we should do quite well in the Junior "C" class. As a matter of fact, we tried out our music on a very receptive crowd of young people and their parents at a recruiting night for another new corps on Monday, Oct. 22nd. The kids played beautifully, both horns and drums, and the comments afterwards were such as "Oh boy, if we can sound like that next year .....!"

The Lancers were there too, and from the sounds they gave out, and the effort too, they're well on their way to a strong showing in Junior "B". I'm sure we all wish them well.

I think a special note of thanks on my part, to some of our horn players who have worked extremely hard this summer, is due, Greg Wardle, who has, although a member of the Cadets, been the instructor of the French Horn line; Bob Moore, Teddy Baker, Kevin McKeegan, Vic Decloux, Duarte Sousa, Paul Rutledge, all hardworking horn players ..... and now I wish I hadn't started naming names, because I don't really know where to stop. They've all worked hard. The end result shows this.

Believe me, I'm really looking forward to our re-entry into the Junior "C" circuit.

Marching into view the Scarborough Optimists Cadets led by Drum Major Miss Linda Baillie, playing "This Land IS Your Land" to the delight of the audience at the opening of the Woodbridge Fall Fair.

Starting with flag day celebrations in Stoney Creek, Parades in Ajax, Toronto, Porter Stadium, Scarborough Towne Centre, Big Brother Rally and St. Catherine's Grape Festival, to mention just a few, this corp has progressed steadily through this season and can be expected to accomplish even more in the future.



Paul Ranson took over the horns halfway through the year and did an excellent job with the horn line. This was proven at Woodbridge Fair, with the boys having a good strong sound. With most of the members returning for '74 plus a new look in music the cadets should go far in achieving their goal.

Thanks to Lenore Stevenson, the Cadets had another fine colour guard sporting all new uniforms. They were a real asset to the corp and a treat to the eyes as they came marching into view.



No corp would be complete without the drum line, and Gord O'Halloran and Gerry Demers have done a great job with it introducing double-tenors this year. With hopes of more boys in the line and the experience gained through this season the drum line should be in fine shape for '74.

Speaking of '74 The Executive of the Cadets has planned a full and busy schedule with a few changes thrown in for good measure. First of all there is a Parents Auxiliary planned which will enable parents and friends to help with the corp on a more personal basis and hopefully achieve the goals set.

Secondly, with proper training, the Cadets can possibly go into the Junior C division.

Thirdly, women's lib has come to the Cadets, the girls are being allowed to come into the horn and drum lines (boys watch out.)

And if this was not already enough there is a trip to Disneyland planned for late summer climaxing the season.

With these goals to achieve everyone must do his best to support the fund raising activities, starting with the TEN MILE WALK-A-THON Saturday Nov. 3, 1973. Come on Cadets and parents alike lets get going - - Disneyland is waiting to welcome us.







Hats Off to Dave Burgess our Drum Major - incidentally the best one in the Circuit - who really led us in great style.

Special Thanks to the Group of Parents who followed us around all Summer - who gave up there pleasures and their holidays for the Corps, who suffered for us while we were on the field - cheered for us like crazy - travelled miles from holidays to competitions - their enthusiasm and encouragement gave us the extra bit of incentive we needed to do our best. Wherever we went the people knew the Lancers had arrived in full force.

Extra Special Thanks to Mrs. Dick who faithfully attended our competitions with her circus trunk and all its goodies to make money for us, and to Mr. Dick who was busy lugging the trunk around.

Sorry we are losing Rose Milankov as Guard Caption but she is off to Europe next summer. Debbie Gault - Guard Sargeant has been promoted to Guard Captain, Lile-Jean Mc Gregor to Guard Sargeant and Linda Dick to Rifle Sargeant.

Under the leadership of Mr. Jim Green the Parents Association put on a walkathon and beef barbecue at Albion Hills September 30th which was a smashing success and a beautiful Lancer Day.

This was followed by the following awards being presented by the Executive:-

Rookie of the Year	- Kim Narowski
Bugler of the Year	- Kevin Mc Leod
Drummer of the Year	- Judy Ferguson
Lancer of the Year	- Fraser Mc Leod
Guardsmen of the Year	- Nancy Scott and Cathy Anco.

WATCH for the Lancers in Parades this Fall starting with Octoberfest Parade October 8,1973.

WATCH for the Lancers in the INDividuals this year - we understand there will be a large number of participants who are getting ready now.

WATCH for the Lancers - Jr. B in 1974 -

WIN OR LOSE WE WILL ALL BE THERE WITH THE LANCER SPIRIT.

Lila Jean-McGregor # 24

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actually allowed to have "some beers", in contrast to East Troy. In respect to this 'grown up' decision everyone actually behaved themselves and there were no unfortunate incidents. A good sign.

Saturday morning it was a 10:00AM parade, a rather lengthy one through Ishpeming and then on to the buses at the end of the parade and on to the next one in another town down the highway. The corps played almost continuously with a terrific reception from the crowds.

A chicken dinner back at the school about 3:00PM, then goodbye to our friends in Ishpeming before getting back on the buses for the long trip home...via Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury again. Back home between 6:00 and 7:00AM on Sunday, depending which bus you were on.

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In retrospect, "Tour One" was fairly successful. True, there were some problems, but these were handled well, and the corps "grew up" on tour, as all corps do when they are on the road any length of time.

This was the first 'long trip' for the corps and although they didn't storm the West by surprise, and beat any top corps, they did do a lot of positive things. One of the most important, was that the Optimists had made their impression on the fans, nice people to have on your side anywhere you go.

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JULY 20-21-22:

THE TORONTO-HAMILTON-BRANTFORD WEEKEND

It was now the middle of summer and roughly the half way point in the schedule of all corps. If anything, this weekend would indicate how the top 3 corps in Canada fared with respect to one another.

The weekend began at the DeLaSalle contest Friday night at the Borough of York stadium. A big contest, it featured the first meeting of Cadets LaSalle, DeLaSalle and the Optimists since these corps met in the same stadium 5 weeks previous at the Optimist's contest. Surprisingly the crowd at this contest was about the same numbers as attended the Optimists event previous, a rather small total in a stadium that could seat many more.

But, unlike the Optimist International this contest was to have a different ending...as before, DeLaSalle had worked for this one and came through on M&M, drums and GE to take their 4th win of the season. For LaSalle, an excellent showing in drum and bugle captions was negated by a full 2.pts loss to Del in total GE. The Optimists finished 3rd with a good showing in GE and marginal scores in the execution captions. As for the two American corps, the Imperials and the Marion Cadets, one could say that their show was hampered by their drumming. Nevertheless, they both turned out very pleasing shows. At the bottom of the ladder, again the Crusaders edged out the Princemen and the 4th Brigade nosed out a distant St. Johns. The scores:

1. DeLaSalle	71.80	6. Etobicoke Crusaders	59.95
2. LaSalle Cadets	71.55	7. Seneca Princemen	58.95
3. Optimists	68.60	8. 4th Brigade	55.55
4. Pembroke Imperials	66.95	9. St. Johns	45.65
5. Marion Cadets	61.95		

The next night, at the J.C. International Championship in Hamilton LaSalle came up with a very good show to beat DeLaSalle by .4 overall. This was due largely to their excellent drum and execution bugle scores. Although DeLaSalle won overall M&M and GE they did not have the drum or bugle scores to overcome LaSalle. The Optimists, on the other hand, placed third once again. As the night before they did a spirited show but they were kept down in the placings due to relatively inferior but nevertheless reasonable execution scores. The improvement over the Friday night wasn't evident, outright, but it was there.

The Imperials, Marion Cadets, the 4th Brigade and St. Johns followed in that order. It was evident that the Imperials were having trouble but what it was exactly wasn't disclosed until after the contest. Pembroke, in fact did take top M&M and scored highly in the bugle captions, but as last night, their drum scores brought them down. (It was noted that during the retreat the St. Johns Ambulance crews were busy around the Imperials.)

The scores:

1. Cadets LaSalle	73.45	5. Marion Cadets	67.0
2. DeLaSalle	73.05	6. 4th Brigade	56.95
3. Optimists	71.70	7. St. Johns	43.85
4. Imperials	69.70		

Immediately after this contest the corps went to the closest MacDonalds down the street for a rather belated supper. Half way through the ordering a Hamilton Police car arrived on the scene and advised they were closing the premises as this was one of the restaurants that the Imperials ate in before a third of the corps took ill as a result of food poisoning.

The corps immediately dropped their buns and migrated half way across town to the comfort of an "A&W". Albert and Walter would never attempt to poison us...???

After leaving the A&W the corps travelled by caravan into the night and up the mountain to invade Ancaster and the Optimist Club there.

The next morning it was on the Brantford for the Optimists and the rest of the corps from Saturday night, all except Cadets LaSalle. But first, before the afternoon contest there was a short parade to the city hall where the Mayor made a special presentation to St. Johns on their Anniversary Year, then from the City Hall a much longer parade to the contest field. In the 100 degree heat it was a good day for short presentations but not an ideal one for parades, or even contests.

But, despite the heat, or perhaps because of it, it was at this contest that the Optimists finally overcame a half-season-curse that saw them winless at every contest in Canada as they placed #1 at this event. The scores:

1. Optimists	75.45	4. Marion Cadets	65.20
2. DeLaSalle	75.25	5. The 4th Brigade	55.80
3. Seneca Princemen	66.00	High horns & drums:	Optimists.
		High GE:	DeLaSalle.

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#### TOUR TWO:

Batavia, Thurs. Aug. 9th.

Marion, Fri. Aug. 10th.

Marion, Sat. Aug. 11th.

Windsor, Sun. Aug. 12th.

This was perhaps the worst weekend of the year for the Optimists. It was the weekend that saw the corps score poorly at Batavia and the U.S. Open with nothing to show except \$900.00 in ruined plumes.

For the first time in many years the absence of Don Daber during the first part of the tour was sorely felt, as at times confusion seemed to reign (rain?) The corps certainly had its problems in Batavia for what was billed as the "American Patrol International". The first of the anxious moments began as soon as Des Plaines Vanguard marched off the field after their performance. The Optimists were on next...and half the corps wasn't at the field yet. It was decided to march the part of the corps that was there on to the starting line. Just as they filed onto the field the other half showed up, rather exhausted from running, but they nevertheless did show up.

Then, as if from a signal above, as soon as the corps was ready to do their show, the thunderstorm that Batavia had been promised all day, unleashed itself!!! Needless to say, the field and the stands full of fans was quickly

evacuated. It was about 45 minutes later, after the whole thing had trickled to a medium drizzle, that the show was started up again. As they say, the rest was history! The corps went on to put on one of their most driving shows that they had ever performed all year...the crowd went wild...but the show was all drive and not great execution. Result: last place.

We left Batavia that night for Marion, and more disaster.

Yes, Marion had its problems. The buses got lost trying to get there. When they did get there they found they were to perform approximately two hours ahead of the published schedule (some corps had not entered). On another front, Rob Trimble had to get back to work on Friday, so after last minute fretting, Su Barrett went on Nationals for prelims.

At prelims the corps put on one of their worst shows all year and many were dubious as to whether the corps would make it into the Saturday night finals. They had all of Saturday to think about it and it was not until the last corps had performed in prelims that the corps did learn that they had backed into the finals.

To top it off it rained all weekend and Saturday night was no exception. The corps managed to finish their show dry but the Finleyville Crusaders and Blue Rock were not so fortunate. As it continued to rain the whole show was postponed till Sunday afternoon. In effect the corps was given another chance to improve their show, but, on the other hand the Judges would have seen the corps an extra time and would have come away with some preconceived ideas on how to score the corps again the next day.

Sunday showed no great improvement in the show, but there was no time to wonder about it, as the units were not required to stay for retreat all the corps rushed off in all directions as soon as they performed. The Optimists were on their way to Windsor as soon as they got out of uniform.

Yours truly, Dennis Mori, of the Publicity and Public Relations Dept. (photo Division) now had the chance to get into the limelight (in the bright sunlight) and "play drum major"...take part in the retreat ceremonies, pick up the score sheets and prize money and make it up to Windsor before the corps left for Toronto that night. Fortunately one wasn't required to be in uniform. My uniform was blue jeans and a corps jacket.

The scores: 1.Kingsmen:80.3...2.Del:78.25...3.Black Knights:75.85...4.Kilties:74.15...5.Purple Lancers:73.55...6.Polish Falcons:69.75...7.Argonne:69.15...8.Chicago Vanguard...68.75...9.Royal Crusaders:67.30...10.Blue Rock:66.05...11.Optimists:65.7 and 12.Phantom Regiment:65.4.

Windsor...After Batavia and Marion, here the corps was afforded the luxury of outrightly being the best corps present. This was evidenced by the fact that many of the corps here tonight had also taken part in the U.S. Open in Marion the same weekend and the Optimists were the only ones to make finals. With this in mind it was not too difficult to grasp how the Optimists could not help but win.

But, just before the corps took the field for their show the announcer read the results of the U.S. Open finals. What an ego destroyer!!!

In any event, the corps put on a show that was clearly better than any they had performed all week...perhaps because they too got the results of the Marion contest just before they took the field, as they finished their warmup. Someone asked, "Why didn't they do this type of show earlier?" Well, maybe tonight they had something to prove after having such a washout all weekend.

The scores:

1. Optimists	74.5	4.Mello-Dears	63.10
2. Appleknockers	66.55	5.Knickerbockers	56.80
3. Princemen	65.35	6.Mariners	54.40



If "Tour Two" proved something, it showed that the Optimists had a lot of work to do if they were to call themselves the 1973 Canadian National Champs. At the last meeting with Del they had fallen some 13 points behind, with precious little time to recover it. This would take quite a concerted and unified effort, during the following three weeks till Nationals and the end of the competition season.

Then disaster struck.

It came as quite a shock to the corps at the end of the next rehearsal following Windsor that the corps could be folded with only 3 weeks left in the competition season. The Director and the Music Director were handing in their resignations and the entire life of the corps, the Optimists name, seemed threatened, and depended now almost entirely on the will of the members and the sponsor's final decision.

The final decision took place at the Friday night rehearsal at the close of the week. After an all evening meeting, six members of the corps were expelled and another twelve were cited for less harsh disciplinary measures. All this stemmed from the use of certain stimulants that had always been banned and restricted by the corps with the rule clearly laid down during the corps camp weekend in May. The ultimatum stated then was that members of the Executive staff had no choice but to resign if the corps did not abide by this directive...no use of drugs in connection with the corps and its activities. Unfortunately this rule was not followed by a few at a section rehearsal at the beginning of that week, and as a result the unfortunate results at the close of that week. But, it was announced that the corps would continue.

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 18th:

Originally the corps was scheduled to perform under the lights at the CNE Stadium as part of the Scottish World Festival show. But the programme length was too long so one answer was to cut the 13 minutes of drum corps. Another blow!

An agreement however was reached with the CNE that the corps could make the same money during the day by playing "travelling minstrel" around the western end of the grounds. This was done Saturday morning. The corps was still alive if not all that well.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 19th:

Early in the morning the corps was off to St. Thomas at the western end of the province to take part in their Exhibition Show there featuring many of the corps in the immediate area. This was also the first drill show after the "Epic Purge" and also the last event for Mr. Daber as the Director.

The corps spent the afternoon on music and drill and proved at night that they could still do a drill show and were as popular with the crowd as they were there last year.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 25th:

##### TITUSVILLE:

The Optimists began their comeback tonight. In essence it was like starting the season all over again.

It was with much anticipation that the attention of the corps and those close to the corps directed all their interest to this uniformed event. To add to the tense situation of the contest atmosphere, it had already been decided earlier that some eight members would stand on the finish line, while the corps performed, on punishment in the difficulties of the week before.

With so much going against them, the corps put forth a valiant effort only to be beaten by the superiority of the Purple Lancers. Rumours had circulated all over a good part of the drum corps world that the Optimists had folded.

This contest proved otherwise.

As always, the Titusville crowd was just wonderful, on the parade route as well as the contest stadium. I talked with various people from Titusville during the day. A policeman said that he remembered when the contest was first established years ago. At that contest he remembered the green uniforms of the Optimists. A shop keeper stated that she thought the Optimists were popular with the Titusville people because they came back year after year.

One week to go and one final contest before the final's test...the Nationals. For a corps that had been on the verge of dissolution, it did well. All that remained was the defending of a title.

\*\*\*\*\*

### NATIONALS '73:

After the afternoon prelims, all that was left was hope. Things couldn't have looked worse, especially after last night's loss in Etobicoke. But perhaps the Corps could still "pull it all together" and pull off the biggest upset of the year... maybe not. Hope was cheap.

As at every Canadian National Championship that the Optimists have ever competed in, they took the spotlight, and the glitter away from most of the other competing corps. This was part of the Optimist mystique. No matter what any other corps would do, everyone would look to the Optimists to see what they would do. Opponents would say, time and again, "Don't count out the Optimists until Nationals Retreat..."

That night the Optimists put on their best show of the year. Spirit and drive that had never been suspected before, was being dramatically expressed. It flowed. It gushed. And its effects found their way to the audience... "Arms swinging, Bugles ringing, Drums resounding, Legs lifted high..." The 8,000 people in the audience loved it and the corps knew it.

However, it wasn't to be their night. That same night, DeLaSalle "turned on" too. So did LaSalle. Had it not been for the 2.9 pts in penalties the DeLaSalle Oakland Corps would have gained undisputed claim to the National title. And, ironically, the penalty was made at the close of their show, on leaving and entering the field... However, this coupled with LaSalle's own .3 penalty left these two corps neatly deadlocked for first place... the first time this has ever happened at a National Championship.

In order to win, the Optimists depended heavily on the drum line to win their caption by a sizable margin. They ended up second by a .5 margin to DeLaSalle. The bugles had to come close in their captions. They finished third, 1.35 behind LaSalle and 1.45 behind Del. The Optimists also placed third in the M&M captions, .3 behind LaSalle and 1.6 behind Del.

The Seneca Princemen put on a valiant effort although they were outclassed by the other three corps. They had made a marked improvement over the past week alone. But 4th place is, nevertheless, fourth place.

In tonight's show, DeLaSalle should have won outright, but instead lost it because of penalties. The scores:

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. DeLaSalle Oaklands | 79.60, including the 2.9 in penalties. |
| 1. Cadets LaSalle     | 79.60, including .3 in penalties.      |
| 2. Optimists          | 79.0...no penalties.                   |
| 3. Seneca Princemen   | 71.25...no penalties.                  |

Tonight marked the end of the competition season, For Cadets LaSalle, it marked their first National Championship after so many years of disappointment. True, they won the CDCA Nationals in Ottawa in 1971, but it wasn't the "complete" Nationals in the true sense of the word because both DeLaSalle and the Optimists didn't participate. For DeLaSalle this was #3, having won the CDCA title in 1969, & 1970. For the Optimists this was their 4th defeat in 5 years. For them, 1973 was an ordinary year...some would say, "extraordinary!"

\*\*\*\*\*

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- "LOVE & PAIN"...Ron Madzia and Leslie Barnes have an affair!
- "STEELYARD BLUES"...The Brampton Senators get new uniforms.
- "WHITE LIGHTNING"...The 1973 trip to Batavia followed by a weekend in Marion.
- "THE MECHANIC"...Harry Snodden hires new staff for "The Sub."
- "ROMEO & JULIET"...Romeo Brandao looks over the guard...
- "A TOUCH OF CLASS"...Santa Clara Vanguard takes the starting line.
- "THE LAST OF SHEILA"...A new girl in the guard goes to one of Sheryl Lane's parties.
- "HARRY IN YOUR POCKET"...A number of corps try to bribe new judge Harry Francis.
- "THE MAN WHO LOVED CAT DANCING"...Greg Oxenham writes a drill.
- "SOYLENT GREEN"...The Cavaliers make a 25th Anniversary movie.
- "CARRY ON MATRON"...Erin Stratton gets the word from Derek Branton.
- "MUTINY ON THE BUSES"...The California Kingsmen get another load of peanutbutter sandwiches on their second tour!
- "HEAVY TRAFFIC"...Joe Gianna decides the whole corps should go to the next contest in cars!
- "WOMEN IN CHAINS"...Don Daber decides to crack down on the girl's bus.
- "THE ROOM OF HORROR"...Lisa throws a party?
- "HITLER, THE LAST TEN DAYS"...The story of Dave Parker the week before Nationals.
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- "THE BURGLARS"...Ramero Brandao and Rudy Wey spy a watermelon stand.
- "CRIES AND WHISPERS"...Optimist's dressing room after Nationals.
- "McCABE & MRS. MILLER"...Art gets caught by Mr. Miller?
- "STATE OF SIEGE"...The true story of Titusville.
- "PORTNOYS COMPLAINT"...Ric Brown discusses fatigue with Paul Thompson.
- "UP THE FRONT"...A wide screen epic of the life and times of Sheryl Lane as narrated by Bernadette Schiebel.
- "APACHIE"...The first meeting between the Kingston Indians and The Troopers.
- "HORSEFEATHERS & DUCK SOUP"...a double feature of the corps eating at a thruway stop.
- "TERROR IN THE WAX MUSEUM"...the drum line visits Tousauds in Niagara Falls.
- "WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?"...a new girl joins the guard!
- "COMMUTER HUSBANDS"...Bernie White spends a full year with the corps.
- "LAST TANGO IN PARIS"...Cathy Collins learns a new dance step.
- "BANG THE DRUM SLOWLY"...Barry Woods learns a new drum part.
- "THE PYX"..."The Thing" changes its name.
- "Z"...Rich Morawietz learns the alphabet,
- "WALKING TALL"...A movie short on Robert Trimble and his National flag.
- "ENGLAND MADE ME"...The true story of Brenda Yates.
- "DEEP THRUST"...The sabre squad goes wild on the contest field!
- "CAT O'NINE TAILS"...The Corps Council presents a plan for new discipline.
- "WILD WHEELS"...A travelog short subject along the 401 from Guelph to Toronto and Toronto to Guelph twice a week.
- "RASPUTIN, THE MAD MONK"...Inside DeLaSalle the year they lost Nationals.
- "U-TURN"...A trip with the Optimists on Harry's buses.
- "SUDDEN TERROR"...a rookie in the drum line has his first lesson with Ron Kaiser.



From the director of 'Z', Costa-Gavras

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Who wears good clothes to a practice?

# afterthoughts


by DENNIS MORI.



Remember your first practice at Keating?



'My shako's too small!'



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# CORPS PROFILE



Greg Oxenham

Paul McCusker

Ken Bain

Interviews and photos by Dennis Mori.

### GREG OXENHAM:

1969 was a very memorable year. It marked the end of an era. Of note, it was the last year in the corps for many, including Ron Cooper, Paul Thompson, Ray Roussel, Wayne Dean, Ron Chong and other notable people as Emilio Russo and Dave Harris. Yet, at the same time, it marked a new beginning with new faces.

Very few people remember "that little runt", who carried a sabre in the Nationals squad at the beginning of '69. Today, five years later, he still carries a sabre, but since then he's gained a few promotions. This year, billed as the #2 Drum Major, in everyone's mind, Greg still remains famous (or is it infamous?) as the Optimist's Guard Captain for the three years previous to the current one. As well, he has been honoured with the post of Assistant Drill and Guard Instructor.

It is interesting to note that in his first year, Greg actually played a baritone horn. Apparently Barry Bell, with a "little friendly persuasion", had Greg believing that his only goal in life was to play a horn. Taking a full year to "wise up" he returned to the guard the following year where he was almost immediately chosen to succeed Ron Cooper and his brother, Steve, as Guard Captain.

It was at the end of the 1968 season that George Nasello (good buddy, now chauffeur) brought Greg down with him to a practice. Since then, George has more or less, always been bringing Greg down to practices. All seriousness aside though, Greg, or as he is more familiarly known by his close friend, "Sir..." does participate in activities other than the corps. One of these used to be school, but as of now, we find him graduated from Grade 13 at Victoria Park Secondary School, and undecided whether he will continue with his studies or take up permanent residence at "the Parkway."

Everyone's choice as "1971 Corpsman of the Year," Greg's greatest attributes are an unflinching straight forwardness and honesty coupled with a deep rooted sincerity and a sense of responsibility, something we could all benefit from as an example.

Few people are fully aware of the hard work and planning that goes into a drum corps show. It takes an incredible amount of thought, effort as well as an "iron will," to be good in a competitive field that already excels. One cannot help but admire people like Greg who devote themselves totally to the corps. In Greg's own words, "Who could ever think of drum corps as a hobby. It's a way of life! You get what you put into it..."

Yes, 1969 was a very memorable year. In a different sense, 1973 will be a very memorable year.

\* \* \*

### PAUL McCUSKER:

It was back in 1966 that Paul was first introduced to drum corps by a friend. Paul joined the Guelph Optimist Knights spending five years with them playing French



Horn, Melophone, and Soprano before joining the Optimists on solo soprano, after the 1971 season.

Now in his second year with the corps, Paul does admit to one problem with being with "the Green"...the 110 miles from home to practice and back again. However, being the other half of the "McCusker Travelling Animal Act," Paul does have his brother Pete to "thumb" to practice with, when they're not travellin in Barry Woods 401mobile.

What made him want to join the Optimists in the first place?

Paul replied:"The Optimists have always been different from most other corps. There has always been an air of pride and dignity in the Corps that showed through even during those years when the Corps was "fighting back to the top."

He cited the case of 1971.

"Even when the corps had begun the season with such a poor start, they fought back through the season, to a position that by the end of the year they could have won Nationals. It was after that season that I decided that I wanted to be a member of the Optimists."

Paul also liked the green uniforms, or rather, what they represented...11 consecutive National Championships along with the one last September which had to be the greatest highlight of his first year in the corps. MCCUSKER CARTOONS...

Besides his very active role as a marching member of the corps, Paul has best come to be known as the "other" artist and cartoonist in the corps. Finding much enjoyment to this end, he is currently enrolled at Sheridan College studying drawing and cartooning with the eventual aim of attending York University for fine arts study. (D.C. Comics, eat your heart out!)

By his wown admission, Paul has a very "blah" personality. In fact, he feels that he has cornered the market on "blahdom" (Blahdom?)

Can a person who commutes to Toronto from Guelph two and three times a week to be a member of a corps (and give up balanced meals, as well as "Leave it to Beaver" reruns) be "blah"?

Nope!



\*\*\*\*

#### KEN BAIN:

No matter how you look at him, Ken Bain is one of those people whom you always admire and hate. He is sincere, honest and a warm individual. (sounds like a TV commercial) Because of his personality, you admire him. At the same time you hate him because he makes you realize your own personality faults that in comparison put you only one notch from that of a "Pre-Christmas Ebenezer Scrooge."



Ken first joined the Optimists in 1970 on the insistence of former corps member, Glen West, after an illustrious career with the Michael Power Knights where his most memorable experience was playing "solo snare" in 1969. When asked what convinced him to join the Optimists, Ken replied:"I've always liked the Optimist's drumlines, their music, their dignity, their toughness."

"One thing that really turned me on the corps was the '69 show, especially the double bass fill off the line into Ron Chong's solo in "Hang 'Em High!"

A solid fixture in the drumline, now in his fourth year with the corps, Ken

attributes much of his success to having drummed beside Dana Burrage through all those years. He also saves praise for Gord Robinson who would always encourage him along in his first years in the corps.

Ken really enjoys people, meeting them, talking to them and making friends. Within the corps, when it comes to his biggest thrill, "it would have to be winning top drums at the '72 Nationals. Another big highlight was competing against the midwest corps in 1970."

Presently in grade 13 at Runnymede Collegiate as of September, Ken finds to play a round of golf, or two, when not with the corps and will eventually find the time to take a Maths course at the University of Toronto.

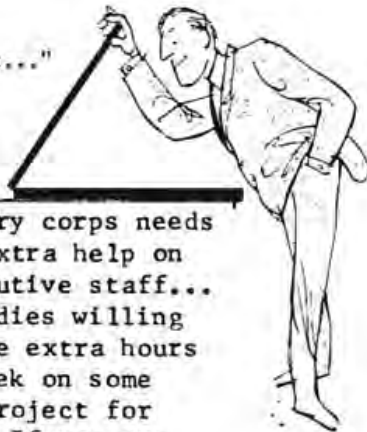
Ken does many things that very few people do these days. He takes the time to be considerate. He worries about other people's misfortunes and even laughs at your crummy jokes to make you feel good. Ken Bain is a very rare find, and he is very real.

Ken, we salute you!

\*\*\*\*\*

# HELP WANTED

"Look into it..."



Almost every corps needs it, that extra help on their Executive staff... men and ladies willing to put some extra hours in each week on some specific project for the corps. If you are interested in discussing the possibilities we are certainly interested in discussing them with you. All 3 corps in the Optimist organization can use more help.

Give Joe Gianna, the Youth Board Chairman a call at 742-3647.

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photos during 1973...Etobicoke Contest and Ajax parade.

\*\*\*\*\*  
THE NEW G.C.C. is now published in three sections...GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS: The news of the Junior Corps, CADET CAPSULE COMMENTS: News on the Optimist Cadets, and LANCER CAPSULE COMMENTS: Features and news about the Lancers.  
\*\*\*\*\*



EDITORIAL (continued from page -2-)

Where has the 'Inspection' and 'Military Bearing' gone?...these items that have put drum corps head and shoulders above any 'marching band' in the world.

No one doubts that to travel each week all over this 3000 mile stretch, that it takes much money to survive.

But how about the corps without the budgets and the corps who will never reach that upper-strato-sphere of professional competition?

Will we relegate the corps to a major-minor league status? Will the pioneering efforts of the major shows be subjected to the amateurish tactics of a boycott from "the Pros"?

What is good for the select few, cannot possibly be related to the vast majority of corps today. In the first place, they can't afford the effort.

Money situations are not about to level out or go down, they'll continue to rise.

Ticket prices will rise with the expected prize money demands and then we'll price our shows out of reach of the average public.

We must take a long, hard look to the future of drum corps as we have known it.

The fun of a weekend hobby still exists in many areas, many local circuits. We must preserve this at all costs. If we must separate the MAJORS from the MINORS, let's do it in such a way that everyone can benefit by many appearances in many areas of this continent.

There can be no game-playing and no secrets if we intend to provide a continuing summer of entertainment for one and all.

The above editorial courtesy of DRUM CORPS NEWS, Vol.13,#13  
Aug. 15, 1973 issue.

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NATIONALS '73 JR. FINALS SHEETS:

Judges:Penalties and Chief Judge...Macciocchi.  
Field M&M #1...Blundell. G.E. M&M #1.....Dlabay.  
Field M&M #2...Simpson. G.E. M&M #2.....Grana.  
Field Drums #1...Reynolds. G.E. Drums.#1...Cardwell  
Exp. drums.....Thirion. G.E.Drums #2....Barbaro  
Field Brass #1...Klozik. G.E. Brass #1...Key.  
Field Brass #2...Higgins. G.E, Brass #2...McKolskey.  
Music Anal.....Wormington. Timer.....Roberts.

\*\*\*\*\*

order of appear:	Field M&M			Fd. Drums	Exp. Dr.	TOTAL:	Field Brass			Music Anal:
	#1	#2	AVER:				#1	#2	AVER:	
Cadets LaSalle:	17.4	16.9	17.15	13.4	3.3	16.7	12.2	12.2	12.2	8.8
DeLaSalle:	18.0	17.6	17.8	12.8	4.4	17.2	11.3	11.5	11.4	8.6
Princemen:	14.7	14.2	14.45	12.2	3.6	15.8	9.9	10.5	10.2	8.1
Optimists:	17.3	18.1	17.7	13.0	4.1	17.1	11.1	11.0	11.05	8.4

	G.E. M&M			G.E. Drums			G.E. Brass			SCORE:	Penalty:
	#1	#2	Aver:	#1	#2	Aver:	#1	#2	Aver:		
Cadets LaSalle:	8.8	8.3	85.5	8.8	7.2	8.0	8.2	8.8	8.5	79.9	.3
DeLaSalle:	9.4	9.0	9.2	9.3	9.6	9.15	8.9	9.4	9.15	82.50	2.9
Princemen:	8.0	7.6	7.8	8.1	5.9	7.0	8.0	7.8	7.9	71.25	---
Optimists:	8.9	6.5	7.7	8.9	8.6	8.75	8.4	8.2	8.3	79.0	---

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