

green capsule
g.c.c.
 comments



may, 1974

Green Capsule Comments



GREEN CAPSULE COMMENTS

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 OPTIMISTS PERFORM AT THE NATIONAL INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS at Seneca College in March. Photos, top to bottom...Bugle trio: Allan Gillies, George Nasello and Mike Donaldson. Drum Sextet: Bruce Thomas, Larry Blandford, Michael O'Connor, Jim Kane, Pat Irvine Rich Morawietz. Drum Duets: Michael O'Connor and Jim Stevenson and Ken Bain, Larry Blandford.

Green Capsule Comments

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ASSOC. EDITOR: Don.Daber.

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Dennis Mori

Don Daber

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Back Cover Photos:

Dennis Mori.

New format for this Issue:

Due to the increased costs of publishing, postage, etc. we have been forced to give up our magazine format of the past few years and return to this "news-letter" format.



The BIG MOUTH...

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE CORPS SCENE IN AND AROUND TORONTO... AND OTHER AREAS...

The big news, as we go to press, is that De La Salle is no longer a member corps of the CDCA. This decision took place on or about May 9th with a letter to the CDCA President, John Robins. This means the corps is automatically not in the National Championships Sept. 2nd. but more important at this time it means the corps need not follow the CDCA By-laws with regard to using unreleased members from other corps or over-age members as this cannot be controlled any longer through CDCA files.

The reaction from the other corps? Its too early to tell as of this column. But it does look like Del is going DCI all the way for 1974!

NEW CORPS MAGAZINE PUBLISHED...

A new Canadian Drum Corps magazine is on the market. It is called "DRUM CORPS CANADA 1974" and the first issue hit the stands in March. A catchy headline was featured on the cover..."What's Happened To Cadets LaSalle?" and that question was partially answered on page 3 with a report from their Ottawa Reporter, Jean Leblanc, altho the Cadets have yet to release an official report as to where they stand, if they are going to join the CDCA this year etc., etc. and also what appearances they have scheduled in this area for 1974.

David Burleigh and Rod Clements, two marching members of the Etobicoke Crusaders, are the powers behind this publication as the Managing Editors with Mr. D.W. Burleigh as the Business Manager for the magazine. Their Canadian Reporters to date include, Cathy Johnson (also with Crusaders) Jean Leblanc from Ottawa, Robert Poirier from Ottawa and Pete McCusker, the official CDCA Publicity Director.

It took some courage to print this first issue in March, when Drum Corps activity is, at the best, slow, but they managed to fill 30 pages with material of interest, including a good amount of Canadian news...Also, most of the pictures were of Canadian guards and corps, including a centre spread that covered many corps from Canada on all levels of competition. The three photos of the American corps used tied in with the ads on the page opposite.

Visually, if we can get that critical, a few things bothered our eyes. The type chosen is too open and its hard to "zero-in" on each page. We tended to drift off into space and you had the feeling there wasn't enough written material on each page. This can be easily remedied by using a more condensed type and a heavier face. Also down rules on the pages will help. The weight of the headlines also bothered us...half the size would do. But I'm sure as they continue to publish these few visual effects will be corrected.

Enjoyed the cartoons...especially the "So So Soloist" and McCusker's new creation "Arxh"....BEST OF LUCK on "Drum Corps Canada" Gentlemen, and may your issues continue to be monthly (unlike GCC) and we certainly look forward to reading the next issue....

NEWS FROM THE U.S. OPEN:

As usual, the U.S. Open Commission is right on top in the organization of their contest as covered in the April edition of their newsletter. Last year, as the Optimists well know, they were caught with their rain plans down. This will not happen in 1974. Special arrangements are being made to keep all the competing units out of inclement weather....Prize money for the "Open Class" Contest of Saturday night has been increased to a total of \$21,500.00 with \$3,500 for 1st, \$2,500 for 2nd, \$2,000 for 3rd, \$1,500 for 4th, \$1,000 for 5th 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th places, \$900 for 11th, \$800 for 12th \$700 for 13th \$600 for 14th and \$500 for 15th through 20th positions.

In the Open Class Contest (of Saturday night) the entries of corps are as follows, in order received:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Magnif. Yankees (NY) | 29.Seneca Princemen (Ont) | 17.Opt.Knights (Ont) |
| 2. Ridgemen (NY) | 30.Americanos (Wisc) | 18.Buccaneers (Ky) |
| 3. Phil Police Cadets (PA) | 31.St.Johns (Ont) | 19.Cardinals (Ont) |
| 4. Blue Devils (Calif) | 32.Capitolaires (Wisc) | 20.Caballaros (Ohio) |
| 5. Emerald Cadets (Conn) | 33.Velvet Knights (Calif) | 21.Greece Cadets (NY) |
| 6. Charioteers (Ala) | 34.Iron Brigade (Wich) | 22.Buccaneers (Ont) |
| 7. Valley Gennadiers (NJ) | 35.Crusaders (NJ) | |
| 8. Royal Crusaders (Pa) | 36.Squires (NY) | |
| 9. Marlon Cadets (Ohio) | 37.Black Watch (Wash) | |
| 10.DeLaSalle (Canada) | 38.Blue Rock (Del) | |
| 11.Gen Butler Vagabonds (Pa) | | |
| 12.Etobicoke Crusaders (Ont) | | |
| 13.Grenadiers (NY) | | |
| 14.Mariners (Wisc) | | |
| 15.L.I.Kingsmen (NY) | | |
| 16.Polish Falcon Cadets (NJ) | | |
| 17.St.Paul Jrs. (Minn) | | |
| 18.Shamrocks (Wash) | | |
| 19.Appleknockers (NY) | | |
| 20.Precussionaires (Iowa) | | |
| 21.Pioneers (Wisc) | | |
| 22.Optimists (Ont) | | |
| 23.Santa Clara (Calif) | | |
| 24.Black Knights (Ill) | | |
| 25.Madison Scouts (Wisc) | | |
| 26.Blue Raiders (La) | | |
| 27.Colt 45 (Iowa) | | |
| 28.Chevaliers (Iowa) | | |

Class "A" (Canadian B) Entries:

1. Belvaderes (PA)
2. Mark Twain Cadets (NY)
3. Vanguards (Mich)
4. Royal Knights (Wisc)
5. Royal Coaxhmen (NY)
6. Optimist Lancers (Ont)
7. Shoreliners (NY)
8. Dutchmen (Ont)
9. Tri-Town Cadets (NY)
- 10.Gouchos (NY)
- 11.Kinsmen (Ont)
- 12.Wingjammers (Wisc)
- 13.Glassmen (Ohio)
- 14.Kingsmen (Mass)
- 15.Scarlet Knights (Ill)
- 16.Marquis (Wisc)

DOMINION

SAVE

SHOP AT DOMINION? then save those Dominion cash register tapes!

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Jr. Corps are collecting these tapes. When enough are collected they can turn them in for a TV set or other merchandise which in turn a can be raffled off to raise funds.

So, when you shop at Dominion, save those tapes and mail them to:
MRS. D. BOTTERWEG,
27 HUMBELLER ROAD
REXDALE, Ontario.

Thanks.

The BIG MOUTH (continued)

PEOPLE IN AND AROUND THE CORPS:

Our Congratulations on "wedding bells" for Miss Cathy Collins of the Optimists Guard and Gord Parrott of the Drum Line....Those of you who have been buying Optimist Booster material at corps contests over the past few years will no longer be purchasing this material from Mr. and Mrs. Burrage who did such a great job for several past years. They are no longer with the Corps. They will be missed.Talented Paul McCusker who marched with the corps over the past two years is busy working on the first Corps Comic Book that will be at least 40 pages of drum corps humour. Paul is taking a cartoon course at school and part of this book is a school project. Some samples of his work for the book was exhibited at a recent guard contest with a survey taken of the Corps kids there as to how they felt about buying a corps comic book. The reaction was positive with most saying they would buy their own copy, pay up to 50¢ for it...Young Raymond Bassett (Ex-member of the Kinsmen) is fast developing into one of Optimists better solists... and Ray Roussel, Optimists Bugle Instructor and Arranger is REALLY coming forth with some interesting material for this year...along with Ron Kaiser's drum scores...WOW!!!!...we may not be the biggest but....Optimists will be playing some soccer this summer...they have booked some half time shows with the Toronto Metros at Varsity Stadium, June 19th July 3rd and July 24th...

DCI NORTH CONTEST LINEUP AUGUST 11th: The DCI officials have announced the order of unit appearance at the DCI North Contest at the Borough of York Stadium Sunday evening, August 11th. These are the times and the order of appearance: 7:30--Princemen, 7:47--DeLaSalle, 8:04--Argonne Rebels, 8:21--Stockton Commodors, 8:38--Optimists, 8:55--Intermission, 9:12--The Troopers, 9:29--Des Plaines Vanguard, 9:46--The Cavaliers, 10:03--Etobicoke Crusaders, 10:20--St. Johns Girls.

NEWS AND RUMORS FROM STATESIDE: Blue Rock to feature a 5 minute opener...Aaron Copeland's "Rodeo" and "Appalachian Spring"....Blue Star has a 45 member brass line and open their show with a wild "Tiger Rag"...Both MUCHACHOS and ST. ANDREWS in the East are supposed to have 60 man horn lines...Cavaliers from Chicago town plan a solid 48 member brass line featuring an entire new 1st half program with the 2nd half a repeat of their '73 show...Kilties are to have 54 Brass, 22 percussion (7 snares) 24 flags and 10 rifles. "Brigadoon" Fanfare and "McDuffy's March" are their Off-the-line feature. For the Boston Crusaders some of their 1974 music will be "Oklahoma Crude" theme, the theme from "The Exorcist" and "Cast a Giant Shadow" and "The Way We Were"

OPTIMISTS 1974!

.....
Sat. June 1
Sun. June 2
Sat. June 8 Contest--York Stadium.
Sun. June 9
Sat. June 15 Contest/Parade-Ajax, Ont.
Sun. June 16 Church Parade--Toronto.
Sat. June 22 Contest--CNE Stadium.
Sun. June 23
Sat. June 29 Contest, St. Jerome, P.Q. (T)
Sun. June 30 Contest, Verdun, P.Q. (T)
Mon. July 1 Parade/Contest, North York.
Sat. July 6
Sun. July 7 Exhibition, Centennial Stad.
Mon. July 8 to Sun. July 14. Holiday week.
Sat. July 20 Contest, Guelph Ont.
Sun. July 21 Exhibition, Kitchener (T)
Sat. July 27 Contest, Brantford, Ont.
Sun. July 28 Contest, Etobicoke.
Fri. Aug. 2 (PM) Beginning of Tour.
Sat. Aug. 3 Toledo, Ohio.
Sun. Aug. 4 Toledo, Ohio.
Mon. Aug. 5 On Road.
Tue. Aug. 6
Wed. Aug. 7 Butler, Penn.
Thurs. Aug. 8 Marion Ohio Parade.
Fri. Aug. 9 Marion, Ohio Contest Prelims.
Sat. Aug. 10 Marion Ohio.
Sun. Aug. 11 Contest, Borough York Stadium
Thurs. Aug. 15 (PM) Could leave for Ithaca.
Fri. Aug. 16 DCI Nationals Prelims Ithaca.
Sat. Aug. 17 DCI Nationals, Ithaca, NY.
Sun. Aug. 18 Parade, Toronto.
Sat. Aug. 24 Contest, Titusville, Penn.
Sun. Aug. 25
Sat. Aug. 31 Nationals Camp
Sun. Sept. 1 " "
Mon. Sept. 2 Nationals, CNE Stadium, Toronto.



the optimists 1974 program notes

1974 marks the twentieth year of the existence of the Optimists from the humble beginnings as a Boy Scout Trumpet Band in 1955. Since then, the Optimists have been successful in winning 14 National Titles over 17 competitive seasons.

The 1974 music is under the direction of Drum Major Mike Arsenaault. The Colour Guard Captain is Cheryl Blandford and the Guard Sargeant is Robin Gildner. The 1974 Repertoire:

OFF-THE-LINE: Excerpts from "Le Coq D'Or" from the opera by Rimsky-Korsakoff.

CONCERT: "It Better End Soon" by the rock group, 'Chicago.'

OFF-THE-FIELD: A medley of two numbers, "Beautiful People" as performed by the 'New Seekers', and a Quincy Jones hit, "You've Got it Bad, Girl."

Music arrangements are by Ray Roussel, Percussion arrangements by Ron Kaiser and staging by Greg Oxenham and Bill Kane. For further information on the Optimists write, The Optimists, Suite 302, 205 Keele Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6P 2K1

Editorial!

(of some sort)

Drum Corps are the youngest, boldest, loudest, most immature division of the musical world; it's as brash as a show-off, as talented as a genius, as self-destructive as a powerful ego; it's a magnet for people who are aggressive, flamboyant, youthful, bohemian; it attracts people who will work for food stamps or stock options; it's full of technical gold mines waiting to be discovered; it's infectious, stimulating, never boring; it oscillates from the possible to the impossible; it's a hobby where amateurs can show up pros, where newcomers can out-perform the established leaders; it's privileged and pampered; it's unruly, innovative and provocative; it's a delightful dilemma, astounding, confounding and intriguing; it's dazzling, daring and frivolous, it's proud, vain and egocentric; it's interesting, imaginative and perceptive. It's a hobby that is operated more by instinct and guts than hardfast rules and overwhelms the outsiders and perplexes the insiders; it's Alice in Wonderland... But I Love It!!!

MID-ATLANTIC JUDGES ASSOCIATION



THE "OVER 21" DILEMMA by Peter McCusker

Time stops for no one. The inevitable end is here. At last, the moment many years ago that you thought would never come... has finally arrived.

In these last moments, you reflect back on all the summers of marching, sweating, winning, and the losing that you've gone through, and what these meant to you.

You gingerly finger the uniform you know you'll wear no more. Your second skin for such a brief period of time. The distinguishing mark that made you a member of your Corps. You recall the great bunch of people with which you enjoyed companionship. The shared secrets, the jokes, the joking around were all part of it... even though you often fought. But most of all, you remember the times when you shared the contest field, to prove your superiority. The eleven minutes of pure excitement, precision and love.

Now it is all but memories.

Many swear to remain to help out and refuse to admit to themselves that it really is all over. A disheartening fact is the one when your Corps had a down year. You wished that you could have topped off your career with a National Title, but not all can climb into first position. You were a Champion regardless, because you practised with diligence the factors that make a True Champion; Pride, Dignity, Camaraderie and Sportsmanship.

As seasons go by, and you sit in the stands year after year and you watch your Corps climb to victory or fall to defeat, you finger the worn jacket you once wore with pride and now wear in memory and love of what once was. You've grown a bit older, and realise that time stops for no one.

BOOSTER CLUB / LADIES AUXILLARY

After a rather busy and hectic summer, the Ladies' Auxillary embarked on a new season of fund raising for the Corps. The first commitment was toward the drive to help raise money toward the purchase of shakos for the Colour Guard in time for the Circuit Guard Contest season. The first fall event took place on October 13th with a Rummage Sale. Here the girls from the Guard set up their own refreshment booth and we all raised \$64.80. Although this was no monumental sum, it was never the less a beginning.

With the end of October, it was time to prepare the Annual Banquet for the Corps. Due to the hard work of all of the Ladies' Auxillary, we managed to survive another dinner. Whew!!! Through the money we had raised to this time, we were able to pay for the hall as well as serve dinner. It was quite different this year as we had a dance following the dinner.

By the time November rolled around, the Ladies' Auxillary Catering Service was rolled into action as we catered to the Optimist Club Dance at St Lawrence Hall. Our effort was well received and the dance was quite a success.

November 20th saw the Ladies hold a Jewellery Party and Raffle. As with the other events, we were again well received and we managed to make quite a tidy sum.

One of our latest efforts was to cater to the Canadian Colour Guard Circuit Contest at Northview Heights Secondary School on January 26th. For the first time in 1974, we were able to see our girls in the Guard compete and put up quite a good effort for their first outing of the year.

Because of our efforts so far, we were able to give the Corps a Banquet and also present them with a cheque for \$250.00 toward the purchase of shakos and rifle slings.

The year has just begun as far as we're concerned. Although we have managed to help a bit, there is still so much that we could do, and we would like to do quite a few things. There is only one thing missing, we really need more ladies to help out - think up new ideas, act on them and just plain help out. At present the Corps is working on a new Parent's Booster Club, while this is comprised mainly of concerned parents, you need not be a parent to help us out.

A little note to you Corps members... get your parents, grand parents, aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers, everyone interested, to get in touch with us so that together, we can better help you.



12th Annual Awards Banquet

The Optimists wound up their 1973 season tonight with their Twelfth Annual Awards Banquet in East Toronto.

The dinner itself was the culmination of great efforts of the Ladies' Auxillary to ensure that this banquet would surpass even the excellence of last year's affair. The roast turkey dinner was nothing short of excellent. Although the last minute fussing and fretting over minute details may not have been truly appreciated, it will be noted here that the Ladies' Auxillary did their "damnest best" for the Corps. This was quite a distinct and distinctive change from the "quick hamburgers, pop and chips" of the contest season. (Of course, we all remember MacDonald's in Hamilton.)

The special guest and speaker of the evening was Barry Bell, Music Director of the Optimists through their "Glory Years," from 1958 to 1969. Introduced by Joe Gianna, one of Barry's star pupils, Barry expressed a feeling of warmth having been asked to speak to the Corps again as he had done so many times before at meetings, practices and pre-contest huddles.

Of all the instructors that the Corps has ever had, he probably saw the Corps through more changes than any other. Barry was there when the Optimists became a reality, and he also taught the gys who beat, "...Sac and Garfield and Mighty St. Joe's..." It was obvious that the Corps had changed since he was last a part of the Optimists. But Barry went on to describe the feelings and ideals that he and the Optimist Corps of his time shared. It was also obvious that these same basic ideals of pride and decency had not died but had endured, to today. The evidence was in the way that the Corps members held respect for their Corps and for themselves. It was this same "Inner Optimistic Feeling" that would ensure the livelihood of the Corps into the future.

After a token of thanks by Greg Oxenham, the President of the Optimist Club of York-Toronto, Rex Martin, followed talking of the association of the Club with the Corps. He closed with the pledge that the Club would do its utmost to support the Corps in the coming year. At this point, it was up to the President to present the 1973 Rings to Michael Arsenault, Bob Beachin, Ramiro Brandao, Derek Branton, Dana Burrage, James Farrell, Brian Hogan, Calvin Johansson, George Nasello, Greg Oxenham and Robert Trimble.

Attention was then focused on the Individual Award Trophies. The Rokkie of the Year Award was presented by Gord Robinson to a rather surprised Gerry Chilton of the Baritone Horn Section.

The Guard Trophy was presented by Corrie Branton, last year's recipient, to Robin Gildner, obviously a very popular choice.

The 1973 Corpsman of the Year Trophy was presented by Peter Byrne. He talked of his own feelings upon winning this award last year, and what it meant to him. The presentation was made to Kevin Martin, a six year member of the Baritone Horn Section. Kevin, on being asked to say a few words, described his own thoughts upon winning this award, especially with it being his last year in the Corps.

With the last of the trophies presented, a slight intermission was called for as the tables and chairs were cleared and the hall was instantly transformed into a dance hall. Here, dancing resumed until the early morning to the strains of "Derek the D. J. plus Friends" and their collection of nifty neato records.

In all tonight wound up a rather disappointing but enlightening year. Despite all the pitfalls confronting the Corps, the Optimists held their head high and managed to make it through with a minimum of wear. The key here was that everyone learned from their mistakes.

With this in mind, we look forward to 1974.

1973 awards



Corpsman of the Year
KEVIN MARTIN

Nothing more need be said other than the fact that the Corpsman of the Year is the best member of the Corps.

Since this award was first presented in 1966 to the Corps by Gord Robinson, eight people have won this award.

1966.....	George Wright
1967.....	Ron Cooper
1968.....	Paul Thompson
1969.....	Ray Roussel
1970.....	George Tamaki
1971.....	Greg Oxenham
1972.....	Peter Byrne
1973.....	Kevin Martin



ROBIN GILDNER
Guard Member of the Year

In 1967, Ron Cooper thought that it was time that the Gurd received some of the recognition that it rightly deserved. With this in mind, he presented the Corps with a trophy for the best Guard member of the year. There have been seven recipients of

this award since

1967.....Robert Ledwards
 1968.....John Tierney
 1969.....Bernahard Roelecke
 1970.....John O'Leary
 1971.....Robert Trimble
 1972.....Corrie Branton
 1973.....Robin Gildner



Rookie of the Year GERRY CHILTON

The Rookie of the Year, like the Corpsman of the Year, is the best member of the Corps in his/her first year in the Corps.

This trophy, presented to the Corps by Gord Robinson, was actually awarded a year before the Corpsman Trophy. Since then, there have been nine recipients.

1965.....David Simms
 1966.....John MacDonald
 1967.....John Christie
 1968.....Calvin Johansson
 1969.....Derek Branton
 1970.....Doug Bass
 1971.....Ray Skyvington
 1972.....Ted Butson
 1973.....Gerry Chilton

THE LAST TIME... by Douglas McPhail, adapted by Randy Cochrane

The heat of the season, the trips and the big shows had passed and the Nationals was as cold as usual. Besides the cold, the wind blew in September and the confusion that follows and surrounds the last contest of the year.

For too many it was the last show with the Corps. Your last show. But there wasn't any sentiment to speak of. Not yet. No remorse, no sighs, no drama; just Optimists and their casual indifference that preceded another show. There was the normal amount of crabbing and whining, not anything in particular, just something to crab and whine about. There was no regret. We were Optimists and the time for remembering wasn't even in sight yet.

It was cold on the line, but you'll remember it only as good. Time besides aging, mellows the past and the nagging instructors, the tired lips, stiff wrists and sore feet on a hot drill field will have been worth it. You'll remember the dissection, the bickering, water fights or just plain fights. Everybody fought because they liked to win, and winning is better when you fight for it. Maybe you'll remember contests and the winning; or card games and the losing. Or perhaps remember a girl, or a guy. But you'll remember the Corps. It was good then. You were in it.

By now you were coming out of concert. The grass moved deftly under you. Your feet turned, stepped out and pivoted with the thoughtless instinct of confidence. With a mean snap of intent the horns came down, a drum solo and just as meanly the horns came up into "More and More."

I believe it's good to be part of something worthwhile; and something that strains for your best is worth the while.

A final front, bugles gleaming...the tender strains of "Sometimes in Winter."

Yes, not it was over. Take off the make-up, all games must end. The party's over my friend. Your eyes were watering a bit now. The wind was a mean cold. Yes, it's been a long time since '68.

On to retreat. Off with the emptiness of third place.

When you hung up your blouse, you pulled the sleeve down so it wouldn't get creased and you smoothed down the shoulders almost with a little reluctant affection. But that's silly. Imagine getting sentimental over a piece of cloth. A little piece of green cloth. Green satin cloth. A smooth green satin cloth that shimmered with pride beneath the lights and heard the cheers that made it strong. You mused at their missing it, it would be nice to keep...

But they'd miss it. They'll give it to some new guy who's greener than the pinnacles of his Optimistic aspirations and who'll end up beating the corps that made you leave the field muttering... "Next time!"

Along with your year's work, your uniform was packed away.

The stands were empty and the wind pushed bits of paper across the field...the bus was revving up and the guys were waiting.

For them, at least, this was a time to start all over again.

"The Last Time" by Douglas McPhail is a reprint from GCC vol. 3 #6, November 1963. Doug McPhail was a marching member of Optimists' bugle line in the early 60's. After reaching the age of 21, Doug returned as Drill Writer and Instructor. In this, probably the least known of his writings, Randy Cochrane, a former member of the drum line in the late 60's and early 70's, chose to update the story. As we see, this story is timeless and can be applicable to everyone.

"I SURVIVED THE DEL BANQUET!"

BY BRIAN
HOGAN
AS TOLD TO
DENNIS
MORI.

A few months ago, I had the honour of being invited to the Annual De La Salle Corps Dinner. At first leary of the offer, I finally decided to accept. I thought for sure that I would be eaten alive.

The Baquet was held in the basement cafeteria of De La Salle College. The Bar (that's right, I said the BAR) opened at 7:00 P. M. and the Dinner itself was served at 7:30 P. M. The dinner, consisting of roast beef, potatoes and mixed vegetables, was rather nice. This was followed by cake and ice cream for dessert.

Unfortunately, the dinner was a cafeteria-type affair complete with line-up, (you remember Symposium Buffet) paper plates, plastic knives and forks and little containers of salt and pepper that you get with your order of chicken at Scott's Chicken Villa. Not bad for a picnic.

But being very careful not to pan from the people who so graciously invited me, they did do an admirable job with what they had, everything taken into consideration.

Rather than an event to honour the members of the corps, I got the impression that this was intended as a money making venture. After devoting a whole year to their corps, the kids of De La Salle deserved more than this. It was a shame that a banquet never was included into their budget.

Bob Cobham, Director of De La Salle, started the awards presentations awarding five year medals to thirteen members of the corps and its staff. He then presented certificates to all of the corps members, staff and executive.

The guest speaker for the night was Vince Macciocchi, Chief Judge of the C. J. A., who talked of the history of the C. J. A. and Drum Corps in Canada in general. He also put in a plea on behalf of the C. J. A. informing everyone to consider, in the future, the idea of becoming a judge, if they met the qualifications.

Despite the absence of a microphone and the added bother of a few inimpressed people who chose to have their own conversation at the same time, Mr. Macciocchi did make an impression on those who did listen.

After the speeches, two special presentations were made. The first was a sabre awarded to Dominic Donato, the 1973 Guard Captain by Cathy Page, the 1974 Guard Captain. Cathy supplimented this by promising everyone that the guard would wait until after shows to go to the washroom. The second award was presented to Jaqui Kennedy on behalf of the corps by Carol MacDonald. The trophy read, "To the #1 Nag of the Year." Jaqui is chief chaparone, seamstress, hair stylist, nurse, chauffeur, chief cook and bottle washer and also part time mother for



the corps.

The first part of the night ended with Mr. Cobham thanking everyone for attending and wished the corps greater success in 1974. Mr. Cobham pointed out the achievements of the corps in '73, including the 13th place finish at D. C. I. Finals, but somehow forgot about the second place finish at the U. S. Open.

With the first part of the evening finished, the rest of the evening was left to dance and drink away.

In looking back, a bit more money would have gone a far way to improving the dinner. Though partially disappointing, it was still an enjoyable one. In finish, I would like to thank the De La Salle Drum Corps for allowing me to be a part of their night.

Oh yes, I wasn't eaten alive.

Don Tate

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CHERYL BLANDFORD Guard Captain



1974 marks the first time in the history of the Optimists that the Corps has ever had a female Guard Captain. Following in the heels of Greg Oxenham, who had been appointed to Drill Instructor, is Cheryl Blandford. Originally from Sarnia, Ontario, where she spent quite a few years with the Lionettes, Cheryl came down to Toronto, and eventually married Larry, of the Drum Line.

Besides the Blandford side of the family, Cheryl has a sister, Debbie Miller, who is leader of the Rifle Line.

GCC: You were originally from Sarnia, but you decided to come to Toronto. Why?

Cheryl: I moved down to Toronto for quite a few reasons. Larry was the main reason I came down, but other reasons were that there was no work in Sarnia and it was pretty dead there. I needed a change of scenery.

GCC: Different people become interested in the Corps in different ways. How did you become interested in the Optimists?

Cheryl: Well, actually it may sound funny, but I hated Optimists all my life until I met Larry in 1971. I moved down to Toronto in December 1971 and I moved in with Larry's parents. It was soon after that I got engaged.

When Optimists started to accept girls in the Corps, I decided that I wanted to join. I've been in and out of Drum Corps since I was ten, so it was pretty hard to get it out of my system. So when the Optimists took in girls, I took another stab at it.

GCC: How about your own parents? Are you still close to your family in Sarnia?

Cheryl: I'm still pretty close to my family in Sarnia, especially my Dad. If it hadn't been for him, I'm sure that I wouldn't be here now.

GCC: On the other hand, you must have made quite a few friends in Toronto.

Cheryl: I've met quite a few people in Toronto since moving down. I've a lot of friends out of Drum Corps as well as in. Sometimes I think that it's too bad that they aren't as interested in Corps. Other times I think that they were smart not to get interested. But don't get me wrong, I think that Drum Corps is fantastic and I think that everyone should at one time be a member of a Drum Corps. It's good experience.

GCC: Getting back to the Optimists, why did you join in the first place?

Cheryl: I think that the main reason was that I had never been in a really good Corps before. Sarnia Lionettes were fun to be in, but today, Jr. A Corps is where all the action seems to be now. You know, I've always wanted to march in a good Corps and compete in top competitions against top Corps.

GCC: I guess that in the two and a half years that you have spent with the Corps, you've had quite a number of memorable experiences.

Cheryl: I guess that I've had quite a few highlights since the first year. Besides winning Nationals '72, one I can really remember is the Shrine show. It was my first big contest and I was nervous. I think that the whole Guard was pretty scared because none of us seemed to know what we were doing. After all, it was a couple of weeks after Camp and we really hadn't been together all that long.

GCC: On the topic of girls, do you think that they have finally been accepted on equal terms with the rest of the Corps? You have to remember that for seventeen years, the Optimists were known as an all-male Corps.

Cheryl: I think that the girls have been accepted into the Corps by now. It's been two years now since we joined. Winning Nationals '72 really helped out as far as confidence in an all girl guard is concerned.

GCC: How well do you get along with Larry (Cheryl's husband) with respect to the Corps? You are both leaders of your own sections and you are basically the same outgoing personalities within the Corps.

Cheryl: We fight all the time about which section of the Corps is better. Larry being the section leader of the Drum Line keeps trying to drill it into my mind that the Drum Line is where it's at. Being Guard Captain, I completely disagree. Seriously though, we always speak of the Corps as a whole. The Corps is not an individual, nor is it one section. Everyone makes up the Corps and that's how you should look at it - as a group. Individually we are people. Together, we are the Optimists.

GCC: Here's a pretty heavy question. Do you see yourself as a good leader in the Corps?

Cheryl: I feel that I can communicate pretty well with most kids in the Corps. As for the Executive, I think that I can sit down and talk to them without putting my foot in my mouth. As for the part of being a good leader, I've never gotten myself into any real tight situations where I had to keep a level head, so I really don't know how I would react. I guess that I just have to wait and see what the season brings.

GCC: What would you like to see the Corps accomplish for the coming season while you are Guard Captain?

Cheryl: What I would like to see this year is for the Corps to field a good marching unit so we can set our goals for DCI. I think that we could if we have the co-operation from all the kids along with a lot of help from the Executive and the Instructors. As for myself, I'd

like to see the Guard win at Circuit Guard this year. I'm sure that we can.

GCC: This year as Guard Captain you'll be in constant contact with people you've never been around with in previous years. What are your thoughts on the Executive Director, the Director, and the Drill Instructor?

Cheryl: Joe Gianna does a really good job of organizing the Corps on the Executive level. He really doesn't deal directly with the Corps as someone like Don might but as a person he's a very nice person as well as very fair in judgement. Don Daber is a fantastic Corps man. I've never met a person who puts himself out and does as much for the Corps as Don does. I think that the Corps owes him a great deal of gratitude for what he's done through the years. Greg Oxenham was an excellent Guard Captain and he really knows what he's talking about. I'm glad that I will be working with him because I think that he will help me out as much as he can to set me straight if I don't measure up to what a Guard Captain should be. One thing though, Greg Oxenham won't make you look like a fool.

GCC: I think that we have come to the end but before we do, what are your own thoughts on yourself and your future in Drum Corps?

Cheryl: Since this is my last year, next year I'm hoping I can come back and help out with the Guard. But I don't know if I could get enough respect from the girls. Eventually I'd like to become a judge. That's why I'd like to come back next year as an instructor so that I can learn as much about everything as I can. But no matter what, I'll still be hanging around.

the'74 Circuit Guard....

Guard Captain: Cheryl Blandford (they must be sister and brother)

National Flag: Rob Trimble

Rifles: Susan Barrett, Robin Gildner, Debbie Miller, Joan O'Brien

Secondary: Janice Arsenault, Corrie Branton, Mary Collins, Laura King, Karen Martel, Cathy Moore, Loretta Moore, Janice Parrott, Linda Smith

Drummer: Larry Blandford (they must be brother and sister)

Show Designers: Greg Oxenham, Brian Hogan

Every Sunday, some Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, the Circuit Guard has been seen busily readying themselves for a contest season that starts some four months before the regular Drum Corps contest season.

Since September, the girls of the Guard have been working quite hard to field a competitive Circuit Guard. All of this preparatory was capped off with the Guard's first performance at Northview Heights Secondary School on Saturday, January 26th.

On hand for this, the second Circuit Guard competition this season, were the Patriots (St. Catharines) #1 and #2 Guards, Kitchener-Waterloo Ventures, Precious Blood Gold, White and Red Guards, and the East Scarborough Kinsmen Blue and Gold Guards as well as the Optimists Guard (Green, eh Brian?).

The contest, sponsored by the Canadian Colour Guard Circuit, was ably handled by Art McCabe and Diane Bond. The announcer was none other than affable Rick Scanlon.

This was the first Circuit Guard Competition in Toronto this year and was very well attended. For the Optimists, it was obvious that they had not rid themselves of their "butterflies." But that is how it was for many guards this night. For many, this was their first opportunity to perform before their families and friends...and we all know how nerve wracking that can be!

With respect to the other guards present, the Optimists perhaps took to the contest floor with a bit more drive than had most other guards. It was obvious that this same "raw drive" motivated by fear, forced the Guard undertime and into a host of costly "nerve" errors.

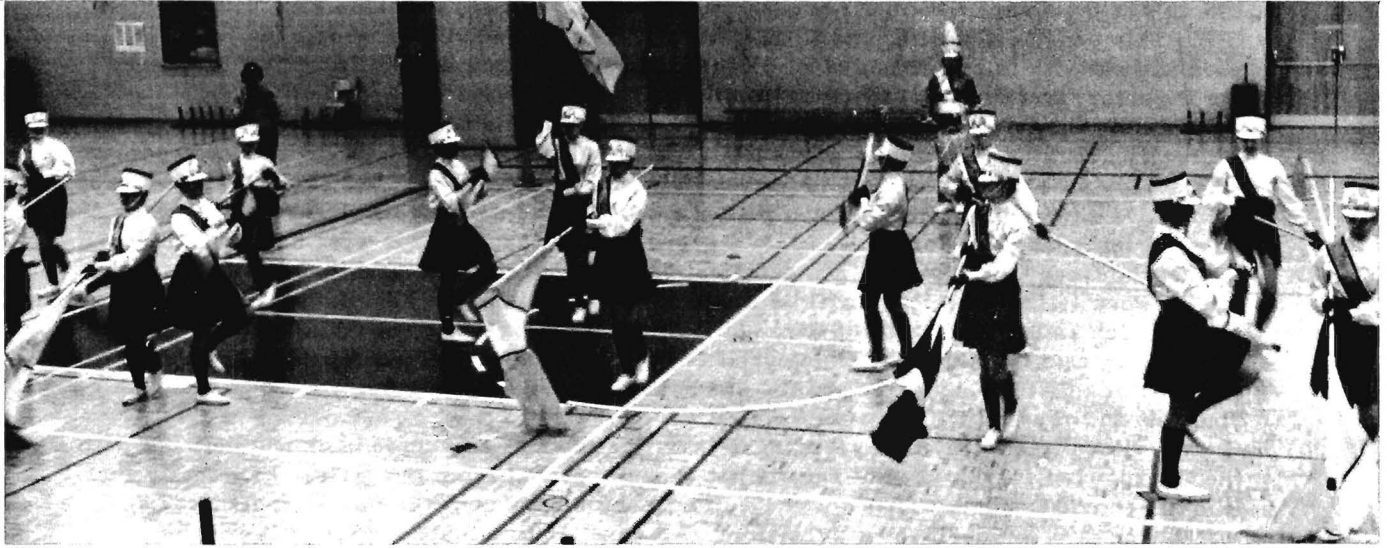
Although the Guard finished third, it was never-the-less a very good effort...especially when you take into account the fact that they had only learned the second half of their show only hours before out in the parking lot. In fact, they were still practicing in the hallway on their way to the contest floor minutes before their turn to perform. If that hadn't been enough, the Guard had been suffering from multiple injuries and during the previous week, spares had to be activated to fill vacancies in the line.

The second Circuit Guard contest saw the Optimists Guard in Kitchener on February 2nd. On hand for this contest, sponsored by the K-W Ventures, were the Patriots #1 and #2 Guards, East Scarborough Kinsmen, Rochester Jr. Crusaders, Simcoe Golden Lions, Majestics (St. Catharines), St John's Brantford, Iron Brigade, K-W Flying Dutchmen, Windsor Guardsmen, Ventures and the Optimists.

This night, all Guards had improved over the last Circuit Guard show. As for the Optimists, troubles still plagued the Guard. Robin Gildner was activated to flag, and with the untimely loss of Norma Crilly, Colour Guard Captain, Cheryl Blandford was activated to rifle the week before. To fill the void at Guard Captain, Greg Oxenham made a "guest appearance" as Guard Captain. Despite all these changes the Guard did never-the-less manage a close third on G. E. As for the final placing, they finished fourth among twelve Guards. It was rather a delight to see so many supporters out to this contest, many who had travelled the long route from Toronto to cheer the Guard on.

With the day of Individuals at Seneca College

The day of Individuals at Seneca College marked the third outing of the Optimists Guard. Sponsored by the Seneca Princemen as part of their "Drum Corps Day," this proved to be the largest field of competition in a contest to date. Of the fifteen Corps present, the Optimists finished fourth, placing third in G. E., four points out of four place and finishing six points out of first place in Execution. As luck would have it, again, two new members



were given their "Baptism Under Fire" for this contest.

April 6th found the Circuit Guard at the Optimist International Circuit Guard Contest at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto. Although an air of confusion seemed to cloud up an otherwise fine attempt by Contest Organizers, Harold Bradley and Optimist Club President, Rex Martin, all seemed to be settled by the time the show began. Briefly, problems stemming from the late arrival of two entry applications caused trouble when it was actually found that these applications were lost in the Mail. Subsequently, what was to be a contest of ten guards, became a contest of twelve guards.

With a little hard work and a lot of luck, the Optimists' Guard won a share of first place at this contest. The final results had the Optimists tied with the Majestics, due to a 4.0 penalty to the Majestics. The Iron Brigade finished third. It should be remembered that to put this show in its proper perspective, the Optimists while doing quite a good show, still managed a few "Chronic Problems," (ie. dress intervals, nervousness, etc.). This was coupled with the fact that both the Majestics and the Iron Brigade had not done as good a job as we have been accustomed to seeing this year. Never-the-less, first place is first place, and tonight was the first indication that Optimists had a chance to win Nationals.

The Optimists finally won their first contest out and out, at Waterford on the 20th. Although neither Majestics nor Iron Brigade were present, Optimists faced a determined effort by the home town favorites, Simcoe Golden Lions. The Simcoe Golden Lions, who finished second were instructed by Bob Stevenson. Congratulations are in order to Bob Stevenson, his staff and the Simcoe Girls for an excellent job this year. A Guard with great appeal, they should prove a definite asset to the Simcoe Lions Drum Corps come summer.

Nationals this year were in Kitchener, Sunday, April 28th. The feeling seemed to be that the title hinged on three guards, the Majestics, the Iron Brigade and the Optimists. After the afternoon prelims when the three guards finished in that order, the same feeling prevailed. As was the case, we found that this was not the case. The Majestics after a strong show, had walked away from everyone else and this was really no contest at all. Finishing second were the Iron Brigade who had also put on an excellent show. In third place, followed the Optimists, a 2.0 point penalty knocking them out of second to third position. Looking back, the Majestics just had too much going for them with too much of a high impact G. E. show to be overtaken. The Iron brigade afforded us another view of an exciting blend of high execution and a good G. E. show. The Optimists? They began the season as the "dark-horse" contenders. For a while we all thought that they were going to pull the rabbit out of the hat, but in the end, they had been "hurt" too much to make a come back.

L. Grant Smith
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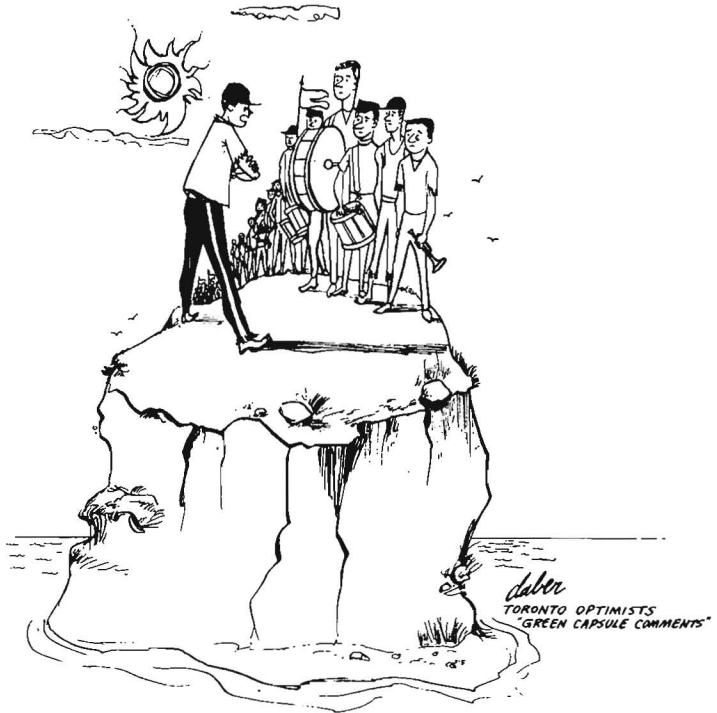
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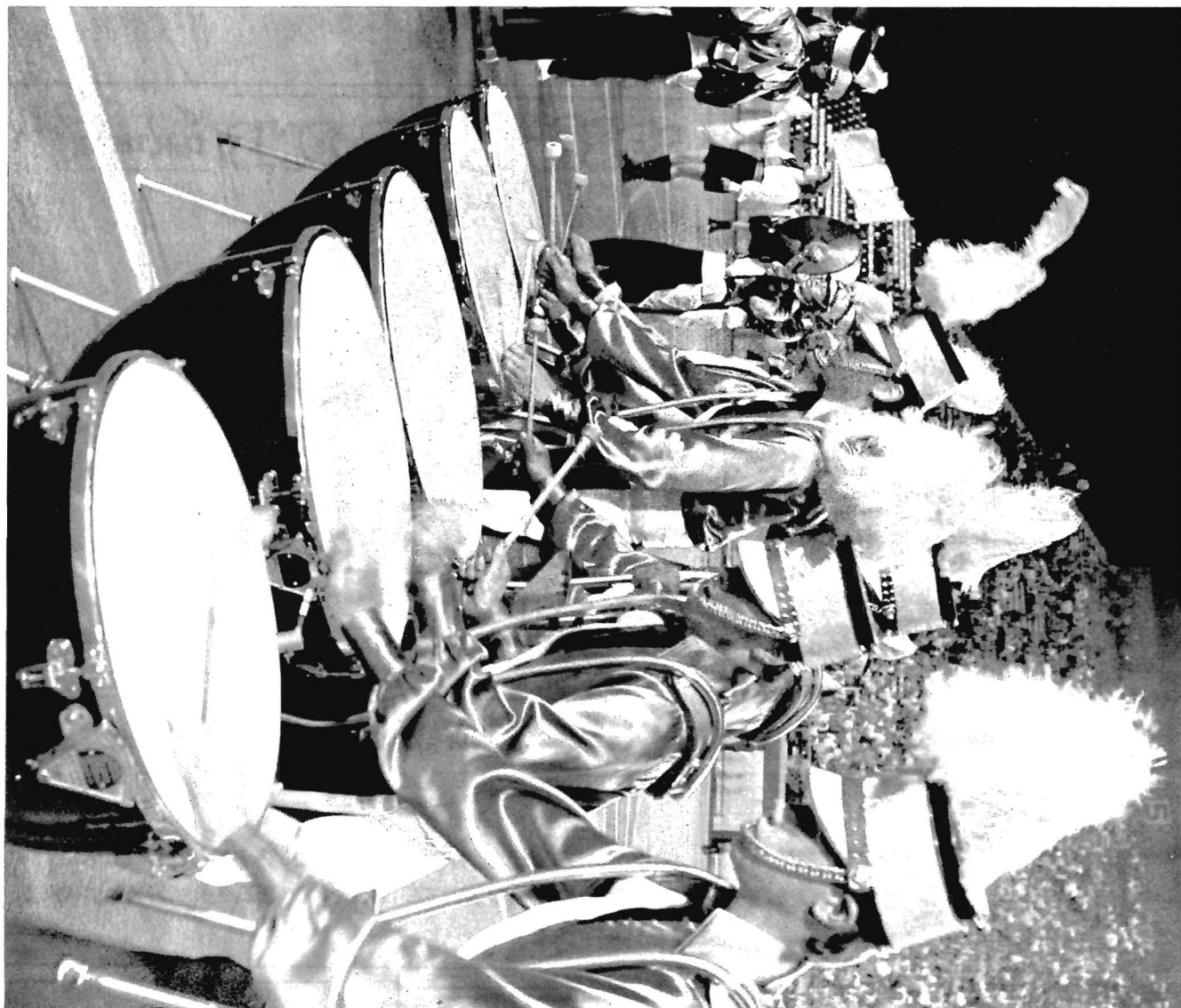
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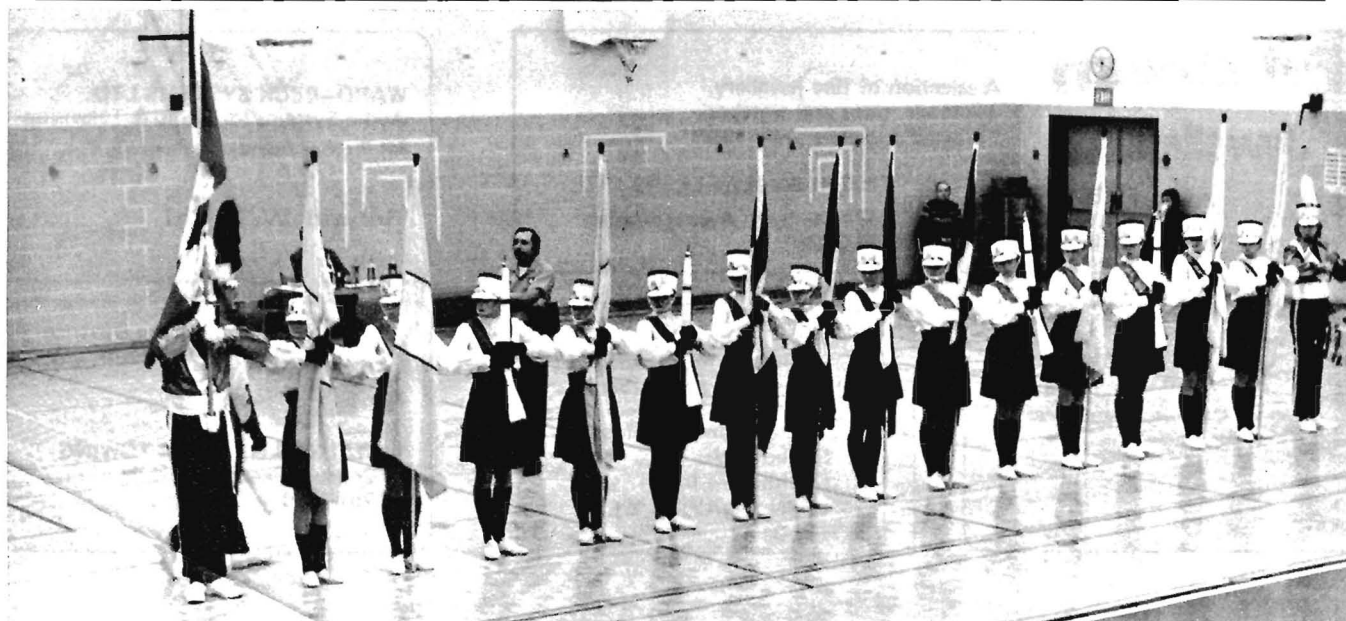
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