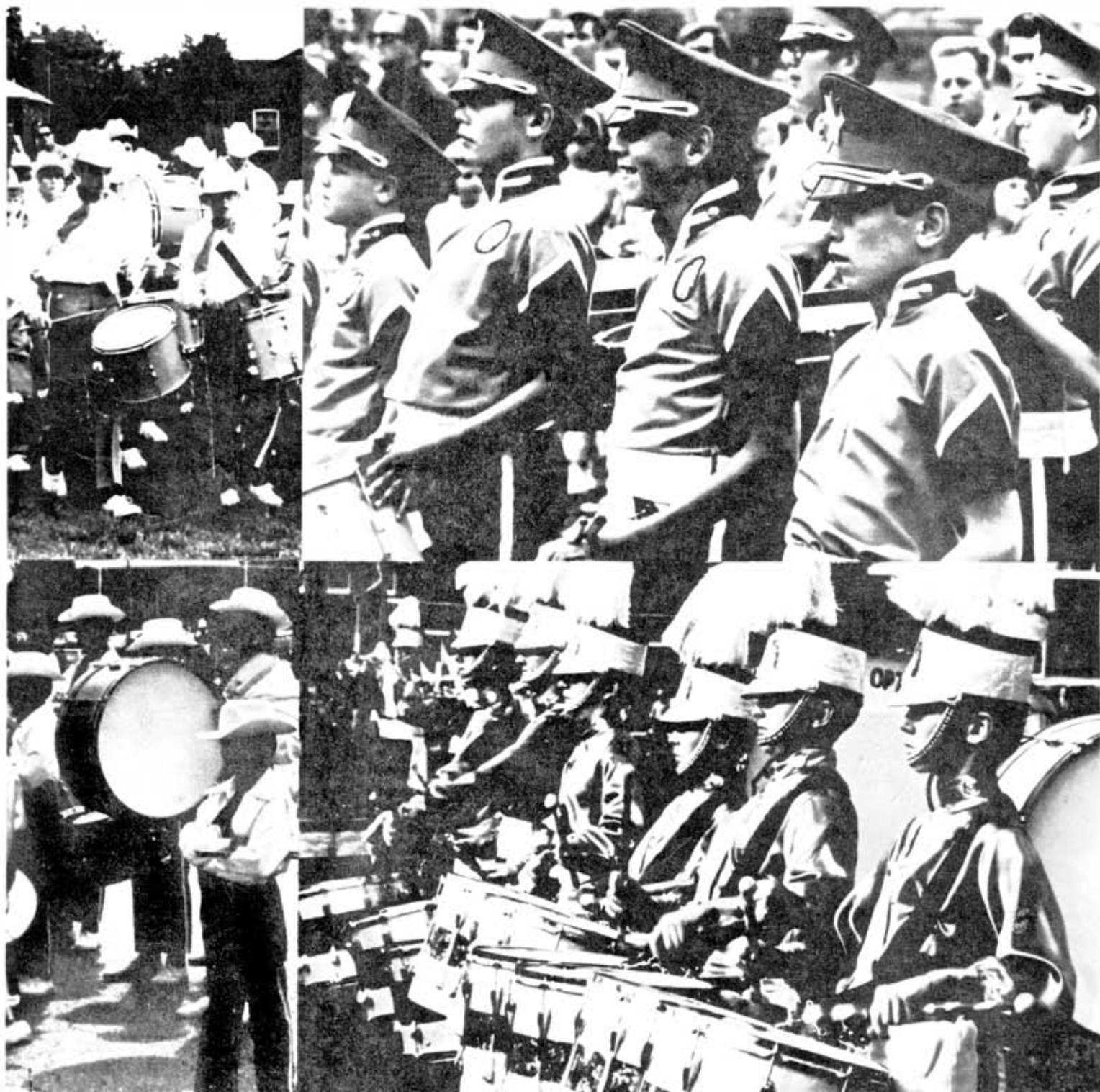


# Drums!





THE OPTIMIST LANCERS DRUM CORPS  
 THE OPTIMIST CADETS DRUM CORPS  
 THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS DRUM CORPS



# g.c.c.

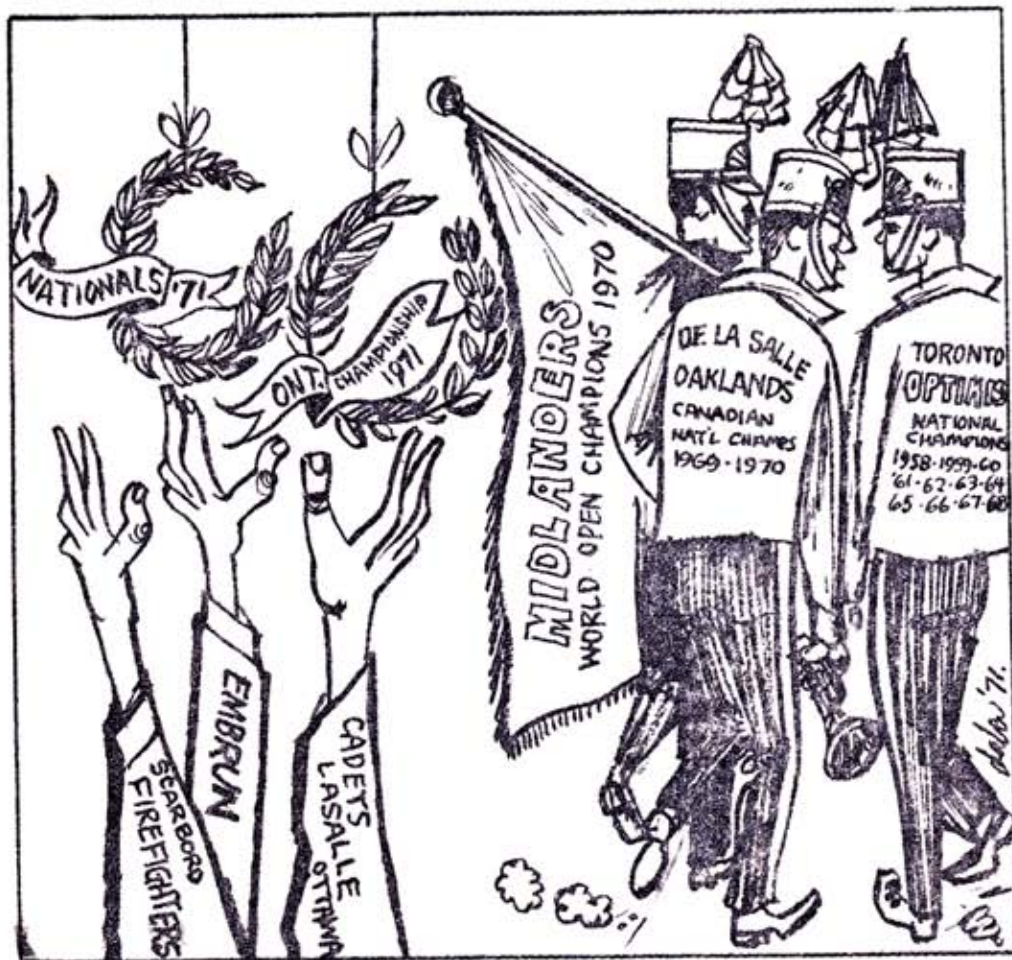
Jan. Feb. 1971

Vol. II No. 1

## Its happened! OPTIMISTS, DEL., MIDLANDERS LEAVE C.D.C.A. (& O.D.C.A.)!

TORONTO, Jan. 31st. 1971: Well, it happened. There is a split between at least three drum corps in Canada and their Association. As of 10:00PM this evening two of the National Champions departed and by the Monday morning the Midlanders of London also left. In the history of the Association this is probably the first time corps have left (other than actually folding a corps). The fact that these are first class corps, National Champions past and present only further points up the seriousness of the matter.

Dissatisfaction with the CDCA and ODCA has been building up over the past few years, not only with the 3 corps that have



... UP FOR GRABS...

THE COVER:

# DRUMS

This issue of G.C.C. is dedicated to the drum lines of the Lancers, the Cadets and Optimists. The cover photos were taken last September when all three corps appeared at the Sunday recruiting drive in Scarborough.

Some of the drummers featured on the cover are: LANCERS—Duncan Green, Allan Gott and Linda Coffey and Mark Blandford. Cadets: Robb Scott and Richard Sawyer. JRS: Jim Kane, Dana Burrage, Doug Bass, Ken Bain, Rick Roussel and Larry Blandford.

HOW LONG IS THAT PARADE, MR. BILLINGTON?





left the Association, but several others as well. One highlight of the crisis was reached last summer with the investigation of the 'over 21' Jr. members. By the end of Nationals in September several corps were talking of leaving, some going as far as having an in-depth review with their Executive Boards. The Optimists were one of these corps.

Some progress was made at the CDCA By-laws meeting in Kingston in December after the disastrous Ontario Assoc. meeting in Waterloo in November. In Kingston the six Jr. "A" M&M corps actually got together and agreed in pushing through some changes in the bylaws and this did happen the next day at the Saturday sessions. Appetites were now suddenly wetted to move on to bigger decisions. A meeting was immediately set for January in Toronto.

On January 19th at a meeting room in the Lord Simcoe Hotel in Toronto 5 of the 6 corps sat down together and from this afternoon meeting it became evident that more corps had been considering leaving the CDCA. The issue was clouded somewhat because each corps had their own specific reasons for leaving but there was general agreement that the CDCA/ODCA had been rambling along for too many years without any noticeable progress for the member corps. During these years no new projects seemed to get off the ground and the "Socialite group" who had entered the picture years before still in control. Their interests were limited and different than those of the member corps.

The key question at that meeting was asked several times... "Why are we in the CDCA?" "What is it doing for us?" "What are we doing for it?"

To answer the last question first...the corps were putting in up to \$100.00--\$125.00 a year to belong; going to the Ontario and National Championships each year for no prize money and attending several meetings each year where almost nothing was accomplished.

Had we come to the crossroads where the CDCA/ODCA was not required by the Jr. "A" M&M Corps, especially under the present structure of frustration. Could they accomplish more on their own? Could they get quicker and more satisfactory results? Or should they stay in the Association and really push to revise and update the organization?

Bylaws could not be changed till December of 1971 and then you were relying on a vote that could go either way.

The 'Socialite Group' was still very power-

full and still in office.

Other member groups deserved a voice but they often voted against the M&M concepts.

If all the "A" corps left now they could immediately put into action projects that could never be attempted by the present CDCA/ODCA. The "A" Corps would control their own destiny. The opportunity to move forward faster was now, just as the corps from the N.Y./Canadian formed the A.Jr.C. years before.

What about the National & Provincial Championships? These events were sanctioned and controlled by the CDCA/ODCA. In the past these two big contests, if nothing else, held the corps in the Associations, indeed, some corps did not attend meetings all year but they did register their members to attend Nationals and in many instances at great cost.

But the year is now 1971. Events and thinking were changing. Those that ran the Association didn't realize this. The "A" Corps each year was getting more professional just to keep in the running with their American counterparts. The Association was still going the amateur route bogged down with bylaws that no one followed. As each year passed, and especially last year the "A" Corps, Jr. Class, realized they made the Nationals and Provincials the attraction it still was.

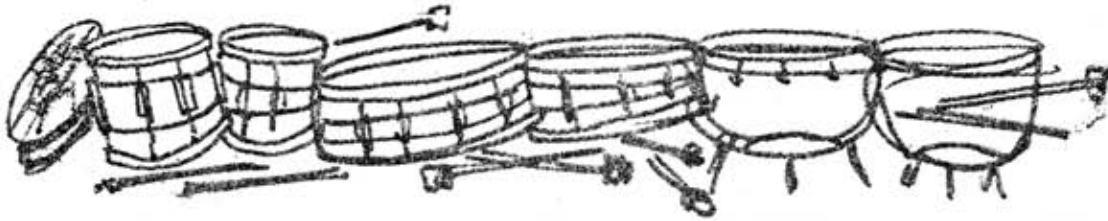
And they spent upward of one to two thousand dollars doing both!

And they got nothing for it!

Now, if they ran their own Nationals on a share-the-wealth basis of the profits after the expenses of stadium, judges, advertising, and corps transportation, they at least would not lose money. In fact they stood to make some. Also, they would have a say on who was judging.

Is there a need for the Association? Yes! But on the lesser corps level. Here the competition is less interesting for the politicians so they would not be around. An Association can do a great deal for the basics of drum corps if the people elected have a good programme AND PUSH IT FORWARD EACH YEAR instead of standing still as the CDCA/ODCA of the past was prone to do. Their programme should help to get new corps started...offer a basis of education for new management and instructors, introduce the aspects of judging and become a clearing house for corps shows, contests, parades, used instruments and equipment also protection for their members. (Cont. page -3-)

# Drums! Drums! a salute



THE JR. CORPS DRUM LINE by Larry Blandford.

*I'm not very good at writing compositions or short stories but I thought if I didn't cover our talented percussion section who would? I know Paul Thompson wouldn't.*

*So, here goes...with the oldest members first.*

**NUMBER ONE:** I guess everybody knows the link, JOHN ROOD, the famed wierd cymbal player. John is what you call very ORIGINAL for in 1969 he was the first to play the MOTHER THUMBER and in 1970 carried the first pair of 28" cymbals!!! Much to Mr. Daber's graying hair this is John's 5th year coming up...also I understand, he has a secret friend in Midlanders. (right, Francis.)

**NUMBER TWO:** Well, your right on! Its me, LARRY BLANDFORD. This is also my 5th year in the corps and that 5 year ring would look great on my finger after winning a Nationals!

**NUMBER THREE:** RANDY COCHRANE joined in 1968 after I grabbed him off the street. Randy is known for keeping out of trouble when the situation is very tight. Hes a member of our new tympanum quartet for 1971.

**NUMBER FOUR:** BRIAN DAVIDSON also joined in '68. He started in the guard and in 1969

played bass drum, in 1970 triple bass and for 1971 started out on the tymps.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NUMBER FIVE:** Our late friend, DENNIS MAY. He has good reason for being late, he's married. Dennis joined in 1968. He is in our tenor section.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NUMBER SIX:** PAUL MacDONALD: Has been in the guard since 1968, then got wise and joined the cymbal section for '71.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NUMBER SEVEN:** RICK ROUSSEL is in his third and final year with the corps and comes from that band, DeLaSalle. Rick has never been a Champion. He would like to leave the corps a Champion. He is our lead snare.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NUMBER EIGHT:** DANA BURRAGE is in his third year with the line and for '71 is on snare. Understand he has a brother in another section of the same corps.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NUMBER NINE:** DOUG HARRISON, better known as 'Ape Man' he is also on his third year with the corps. He carried the biggest tympanum, which is only right. Right.

\*\*\*\*\*

**NUMBER TEN:** JOHN BAYE joined in 1970. He is known in the section for bringing

## CORPS LEAVE CDCA (Continued from page 2)

The established M&M corps don't really need this. The Jr. "A" M&M instead should be banning together to attain their goals of better corps, more and better competitions, higher judging standards and more refined techniques of instruction. Although not in the CDCA/ODCA they should be available to those member corps to make use of their knowledge if they want it.

Progress for the "A" M&M corps is to work together in a closer relationship than ever in the past. Each executive has got to get to know each other better. The Socialites and politicians are now not around to interfere. Great progress in this

direction in the past was made by the A. Jr. C. It is a fact that most of the problems of 1970 could have been solved if the corps had met.

Each Executive knows what they want in organization, show, judges, promotion and this can be had in direct ratio of their talent, time, money & desire both as individuals and groups working together. Now, if no progress is made they can but blame themselves. For three corps this was the choice.

The Association may ask, "but what of the kids in the corps?" When the Optimists' Director announced his decision to the corps the same night of the resignation the corps cheered.



every kind of instrument but the kitchen sink on corps trips. John is also a member of our tympan quartet.

\*\*\*\*\*

NUMBER ELEVEN: JIM KANE may look like a refugee from Biafra but he's safe in the knowledge that John Rood used to look like that too, before he took up weight lifting. Jim is on tenor for his second year and has a great pair of chops and he's only 14!

\*\*\*\*\*

NUMBER TWELVE: DOUG BASS, our Rookie-of-the Year for 1970 and has moved up to snare for '71. Anybody who gets smart with him had better watch their step. He might be only 14...but boy, can he drum!!! Another good product of our CADET CORPS & Mr. O'Halloran!

\*\*\*\*\*

NUMBER THIRTEEN: PAT IRVINE better known as green jeans. Seems he is always pickin straw from his hair, which is OK if there is a girl involved. 1970 was his 1st year with us. Holds down a good tenor spot.

\*\*\*\*\*

NUMBER FOURTEEN: KEN BAWN known as Red Raimy. His second year in the corps and second year on snare. Well known by the Lancers and Cadets as he teaches at their rehearsals when not keeping out of Rousell's way.

\*\*\*\*\*

NUMBER FIFTEEN AND SIXTEEN: ROBERT SCOTT AND RICHARD SAWYER are both former members of the Cadets moved up to the Jr. line this year. Both are on rudimental bass.

\*\*\*\*\*

NUMBER SEVENTEEN AND EIGHTEEN: MARTIN McVEIGH and JOHN THIFFAULT are also two former members of O'Halloran's fabulous "Cadets" line. Thiff first year with us and both on tenor.

\*\*\*\*\*

NUMBER NINETEEN: GEORGE KOPEISKI is a former lead snare for the Midlanders and this year is on our snare section. Understand George missed KAISER last year when he wasn't teaching London and just had to get back. Knows every inch of the highway from here to London.

\*\*\*\*\*

NUMBER TWENTY: RAY SKYVINGTON, walked in off the street after seeing an item about the corps in the Telegram. This proves one thing. This rookie can read. He also knows something about drumming and should fit in well with the 'Machine' this summer. All I say is, just survive camp. The rest of the summer is easy.

Well, that's it for this issue. Maybe I'll

get inspired and cover RON KAISER, our superior drum instructor in the next GCC.

-----  
THE LANCERS DRUM LINE by  
Larry Blandford.  
\*\*\*

The Lancers Drum Line might not be big in size but compared to other drum lines their average age is only 11. This corps is only in its second year of existence and most of the members have never picked up a pair of sticks before joining us.

Lorne Ferrazutti is drum instructor (the former head instructor of Optimists for years) He writes all the music and teaches the beginners the basics of drumming. The drum parts are not too difficult and gives the line a chance to develop their arms feel the different rhythm patterns.

Ken Bain of the Jr. Corps teaches the tenors and is doing a great job. Every time a basically good drummer progresses he or she is moved up to my section. I instruct the snares.

To date we have 5 snares, 5 tenors, 2 bass, 1 slymbal and a pair of tymbalis brought from St. Johns Girls.

So, Optimist Cadets, you had better watch out for we are out to get your line this year. Watch us go!!!

-----  
LETTER RECEIVED:

ARE DRUMS REALLY NECESSARY IN A drum and BUGLE CORPS??

Drums, drums, drums, and MORE DRUMS! Why are corps today spending thousands upon thousands of dollars on more and more drums?

Are these drums really necessary in a corps? The money we could save on not buying drums could be spent buying superior bugles. Bugles that create music to sooth any beast. (Even a drummer, or a judge. Whats the difference?)

Is it really necessary to buy tympan, huge bass drums and tripple basses? Couldn't drum lines get along without theses? The answer to these questions lie in the past.

In the past percussion sections averaged 11 with only a few snares, tenors a couple bass drums and cymbals.

In 1961 the Optimists drum line consisted of only 9 humans (humans???)

In 1959 the Chicago Cavaliers line consisted of only 13 humans. With this total they were able to present an excellant drum show that is hard to match, even today!

So, I feel that if they could do it then drum corps can do it NOW. They would save thousands with which to purchase new bugles!

Yours sincerely, Albert Anonymous.

REPRINT FROM GCC.  
Vol.1, #4,  
March, 1961.  
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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X
X THE OPTIMIST CADETS X
X DRUM LINE X
X BY X
X Gord. O'Halloran X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
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I have come to the conclusion that members of a drum corps percussion section are all afflicted with a tragic, irremediable disease...a morbidity that periodically transforms these seemingly normal people into twitching, writhing, monstrosities. It would appear that automatically upon joining a drum corps, a new member is immediately issued three things, a pair of sticks, a nickname, and a drum corps twitch.

The horror of seeing a normal friend consumed with the crippling effects of DRUM CORPS TWITCH is a frightening thing. One moment he is a normal, apparently quite intelligent person, and the next he becomes something you would hide in your basement.

When an attack strikes, the afflicted person becomes absolutely ridged, the eyes become blank and glassed, and the mouth sags hideously. The only part of the body that remains active are the wrists and hands as they perform a spasmodic, clutching beat on any solid object that happens to be at hand! It is tragic mainly in the fact that the victim cannot in any way control the spell, and that the attacks occur at any time, night or day, usually upon entering a room full of strangers or being introduced to the girl friend's mother for the first time.

It seems to be a strange compelling call from the beyond, ever present in the mind, and whenever everyday things become too complicated, they heed the call and drift into the world of everlasting drum corps drums.

You've all got it...this incurable disease that causes normal people to whisper and point.

Are you loyal corps members by choice, or is it this terrible affliction that bids you be so? Whatever the case may be, You're better off with your own kind. Only they will understand and accept.

But it is spreading...twitch, twitch,twitch.

The Cadets have quite a history in the making. In past years the organization was an excellent breeding ground for new, young talent and provided the Junior corps with many good members; most of which you know and admire greatly. Unfortunately the Cadets (then The Bantam Corps) was disbanded for a few years and we all realize now that this was tragic for the survival of the Junior Corps.

The Cadets, as they are known now, were reorganized in the fall of 1967. Shortly after, Al Tierney, the Director at that time and Lorne Ferrazutti asked me if I would be interested in taking part as a drum instructor. Since I am an ex-Optimist my feelings were very strong towards the corps and hoped I would be able to help out in some way.

In 1967/1968 the drum line was made up of six snares, six tenors, four bass drums and two cymbal players. Our repertoire was very simple. It lacked variety and difficulty but we tried to make it as interesting as possible. The line was inexperienced but determined to execute the drumming to the best of their abilities. At the end of the year, eight to ten boys went up to the Junior Corps and a low percentage remained. We knew this problem would exist because of the limited development period. This would eventually be eliminated because our programme was designed for the first and second year and not for the three or more years ahead.

In 1968/1969 the drum line was six snares, six tenors, six back-up tenors, two straight bass, two rudimental bass and four cymbals. At this point I began to realize that we were safer in numbers, that is, if the Jr. corps required six to ten boys at the end of the year, we could fill the bill and still have a strong potential left.

This year, instead of the usual paradiddle sequences and triplet patterns, our music was made up with the addition of rudiments as five stroke rolls, flams and exercises like four beat ruffs and seven beat triplets. From this we elaborated more on our repertoire with variety and more challenge.

In 1969/1970 our line was approximately



# a salute to... HAROLD BRADLEY

Mr. Harold Bradley, as many of you already know, is the gentleman who sells the corps booster material at contests during the summer. GCC recently had the opportunity to turn the spotlight on him. Here is the interview...

**GCC:** How long have you been selling Booster material for the corps, Mr. Bradley?

**Mr. B:** Oh, about three or four years.

**GCC:** About how much money has been turned over from Booster material, say, last yr?

**Mr. B:** Well, I don't know exactly how much we made in 1970, you'd have to ask Mr. Decloux for that information...but in '69 we turned over \$1,300.00 from sales.

**GCC:** What are your Booster items?

**Mr. B:** We have the '69 45RPM record, the '67 Nationals LP and the buttons from all 3 corps. We also have pens, corps posters, and decals. Actually we sell anything we can make a buck on.

**GCC:** Where are the best centres for selling?

**Mr. B:** As far as I can remember, Sarnia was the best. The people there always appreciated the Optimists. In '68 we made \$318.00 at a contest there. Other good places have been Brantford, and the Shrine Contest. It seems to me people look up to the Optimists because they are a great bunch of well-mannered boys!

**GCC:** What's your most popular item?

**Mr. B:** The '69 corps record, with the buttons numbered in years coming a close second. The buttons always seemed to be collectors items because we had a new one every year, even when we didn't win Nationals.

**GCC:** What's the least popular item?

**Mr. B:** Actually everything we carried sold but probably the least popular item would be the corps poster. Maybe because there was no green on it!

**GCC:** Have you had any interesting experiences happen to you while selling?

**Mr. B:** Well, last year in Michigan City we were robbed. What happened was, I was running an errand for the Director and I had left one of the Cadets in charge of the table. Five boys of about 12 or 13 came up to the table. Two of them kept the Cadet occupied at one end of the table while the

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other three took the money in the cash box. They got away with about \$14.00.

**GCC:** What's the most asked question you get?

**Mr. B:** Which way to the washrooms?

00  
0 Sign in a Toronto restaurant: 0  
0 HELP KEEP TORONTO CLEAN! 0  
0 "EAT A PIGEON FOR LUNCH..." 0  
00

### THE CADETS DRUM LINE (continued)

the same size. Again we added more difficult rudiments to our show. Execution and expression improved and the Cadets played with more confidence and demanded respect from most of the judges.

Throughout the past three years the style of drumming was to write a snare part, later fill in with tenor, bass and cymbals. Each year the snare parts would get a little harder with more effects. This method is known as an old style of writing which is still the best way of training at our level. The other item which we tried to work at very hard was hand technique, style and showmanship.

This year the drum line will be larger than in past years. That is, we will have a spare in each section and the addition of two double bass drums. Our repertoire will be more difficult and we are trying to achieve a more musical show. Enthusiasm ability and spirit of the whole corps seems to have improved and we hope for a very successful year.

A great deal of the success of the Cadets is due to the excellent and strong executive that we have always been fortunate in having. Also, we are in debt for the help offered by the junior corps drummers in the past. The Cadets main thought is developing the best talent possible within their means.

++++  
MIKE REID in a pet shop: "Have you any dogs that go cheap?"  
Clerk: "Sorry, but all our dogs go woof..."

Opportunity may only knock once but temptation leans on the doorbell!

How times have changed. In the bible, when an ass spoke, it was considered a miracle!

# here and now! '71 events

TUESDAY, FEB. 16---	Optimist Club of York-Toronto, general meeting.	#	
Thursday, FEB. 18---	Bugle/drum rehearsal 7:30-10:00PM at Wilkinson school, Donlands Ave. at the Danforth. Jr. Corps	#	For the Jr. Corps some of the 1971 appearances booked or being considered by Mr. Billington are:
Sunday, FEB. 21 ---	Bugles Drums at K.ofC., Kennedy Rd. 2:00-5:30PM Drill, Armories 7:30-10:30PM. Jr. Corps.	#	MAY 8 Tilsonberg Parade. 3 corps.
Wednesday, Feb. 24---	Bingo, White Shield Plaza, Kennedy Rd. & Lawrence 7:15PM. Optimist Club York-Toronto.	#	During May or early June an appearance at the new ONT. PLACE.
Thursday, Feb. 25---	Jr. Corps bugles, drums 7:30-10:30 at Wilkinson.	#	May 22-23-24: Camp.
Sunday, FEB. 28-----	Bugles Drums at K.ofC...2:00-5:30PM. Drill at York Armories 7:30-10:30PM. Jr. Corps.	#	JUNE 5...Del's Contest York Stadium, Toronto.
Thursday, March 4---	Jr. Corps Wilkenson School, 7:30-10:00PM.	#	JUNE 12...Embrun's Contest, Lansdowne Park Ottawa.
Sunday, March 7---	Jr. Corps K. of C. Bugles/drums-12:00-2:30. Armories: 4:00-7:00PM.	#	JUNE 18...Shrine Parade Toronto.
Thursday, March 11---	WILKENSON SCHOOL NOT AVAILABLE on this date.		#
Saturday, March 13---	Ontario 1971 Individual Championships, Cedarbrae Collegiate, Scarborough. Sponsored by the ODCA and Scarborough Firefighters Drum Corps.	#	JUNE 19...Shriner's International CNE, Toronto.
Sunday, March 14---	Jr. Corps bugles/drums K.ofC. 12:00-2:30PM. Armories 4:00-to 7:00PM.	#	JUNE 26...Geneva Contest
FRIDAY, MARCH 19th---	First 1971 appearance of the Optimists Jr. Corps "THE WEARING OF THE GREEN DANCE" sponsored by The Optimist Club of York-Toronto at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 582 Sherbourne St (at Bloor) Dress informal. Corps performs at 9:00PM. Cocktail hour 8:00-9:00PM. Dancing till 1:00AM. Refreshments and prizes. TICKETS: \$7.00 a couple. Available from the Director or any member of the Optimist Club of York-Toronto.	#	JULY 3...Utica N.Y. Contest.
Sunday, March 28---	Jr. Corps at K.of C. 12:00-2:30PM. Armories:4-7:	#	JULY 13...North American Contest, Toronto.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 LANCER REPORT by *David Burgess, Drum Major.*  
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The month of January has been a dull one for the majority of the Optimist Lancers. We have had no parades or concerts, just our weekly practices. Yet February promises to be an exciting month for the corps. First, on the 6th we get to finally show ourselves off in front of our friends and neighbours in Etobicoke for the first time this year. It will be quite nice to be 'playing' in our home borough and showing the folks here what we've been doing the past year. This parade is for the Etobicoke Winter Carnival and will have other outstanding corps in it also. This will also provide us with the chance to pick up some recruits. The next weekend, the 13th, its off

to Barrie for the Winter Carnival there. This, from what we hear, is supposed to be quite an event and we will probably stay the majority of the day. These parades will surely atone for the dullness of January. In my next column I'll have more details on these parades.

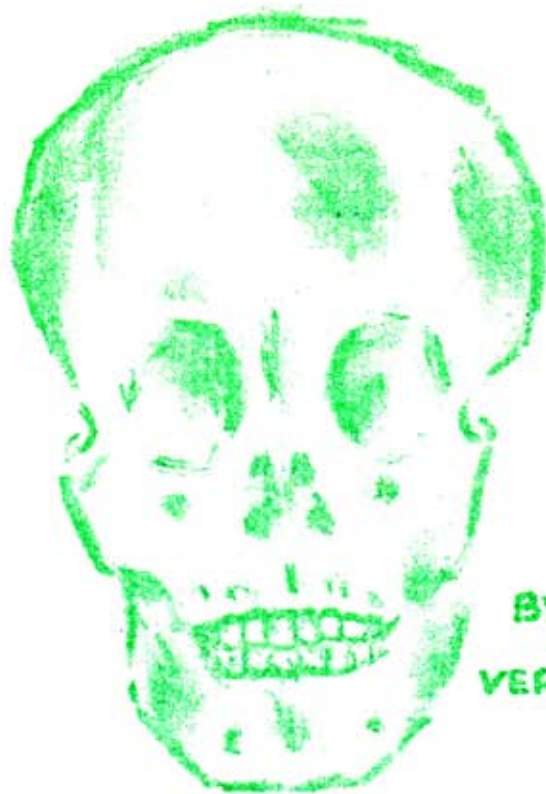
January has been a month of pushing. Pushing, you say? Yes! Pushing our music and marching.

In the music department we have made two major advances. One, we have finally conquered

# AUGUST 2..Alhambra Contest, Toronto  
 # AUGUST 7..London.  
 # AUGUST 14..U.S. Open, Marion, Ohio.  
 # AUGUST 28..CNE, Toronto  
 # SEPT.6....Hamilton.  
 #####







# JOURNEY'S END

BY  
VERN JOHANSSON

The noise of the day was slowly filtering into the sleepless suburbs. The majestic features of the metropolis prepared to rest and allow the human creatures a chance to gather they're wits before plunging "hell-bent-for-leather" into another five day epoch. It was Friday night.

The distinct clatter of heels on concrete, car horns persistently bleating in this canyon of steel and granite. The sizzle of neon signs, the swoosh of revolving doors, the distant screech of steel on steel as the subway rolls along unconcerned with the consistent gastric pains accrued by the city, delivered by the subway. The cars belching, coughing, gasping and accelerating seemingly unaware of the air fighting a losing cause to the carbon monoxide. Unable to fight back, the air reacts like a sponge receiving the poison gas and awaiting the squeeze, when the thin black film will descend on the city, Turning those beautiful white and gray statues of man's ingenuity into greasy, black, mournful pillars of man's stupidity. Life goes on.

"Coffee please." "With double cream."  
"Coffee?" "You're not going to have a coffee for God's sake???" "It's 86 degrees outside!" "It's so hot you could fry bacon on a sewer lid and you want a coffee???" "Besides it's early evening not early morning and you know what Wing's coffee is like!" "The only time it's drinkable is when one eyelid is slammed shut, the other is fighting like hell to stay up and you're brain has the density of wet sand!!!"  
"Cut the gab will ya!" "All I did was ask for a coffee." "Do ya haveta make such a big bloody issure all the time???" "You just stick to those Cokes that make you look like a pittet prune and mind yer own damn business!!!"

"C'mon, we have to get back for roll call."



"Yeh, I wouldn't want Uncle Don sweating already. Hell, we haven't begun yet so let's give him a break, at least until tomorrow."

"Yeh."

"61?"

"SIR!"

"75?"

"SIR!"

"77?"....."77?"....."ROUSSEL, are you here?"

"Yeh, yeh, I'm here. Sorry! (Sir)"

"I miss anyone?" "OK, let's load up!!" "Everyone on the bus."

"Anyone over at Wing's?"

"Yeh, a couple of rookies adding more pimples to their faces!!"

"Well they better hurry up. We're pulling out."

"Want me to scoot over and kick their butts back here, Don?"

"No, just get on the bus."

For the fifth time this season Denny boarded the bus and casually looked to the back hoping to find some "horse-faced" rookie in his seat. But, as in the previous four times the back of his seat was visible thus reaffirming his sacred position.

As he moved towards his resting spot for the next twelve hours he was semi-conscious of the non-looking eyes that peered at him with a jealous reaction that could only be felt in the air. No words were spoken but the atmosphere hung heavy with a purple haze of jealousy, beamed from the people who some day hoped to aspire to his heights.

"It's fun being an old guy," thought Denny.

He literally stuffed his baggage into the already cramped racks and flipped the rubber cord to hold the bags secure. The mysterious Roussel shopping bag was placed in its usual spot as Denny dropped to his seat hoping that the air-conditioning would work.

The bus pulled from the curb with relative nonchalance as the snuffle-nosed rookies waved bye-bye to Mommy and Daddy. The sun fractured the sky with streaks of orange that were almost visible through the city haze. The bus geared-down, smoothly moved up the ramp and was spewed out onto the Gardiner Expressway.

## CHAPTER TWO

"I'm gonna tell him I was born in Grimsby and if he asks me if I have anything to declare I'll say: "YAH...WAR!!!"

"Hey, are you stupid or something, ya want that guy to make us unload the bus!"

"OK! Everybody stay in your seats and tell the man where you were born." "Any un-Canadians in the group take your citizenship papers inside."

"Maybe they'll confiscate Romeo this time!"

"Wouldn't that be a laugh!"

"No you twit!" "It would be a clank in the line!"

"I was only kidding."

"Kidding like that helps lose contests ya dope!"

"I'm sorry."

"Can we have your attention please.....HEY!!! SHUT UP AND LISTEN""

"As soon as bus #1 is finished in the washroom you can go in."

"Don't take too long and don't wander away." "We want to get on the road as soon as possible."

"OK, Uncle Don."

"Is everyone out of the washroom?" Let's get going then. We have to be at our billets by ten o'clock this morning."

The airtight door slammed shut as the corps members yelled, pushed and shouted while trying to get comfortable. The bus jerked and several members were sent sprawling like loosely stuffed rag dolls. The bus interior reverberated with "blue language" aimed mostly at the so-called bus driver. They were now on American soil.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Are you playin' cards or not?"

"Naw, I quit. I'm losing money."

"Sure you are? You do this every week and I'm gettin' browned off!"

"Tough. Besides we'er gonna stop to feed our faces soon."

"MY GOD!! We're gonna eat at "The House of Gastric Disorder!" "Before ya go in, I'm selling Alka Seltzer at 50¢ a swipe!!!"

At this particular point they're mouths were undergoing the genesis of "road grime". It becomes a personal matter in deciding whether to eat now and refresh your taste buds before continuing of suffer through the ordeal and try slamming down rubbery eggs and oilu bacon at 5 A.M. Most members reluctantly eat now.

Denny was sitting on a metal rail in the parking lot. He was swishing his mouth with Coke, trying to wash away the grease from that "yummy" hamburger. "It's no wonder," thought Denny, "that these people have domestic problems. After eating that slop, Americans must have the most sensitive stomachs in the world." He looked up to see the rest of the Corps filing from the restaurant. They were all masking they're culinary contentment with a look of abject putrification. The food was up to par.

### CHAPTER THREE

"Innnnnn-nn-nn-nn Selma the white man is strictly supreme...."

"You guys SHUT UP back there!" "Get some sleep, we've got a long day tomorrow... LIGHTS OUT !"

"Where the hell's my sleeping bag?"

"Hey you Nummie!" "Get your feet off my hand!"

"I'm lookin' for my sleepin' bag. "Do ya mind?"

"Yes I do mind, ya puke!"

"Don't grab my foot like that ya creep!"

"You want I should fall and hurt my lip?"

"That might be the best thing that's happened to us!"

"I told you guys to jam up back there!" "The next guy to talk won't be marching tomorrow!" "Now settle down!!"

\*\*\*\*\*

Denny was flicking the ash from his "pre-slumber" cigarette. His thoughts continually drifted to the day ahead. His mind was busy evaluating the chances of victory. As he butted his smoke in the handy little "back-of-the-seat" ashtray, he tried to place the Corps in the contest in their order of finish. There was every possibility that with an honest effort they could indeed win this contest. A win would be a great step in pulling the Corps from their present state of instability. "At least," thought Denny, "improvements could be made and with three-quarters of the season remaining the possibilities were definitely in their favour for a strong finish. Hard work will be the prime requisite." "And that isn't thought. That's a fact."

Those were the words mentally projected by Denny as his thoughts turned to dreams. The bus was now like a dark library. Human sounds had ceased to exist. The steady purring of the motor, the frequency of wheels gliding (con't on page 12)



over pavement like calm ocean waves slapping against the lower hull of a ship. Peaceful and reassuring sounds of a vehicle with a destination. The steady breathing of solid rest intermingled with the noises of the bus guaranteeing that all was well. Noise was scarce. But if one could have spiritual vision he would see contented dreams rising throughout the captured air of the bus. Dreams of victories that had not yet occurred and defeats that would never happen. Trophies. Victory meals. Happy and victorious faces, beaming above their vanquished foes.

These weren't the "jellybean and lollypop" dreams of young boys, these were the visions of "things to come" for mature young men. It was the very consistency of these dreams that kept reality from cutting through!

No one could hear the anguished cry of a man facing death.  
No one could hear the stripped-throat roar of affliction.  
No one could hear the "teeth-grinding" screech of metal being splayed and torn like a piece of tin foil.  
No one could hear the crunch that only glass can make when placed under severe stress.  
No one could hear the grating of break drums attempting to strangle the rubber wheels and stop the forward motion.  
No one could hear the stripping of gears and sighing of pistons gasping like a human that has lost his ability to breath.  
No one could hear.  
The dreams were just too enchanting!

Denny's visions were perceptive, but his flow of dreams was interrupted by a sub-conscious thought. He was thirsty. In one motion his eyes were open and he was standing to walk to the front of the vehicle seeking aid for his parched throat. "It seems unusually quiet in here. Oh well, we've got a lot of sleepers in this Corps!"

With his hands clutching the seats he quietly moved up the aisle. "Isn't that funny! Even the bus driver looks like he's asleep!"

Arriving at the front, his eyes opened wider than they'd ever been before. It was as if someone had struck him a sharp blow in the windpipe. The bus driver's body was slumped over the wheel and his head was through the windshield. The head wasn't completely severed. It appeared to be like a hinge from the body. Although the head was outside the vehicle the face was staring back at Denny almost fossilized in the glass.

"WHAT'S HAPPENING!" shouted Denny. "FOR GOD'S SAKE WHAT'S HAPPENING!" He turned towards the back of the bus and there on the floor, directly in front of him was an arm. An arm that when matched with his would make a perfect interval. But the arm had no body!

"HEY, C'MON YOU GUYS!" "WAKE UP!!"....."C'MON LET'S SING.....  
"WE'RE THE OPTIMISTS, TORONTO OPTIMISTS, THE GREATEST....."WAKE UP!!"  
"HOLY SWEET JESUS.....PLEASE WAKE UP!!!"

THE ROAD HAD DISAPPEARED BUT THE BUS TRAVELLED ON!!!!

ONE OF CONGRATULATIONS:

Jan. 5, 1971.

Mr. Don Daber,  
Director, Toronto, Optimists.

Dear Don:

Thanks very much for sending me a copy of the Oct/Nov. issue of GCC/York-Talk. I had overlooked the fact that pictures were being taken on the night of November 10th and have read with interest the full report of the Optimist Awards Dinner.

From page 1 to 11 you have provided a fine record of events and articles of interest to all who receive this fine publication. You and your associates are to be congratulated.

With kind personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,  
TOM KENDALL OIL LIMITED,  
Thomas W. Kendall,  
President.

TWK:vb

WE HAVE A FAN:

Jan...23,1971.

Dear Sir:

I am a great fan of the Toronto Optimists Corps. I recently belonged to the Lamplighters of Smiths Falls. I was wondering if you could send me any recent photographs or souvenirs of the Optimists. I would greatly appreciate this. Thank you.

Glenn Cassell,  
Smiths Falls, Ont.

...AND FROM MARYLAND:

Feb. 8, 1971

GCC Magazine, Suite 302,  
205 Keele St. Toronto.  
Gentlemen:

We are drum corps nuts who live on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, USA. We are not members of a corps, but follow corps all through the drum corps season. Our children would love to be members of a corps, but distance is too great for rehearsals.

We receive OFF-THE-LINE magazine and they mentioned your publication.

Would you send us a copy of it? We would like to see it, pay for the copy, and more than likely subscribe.

Mr. & Mrs. F. Mowbray, St. Michaels, Md.

FROM SARNIA:

Feb. 7, 1971.

Mr. Daber:

I don't know if you remember me but you gave me some information on the Optimists for a project I did at school. Well, my English teacher liked it so much he asked me to do another one on the same topic, because he is a great fan of the Optimists too, I guess. So, could you please send me some more info about the corps?

How are the new tympani drums coming along? Its going to look great on the field this year.

My corps, The Diplomats are coming along just fine. We are fielding a 4 man rifle squad this year and are very proud of it.

I'd like to thank you for the Christmas card also the GCC papers are very good and I enjoy reading them.

Thank you for your time. Could you please send me the information on the '71 corps as soon as possible? All the best to the Optimists in '71.

Yours truly, Tom Skelton, Sarnia.

FROM DRUM CORPS DIGEST MAGAZINE:

Jan. 28, 1971

Dear Don:

Thank you for sending me your very good "GREEN CAPSULE" and I was hoping you could send me a couple more. I foolishly let Ross-Robertson our Art Director borrow mine because I know how much he enjoys Canadian drum corps news and now he cannot find it. Careless, eh what?

I was totally unprepared for the surprise of seeing Toni O'Kelley's and part of her article from Digest in your last GCC. Without a doubt she will be very flattered.

I am truly very appreciative for the nice 'plug' you printed for drum corps Digest; everyone of these help as you well know. I still have a few staunch subscribers from Canada that tell me even tho we have had to give up on a page of Canadian News, they still wouldn't give up their monthly issue of Digest. I love friends like that, cause we do really try.

Hope to see you at some place this summer on the drum corps show circuit.

My best regards,  
Clarice Rutter, Editor/Publisher, Digest.



# »the d.m.«

START RIGHT NOW!!!!

Now that we are entering a new era in the Optimists Drum Corps, it is imperative that we try as hard as possible to make the Optimists the best.

I feel that if we wanted to, our corps could be World Champions within six months. Sound impossible? Well, it isn't.

What we need is 100% push and 100% drive. No matter what you do in life or how successful you will be, it all depends on how much you put into it. If you put 10% effort into something your not going to get more than 10% back. YOU ONLY GET OUT AS MUCH AS YOU PUT IN.

If you read Vern Johansson's article, 'The Power of I' in the last issue of GCC, and seriously put into action, his message there would be no stopping you. What's wrong with the whole corps doing that!

Let's stop this nonsense that has been going on for the past two years, right now. Strive for perfection. Lets go out there that first contest and 'put the boots to 'em! If we all put 100% into our corps it won't take much to guess what we're going to get out of it. Lets start right NOW!

...Mike Arsenault.

MORE LETTERS:\*\*\*\*\*

R.R. 982534708  
Icabob county, Ont.

The Editor(s)  
Green Capsule Comments

Dear Calfin,

I just done borrowed me a copy of your so called MAGAZINE and I read it from cover to cover and I gotta confess that I cain't find a piece of good literateture in the whole thing. You got your spellin all wrong and your grammer is terrible. Not too mention them writers you got contributin. Why our writers here for the ICABOB EXSELSIOR, a weekly drum band magazine run circles round your fellas. Why that Kerry Porigle fellas got bout as much Imagination in him as my dog Spot. Why the minutes of our local home and school meetins got a better story to em than that article, And then you got enough nerve to print or even worse to re-print one of them articles out of drum corps digest, why

I wouldn't foed it to my ~~dogs~~ hogs, never mind read it. Ain't those damn Yankees got enough of our publishin industry never mind the less help em. If ya need articles that bad I'll evun consent to lettin yu use an article printed in our paper. Any thing would be better that trash bein printed by that Don Dagger fellow. Why our town gossip Irma Wagglewin has got better news bout the barber then that!

Just to let you know what your missin heres the article:

"Durin the recent cold spell around these parts Betty Tiggie was just enterin the weekly horn rehearsal for the Icabob Eskimos when she accidentally tried blowin a note outside Town Hall. Instantly the dang mouthpiece stuck to her pucker and all local efforts to free her were useless. Presently an expert in lipotosis from Irwingheimer was flew in to free her from a possible eterbal pucker. As a last resort by the brilliant doctor galic was injected into her vains and it of course melted the conection. We are sure that the rest of the horn line we miss her and we hear the both of them are sending her turtles to cheer her up."

See what I mean about good literateture, kinda gets to ya DOAN IT!!!

Yours advisingly,  
SZAM SNODHAM, Editor,

The Icabob Excelsior.

P.S. If i sees anytin else wrong with yer magazine, or anythin right for that matter I'll let you know.

...AND FROM LONDON (ENGLAND)

51 Cypress Gdns,  
London 5, Apt.6  
ENGLAND.

Dear Mr. Johawnsen,

I did want to drop you a line once I got back from Canada to tell you how much I jolly well enjoyed seeing you and your group of boys over there in the colony.

I had the pleasure of sitting in on one of the groups as they were practicing one Thursday night near my temporary place of residence above an italian fruit vendors market which smelled strongly of essence of garlic and all that most of my stay.

Your quality of the whole group was adequate but in particular one seemed to notice the quality of the upper group of horns, particularly the solos trumpets and melliphoniummmms. Their obvous superiority was heightened by the lack of talent in the bariphone section. And one cannot help but avoid the instidious blats emitted from the the vicinity of the contry bass area.

## ARE YOU HUMAN, OR A WINNER ???

by John O'Leary.

I was sitting in the lounge at work the other day reading a magazine to kill some time before returning to my desk when I noticed a fascinating ad. In many ways it was typical of most ads but it put forth a very interesting work philosophy. This work philosophy can be applied to drum corps without the slightest measure of interpretation or imagination. It went like this:

"When quality falls, voices rise. These complaints are not caused by failures of technology, but by failures of humanity. By people's attitudes."

"Suppose you were told that hospital personnel are permitted to drop one-tenth of one percent of all babies. Or that you must tolerate at least two mistakes a year in your monthly bank statement."

"Acceptable? Not likely."

"Still people say, 'nobody's perfect.' and allow themselves a certain percentage of error at work."

"This attitude must be overcome. And we believe it's humanly possible."

DO IT RIGHT, EVERYTIME.

"People must be encouraged to develop, voluntarily, a personal commitment to doing the job right the first time, everytime. To develop 'zero defects' attitudes. One that rejects a standard of doing it right most of the time."

"Attaining the goal of 'zero defects' may be the great Canadian Dream. But it's not an impossible dream. And we are working to make our products and our services the standard for quality."

I'm now speaking to the members of our corps and every corps member that reads this publication. Don't the thoughts in that ad sound familiar? Sure they do! Every drill, drum or bugle instructor that ever stood on a field has tried to get this across.

The most perfect corps is the one that wins. If you lose it because of your own imperfections. This is not B.S. Sometimes the instruction may not be the best but if you worked on what you had you could still come out much higher!

My intention is not to preach a sermon but to present some thoughts. If you go back up the page and reread that ad, and think about it, my task was a success. If everyone started to work that way you would not need to read an article like this again. You would be perfect. You would be a winner.

.....

*JOHN O'LEARY is a third year member of the corps, he joined the corps in 1969. John has been on flag for two years; elected Guardsman-of-the-Year in 1970. For 1971 season John is part of the corps new rifle line.*

.....

LETTERS (continued from page 14)

One of the areas where there is room for improvement however is the drum section! What hoa??? The deafening roar of clicks, choinks, zip-zap-clunks and crashes from this collection of untamed, unkept, semi-savage creatures is enough to cause their pet, a boa snake to crawl into its hole. One can only suggest that you encourage these PEOPLE (?) to practice in a sandbox, or at least something constructive.

Yours unbiassedly,

J.D. Hogwash.

PRESS RELEASE:

The 27th Lancers, Revere, Mass.

The Lancers organize a new feeder unit:

The 27th Lancers announce the formation of a new Feeder Corps known as the 17th Lancers. They are based in Halifax, Mass. To date 42 boys and girls have joined as of

the first organizational meeting. Since then an additional 8 have signed up. The instructional staff of this corps will be mostly former members of the 27th Corps.

It was announced as of the Dec. 15th rehearsal the Lancers will attend the 1971 U.S. Open in Marion, Ohio.

+++++  
Reminder: You can see the Lancers at the SHRINERS INTERNATIONAL, June 19th!!!!  
+++++  
PARADE OF CHAMPIONS BROADCAST

Every Monday at 10:00 over station WUWM-FM Milwaukee, Wisc.

Moderator, Mr. Ron Price.

If you have a powerful F.M. radio or are in the Milwaukee area any Monday night tune into this Drum Corps program with such highlights as "Golden Goodies" 1970 VFW Nationals in Review, The battle of the East against the West, etc.



# Bertha & Bill



(the names are not changed because no one is innocent)

As we broke open a box of gum drops, Bertha exclaimed to Bill: "Gad! I wish we had some money."

Just ten a knock came at the door: "A telegram for Bertha and Bill!" Bill opened the envelope and exclaimed to Bertha: "Our wealthy great, great grand uncle, Kriss Kringle, has passed away and left us his entire fortune of three cents to be divided equally between us!" Suddenly tears of joy ran down our cheeks as we dreamed of what luxuries we would purchase with our newly acquired wealth!

An hour later, as we ran out of the house on our way to the smoke shop to buy some more gum drops, Bertha exclaimed to Bill: "Look out for that car, Bill!" "Gah!" Bill exclaimed as he was struck down by a '54 Edsel as it came careening around the corner. (Fortunately, Bill remembered to catch the license number as head passed under the front tire) He had learned his Defensive Pedestrian course well.

The next day, in the court room, Bertha exclaimed to Bill: "Don't worry, Bill, we're suing for double of what we have. Just think of what we can buy with nine cents!!!"

We won the case! As our fingers frivolously frolicked through our newly acquired wealth, Bill exclaimed to Bertha: "Gah! Are your hands ever dirty! We better get some grit soap from the friendly Dominion Store just down the street!"

We were quickly walking along the sidewalk when I turned my head just in time to see Bertha fall down a manhole.

A few hours later, at the Ash Bridges Bay Sewage Treatment Plant, Bertha came shooting out of a pipe into the main storage vat. The attendaht removed Bertha from the vat with a pair of ten foot tweezers and put her down in the main cleaning room where the workers were busy cleaning under their fingernails. Just then the five o'clock whistle blew. The following Monday, as Bertha lay covered from head to foot in soft will-nots in the shower room, the workers came in and started to clean her off.

They were going to sue for damages but no one would believe their story if they did.

We were walking down Bay Street the next weekend when a sophisticated businessman approached them and asked if we would take some money to an agent in South America. Bertha

and I told the man that we would...

WILL BERTHA & BILL ACCEPT OR DECLINE ON THIS SPECIAL MISSION? CAN YOU THINK OF A SOLUTION TO THIS PROVOCATIVE QUESTION??

## NEWS AROUND THE COUNTRY...

MARK TIME with Al Tierney

\*\*\*\*\*

THE HANOVER ALL GIRLS DRUM CORPS will be attending the Calgary Stampede this year, and expect to do a full M and M show. They have Ian Beacock as Music Director, Ian, you will recall, was formerly Chief Judge. In addition George Mellor, Director of St. John's Girls will write and instruct the drill. This is a very ambitious undertaking, but the 52 girls, their instructors and executive are very enthusiastic, and they are getting the support of whole town.

THE ALL GIRL CORPS IN ST. THOMAS has folded, but an attempt is now underway to get the corps reorganized. They have set a deadline for themselves of March 1st, and if they can't get it underway by this time, they will fold for good.

THE ST. JOHN'S GIRLS will appear with new drums, bugles and uniforms this coming year. They are sure they can regain the Canadian Championship, and are willing to do anything that is necessary to do so.

SIMCOE GOLDEN LIONS will sport new drums next year. They have changed several of their instructors this year, and reports are that results are not completely satisfactory.

GUELPH OPTI— KNIGHTS had a tough time getting going again, but understand that they are moving again. They lost four or five of their experienced members to De La Salle, and this set them back. Also a key man in their organization, Ron Worrall has moved to London. Ron was recently elected President of the National C.D.C.A.

Understand there is a large parade and contest in Toronto August 2nd, the public holiday, that is being sponsored by the Alhambra, and is being run for them by members of the De La Salle organization. The way it is shaping up, there will be lots to do in Canada for the Corps this coming summer, and in all likelihood you will see many American corps in Canada in August. The only major American contest not run in July, is the U.S. Open, so many of the American corps will be looking for contests in August.

-----  
NEXT DEADLINE FOR ALL ARTICLES FOR GCC IS MARCH-13th. ...Go, go JOE RENAUD!!!!!!!



CADETS, LANCERS, ROOKIES JR. CORPS!!!! DID YOU KNOW THAT AN OSCAR WINNING ACTOR IS A MEMBER OF THE OPTIMISTS. Yes, it happened back on Monday evening June 26th, 1962 when the Optimists headed a parade for the Canadian Premiere of the Motion Picture, "Hatari" When the corps reached the Imperial Theatre Jim McConkey the D.M. presented John Wayne with an Honorary Certificate to corps membership. We are still waiting to see Mr. Wayne in his uniform.

# looking back



THE  
HATARI!  
Parade





# Announcing the 1970 CAVALIER YEARBOOK



Yearbook '70  
2511 N. Kedzie Blvd.  
Chicago, Illinois 60647

Enclosed please find \$\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ Cavalier Yearbook(s) at \$1.00 each, plus 15¢ postage and handling costs.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Dear Cavalier Fan:

Every year around the Christmas Holidays the Cavaliers release their annual yearbook for sale to the public. Last year at this time, we were swamped with orders for the best Yearbook we ever printed. This year the books are in the envelopes, stamped, and ready to go because we know that the 1970 Yearbook will be in greater demand than was the 1969 Yearbook. This year there are over 30 pictures included with all of the usual sections such as the Hall of Fame, the listing of management and corps members, plus a new section entitled "The 'Don't You Just Love' Book."

In spite of inflation the price of our Yearbook will remain the same only \$1.00 per copy. All we ask is that you include 15¢ for postage and handling costs for each Yearbook ordered. Don't wait to get the best souvenir of the 1970 Green Machine available. Send the order blank in now to the address below.

Yours truly,  
Steve Suslik Editor

Send orders to:

The 1971

*Shriners International*  
drum and bugle corps pageant

POSTER --- 50¢

AVAILABLE THIS YEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME, BY MAIL, THE NEW "SHRINERS' INTERNATIONAL '71 POSTER.

Large in size, printed in three colours, red, black and silver, this poster is a collectors item if you are a drum corps nut! Sent direct to you at 50¢ each.

Write: Posters,  
Don Daber, Suite 302,  
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# SPECTACULAR !



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**Shriners International**  
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7:30 PM

JUNE 19 · CNE Stadium Toronto

In competition:

- THE 27TH LANCERS, Revere, Mass.
- THE GARFIELD CADETS, Garfield, N.J.
- BLUE ROCK, Wilmington, Del.
- THE BLUE STARS, La Crosse, Wisconsin
- THE TORONTO OPTIMISTS
- DE LA SALLE OAKLANDS, Toronto
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Enclosed is a stamped, self-addressed envelope with a cheque or money-order, made payable to THE RAMESES SHRINE TEMPLE, for the following seats for THE SHRINERS' INTERNATIONAL.

Reserved seats (reds) @ \$4.00 . . . . \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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