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Official Newspaper of the 1975 VFW National Band Champions

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FIRST ON THE BLOCK TO GET
A NATIONAL TITLE DEPT.

On August 17th, the Cavaliers met at Notre Dame High School for the V. F. W. National Pre-Ims. We had a short music rehearsal and then took a break to get dressed. Since we were to stand inspection (a penalty caption) the chaperones lined us all up and then dashed wildly about, cutting loose threads, lint, and (much to their delight) hair.

We watched Los Cabelleros stand inspection and then it was our turn. We were inspected to the sounds of the Cabbies' show.

It was noticed that in all the time we had been there, no one had yet seen the two so-called "heavies". The Racine and Lake bands hadn't shown up yet. Obviously they weren't interested in what us local bands were doing; since they had come all the way from Wisconsin, they naturally were better than us.

Anyway, we stood inspection and started for the field. On the way to the field, we learned we had done a perfect inspection. We stepped off the line to "Marche Militaire" and things went downhill from there. We put on a bad show and that's putting it mildly. It wasn't exciting and it just didn't have it. We came off the field and went up into the stands to watch the Racine Elks and the defending champions, Lake. For some reason or another, I got the feeling I was watching the Mid-West's version of Markers and Ozzies. The general concensus seemed to be, "If they're the National Champions, this nation is in trouble."

As we stood at retreat, it became apparent that as bad as they were, we weren't much better. We won the pre-lims, but only by 1.2 points. Now, considering that we had won the show, you would think that we should be the last band to leave the field. Not so. We had to pass in review of both Lake and Racine. As we were told by one V. F. W. official (from Wisconsin) "you didn't win nothin' yet". But we did win the right to go on last at East L. A. College for the finals.

The following Tuesday night, we loaded for the Convention parade, which we had the distinction of marching twice. Once for the New York delegation and then back again for the California delegation. That was dumb because the same people saw the same parade twice. Even if we did do it twice, we still didn't win. They gave it to the Lake Band. (Had to do something for them) Anyway we came home to prepare for the finals.

Wednesday, August 20th, we got ready for the culmination of our season; a shot at our 1st national title. We rehearsed for a little while first, and then loaded up to go. When we got to East L. A. College, (in East L. A.) it was a mass of Drum Corps and Color Guards. We were the first band to arrive. We got into uniform, and stood around for about twelve days. Finally, it was time to warm up. Inbetween scales, John gave us one of his famous pep talks about not giving pep talks. It did get us up and we went into the stadium.

From an unbiased standpoint, I must say, we were great! We got a standing ovation for "Channel One" and at the end of the show. We went right to retreat and heard about 25 ridiculous captions that no one cared about. They started getting to the good stuff, but we

still had to go through all the drum corps. Finally, they got to the bands. Well, to make a long story short, we kicked their butts. By about five points or so. This time we left the stadium last. We're the National Champions and nobody can take that from us. So we all went home and had a party at Denny's until 3 in the morning. Not a bad ending, huh?

Steve Pomerantz

INFORMING THE UNINFORMED DEPT.

One of the few things in life that comes easy, and there are really few of them, left, is the drawing that is coming up at the October 18th Bunco Party. Everybody in the band has a unique if not unbelievable chance to sell tickets for this drawing. Sell them to your parents, your friends, your pets, and even to your girlfriend (it's about time she started to pay off). Prizes include a long list of such family favorites as a Lazyboy Rocker, a Bar Refridgerator, a handy-dandy all purpose Vacuum Cleaner (the things you can do!), a set of Luggage, and for those with burnt eggs, an Egg Cooker. With these slam-bam prizes a ticket is a mere pittance. So hurry up and sell those tickets. The money and stubs, (ticket stubs only please) should be returned as fast as possible. Information and tickets are available at the band office.

Talk about returning to the band, Trudy Stoltz has just returned from her exciting and eventful participation in the Little Miss America Contest. Trudy, after winning the California title went on to Louisiana to participate in the national finals. Even though she didn't win the contest she was in the top fifteen semi-finalists and did win the Most Photogenic Award (We're not sure what

that means, but I think you can picture what it is). But don't let that get you down. You might think you can't win any awards yourself. But lo, you are wrong. Your big chance is coming up at the big Royal Cavalier Family Picnic planned for October 12, Sunday, at Chatsworth Park. Contests and Games are being planned that will fascinate even the dullest person. Games will include the ever popular Sack Race, the controversial Pin The Tail On The Flute Player, and of course the Egg Roll (Oh Tom!) Every family will be or has already been sent a postcard indicating the course of meal which they should bring. Food should be freshly prepared (no older than six months, please!) Make sure to be there, after all it's only American. But it sure won't be no picnic for the next few months for those who have been selected for the new Comp Guard. The results of the tryouts for the guard were announced amidst a flurry of excitement at rehearsal (everyone was packing to go home). But we all stopped dead in our tracks and were overcome when it was announced that Roger Tibbetts, Jim Ciska, Mike Sinks, Greg Williams, Tom Munsell, and Ira Bornstein had been chosen as rifles in the guard. OOs and ahs accompanied the reading as Lou Colgan, Sandy Gross, Leslie Brochu, Phil Rojas, Karen Brown, Chris Foley, Tom Ramsey, Kathy Martinez, Janis Guard, Rich Cramer, Sheila Parker, and Mike Mays were read off the list as the final flags. The Comp Guard will compete against other colorguards from various units in contests beginning early next year. Its first trial comes January 10 when it will perform at an evaluation show in order for the judges to rank the guard according to its ability and determine its competitive status. The guard will be under the bril-

liant leadership of Jeff McVicker. It will be further guided to success by its instructors Diane McDuff and Greg McVicker. A list of shows will be given out later so that we can all fulfill our exotic tendencies and support the guard at their shows.

I'd like to thank everyone who helped to gather materials, sort and box things and put in long hot hours at the Swap Meet in September. We earned about \$380.00. Thanks to lots of helping hands.

Mrs. Jeanne Marsden

EDITORIAL

We've had a lot of fundraisers in the last few months. And they take a lot of time and trouble to prepare and complete. Perhaps the most time consuming and tedious and tiring of these is to put on a carnival. In the last few months we have participated in 3 such carnivals, each one requiring a great deal of effort. Each booth has to be maintained, and a great deal of responsibility has to be taken by membership in general to make these successful. But it's disgusting to see how little the membership in general cares. Go to a carnival sometime and look at the sign up chart. At the last carnival there were more empty spaces on it than there were sign-ups. At every carnival it is the same group of parents, the same group of members, the same people who support this kind of function. Obviously not everyone can give of their time so easily and on such short notices as have happened on several such events. But out of an organization of over 50 families, it's hard to imagine that only a handful have the time to do anything for the band.

"But", you say, "I'm not in the band to work. I'm in the band because I'm a great musician. I can't run the risk of ruining my embouchure by working in the dart booth blowing bal-

oons." This band would not have gotten far if it had not been for people giving and risking a great deal. Our national title has been the result of years of work by the membership. I wonder that if we had to go back to making our own uniforms, selling chocolate or popcorn, and all those fun things that we had to do to keep the band going, if the national champions and their families could keep this band alive.

It takes a lot more than being a "great musician" to be a Royal Cavalier. Great musicians have come and gone in this band because they were too great to live up to the fact that being a Royal Cavalier means a lot more than hitting high notes. It means there must be a commitment to the organization. It means giving something to the band of yourself beyond just attending rehearsals and making an occasional performance or two. It seems so impossible that a band made up of such a variety of individuals, good players and bad players, marching experts and muffs, could have a record such as ours and hold a national title. But we have. And not all of that is done on the street or on the field. A membership that is active and supportive is necessary for us to keep our standards. So next time there is a band activity, don't stay home to watch Mary Tyler Moore (she's never held a national title), come and support your band. It's only as good as you make it.

BOOKWORM DEPT.

Now that we have become a band of national prominence, it has been noticed that the level of our cultural awareness is somewhat below normal. To counter this, the LFDL is beginning a drive to raise our level of culture through reading. If you fol-

low the proscribed course, you will definitely improve your culturedness. For this month, the following books should be on your list to read;

1984 by G. Orwell; a fantasy account about the next time the Royal Cavaliers lose a parade to Markers. Written in pure fantasy it is easy to read at the third grade level (primarily so that Markers could read it also).

Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury. A true to life account written by an ex-Rockfalls Rocket about their disastrous seasons in 1973, 1974, 1975. Makes good reading in a locker room.

The Scarlet Letter by Nat Hathnor. Relates the pains and anxieties within Whittier over the color of their banner. (Paul always liked charitres). Make sure to read this one with a friend.

Notes Of A Native Son by Jim Ballwon. A musical exercise book of half-notes used to train mid-western high school bands in finger dexterity. Readers are warned in the text not to expect too much the first year of study, but that by the time they graduate they should be able to at least crack like anyone else.

FUND-RAISING FUN DEPT.

Fun, Thrills, Laughter, Excitement!!!! Yes!---You could have had part of all of the merriment if you were at the Carnival which took place September 12, 13, and 14, at the Pic-and-Save parking lot in North Hollywood. We were very fortunate to be able to take part in this last minute fund raiser, which brought us close to \$1000! I know you are probably wondering how we were so lucky to have been chosen to co-host this event. Well, Kemsley Bros. needed an organization to run the game booths and the Cavaliers

needed money. So the problem was solved. We were also fortunate that we had such an excellent turn-out of Cavaliers to work, since most people were not contacted until the last minute. Those Cavaliers who did show their spirit and enthusiasm by cooperating with the Carnival, not only helped our organization greatly, but also had a lot of fun!

Colleen Lee

WILMA'S WISDOM DEPT.

Dear Wilma,

I read in a newspaper the other day that Greg Ramsey was voted the "Best Dressed Man for 1975" in the Overalls Division. Is this really true? I really don't think the title would "suit" him.

Fancy Pants

Dear Fancy Pants,

I think you must be mistaken. My research says that Kurt Klapshutz of Fourforks, Idaho, won that contest. However, I have heard rumors that Lou Colgan is being considered for top man in the 69 Football Jersey Division. Good Luck Lou.

Wilma

Dear Wilma,

Could you please suggest some lip exercises for brass players that have been on vacation for a month. I've noticed a severe strain while playing at rehearsals now that the new season is starting again.

Lose Lips

Dear Warren,

You're not the only one. I've noticed quite a strain in the band myself. Let me suggest this one simple exercise to strengthen your lips. Get out your mother's vacuum and take off all the attachments except for the hose.

Secure your mouth to the end of the hose and turn on the vacuum. Don't worry if it hurts, the benefits are so rewarding. If you begin to bleed, make sure you wipe it up. After 15 minutes take a break and then practice your horn. You should notice quite a difference.

Wilma

Dear Wilma,

I was at the carnival last weekend and worked in the dart booth. It was ok, but I had one problem. Whenever I sold darts to they would never throw them at the balloons. They threw them at me! What can I do? I don't want to be pinned for the rest of my life. After the third or fourth direct hit you begin to get discouraged.

Bursted Hopes

Dear Bursting Hopes,

Either you got some kinda magnetism or you're just plain ugly. I think you should try some other booth. The safest one would probably be the Jingle Board where all people can throw is heavy metal rings, but at least they're not so sharp.

Wilma

Dear Wilma,

Last rehearsal I heard we had seven snares. I think that's disgusting. Setting traps for little animals isn't my idea of humanness. If we want to help some animals, why don't we put Marker's out of their misery?

Friend of Fur

Dear Friend of Fur,

Obviously you're not a drummer. We had seven SNARE DRUMS, not traps. Besides we wouldn't spend our time on little animals anyway. We only go after the big meat. And as for Marker's we shot them a long time ago. Now all's we got to do is finish them off.

Wilma

You got some PROBLEMS?
Write down your anxieties on a
little slip of paper and give it to
your nearest LFDL staff member.
All letters will be held confidential,
maybe. Wilma will answer them
honestly and swiftly.

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Anyone wishing to write for
the LFDL is asked to contact
Ernie Star, please, or any of the
LFDL staff. We're always looking
for a good joker.

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