

Unsung heroes prepare for moment of glory



The final reward after hours and hours of practice, the Harrison High School marching band, in full dress and with flags flying, takes to the field at half time. (Staff photos by Randy Borst)



Farmington High flute player Ginger Stamy practices a few notes before the next big game.



Barking out orders through a bullhorn to his marching musical troops is North Farmington High band director Doug MacQueen.

High school bands are the unsung heroes and heroines of the football season.

Fans' eyes may follow those dashing high school gridiron stars, but the accomplishments of the band are sometimes lost in the excitement of the game.

But the bands persist in trying to capture their moments of half-time glory on the playing fields of Harrison, North Farmington and Farmington high schools.

The trumpet player who can turn that brass mechanism into a rousing Sousa sound is a musical football hero. Look at the drum major who can march around the field at half time and makes you forget about the weight of the drum he totes with him.

Much like the athletes on the field, the band needs to get into condition long before the fans even consider getting a seat for the game.

Their musical game plan includes the formations they will use when they walk onto the field. As with the band members who have gone before them, this year's musicians will learn that stepping lively isn't as easy as it seems.



Brass is always a lively addition to a marching band. Puckering their lips for another season

are Farmington High trumpet players Dave Rynan (left) and Bruce Stafford.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

ANGLES CONFESSES it was aghast and amazed by Farmington City Council watcher Nancy Leonard. Ms. Leonard, our woman about town, recently visited the Observer office carrying a hapless cicada in a plastic bag. (ASPCA take note) At first Ms. Leonard vowed the critter was for a bug collecting little buddy of hers. But then she slipped and told the gathered Observer crew that she had several praying mantis in her collection. To top things off, she began to give her new acquisition mouth-to-mouth resuscitation by sending little puffs of air into the plastic bag. Evidently, she was keeping him alive until she could part the little critter from its buggy world with a dab of nail polish remover. (It's relieved that she hasn't begun collecting angles although there are some persons who wouldn't mind seeing IA bag it.)

OUR LOCAL and only drive-in has another award-winning, critically acclaimed blockbuster on its bill. This week, discriminating moviegoers can see a rare print of "The Clonus Horror." Angles suggests you don't miss the flick's award-winning theme song which includes the immortal lines: "Clone for your money, two for the show, three to get ready, go clone, go." (Angles is hesitant to add that the movie stars Rosemary Cloney.

ATTENTION BAND boosters: Annual Tag Day will begin on Oct. 12 and spill-over to Oct. 13. Persons who want to support the high school bands can give to the roving musicians on those days.

SO YOU can't skate as well as Peg Fleming or even Snoopy. Remedy that situation by enrolling yourself and your youngster in Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation Dept. skating classes. The slick sessions begin on Oct. 1 and various sessions begin throughout the cold weather season.

Skating classes meet for 30 minutes each week for six weeks. Participants may not enroll for two or three consecutive sessions of the same level unless openings exist one week before the next series of classes. Minimum age for mom and tot classes is four years old. There is no skate rental available at the rink. Classes will be conducted from Oct. 1-Nov. 9; Nov. 12-Dec. 21; Jan. 2-Feb. 8 and Feb. 11-March 21. They will be conducted at the Ice Skating Arena on Beech Road south of Nine Mile. Fee is \$20. For a time schedule and to register, call the department at 474-6115.

AHA! Those busy persons down at the Gathering Place are in rehearsals for their show every Wednesday this month. They take the show on the try-out road on Oct. 19 in conjunction with the Farmington Area Commission on Aging Conference. (Remember you read about it in Angles earlier this year. IA likes to pat itself on its plane once in a while.)

ANTIQUE FANCIERS can attend a show and sale from 10 a.m.-7:30 p.m. on Sept. 23 at Lucy's Oldies but Goodies at 34631 Grand River, Farmington, next to Dunelavy's. The show will take place in Lucy's parking lot.

ONLY 10 women were accepted into the masters of business administration program at U-M Dearborn this fall and three of them are graduates of Farmington High School. They are: Laurie Breisch, from the class of '72; Gail McGregor, from the class of '73 and Barb Stanicewski (nee Miller) from the class of '73. They will be in class with 50 men. (Gee, maybe administrators are beginning to believe that women only want jobs so they can dress for success. Has affirmative action been axed?)

THERE'S a toll-free number to call if you have a question about cancer. Dial 1-800-462-9191. It's answered by Cancer Action Now.

THE LATEST brouhaha down at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus concerns a disagreement over the financial feasibility of stocking the sanitary napkin dispensers in the women's lavatories. Seems the administration declines to stock them arguing that the rate of theft makes it a financial loss. Women, who have more of a vested interest in the debate than the male administrative officers, have appealed to the clerical workers union and a grievance has been filed against the college. The women argue that the dispensers are necessary to the 7,700 female students and 350 female staffers at Orchard Ridge. (IA hesitates to ask what would happen if persons began to take the tissue paper from the bathroom stalls. Another item to quit stocking?)

THE TRI-COUNTY Boycott Lettuce Drive acting in conjunction with Cesar Chavez's Farm Workers launches its drive to boycott iceberg lettuce at 7 p.m., Sept. 20 at the Birmingham Unitarian Church on Lone Pine and Woodward. Several farm worker families have returned to the Detroit area to organize the head lettuce boycott.

THE BIGGEST guffaw-getter at Monday's Farmington City Council meeting was the revelation that Canton Twp. Board members are considering broadcasting their meetings via cable TV. While Farmington's Council is considering a franchise for the same cable television company, the Liberty street gathering probably won't be broadcast into citizens' homes. "We need to cut down on the crowds," was the comment of one council member dryly referring to the sitting-room-always audience at the meetings. (What? We'll miss the Bob and Dick and Alton and Nedra Show?)

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