

# Cheerleaders, Majorettes Add Color To Games

## Plenty Of Headaches, Long Hours Of Work In Their Performances

By DIANNE ZIESSOW  
Observer Teen Editor

Short, flying skirts and bare legs. Where do you find them? Football and basketball games. Who wears them? Why the cheerleaders and majorettes, of course. Where would the world of collegiate and high school sports be without these girls? We would guess it would be pretty dull and the spirit.... who else would give the crowds and the teams spirit?

There is a chance to be out in front of a crowd of people and lead them. And what could be more exciting than to go to away games and ride on the same bus as the football players?

But in reality it is hard, tedious work. They practice a couple times a week for long hours till their muscles ache. They strive for perfection.

The girls attend every game which means no date for that night or the weekend. Their school and its victories or losses come first.

Redford Union in the hot sun. And the Redford girls wore heavy wool navy blue slacks which soaked up the intense heat. They kept on cheering their team though they were boiling.

Big blood-sucking mosquitoes fed off the Plymouth cheerleaders in the opener against Northville. Derying these pests, the girls kept on leading their school in support for the team. They would worry about their wounds later.

### Who Cares About The Weather?

When there is snow, a blizzard blinds the field or the

temperature dips below zero, the strong-hearted cheerleaders are out there yelling for the team. They don't notice the weather. Though there may be a very small crowd because the air is freezing, the girls are out there cheering their hearts out.

Cheerleaders wear pleated skirts and big warm sweaters in their school's colors. White fluffy wool socks and tennis shoes are worn on their feet. This traditional outfit dates back to the beginning of cheerleaders. The one thing that has changed is the length of the skirts. Today they are practically the mini length which must be quite cold in the winter.

These girls? What are they like? They are all shapes and sizes with every color of hair, long, short, or medium. They belong to clubs, honor societies and are officers for their class. Jan Lithgow, captain of her squad at Redford Union, is treasurer of her senior class. Judy Allen, Plymouth High captain, is short with red hair and dates one of the football players she roots for.

### Tryouts Continue For 6 Weeks

To become a cheerleader, the girls go through six long weeks of practicing before the final tryouts. They learn cheers and then must present them with a partner and alone in front of the squad's advisor, graduating cheerleaders and cheerleaders from other colleges. They also must have a "C" average before they can think about a tryout.

Yet, I ask, why would a girl want to become a cheerleader? "Simple," said Mary Ann Smith, Plymouth cheerleader, "it gives me a good feeling, and besides I like sports and this was the closest to participating in them."

But how about Spirit? "A school must have spirit, and lots of it to encourage the team to win. I want my team to win, and I'm giving my school the spirit as a cheerleader," said Stevenson High senior, Debbie McManaway.

After the girls become full-fledged cheerleaders, they generally attend summer camp for five days. There they learn cheers, new chants, new formations. Most of the area girls go to Camp All-American, in Hartford, Mich. At the end of the camp period, they compete in contests to see which is the best group or person.

During the school year, the girls lead pep assemblies before games. They belong to the pep club which promotes school spirit throughout the school. They make the signs for the games, sell booster buttons and are an important part of the school life.

### Benefit Dance Eases Expenses

Once a year the cheerleaders hold a dance for the entire school. They also have car washes -- to raise money for the summer camp. During the year, the girls go to workshops to learn more or better cheers, and how to perfect formations.

Through all this, the cheerleaders must keep up official grades and stay in the good graces of the school. After all, they are looked up to and envied by the other students.

When Plymouth played Northville in the scourge of millions of mosquitoes, they found the majorettes a prime target. Since they weren't moving and jumping like the cheerleaders, the pesky insects flew in for their dinner -- the immobile majorettes.

Marching at halftime also presents a problem in the snow, rain and sub-zero weather. Yet the girls may be freezing but they refuse to give up and go in. In fact they don't seem to notice the cold, wet, or hot sun.

A typical majorette is always thought of as a girl who leads the band and twirls a baton. Not so. They do lead the band and they do twirl a baton but they also march with a head through back and a stiff goose step.

They also have their own show in which they light both ends of their baton in gasoline and twirl it that way.

### Majorettes Have Their Troubles

Now, that must take a lot of courage. They may be good, but what if they slipped or they missed the baton in catching it? That isn't so easy as it looks.

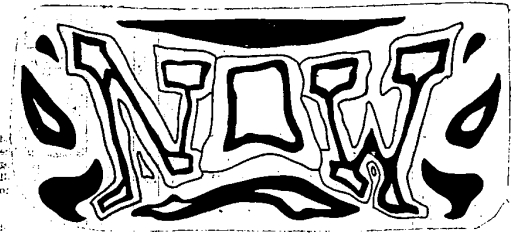
Most of the girls started baton lessons when they were quite young and have always wanted to be in front of a marching band.

Connie Palmer, majorette for Plymouth became interested in another way. She was the band's mascot when she was nine years old. Now she not only is a majorette, but also gives baton lessons.

The girls try out at the end of school and if they aren't good enough then they attend Camp Smith Walbridge in Michigan. From there, their band director chooses them. They have to know how to march and twirl a baton.

The girls practice everyday with the band and then once a week by themselves for one to two hours. Strained and sore muscles must be put aside. They have to keep practicing. The first and most important thing to them is their job, although they still have to keep up their grades.

Sharon Thomas, Plymouth High Majorette, always wanted to be a majorette. Now she enters contests and teaches baton to others. She, like the other girls, enjoys what she is doing. "There is always that excitement and color that goes with a marching band whether it is a college or a high school, I think football games would be dull and lack color without the band and the majorettes," she said.



## 'The Oldest Teener' -- Robin Gets A Vote

Today there is a question as to who is the "World's Oldest Teen-ager," Tiny Tim or Robin Seymour. Tiny Tim sets the part and tries to stay 30 years younger than his age, but Seymour has been labeled this because of his show.

Seymour began broadcasting 20 years ago, at what age he won't say, and worked for WKBR and WJBK before he came to the CKLW Swingin' Time Show.

He feels that he is the image of what teens would like to see in their parents. He understands their language, hang-outs and desires. Many teens have gone to him for counseling.

ROBIN LIKES THE many sounds of today and has many records in his own collection of what he plays. He also digs mod clothes and wears them.

He doesn't have long hair but feels that it is alright for anyone else if they like the look. As for the hippie movements and protests he said, "It is a shame and pity that people have to cut out of society when it doesn't go their way. This isn't the way to accomplish anything."

Seymour feels that the songs of today are bringing out the truth about today's society and what is really going on. Yet, some of these songs relate to dope and sex which may do more harm than good.

In that case, he said, "There are a lot of songs that are never played because of this and that content. Although some songs are out and have been popular such as 'Louie, Louie,' 'Hey, Mr. Tamborine Man,' 'Yummy, Yummy,' and 'Mellow Yellow,' we have to be careful."

## MYI To Hold Auditions

On Sept. 28, the nationally famous Musical Youth International will hold auditions at White Acres in Saline, Mich., for the 1969 MYI tour to Japan and the Western U.S.

The group consists of 38 teen-age students from 51 Michigan and Ohio high schools. Since June of this year, the MYI has presented concerts to over 10,000 people from Michigan to Mexico. They gave two concerts at HomeFair in San Antonio, and made three television appearances.

Interested and qualified high school juniors and seniors are invited to apply for an audition schedule, for both chorus and concert band, by writing or calling Dr. Lester McCoy, Musical Director, Saline, at (313) 489-9734, or Carl Zwink, 904 Packard, Ann Arbor, at 665-6297.

LONG HOURS of practice are needed to perfect a formation of this type. Members of the varsity cheerleading squad at Stevenson High take pride in this maneuver. The group includes: (front) Leader Linda Matthews; (second row) Yvonne Bonnett (left) and Sue Ott; (third row) Cindy Garfield and Jane Thomas (right); (rear, from left), Randy Morrell, Debbie McManaway and Debbie George.



ROBIN SEYMOUR

"As for Chicago," he said, "that was a terrible way the police treated the people. Any more convictions like the last two and we are going to be in real trouble. Let the people elect the candidates, not the parties."

Yet, Seymour contradicted himself when asked about the new morality and free love. "It is an individual choice, of course, but remember the best things in life are free."

At the end of this month, his period with CKLW will end. "I want more talent during the week and make it a show the college kids and those out of high school will enjoy. That takes money and the studio won't give anymore so I am leaving and going on my own. I feel I owe more to older people than what the show was giving."

ROBIN ALSO has his serious side. He dislikes obscene magazines and movies and feels that the United States may fall like Rome if the immorality and corruption isn't put to a stop.



TWAS HOT but the Redford Union cheerleaders were wearing their woolen slacks while performing during the season opener at Stevenson. They are: (rear from left) Mary Enna Czerniak, Kathy Baer and Shirley Wasielewski; (middle row) Lordeen Kordel (left) and Eileen Pietrie; (front) Arleen Brandon, Jan Lithgow (center) and Anne Karlson (right).

## F/Ton Boy Gets Ferris Honors

Paul C. Bennett, of 3363 Alta Loma, Farmington, technical and applied art student, was among 258 students honored for academic excellence in the summer quarter by naming them to the dean's honor list at Ferris State College.

To be named to this list, a student must maintain at least a B average while carrying a full academic load.



GO, ROCKS, GO. That's the chant of Plymouth High cheerleaders Karleen Fucyck (right) and Marcia Clum. The girls had to dodge mosquitoes all evening and then saw their favorite team go down to a 20-13 defeat in the opener against Northville.

## Dianne Ziessow New Teen Editor

Dianne Ziessow, recently appointed Teen Editor of the Observer Newspapers, brings a new, fresh look to a page geared to answer the demands of the younger generation.

Miss Ziessow, a graduate of Birmingham Groves High, attended William Woods College in Fulton, Mo., where she was the college's contributing editor to the Westminster College newspaper.

She was the college's Padlock Club correspondent to the National Horseman. It is made up of those interested in equestrian activities.

Dianne was born and raised in a newspaper atmosphere--her grandfather, Fred Martin, was display copy desk manager of the Detroit Times for 25 years.

She served as a free lance reporter for the Birmingham Eccentric for a year before accepting the position with the Observer Newspapers.

DIANNE STARTS this week with a feature on the life of high school cheerleaders and majorettes. She writes of Robin Seymour, generally considered the one disc jockey that has



DIANNE ZIESSOW

more teen followers than any other in the entire area.

All her life she has competed in horse shows in Michigan in the hunter and jumper classes. For three years she was chairman of the annual Franklin Roundup show and served as a judge.

Dianne likes all types of music but her favorite is the folk sound. She plays a guitar and joined with a friend in numerous appearances at a nearby hospital while in college.

Dianne plans to visit every one of the 18 high schools in the Observer newspapers circulation area to get the news that teens want. Look for her weekly Teen Pages--starting with this one.

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