

# Harrison High Marching Band rocks nationals

BY DIANE HANSON  
SPECIAL WRITER

The Harrison High School Marching Band took their award-winning show to Indianapolis last week for the Bands of America Grand National Championships at the RCA Dome, where they scored better than half of the other bands competing.

Rockin' the RCA: Harrison Marching Band members Dave Baker (left) and Brian Webb thrill the crowd with their expertise on the bass and lead guitar, respectively.



PHOTO BY DIANE HANSON

Eighty-one of the nation's top bands from 17 states competed during the three-day event Nov. 13-15. The Farmington Hills marchers drew cheers from thousands of spectators with their dynamic performance of "The Music of Jethro Tull," during Friday's preliminary competition.

The Harrison band placed 35th overall with just the top 30 bands advancing on to the Saturday semi-finals competition. Band Director Mark Phillips was pleased with his 132 dedicated performers.

"I think the kids felt real confident and good," he said. "I felt just from the ground here that it was a great performance. I'm really happy." Phillips said the band continued a heavy practice schedule after taking second place in Flight III at the state championships three weeks ago. The Harrison Band received their highest score ever, 90.2, at states along with caption awards for Best Percussion and Best Auxiliary.

The shows on a state and national level are not just music and marching anymore. Choreography and dance are as much a part of the maneuvers of the instrument players as they are for the color guard.

"We added some visuals to show, a couple of lunges," said

junior clarinetist Jonathan Bjorklund.

Sophomore baritone-saxophone player Mike Schim added, "We've been working on the weak parts of the show and trying to improve it and make it the best it could be."

That's just exactly what Phillips wants his students to strive for. "The goal for us has always been to do the best we can," he said.

That can be difficult at a national competition according to Katherine Leik, sophomore trumpet player. She said the pressure is greater at nationals "because you know everybody is watching you and ... there's no way you can ignore it."

The band's national performance culminated a stellar season for the accomplished musicians and color guard.

The marchers took first place for Flight III in every local competition this year as well as all local Flight III caption awards for Best Marching and Maneuvering, Best Auxiliary, Best Winds and Best Percussion.

Phillips gives the parents in the booster organization a lot of kudos for their support, but "I give the kids the credit. It's their band. They're the pulse of the band. They did a great job. We're proud of them. They are wonderful kids."

## OBITUARIES

### DONALD JOSEPH MANKELL

Donald Joseph Mankell, 81, died Nov. 16 at Botsford General Hospital.

He is survived by wife, Jewel; sons, Douglas and Dennis; and daughter, Diane.

Funeral services were held Nov. 19 at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Farmington. Arrangements made by Heenev-Sandquist Funeral Home in Farmington. Memorial contributions can be sent to the Alzheimer's Association.

### MICHAEL HORODNICKI

Michael Horodnicki, 77, died Nov. 16 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak.

A resident of Farmington Hills, Mr. Horodnicki worked as a traffic manager for Houdaille Industries and was a World War II Army veteran. He was a member of St. Gerald's Church and an avid golfer. He also enjoyed woodworking, gardening, reading, history and spending time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by wife, Josephine; son, Michael Jr. (Lynda); daughters, Marilyn (Patrick) Law and Marcia (Edward) Jolly; one sister; and six grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held today, Nov. 20, at St. Gerald's Catholic Church in Farmington. Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

Memorial contributions can be made to a charity of choice.

### BETTY JEAN PARKS

Betty Jean Parks, 78, died Nov. 15 at Martin Luther Memorial Home in South Lyon.

A longtime resident of Farmington, Mrs. Parks worked as a secretary in the Detroit Public Schools and as an office manager for Lakes of North Land Development. She was a member of the TOPS Women's Social Club and enjoyed reading, cooking, bingo and travel.

She is survived by sons, Thomas (Beverly) of Highland and Daniel (Caroline) of Novi; daughter, Nancy (Thomas) Watson of Apple Valley, Calif.; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Nov. 19 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. John Quigley officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the Salvation Army, 16130 Northland Drive, Southfield 48075.

### BONNIE B. PASCHKE

Bonnie B. Paschke, 58, died Nov. 13 in Farmington Hills.

A resident of Farmington, Mrs. Paschke was a Braille transcriber and developed illustrations for the blind.

She is survived by husband, LeRoy; daughters, Bobbi Gelman of Farmington Hills and Mary Beth Shirey of Holland, Mich.; seven grandchildren; and Howard Gelman, Lee Paschke and Rebecca Deering.

Funeral services were held

Nov. 15 at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington with the Rev. Kurt Stutz and Andrea Teeple officiating.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Leader Dogs for the Blind, 1039 S. Rochester Road, Rochester 48063.

### WILLIAM RAYMOND GRAVUS

William Raymond Gravus, 66, died Nov. 17.

He is survived by son, William (Rena); daughter, Cheryl Leslie (Brian) Freeman; sister, Mary Kipfel; brother-in-law, Jack Campbell; and grandchildren, William, Victoria, Katherine, Jaclyn and Allison.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at Potere-Modetz Funeral Home, 339 Walnut Blvd., Rochester.

### DONALD FRANCIS PLANCK

Donald Francis Plank, 76, died Nov. 18 at his home in Farmington Hills.

Mr. Plank was a pilot for Republic Airlines for 34 years and a World War II Navy pilot. He loved music and was a member of the Sitting Ducks.

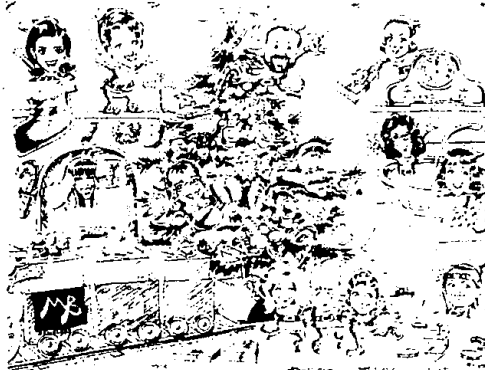
He is survived by wife, Martha; daughters, Cheryl Arney, Carle Chute, Sheila Pellerin, Donna Day and Gary Plank; and seven grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 21, at McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills. Memorial contributions can be sent to the A.L.S. Association.

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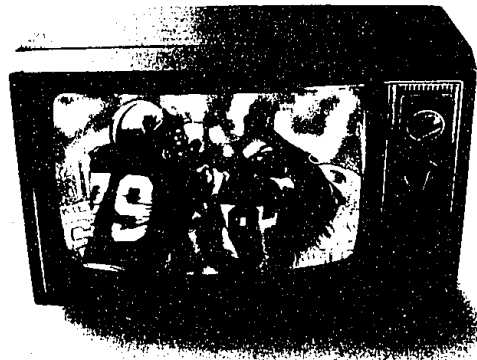
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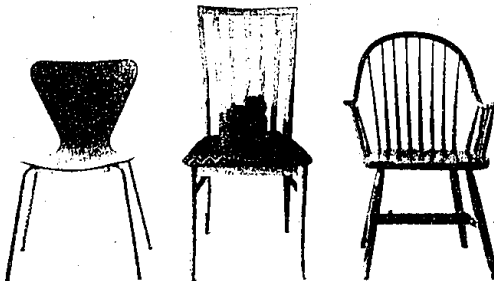


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