

Band from page A1

The 118-member band's dynamic performance of "EFX," a magical, mystical journey through time and space, earned them a Flight III third place with a score of 84.1 during the state competition Nov. 7 at the Pontiac Silverdome. They also earned three first-place awards in Flight III competitions, one second-place award, and nine caption awards for Best Marching, Best Music and Best General Effect in local competitions this year.

Receiving a Division I rating at the Grand Nationals was another feather in Harrison's plume. A rating of I, II, III or IV is awarded to each band based on their preliminary performances. A division rating of I indicates the band's score was within the highest scoring range.

"That was great to get the Division I rating," said Phillips. "There was a lot of competition and that felt good." Unfortunately the band just missed making it into the semi-finals in which 32 bands competed and were narrowed down to a 12-band finals competition. The Plymouth-Canton Marching Band was the only Michigan band to

make it into the finals competition where they captured the number two spot with a score of 96.3. First place went to Lassiter High School from Marietta, Ga. scoring 97.55.

But the National Championships was a lot more than just competition for the Harrison students. "It's really amazing seeing all the people here in the other 80 bands," said senior drum major Derek Lewis.

"I like talking with all the drum majors like Plymouth-Canton, Jenison and Lake Park," said senior color guard member Yoko Minowa. "They're really nice people."

"I love it," said Megan Fay, also a senior in color guard. "It's great meeting all the people here from the number one bands. I think this is an amazing experience for kids."

Phillips couldn't agree more. He said, especially for freshmen, it might be their first time going on this kind of trip.

"We start marching band officially with going to band camp so it kind of capsulizes the year," said Phillips. "We take this final trip so it's a really big focus for the kids. And it's great to come

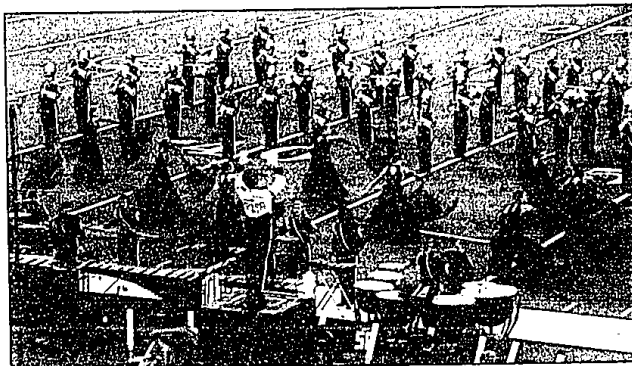
here and see all the bands. There are a lot of great bands here to see and the environment is so positive too. The kids have a chance to interact with other kids and that's a great thing."

There were also some special visitors to the Grand National Championships that Harrison band members were pleased to see. Last year, the Harrison Symphony Band was invited to perform in Russia and the Russian interpreter for the band made a surprise visit to the marching band while they were warming up for their nationals performance.

Along with him were the Minister of Culture of Russia and two Russian band directors who came to Indianapolis to watch the competition.

The Grand National Championships ends Harrison's marching band competition season, but for seniors Lewis, Fay and Minowa, there are thoughts of continuing with music in some form at college next year.

They all admitted they learned more than just music or dance during their time with the marching band. Organization, dedication and concentration



Perform: The Harrison Marching Band performs "EFX" during national championships in Indiana. The band was invited to perform in Russia last year.

were mandatory since practice and performance time each week often exceeded 15 hours. Band members' grades often even improve during the competition season.

"Actually, it really helps

because you learn to organize your time more and use it more efficiently," explained Minowa.

"Instead of going home and watching television, you go home and start your homework because you need to go to bed at

an earlier time," said Fay.

"You're always focused on something during band practice," added Lewis, "so when you go home, you focus on something else - like your homework."

Commerce from page A1

A spokesman for the Detroit mayor said reports of the meeting between Archer and Singerman were "overstated."

"The focus of the discussion was not Compuware," said Anthony Neely, Archer's press secretary. "It is no secret we'd like to see Compuware become part of the Campus Martius

development

"This was not focused on Compuware at all."

Additional taxes are a concern in moving to the city, Compuware owner Peter Kirmanos has said. A company like Compuware would pay a utility service, corporate and personal incomes taxes in Detroit, which

are not levied in Farmington Hills.

Compuware has outgrown its headquarters on Northwestern Highway and wants to build a new facility. The company has more than 9,000 employees.

Chaim Potok

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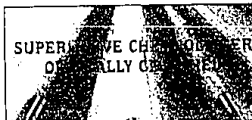
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