

Gold Capsule Comments

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August 1978

The official publication of
The Publicity Department of
The Seneca Optimists Drum &
Bugle Corps, Toronto, Canada.



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Drum & Bugle Corps, Toronto, Canada.

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CAMP '78

By: Arlene Janicki

It was a hot, Friday evening around 7:30pm, when we started out for Minden, Ontario, and our camp weekend. A long, two hour drive in a little car wasn't exactly my idea of a field day, but for the sake of drum corps there are sacrifices to be made...

Getting on the 401, traffic was backed up for miles, with other cars escaping Toronto for the holiday weekend. We reached our destination, Camp Kilcoo, late that night and immediately settled into our cabins. We soon learned that the "Peterborough" kids would not arrive until the following morning.

The camp was pretty nice from what I could tell. There was a large mess hall and a lake as you looked downward from the hill. Some of the facilities left much to be desired, but if you liked "open-air" sinks, with a spider or two watching you brush your teeth, then you were sure to feel right at home. You also had to develop a "24-hour love" for mosquitoes and black flies, because wherever you went, they went.

The next morning, everybody was up (well almost everybody...) at 7:30am and breakfast was first on the agenda. The eggs were "slightly" overdone, but the rest was good! Afterwards everyone piled onto a bus, and we headed over to the practice field. It was a fifteen minute ride, and as we got off the bus, the "Peterborough" kids were already lined up to practice. There was a good number of them, and when we lined up for exercises, the Seneca Optimists finally looked HUGE!!! The morning was mostly spent "fitting" new people into the drill, and as far as I could tell, everything was going smoothly. The "Peterborough" kids were picking up fast!

Practice ended around 5pm, with everyone feeling the results of a long day out in the sun. It was then back to camp for dinner, sectionals, and "T.A.S. Night".

T.A.S. was interesting, to say the least. It was a big "hype" for both corps to gather together and unite, to form one Super Seneca Optimists! The

executive, instructional staff, and Jr. Executive's of both corps were introduced and a representative from each branch made a brief speech. Later, champagne was served, and a toast was made to the "new" Seneca Optimists. This was followed by the screening of our 1977 field show, and I personally sat there and got chills!

We were out on the field again at 9:00am, Sunday morning....Mother Nature didn't fully co-operate with us this time and late in the afternoon it began to rain, hindering our valiant efforts to finish the drill. "Ritz" would have to wait until tomorrow....sectionals later began, and lasted most of the evening.

Monday was like the rest....practice at 9:00am. The horns learned their drill well into "Ritz", and the rifles were busy learning concert and getting it decently memorized. It had been a long weekend, and everyone was beginning to suffer from their lack of sleep, and sunburned bodies. We quit around 5pm, and headed back to camp. We then proceeded to pack for home.

Everyone just walked around like zombies...some packed up their belongings, while others went for a swim in the lake (some whether they wanted to or not!) After everything was loaded and ready to go, the Seneca caravan set out for Peterborough and our exhibition at Westgate Speedway.

The drive there was amazing, and for any long stretch of road, you could see at least ten cars from Seneca passing each other simultaneously...at 130 kph? Somehow or other, we all managed to get lost. Upon discovering we didn't know where we were, we decided to stop for dinner and ask for directions. Well, we asked directions about five times, got the scenic tour of Peterborough about seven times, unknowingly passed the race-track once or twice, and just as we were about to head back to Minden and start over again, we spotted a sign with the words "WESTGATE SPEEDWAY" on it. HURRAY! What actually said "8:00pm", we mistook to say "8 miles". Oh well! We found ourselves out in the country again and met a few cars from the corps! Everyone seemed to have their own ideas about where to go, and almost every intersection had a car from the corps on it...all going in opposite directions from us!

We finally made it to the race-track, ate(again!), and it was decided that we would wear jeans and black T-shirts for the standstill. The place was really a "HOLE" and they didn't deserve our nice uniforms anyway! The concert seemed to take forever as far as I was concerned...the mosquitoes just wouldn't quit. It was finally over and back to Toronto we went, mosquito bites and all...

BOOKS

By: Steve Vickers

It never fails. The Seneca Optimists always seem to top their previous years' production when it comes to the corps' annual yearbook. And the 1977 project is certainly no exception.

Mike Grimes and staff put together an entertaining 44-page book full of outstanding group and candid photographs and highly enjoyable reading on the Seneca Optimists' second competitive season. There is something for everyone, including a fold-out centre spread art cartoon about what "may" have taken place under the giant parachute used during the corps' exit in 1977.

Very few corps picture every member, but this yearbook has one of each marching participant. A graph shows the score improvement during the 27-contest season from a low of 64.85 in Toronto, in the first show, to an 85.80 at the Canadian Nationals in Scarborough.

All-in-all, one of the finest corps yearbooks I have ever seen. Copies are available by sending \$4.75 to: Seneca Optimists, Mike Grimes, 126 Lakeshore Drive, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M8V 2A2.

STAR CORPS

By: Mark Lewis

Four score and thirty-two drum corps shows ago, in a galaxy far, far away, on a planet third from its sun, there was a drum and bugle corps...small, with few in staff, and an ambition to get somewhere. They had carried this trait with them since time began, yet they were having great difficulty because of lack of membership. You see, the dreaded Darth Vanguard was threatening to take them all away in order to enslave them in a world of boredom.

Darth Vanguard was a mutant pygmy from California, Alphasentory, who was zapped by a quadraphonic lazor sop and can no longer play drum corps...so now he goes from galaxy to galaxy and corps to corps, in hopes of taking people back into the normal way of life. In the year 2020.08 he came to this galaxy to invade the drum and bugle corps spoken about.

Darth Vanguard had built an enormous impregnable high school gymnasium with which he hoped to destroy all the members of this corps. The gym consisted of the bumpiest concrete known to the universe with extremely bright lights that come on at about five to five in the morning. Surrounding the walls about three feet from the floor, were hundreds of smoke detectors that buzz the same time the lights go on, and the worst, most hideous part of all, was at this same time, four hundred and twenty three armed chaperones packing cold pails of water, go people stomping.

There it was...the most dreadful thing known to mankind, just waiting to lodge another attack...but this time the corps was waiting...

The corps had been building up its defences slowly. They were equipped with ten lazor sops, twelve galactic getzens, and thirty-two planet destroying dynasties. To back up these defences they had fourteen solar snares, ten lazor ludwigs, eleven lazor flags, and six rechargeable retroactive rocket rifles. All were under the direction of Luke Sunriser and Princess Remo and their colleagues, Ti-Batter DC 3.50 and Sop 2 Bari 2. After a few fearless missions they had obtained plans on how to destroy this impregnable complex. It would take daring, guts, more people, and a lot of hype. Through the valiant efforts of Harpo the Horendous, the corps attained several more soldiers to fight the great battle.

Things were looking up for the mighty corps, and Darth Vanguard had slipped into silence for a while, then, without warning, the corps obtained...the FORCE...George Wright...to be exact. The corps started to become more aware of itself (and of George also). After most of the problems had been ironed out, they went into battle. The valiant Jedi-Knights (2017.06 Universal Open Champs), boarded their McCormick specials and went out and destroyed the gymnasium and all that were inside. All were happy and the heros were rewarded with weiners and barbequed french toast...but was this the end...no planetoid breath...for Darth Vanguard had escaped in a Slingerland Shuttle Craft to regroup with the Gallactic Regiment and who knows what his next evil plan will be...



BOLD GOLD MEETS THE MELLOW YELLOW

By: Gareth Skipp

On Friday, May 12, I started out for my 8 o'clock instructional staff meeting at the Lions Centre in Peterborough. Presumably we would be planning camp weekend which was to take place the following long weekend. Then, I found out that the whole Krescendos Executive was going to the meeting also. That seemed a bit hokey since it rarely happens. Something was in the air, but nobody would tell me anything. The meeting finally commenced at the Holiday Inn and after we were all seated and quiet, Gerry Hemsley, the corps director, started the ball rolling, "As you all probably know by now, Peter Byrne has approached us about amalgamating with the Seneca Optimists temporarily for the summer." I nearly fell off my chair.

Thirteen hours of meetings took place that weekend, between Krescendos Executive and instructional staff and with the representatives from the Seneca Optimists. The agreement was signed by Saturday night on the condition that at least twenty-five Krescendo marching members would say yes and go in on the deal. It was a well-kept secret but the kids knew something was up. We were all on edge. When Gerry presented the proposal to the kids on Sunday, an enthusiastic forty members raised their hands in approval. A cheer went up when Denver was mentioned. We were suddenly going to march among the corps we had only been able to read about. We were suddenly D.C.I.

At the same time, some of us were worried. Our kids, we realized, would have to be one and same with the corps in Toronto. They would have to rearrange their loyalties for three months. To make it work, they would have to become Krescendos again in the fall, competing at "A" class level? We are proud of Krescendos, the people involved in it, its history and its tradition. We had marched side by side in the black and gold, suffering the good and the bad together. Like many drum corps we are a close-knit family. It might be tough. It was wierd. But we hungered for that D.C.I. experience and in our hearts we wanted it to work because the opportunity would never come again. Oh boy, Oakies would be mad.

The week before camp was long and agonizing. What would these far-out people from Toronto be like? Who were these nuts who huddled under a parachute and made the crowd go bananas? At Camp Kilcoo near Minden, the two corps would meet and work together for the first time.

Certainly the Seneca staff and kids made us welcome and a sign reading "Seneca Optimists & Krescendos equals SUPERCORPS" in the mess hall made us feel good. We got quite a bit done that weekend and the Peterborough kids picked up the stuff and were fitting in very fast. One of the Seneca kids told a Peterborough drummer, "Because of you guys, we are a drum corps again." We were already starting to feel at home.

It was impressive to see that big, big corps on the line. And then there is the drum line. I call it the "ANIMAL". They are probably the biggest anywhere. On Sunday, they marched on to the drill field playing in one big company front--a solid line of thirty-seven. Later on, the bugle line pulled the same stunt when the drums were rehearsing their drill. It was funny, it was fantastic, it was a hype.

Only two days after meeting, the two corps performed as one at Westgate Speedway in Peterborough. The following Thursday, Krescendos met by themselves again. It was to see what our kids reaction was to the whole situation. There were a few bitches and it allowed them to let off steam early and get back into it. We soon realized how small the "problems" were and decided it could work. The ripples would smooth out with time.

We have been down to T.O. for two weekend practices since and everyone in the corps is working hard toward our goal. Last weekend, the Seneca Optimists Drum

Corps was very close together. As we taught the parachute drill and the members marched into the huddle in the centre, there seemed also a coming together of spirits.

June 5, 1978.



Profile on Wendy

By: Mike Grimes & Mhairi Cumming

Since the corps' inception, three years ago, the Seneca Optimists has had the pleasure of having on its staff, one of the greatest talents in colour guard today. WENDY PAQUIN is as beautiful as she is talented. For the past two years she has produced one of the top colour guards on the continent, and it looks as though she is doing just that, once again, with this year's Seneca Optimist colour guard.

Wendy's drum corps career began back in 1965, when she became a member of the St. John's Girls Drum and Bugle Corps, from Brantford, Ontario. After short stays on both the horn line and the drum line, Wendy finally moved on to the colour guard. During her final year with St. John's (1972), she was Guard Captain, President of the Junior Executive and had the honour of being named 'Corps Member of the Year'.

In late '72, Wendy packed her bags and moved east to Montreal. While she was there, the Chatelaines de Laval were re-organized and Wendy took on the task of instructing the colour guard, which consisted of mostly rookies.

In '75, Wendy moved back to Toronto, and joined the staff of the Toronto Optimists. When the Optimists merged with the Seneca Princemen, Wendy stayed on with the new corps and she is still here.

Being a colour guard instructor isn't at all easy as Wendy will certainly attest to. Here are some typical questions asked to Wendy by the girls in the guard:

- 1.) If an elephant runs across the field during concert, should we keep on doing our spins or should we let him go through?
- 2.) If my mother comes to the show on June 12, should she come in the corps' entrance or use the front gate?
- 3.) If I break my leg during the show, should I go and stand next to the National Party?
- 4.) What's a tick?

Let's hope Wendy will be around the corps for a long time to come. After all, what would the Seneca Optimists be without 'Tongue Tricks'?

A GUIDE TO SPEAKING CANADIAN STYLE DRUM CORPS

- ARDIC - The far north, home of the Esk Moze.
- ARSEY EM PEE - A para-military police body, also known as the 'Moundies'.
- BLING YULE - Adjective applied to a French Canadian who has been obliged to learn English to make a living.
- CHIEWSDY - The day after Mundy. As in: "Practice is Chewsdy night."
- DIE JEST OF TRACK - The place inside people, animals, etc., where things turn into other things.
- DODDER - As in: "My dodder marches with the St. John's Girls."
- EGG SEPSHUNALL - Onusual, very egg sellent. As in: "Bridgemen's show is egg sepshun-all."
- FORNER - A non-Canadian. The adjective is Forn.
- GRADE LAKES - The name applied to Lakes Spearyer, Urine, Mishgan, Eerie and Untario. Together they form the largest body of polluted wadder in the world. The Grade Lakes are part of the Undefined Front Ear, and when they were being divided up between Canada and the Knighted States, the Mare Cans got more than their fair share of four lakes and all of Lake Mishgan.
- HINGON - To hold the (telephone) line. Rhymes with 'Sing on'. As in: "Sorry but heez tye dup. Woodja like ta hington fur a mint?"
- INNY - As in: "The corps' buses are gone, Gord. Izzer inny chansova lift?"
- KWEE BECK - Place that Carole comes from. Stress falls on the second word. Rarely, Kuh Beck.
- LECK SHIR - As in: "The instructors sure gameya leck shir fur doonit."
- MAZKIDDA - The nash null insect of Canada. A kind of gnat whose bite causes a prolonged itching sensation and makes playing drum corps almost impossible.
- NAGRA FALLS - Famous cadaract located on the Nagra Pninsla, a strip of land lying between Lakes Untario and Eerie. Although the Canadians dizgovered Nagra Falls first, the Mare Cans tried to take them away during the Troubles of 1812. However, the Canadians took them back, then they gave the smaller ones to the Mare Cans as a consolation prize for losing the war.
- PAUL TICKS - In Canada, the art of the impossible. The adjectival form is plitti cull.
- PEEDERBURRA - Home of the Peederburra Krescendos.
- SLONG - The principal Canadian salutation of parting.

CONTINUED →

THANG SLOT - A verbal expression of gratitude for something given or done by another.

TRONNA - Home of the Seneca Optimists.

WORSH - As in: "I hope I git a chance ta worsh my clothes on tour."

YUD - Conditional statement expressing will or intention. As in: "Ontario - izzier innny place yud rather be?"

NEWS AND EVENTS and happenings in and around the SENECA CAMP...the CANADIAN CORPS SCENE...and beyond---as seen by THE BIG MOUTH.

Despite a slow start, the SENECA OPTIMISTS appear to be fielding one of their best corps ever...with some more hard work, the c corps should be back into the thick of competition in a couple of weeks...or by the time you read this.

A BIG MOUTH WELCOME to the kids from PETERBOROUGH...it's GREAT to have you along!!!

Formerly of the 27th LANCERS, BOB STEWART is a very welcome addition to our staff...good to have you along also...and to all our AMERICAN INSTRUCTORS & MEMBERS...Welcome to the right side of the 39th!!!

RUMOUR HAS IT, that a certain colour guard member, whose name we shall not mention, but whose initials 'we will...' "M.E."...hosed down the field in the WELLAND Contest during 'Ritz'...

PRE-PRACTICE ENTERTAINMENT... 'Midget-wrestling'...starring LISA AVELLA & WENDY PAQUIN (?) !!!!

DID YOU KNOW that in the last month the corps equipment truck has hit a car on the 401...hit a float after a parade AND ran over STEVE TREVOR'S camera!!!!...What next?

NEWS FLASH----A "gaggle" of SENECA OPTIMISTS have been spotted flying up the Don Valley Parkway...they are reported to be headed in the direction of SCARBOROUGH...News At Eleven.

The latest CRAZE to hit the corps, since SHORT SHORTS, are 'CROWBAR COUPLES'...presently in the running are...JEFF WATKIN and SUZANNE SOBIE...GORD PETCHKE and JOYCE ZIEBART (as in rustproofing)... SEAN WILLIAMS (as in Mike Williams Brother) and JANICE ARSENAULT (as in Mike Arsenault's sister)...formerly JEFF & SUZANNE were -in first place, but since Joyce's return from OREGON, after a two week absence, the standings have changed and are as follows... 1st Place: Gord & Joyce. 2nd Place: Jeff & Suzanne & 3rd Place: Sean & Janice. Stay tuned.

Have you performed any of the following stunts recently? Locked your car door but left the window open. Get into a car to put jeans on over a pair of shorts? Use 7 matches to light a cigarette & fail in the attempt. Try to light a cigarette with the filter up your nose? ...If so, you and SANDY DOUGLAS have a lot in common!!!

SAYINGS FOR THE MONTH ARE: "S-mack!!".... "We came to play".... "We're havin' some fun!!".... "Excuuu-use Me!!!" "Get naked!!".... "You're blowin' it, man..." "It's five to five!!" "Buffalo's burning...Film at 11!!!"....and speaking of burning, the Seneca Optimist Fire Department is now accepting donations.

DID YOU KNOW THAT the Seneca Optimists now have a FEEDER CORPS?...they are called the Seneca Optimist Cadets and are now boasting a membership of some 30+ kids!! Future Seneca Optimists!

HOW LUCKY CAN YOU GET DEPT: Arlene, our American friend on rifle came all the way to Canada from beautiful downtown LACKAWANNA, N.Y., just to march with us and away from her former corps, THE WATKIN GLEN SQUIRES but when we reached ALLENTOWN on Tour One, who else do we find ourselves billeted with, but ?????????? And, speaking of Americans, ARLENE and KAREN, both from the good ole U.S. of A. are considering moving up to CANADA...smart decision, girls!

TOUR ONE was a big disappointment for SENECA but the MONTREAL CROWD did wonders for the corps...they still love us there & the corps put on one of the best shows to date! But TOUR ONE ended on a good note (it was the only good note thus far)...the staff told us that "FARANDOLE" would be replacing the second half of the show. ALRIGHT!!! DCI...here we come! STAY TUNED for the line up of the Stars who will be named the "TARP QUEENS" for the New 1978 Show!

FLASH---It seems that KEN MULGREW has taken MARK DECLoux'S (from '77) place as the 'FLASHER'...watch for more at your local KEATING PARK!!!

WELCOME BACK KOTER MYRON!!!!What would the BARTITONE LINE be without you??? OUR CONGRATULATIONS are in order for the

OAKLAND CRUSADERS on winning the 1978 ONTARIO PROV. title...but don't count on winning the CANADIAN NATIONALS too...

THE FRENCH are well known for their driving habits, and CAROLE MARTEL didn't help their image either way by smashing up her car while driving home to pick up a tape-recorder for the guard practice.

THE BRAND NEW DRUM CORPS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS is now published and the corps has a few entries of their own noted in this publication...We have the oldest continuously published drum corps newsletter...that's right, GCC, began in 1960 as the Official publication of the Toronto Optimists and at the time of the merger the title changed to GOLD C.C....and here we are in our 18th year of publication...older than some of our marching members....Also listed is the fact that we are the first Canadian Corps to win the Open Class at the U.S. Open and our city is the first to place 2 corps in FINALS in the same year...us and the boys in blue! The Sunday Star, a division of the Toronto Star (Canada's largest newspaper) will be featuring the SENECA OPTIMISTS in their City Magazine with full colour photos of the corps as taken at SENECA 11 & at some rehearsals. Tentative date of publication, we understand, is Sunday, AUGUST 27th. Watch for it!!!

NOW, ONTO THE BEYOND PART I, as mentioned at the beginning...It was GREAT to see the BOTTLE DANCE again in Santa Clara's

show at ALLENTOWN this year... and the BLUE DEVILS...what can you say except that they are a fantastic improvement over last year's corps!!! BOSTON'S Off-The-Line is SOMETHING ELSE!!! You have to see it to believe it!!! OAKLAND is into the Magic Scene.... And is THIS YOUR COPY OF G.C.C.???? Go ahead...spend the 50¢...we need the money!!!

THE BIG MOUTH AWARDS DEPARTMENT FOR THIS ISSUE: At this date, the nominees for "MOUTH OF THE YEAR" are: JOAN WATKIN (alias Mona) MIAIRI CUMMING and BRIAN PETCHKE. And the Winner Is: "Mona"!!! THE SHORT SHORTS AWARD...the winner will be announced at a later date, but here are the nominees, to date,...DOUG THROWER, DOUG HURAS, KEITH GALACHER, MIKE GRIMES, LUCY CHILCO, TERRY "Rat" GAUTHIER, STEVE O'CONNOR, RICK JEMMET, KAREN BOSWORTH, KIM ROSSAMEL, JANICE ARSENAULT, MIKE ARSENAULT & KEN MULGREW (Next to nothing)...Stay tuned!

SONG DEDICATIONS: "THE STRIPPER"...Arranged by Brian Petchke & dedicated to KEN MULGREW! "IF I EVER I SAW YOUR FACE"...Dedicated to "Spot"...Theme from "SWAT"...Arranged by Kathy Duck & Dedicated to STEWART BENTLY & "FEELS SO GOOD"...Dedicated to Gord & Joyce... "DOES ANYONE KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?...Dedicated to the Rifle Line!!!" "CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'"... Dedicated to Lisa Avella!

TV SHOW DEDICATION..."FATHER KNOWS BEST"---To George Wright..."LOST IN SPACE"---To Kathy Duck.

....And that's the BIG MOUTH for this issue...But will we ever know---Does Mhairi really have braces or is she just hiding her model railroad set in her face...Well, it's five to five...Gotta go now....

On a Serious Note:

To achieve all that is possible, we must attempt the impossible---To be as much as we can be, we must dream of being more.
Gale Baker Stanton.

the big mouth



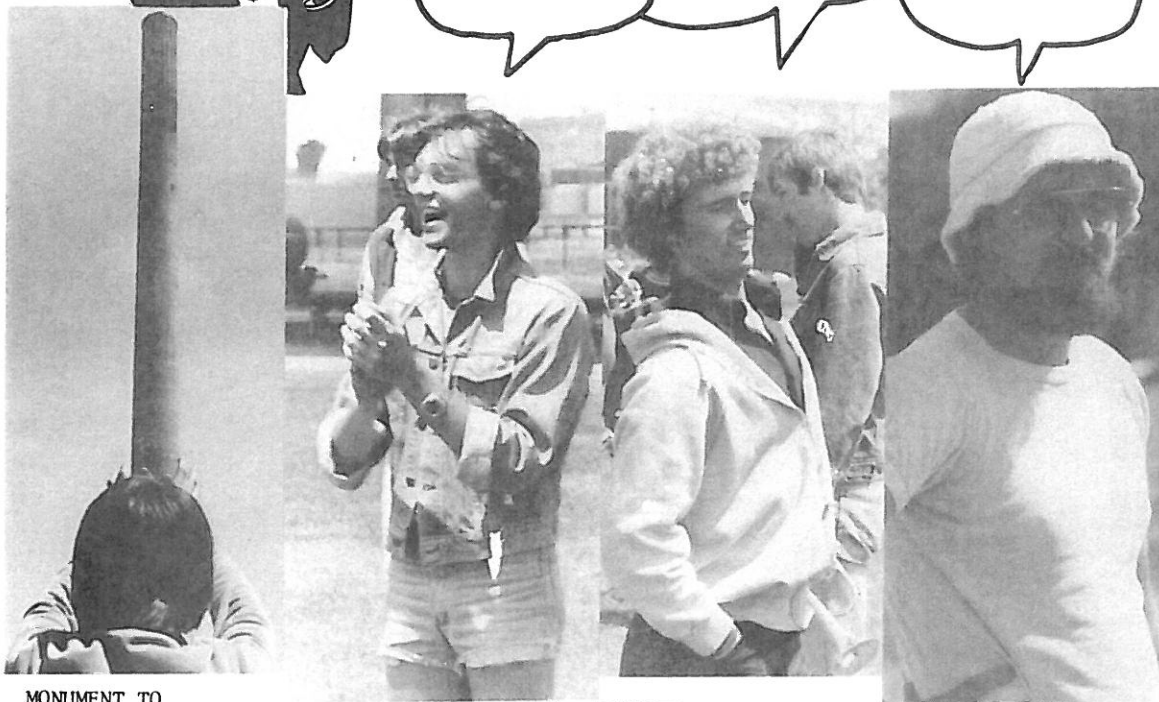
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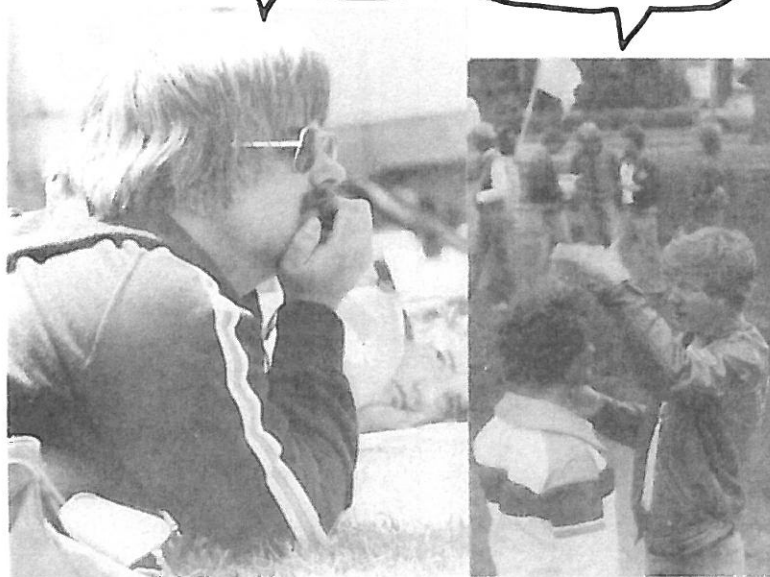
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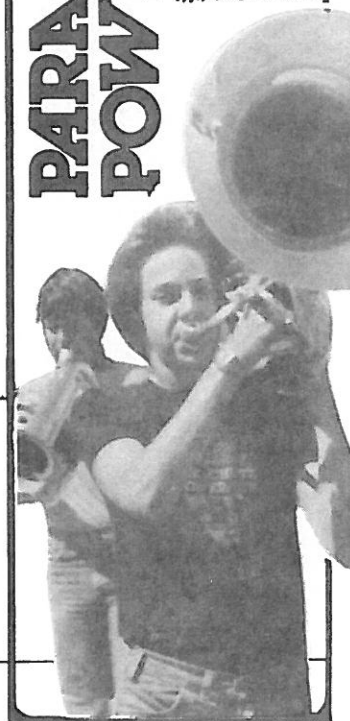
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