

MTU BAND

The latest from the Husky Band

Spring 1990

Special Edition

NEWS

From the Podium

There has been a change at Tech Bands! As Mike told you in last year's newsletter, he left Michigan Tech for the wide open spaces of Wyoming to become conductor of the University of Wyoming Orchestra. He's written us a couple of letters to keep us posted on the family and the new position. Enclosed in one of the letters was a picture of the performing hall at U. of W. It made our mouths water.

Aside from the facilities, it sounds as though the move has been an exciting and rewarding one for all of them. The university has a moderate-sized degree program in music with a healthy supply of string players. Mike has been able to do some significant literature during the season. Janet is finding herself in demand as a trumpet player in the area. She has been working extensively in Denver, including some work with the Colorado Symphony.

I am certain that the Griffith family would love to hear from you. Their address and phone number are:

2132 Curtis; Laramie, WY 82070

(307) 742-7034

Mike's Office: 766-5242

Meanwhile back at the ranch...

My name is Jeff Bell-Hanson (the last name includes both sides of the hyphen). I've been filling in this season on a temporary basis, as I will again in 1990-91. My wife's name is Karen and we have no children other than our two dogs,

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"EXTRA MILE" makes Husky Pep Band special

The Husky Pep Band has a wealth of distinctive traditions and trademarks, but it's the can-do spirit of the band and the willingness to go the extra distance that makes it a real class act. The Band was scheduled for 39 events during the the first two terms of '89-90. Our last three foot-

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Students Receive Recognition

Several students involved in the arts at MTU received awards for their contributions to the campus and community. Mu Beta Psi awarded the John MacInnes Memorial Pep Band Award to Michael Cress, third year trumpet. Michael has been a member of the 1st trumpet section in the Pep Band and a member of the Symphonic Band.

Senior woodwind player Rob Goodman received the MTSF Fine Arts Award in Music. Rob has been involved in almost every aspect of our program from the Pep Band to the KSO, and done all of it well. In addition he has been a leader in the MU Beta Psi Music Fraternity. MTSF awards in Theatre and Visual Art went to Geoffrey Ehnis-Clark and Charles Carpenter respectively.

Sophomore Brian Zais won a scholarship for Fine Arts participation from the Kiwanis Club for his contributions in Theatre, Jazz Bands and Jazz Singers.

"Extra Mile" (continued from page 1)



ball games coincided with hockey weekends, including our one road trip to St. Norbert College in DePere, Wisconsin. There were a number of weekends in both fall and winter with 4 or 5 events going on. On top of all this, many bandmembers volunteered their time to support several additional events, including some women's basketball games and swim meets.

I began to informally designate MVP's about mid-season in an effort to recognize some outstanding contributions. Some of those MVP designations went to James Crouch and Gayle Kirby for single-handedly starting a large percentage of the cheers during difficult second and third periods, the Sousaphone section for high attendance at a series of games late in the winter term, to a number of bandmembers that stuck around during breaks to play hockey and basketball games.

A special award went to some unknown benefactor for providing the Band with Little Caesar's Crazy Bread® during many third periods this season. We suspect that the company themselves may have been the source, but rumors abound. Whoever it was, we remain gratefully well fed.

The band appeared at the annual South Range Christmas Parade in December. It was a cold day and most of the instruments froze. After the parade, the warmth and hospitality of the people of South Range helped thaw everyone out during the cruller and hot chocolate reception.

We also had hot chocolate on hand for two late home football games, but the Copper Country weather confounded us with two sunny days in the 70's.

There have been some changes at the SDC this spring. You may have heard about our new hockey coach Newell Brown. He comes from Michigan State where he was an assistant coach, and is reputed to be an excellent recruiter. We will also be under the leadership of a new Athletic Director this fall. His name, Rick Yeo, may be familiar to you from his work as Director of the Alumni Association.

We have not made any travel plans at this point. We are still banned from NMU home games. As big a compliment as that is, I am anxious to renew our exchange with Northern. I plan to approach Mr. Yeo on the subject this summer.

Even though we cannot appear in their arena, we did appear in their campus newspaper this season. A large photo of the Husky Band ran with the caption, "In Heaven There Is No Beer." It was followed some weeks later by an article in the Lode consisting of interviews with Pep Band members. And the press rolls on.

I'd like to extend a special thanks to those of you who joined the band for the GLIT. It was an impressive performance by all accounts. Your efforts and support continue to make the Husky Band stand out.

KSO Turns 20

The Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra will begin its 20th full season this October 21 with a concert featuring local student soloists. These three students have literally grown up in the KSO. They have all played in the orchestra as high school and even junior high school students and have studied with adults in the group. Pianist Daniel Kim, violinist Robert Yang and flautist Anne Lewis will perform works of Grieg, Wieniawski and Griffes.

Later in the season the KSO will welcome Yuri Vasalaki, violist, as a guest soloist with the orchestra. Mr. Vasalaki has visited Houghton in the past as a member of the New World Quartet and is now pursuing a solo career. The

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Jazz Bands and Singers
KSO
Symphonic Band
KSO and Symphonic Band
Jazz Bands
KSO
Jazz Lab Band
Symphonic Band
Symphonic Band
Jazz Bands
KSO & Chamber Chorus

Jazz
Stud
SOU
Holic
Afric
Gues

Mozi

For more information
For Tickets call (906) 487-2073

Circle Tour Highlights Symphonic Band Season

The Symphonic Band's Lake Michigan Circle Tour during the second term break took them to a number of stops in both Michigan and Wisconsin. The band began their tour on February 25 at the Harbor Springs United Methodist Church and ended in Marinette, Wisconsin on March 1. Along the way



we enjoyed a night off in Chicago, played a joint concert with the Otsego, Michigan Community Band, and shared a

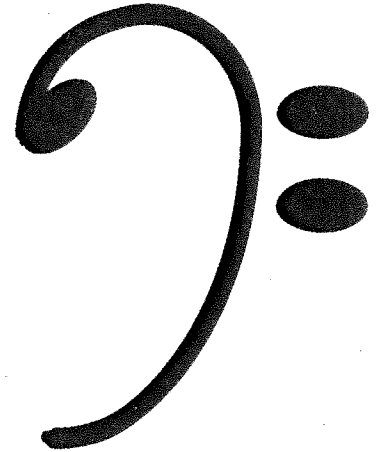
From the Podium (continued from page 1)

Kansas and Jessie. Karen is a marketing consultant working at the moment through the Bureau of Industrial Development of MTU for the Houghton County Airport.

I hold degrees from the University of Iowa and the University of Notre Dame, and am pursuing a conducting degree at the University of Iowa. I have taught in Kansas and in Louisiana, but I am very happy to be up north. You may recall that I spent a year here in '86-87 while Mike went to school.

Even with that year under my belt, this has been a season of transition. There have been many adjustments for me and the bandmembers, and a great deal for me to learn. Thankfully we had some of the best students in the world to help get us all through. Special

thanks go to our Student Director Jeff Turczyn, managers Brian Whitman, Mary Ann Martin, Bill Ellerbruch, and Mike Richardson, and our librarian John Schnoes. They have helped immeasurably in keeping things running smoothly. Gayle Kirby and Carrie Mattson took care of T-shirt and jacket orders this year; Mu Beta Psi did an amazing amount of work, and many others contributed hours, special talents, and elbow grease to the cause. I have enjoyed my year and look forward to an even better one in '90-91. The Department of Humanities will conduct a national search during the coming year for a permanent Director of Band and Orchestra.



"I want more staccato from the clarinet, more pizzicato from the strings, and less booze from the trombones."

George Booth

ment from a Mozart bassoon concerto, and trumpeters Jeffrey Turczyn and Michael Cress performed the first movement of the *Concerto in Bb* for two trumpets by Vivaldi. Concertmaster Mark Nitz performed the Weber *Concertino* for clarinet with the band on our final formal concert in May.

The Symphonic Band was again invited to join the fall commencement activities. We provided ceremonial music as well as a feature number during the proceedings.

Next season promises to be an exciting one. We will kick off the year on November 4 with a band concert à la John Phillip Sousa, complete with the appropriate costumes. Much research is going into the preparation for this program in order to make it as true to the tradition of the Sousa Band concerts as possible. We expect it to be a very popular event. I also hope to resume our exchange with the NMU band in the spring, playing one concert here and one there. A 1990-91 concert schedule is included in this newsletter.

- nowcase Oct. 5 or 6, 1990
- Soloists Oct. 21, 1990
- Nov. 4 1990
- Concert Dec. 16, 1990
- American Month Feb. 8 or 9, 1991
- Artist Feb. 17, 1991
- Mar. 8 1991
- Mar. 10, 1991
- Apr. 21, 1991
- Apr. 28, 1991
- Requiem May 5, 1991

call (906) 487-2207.

two weeks prior to each event.

collage concert at one school with a number of chamber groups preparing for contest performances.

We had chamber music in our own repertoire as well. Small groups from the band performed *Alleluia* by Jacobus Gallus for brass and the fourth movement from *Petite Symphonie* for winds by Charles Gounod. Other works on our tour program included a medley from the movie *Star Wars*, a contemporary work entitled *The Solitary Dancer*, and a seldom performed grand march of Camille Saint-Saens, *Occident et Orient*.

We took two concertos on the road with us. Senior bassoonist Carrie Mattson performed the Rondo move-

New for 1990-91

While there haven't been any major purchases during the last year, you may notice some changes next time you visit

✓We've begun a maintenance and modification program on the percussion used by all of the ensembles, but especially the Pep Band. New heads with built in damping rings, additional damping materials, and modifications to the shells and hardware of some of the drums should result in a cleaner, more transparent sound, without any loss of power. While some of the modifications are quite inexpensive, some are not. This will probably be a two-year project. In addition, we will be replacing the stand for our roto-toms and one pair of Pep Band cymbals.

✓One of the pledge projects for Mu Beta Psi this year was to build a replacement stand for our heavy gong. The new one is made out of 2" PVC pipe and has worked marvelously. In addition, the fraternity repainted many of our music stands, the stage shells, has assembled a new MTU song-book, and has helped extensively in putting current membership records on our office computer.

✓Our librarian John Schnoes has also begun a computerization project in the music library. After this summer we hope to have all of our holdings on disk.

In other computer news, your gifts helped to complete our MIDI interface with the Macintosh® computer. This new equipment will make editing parts, composing quickies and doing transpositions much more efficient.

✓Visitors will notice some slight changes in appearance in the office and band room. This summer we will place a few plaques that have been awarded to the band over the years, as well as the large Mu Beta Psi pledge class boards on display in the rehearsal room. What better way to honor some of our most active members from the past?

✓Finally a communication board has been put up in the outer part of the office. It will provide a reliable way to get messages to band employees and volunteers.

My thanks to you for your continued support of the MTU Bands. It's your gifts that made all of the above, as well as many of our activities during the year, possible.

"KSO" (continued from page 2)

season will be capped off by a performance of the Mozart *Requiem*, in commemoration of the bicentennial of Mozart's death.

Plans have been made to supplement our string section from outside of the Copper Country on at least two occasions next season. Enlarging the string forces will allow us to offer our audiences a wider variety of music, and area musicians more opportunities to become involved.

We will be entering our second season with our new concertmaster, Arie Yaacobi. Arie comes to us from Boston where he was active as a professional violinist with several orchestras, including the Boston Pops. He holds degrees from the New England Conservatory of Music and from Tel Aviv University in his homeland, Israel. In addition to his duties with the KSO, he teaches violin privately and for the Copper Country Suzuki Association.

If you have news, send it to Jeff Bell-Hanson; 209 WAHC; Michigan Tech; 1400 Townsend Dr.; Houghton, MI 49931, or call: (906) 487-2825.



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Moving Days

One of the changes that the Symphonic Band and the KSO experienced this season was the move from the Calumet Theatre to the auditorium in the new Houghton-Portage Township High School Building. The hall opened in January with the KSO soloist concert. The remainder of our concerts for both ensembles were played in that hall. The new auditorium, seating 400, is a wonderfully intimate setting that our audiences tell us is very comfortable. While our use of this new facility does not preclude playing at the Calumet Theatre, it does provide us with a lower-cost alternative much closer to campus.

The new hall is at 1603 Gundlach Road. If you plan to attend a concert next season when you visit campus, just follow Sharon Avenue past the SDC and the athletic fields until you come to a 4-way stop. Turn left and the new school will be on your left about a quarter-mile from the intersection.