President's Corner

As of Fall 1992, the pep band has formed a student organization which will be called the DaWG's. The origination of this name is Damn We're Good, however, we hope to come up with a top ten list for what DaWG's stands for. In order to become a student organization, a group must have officers and a constitution. Officers were elected at the end of the winter quarter of this past year:

President: Julie Chapman
Vice-President: Kyle Ayen
Secretary: Mitch Nelson
Treasurer: Jennifer Mueller

The officers along with director, Jeff Bell-Hanson, met almost every Sunday of the spring quarter, and with a lot of hard work, wrote the Constitution, organized the First Annual Pep Band Banquet (which was held on Sunday, May 3), and began preliminary steps in organizing the Alumni Reunion which will be held at Homecoming 1993.

The purpose of becoming a student organization actually started with the idea that the members of the Pep Band should become more "socially acquainted"; that we should do more together outside of performances. We started this process with a pizza party which is always a good way to get Pep Band members (DaWG's) together. The pizza devoured was a prize resulting from a "Hoopin' and Hollerin'" Contest that was held at a men's basketball game. Sponsored by a local radio station, the contest was held to determine which group on campus was the loudest; all we had to do was out yell our competition — the football team. Proving that they're always up to a challenge, the Pep Band won (according to the decibel-meter used) by shouting the ever popular cheer "Let's Go Tech!" while the football team just stood there and yelled like a bunch of idiots!! We proved to everyone else what we have always known — the Pep Band is the loudest group on MTU's campus!!

Since starting the DaWG's, we have had many positive responses not only from members, but also from faculty and the Dean of Student's office. I'm now seeing cont. on pg. 3

From the Podium

Greetings from the great, cool north. The weather this spring and summer is unseasonably cool, but the news is hot! Much has happened this year; too much for our newsletter, but we'll update you as well as we can in the confines of these pages.

Special items to look for: The Huskies Pep Band will be hosting a special alumni group at Homecoming this year. We are asking as many of you as possible to come and join us for the festivities on campus in a first-ever, Official Alumni Pep Band.

Election year fever started early at Tech as the Pep Band elected a brand-new set of officers and began a new organization. Look for a message from the new President.

Symphonic Band or Symphonic Wind Ensemble alums may be interested in the changes that have been in the wind for that group this year.

The Jazz Studies program is gearing up for a big Silver Anniversary this year. The KSO, with some "jazz" of its own in the works, will join the celebration.

You'll also find the usual items from alums around the country and program wrap-ups. Read hearty!}

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PAC Drive Launched by Tompkins

There has been talk for years about new rehearsal and performing facilities on the MTU campus for the Fine Arts Division. Many that spent their Tech playing careers in the SDC, the DHH basement, or over the swimming pool in Sherman may not have realized that it was more than just talk. Milt Olsson, Director of Arts at Tech, has kept a series of floorplans in his office for years dreaming of the day when he would see ground broken.

The spades haven't hit the dirt yet, but with the coming of President Curt Tompkins to the Tech Campus, the project has new life. The following is an excerpt from a new brochure published by the Development office at MTU. It is being distributed to prospective donors. The floor plan that accompanies the story is one of the original plans drawn up before the conversion of Sherman Gym into the Walker Arts and Humanities Center was begun. New plans will be made for the current project, but this drawing will give you an idea of what the facility may include.

**Setting the Stage for A New Building**

A new performing arts center, on the drawing board since the opening of the Walker Arts and Humanities Center in 1985, will become a reality, according to MTU President Curt Tompkins. The president has announced plans to complete the funding for the building by contacting a number of individuals for major gifts.

The facility, to be located next to the Walker Arts and Humanities Center, will include a 1,200 seat performance hall suitable for University and community musical and theatrical productions and for regional and national touring companies. It will also include rehearsal space for Tech's instrumental and vocal ensembles.

Tompkins has set a campaign goal of $15 million, which represents the anticipated cost for the new building. The University has advance gifts of $3 million earmarked for the performing arts center.

"Michigan Tech has become the cultural hub for western Upper Michigan," Tompkins said. "The number and quality of events has increased dramatically during the last ten years. We have dreamed of this new performing arts center since the day we opened the Walker Arts and Humanities Center in 1985. It is time to make that dream a reality and provide a first-rate performance hall for all of the people in the western U.P."

The new building will include a full stage, including an orchestra pit and lift. Dressing rooms and permanent lighting and sound systems are also included. As a result, Michigan Tech will be able to attract well-known regional and national theater productions that now bypass this area because of the lack of such a facility.

The facility will greatly expand the seating available for the University's popular lecture series. The largest lecture hall on campus now accommodates only about 500 persons and people have to be turned away when a prominent person speaks on campus.

Tompkins said James A. Klungness, a 1949 MTU graduate and a successful Iron Mountain businessman, will chair the drive to complete the funding for the building. A major benefactor of the new facility, Ted Rozsa '36, will serve as an honorary co-chairman.

Rozsa has already provided $1.5 million toward the performing arts center. Shaw Walker, for whom the Walker Arts and Humanities Center is named, is also an honorary co-chair.

Dean Woodbeck is currently on the staff of the Alumni Association and Development Office. Under that gray suit and no-nonsense maroon tie beats the heart of a Huskies Pep Band Alumnus. (1974-76) His current musical activities (The MTU Chamber Chorus among them) are decidedly more sedate.
Lakeview Arena Saga Continues

When we left our story the explosive Huskies Pep Band had been banned from Northern Michigan’s Lakeview Arena for supporting the Huskies too well. The ban, like the Berlin Wall before it, finally came down this year as a small but mighty bunch of Huskies were grudgingly admitted to a post-season play-off in Marquette (with the help of MTU’s Athletic Director, Rick Yeo).

The Huskies, crammed into a small corner section, were surrounded by unfriendly NMU fans that nevertheless spoke of their respect for the band (after Northern won the series).

Though we couldn’t cheer the Huskies on to victory, we have laid the groundwork for future play-offs. The WCHA voted during their spring meeting to allow 25 band members from visiting schools to support their teams at play-off games. In what can only be described as a tit-for-tat measure, the commissioners agreed to ban all visiting pep bands during regular season play. Though that cuts down on our travel opportunities, we still plan on making trips to football and basketball games.

Stay tuned fans. The saga continues.

Blackmail?

No! It’s MTU’s new president, Curt Tompkins, being inducted into the Huskies Pep Band as an honorary member at one of our early home hockey games last season. "Curt" played with the band on a number of occasions this year. (He always seemed to get his picture taken in the process.) So we made it official. Rumor has it that this recognition means an automatic pardon for any future transgressions by the Band. Reliable sources have assured Athletic Department officials that the rumor is probably not true.

Did Someone say “Sectional”?!?

There’s enough history in the Huskies Pep Band for a book. There are about as many stories, and as many versions of those stories, as there are alumni! So if you think you’ve got the straight poop, or want it, you’ve just got to come to the Huskies Pep Band DAMN! WE’RE GOOD! Alumni Reunion during Homecoming ’92. The Varsity Club has promised to give us a few minutes at halftime (I’d like to see them try to stop us!) to completely blow away the new press box. We’ll “do” the parade and a couple of full-band “sectionals” besides.

Sound like fun? Fill this out and send it back by September 10! We’ll send you a letter with information and a hotel/motel guide. Keep October 9 and 10 open, and start shopping for your hobo clothes!

"Presidents Corner," from pg. 1

that many of the members are actually learning the names of the other members who are not in their sections! I consider this a major breakthrough!

The First Annual Pep Band Banquet came off really well. The attendance was lower than we had hoped for but we’ve now created and carried out Pep Band traditions. Just as the rookies must sing for the returnees at the annual fall MBC tailgater, the rookies had to sing at the banquet. We held a "Rookie Graduation" and presented them all with diplomas after they sang for us. Coffee mugs with the Pep Band logo were presented to the graduates and many humorous awards were given out (i.e., the Al Sorgenfrei Crazy Hat Award). I think everyone who attended really enjoyed themselves as we dined on MUB pizza and canned pop — a truly suitable

Pep Band Banquet if you ask me!!

We hope to come up with a Top Ten shirt for the meaning of “DaWGs”; if you have any suggestions, please forward them on to Jeff. Finally, don’t forget about the Alumni Reunion next fall; it should be fun for you and the rest of your family. If you have any suggestions about what events, etc. you would like to see at the Reunion, please forward these on to Jeff also.

Thanks for your time ... "Damn We’re Good!!"△

Julie Chapman,
President of the DaWGs

Julie Chapman is a member of the concussion section.
Change in the Wind?

One of the axioms of life in academia is that things change. Those of you out in the engineering world know that as well as anyone. We are in constant pursuit of the changes happening in industry, and in research labs here and elsewhere. While we in the arts change more slowly than the technology around us, we do occasionally adapt to the times or changes in our fields as well.

The Symphonic Band underwent a face-lift of sorts this season as we began performing under the name of the MTU Wind Symphony during our Spring Tour through the U.P. and northern Lower Michigan. The official university name-change will take place during the fall term of 1992.

Wind Symphony was chosen after considerable deliberation by the ensemble’s conductor, Jeffrey Bell-Hanson, because it provides the public with a less restrictive image of the group’s personnel and repertoire. “Symphonic Band to me connotes a large group of perhaps 100 or more musicians playing transcriptions and band works appropriate for an ensemble of very full instrumentation,” explains Bell-Hanson. “In traditional terms we tend to be more of a military band size (40-50), and we program literature that suits our instrumentation. With a name like Wind Symphony, no one comes into the hall expecting to hear a bunch of Sousa marches and going away disappointed because they didn’t get them.” They do expect a group that can present a full range of musical styles with a touch of class.

This isn’t the first name change that the ensemble has undergone. As a matter of fact, each conductor in the last half century has made some kind of change in the band’s designation. For most of its history the band at Michigan Tech was not divided into concert and athletic groups (officially, anyway). Up until the 1950’s, the band was known as the ROTC Band of MTU (or MCMT). During the tenure of bandman B. Franz Schubert the group dropped the ROTC designation to become the Michigan Tech Band. At that time membership was somewhat less formal than it is today, and many of the same volunteers played both hockey games and concert performances.

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble first appeared in 1971 under Don Keranen’s leadership when course credit was established for ensemble participation. All band members

KSO Spans the Seasons

as well as the Wind Symphony performing the Suite in Eb for Military Band by Gustav Holst and a transcription of the Overture to “The Barber of Seville” by Rossini.

1991-92 was the first season in a number of years during which the orchestra has not enjoyed grant support from the State of Michigan through the Michigan Council for the Arts. Gov. John Engler had frozen, and eventually cut funds for that organization during the 1990-91 season. Grant money has traditionally been sought for support of the guest artists that perform with the orchestra. The KSO was able to present an exciting season in spite of the cuts because of the presence of two fine soloists on our staff, Ms. Watson and Mr. Yaacobi. Creative programming helped eliminate the need for guest vocal soloists. Music Director, Jeffrey Bell-Hanson was grateful for the opportunity to feature our local artists, but adds that this alternative is not available every year.

A reorganized Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs began taking grant applications in early 1992. As of this writing funding for the KSO is still pending.
KSO to Premiere New Work

The Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra begins rehearsals for an unusual season on Tuesday, September 8. The season will feature music that displays an ethnic influence, beginning with a pops concert in early October. "All That Jazz," will help kick off a season-long celebration of the 25th anniversary of Jazz Studies at MTU. The October 3 KSO program will feature the orchestra along with MTU faculty Milt Olsson and Mike Irish in a combo that will also include musicians from the community. That celebration will culminate in a Spring Festival of Music concert featuring the Jazz Lab Band, EYAWTKAIBWATA Band, and combos in May.

The orchestra will present a joint concert with the MTU Wind Symphony on November 8, featuring clarinetist Debbie Chadacki of the Interlochen Academy of the Arts. She will perform the Concerto in E Minor by Carl Maria von Weber.

Among the major challenges for the orchestra this season is the world premiere of Chuang-Tzu, a work for orchestra by composer and jazz pianist Jack Reilly of New York. Mr. Reilly will be on campus for four days in February to attend open orchestra rehearsals, perform a solo recital, and conduct workshops. The concert will take place on Sunday, February 14.

The season will close with an all Beethoven concert featuring the Chamber Chorus and conductor Milt Olsson on Sunday, May 2.

Season tickets go on sale in early September. Single concert tickets for any Fine Arts event are available two weeks prior to the scheduled date. Tickets may be reserved by calling (906) 487-2073. Visa and Master Card are accepted. If you live near the Houghton area, you may want to consider a season ticket. Season ticket holders receive first choice of reserved seats, as well as a substantial discount over single ticket prices. The Fine Arts Division is selling a package this season that includes all of the orchestra programs, a Chamber Chorus concert in December, and a Wind Symphony concert in April all for one low price. Senior Citizen and Student discounts are available.

Michigan Technological University Fine Arts Division
1992-93 Performance Calendar: 3 June 1992

Fall Quarter

October 3 Keweenaw Symphony Orchestra Pops Concert Houghton High School, 8 PM
November 8 KSO & Wind Symphony Concert Houghton High School, 3 PM
November 14 Jazz Showcase: Jazz Lab Bands, Michigan Tech Jazz Singers, Echoes From Heaven Walker Theatre, 8 PM

Winter Quarter

December 6 Chamber Chorus Concert Grace United Methodist, 3 PM
February 5 Jazz Lab Band and EYAWTKAIBWATA with Guest Artist: A Black History Month Main Event SDC Varsity Gym, 8 PM
February 11-13 University Theatre Second Season II: The Troupe Walker Theatre, 8 PM
February 14 KSO Concert with Jack Reilly, jazz pianist Houghton High School, 3 PM

Spring Quarter

March 19 Jazz Singers/Jazz Bands Walker Theatre, 8 PM
April 18 Wind Symphony Concert Houghton High School, 7 PM
April 25 Echoes From Heaven Gospel Choir Concert Grace United Methodist, 7 PM
May 2 KSO/Chamber Chorus All Beethoven Program St. Joseph's Church, Lake Linden, 7 PM
May 3&4 Keweenaw's Finest in conjunction with the Keweenaw Music Educators' Association SDC Varsity Gym
May 8 Spring Festival: 25th Anniversary of Jazz on Campus SDC Varsity Gym, 8 PM
New for 1992-93

Director of Arts Milt Olsson once again sweet talked his way into a sweetheart deal for a second rehearsal room piano. The small grand that was donated a few years ago has been in the process of falling apart ever since. We now have a small console in the SDC rehearsal room to serve along side the Baldwin grand as an accompaniment instrument.

The Steinway grand in Walker Theatre will soon be joined by a seven-foot grand to be used exclusively in the theatre. The older instrument will still be available for events that take place in other locations.

A re-conditioned 4-valve concert baritone was purchased this summer for use in the Wind Symphony. It is an old, hand-crafted Martin originally made for the U.S. Quarter-Master Corps. It has a satin silver finish and a beautifully engraved bell, as well as a clear solo voice.

The Bands and Jazz Studies programs have jointly purchased state of the art music transcription software called Finale™. It runs on the Macintosh™ SE in the SDC office, but just barely. Next purchase: a computer upgrade.

The biggest change for all of the arts is the purchase of new digital recording equipment. It went into service in February 1992, and has radically improved the quality of our archival recordings.

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

Huskies Exposed!

One of the truly great traditions of the Huskies Pep Band is our outfit, all built around those instantly recognizable striped, bib overalls. Sadly the height of Huskies fashion is becoming less and less recognizable as the years go on because the overalls are wearing out. Clothes shrink, rip at the seams, and eventually succumb to time and wear. Some of our larger pairs have been patched so many times that you can barely see the original stripes.

The real problem is that these overalls are no longer manufactured anywhere. All the suppliers contacted in the last two years have declined to make special manufacturing runs in the quantities that we need.

Alumni News

Debbie Tody (trombone) is now living in Victoria, Texas where she works for DuPont and continues to play her trombone in a community band.

Andrew Peed (alto sax, band manager) is working for Motorola west of Chicago. Andy is a frequent visitor to the tech campus.

Janet Griffith is now a doctor! Congratulations, Janet! It's been a long road and the Griffith family is beaming with pride. In other news from Wyoming the Griffiths sent a picture of Pete and Bob at Christmas. They are growing up fast!

Paul Meese (conussion) dropped in to play with the Huskies Pep Band during Winter Carnival and some of us new-timers finally learned the origin of the "Hi, Mom; Hi, Dad; Hi, Jerri," tradition. For those of you who don't know Paul, he is Dean Meese's son.

Matt Blackburn (trumpet) is now residing in Hudson, MI where he has begun a network marketing business.

Mary Ann (Martin) Rozema (saxes and band manager) is a technical writer for Barnes and Reinecke in Madison Heights, MI. Her husband, Mark, also a Tech grad, is a surveyor.

Ray Jorgenson (trombone) has moved with his wife Julianne (Netter) Jorgenson (a former Chamber Chorister) to Denver with their daughter Lydia. Ray is a Space Operations Officer at Buckley Air National Guard Base. He still plays the trombone and has taken up baritone bugle with the D. & B. Corps at Lowry Air Force Base.

Mike Jabara (trombone) is living in San Francisco. He hopes to return for the Alumni Band this fall.

Preliminary investigation shows that the cost for custom manufacture of 150 pairs will come to around $10,000. That is more than our annual budget, but indecent exposure fines for the entire band could amount to even more.

The officers and the staff of the band will continue work on this project during the coming year. We will be re-assessing our numerical needs for the stripes, and weighing the pros and cons of a partial purchase, as well as alternatives.

If you would like to help with this project, donations or ideas can be sent to the Michigan Tech Fund. Please indicate "Uniform Fund" on the check or in a note, and use the return envelope enclosed. In any case, I'd like to hear from you on the subject.

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.

This should be the biggest part of our newsletter. Let us know what you're up to.

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