Ole!

The Newsletter of the Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Association/
Drum & Bugle Corps

Volume 1, Issue 2

March/April 2020

Alumni Corps Season Cancelled

I know, it sounds crazy, but true. Due to the Corona virus that has paralyzed most of the world, we find ourselves in this strange situation. Once the quarantine rules were put into place by our state governments, it was only a matter of time that this would effect the drum corps world.

The DCI was first with their announcement cancelling their season. Following suit, the DCA was next. That's the one that really impacted the Alumni Corps' season. Most of our field exhibitions are attached to DCA contests.

The jobs left on the schedule are parades and stage shows.

I listed our 2020 schedule, both rehearsal and show ver-

Caballeros..... The Beginning Part Two

By Mike DelVecchio

Caballeros History Part 2, 1953

After losing the American Legion (AL) National Championship in 1952, the Caballeros went on the offensive, so to speak, in an effort to outperform the corps they competed against - The Riley Raiders and Archer Epler Musketeers. Jim Costello made a statement that the only way we can beat these two corps is to compete against them as often as possible.

Riley had been suspected of having some members under 21 years of age in their corps, as well as non veterans. The AL required that all members of the senior corps be over the age of 21 and also be a veteran. It is well known that Riley did not meet these requirements. They did some fancy dance steps to an Irish song that was not suited because it was not an Irish dance.

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Remember When

Ole! is published every other Month. Next issue May/June.

Alumni Event Schedule 2020

- * Saturday, April 4 *
 Lancers Stage Show
 York, PA
- * Monday, May 25 *
 Memorial Day Parade
 Hawthorne, NJ
- Saturday, June 13 *
 Reilly Stage Show
 Burlington, NJ
- * Saturday, June 20 *
 Cabs At The Beach
 Wildwood, NJ
- Saturday, June 27 *

 Parade
 Lewisburg, PA

 Friday, July 10 *
- 26th Anniversary Party
 La Reggia's
 Secaucus, NJ
- Saturday, July 11 *
 Grand Prix
 Clifton, NJ
- Saturday, July 18 *
 Field Show
 Landisville, PA
- Saturday, August 1 *
 Field Show
 Kingston, NY

Saturday, August 22 *
 Field Show

Toms River, NJ

- Friday, September 4 *
 Standstill Show
 Williamsport, PA
- Sunday, September 6 *
 Alumni Spectacular
 Stage Show &
 DCA Finals
 Field Show
 Williamsport, PA
- Saturday, September 12 *
 Parade
 Atlantic City, NJ
 - Sunday, November 1 *
 Veterans Day Parade
 Clifton, NJ
- Saturday, November 21 *

 Parade &
 Stage Show
 Plymouth, MA
- Saturday, December 5 *
 Parade &
 Pot Luck Lunch
 Hawthorne, NJ

Hi...I'm A Fan

By Tony Vaccaro

In 1965, the corps took a chartered flight to Portland, Oregon in pursuit of continuing our consecutive string of Legion National titles begun in 1958.

On Finals night, Jimmy Costello went against tradition and advice of several trusted members and brought the corps into the stadium to watch the Chicago Royalaires great corps. The Caballeros didn't watch any other corps before us especially at the Nationals.

As things turned out, the corps came in 2nd and Jimmy blamed himself mostly for abandoning our tradition of staying apart and focused. Jimmy went to his room and stayed there, not coming out for meals or speaking to anyone.

By the time of the National Parade, Jimmy's dad was seriously concerned and didn't want to see his son so deeply affected or so angry. Pop came to me and Henry Mura asking us to think of something to help his son.

With this, we tried to come up with something. We were at the staging area of the parade with all the dignitaries and other championship units from the previous year to be at the front of the parade as was Legion custom. By now, nobody dared to

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Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Association

Dear Alumni,

In these troubled times, we find ourselves practicing "Social Distancing" due to the Covid 19 virus that has plagued our planet since earlier this year. Just remember, we are ALL in this together. We are ONE FAMILY and if anyone needs help with anything, reach out to us.

Although the 2020 Drum Corps season has been cancelled, we all need to be positive and supportive to one another and look forward to an amazing 2021 rebirth of the activity.

The competing corps will be entering their 75th Anniversary year and the Alumni Corps, its 27th. It's the history of these two corps that keeps the heartbeat and tradition going and growing stronger year after year. What a "Family."

The Alumni Association was formed in the mid 1970's to give support in any way, shape or form possible. We have been dormant the last few years for many reasons but it is time to give this a rebirth as well. We also have great expectations for the Competing and Alumni Corps.

The by-laws from the 70's have been revised and brought up to date to include the Alumni Corps and its membership. Annual membership for the Association is a mere \$10.00. With the newly revived Ole! newsletter and your membership, we can achieve many things.

Your checks payable to: The Hawthorne Caballeros Alumni Association can be mailed to:

PO Box 484

Hawthorne, NJ 07507

The current active officers are: Larry Mastroberardino, President

Greg McNeff, Treasurer

Norm Dykstra, Sgt-At-Arms

Chris Sortino, Ole! Editor

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to any of us. Once we can get the membership up, we will reconvene meetings and officer elections.

Stay safe, be smart. Looking forward to seeing all of you on the 50. The best is yet to come.

Sincerely,

Larry Mastroberardino

"Rump"

A Tribute To Jack Pratt

By Vince Marchese & John Smith

John Sterling Pratt

January 13, 1931 - April 6, 2020

Many of us who marched in the Caballeros drum section in the 1970s are quite familiar with John Pratt, or "Jack" as he was affectionately known to us. Jack was hired as part of the Caballeros instructional staff in 1972 by Corps Director, James J. Costello, Jr. During his tenure with the Caballeros, 1972 -1979, Jack wore many hats, including working execution, writing drum solos, and contributing to, and augmenting percussion scores written by Cabs' percussion arranger, George Tuthill.

Jack Pratt is probably best remembered for his intense. often arduous. warm-ups. which included the infamous one-thousand counts of single stroke rolls and a sixhundred count regular double stroke roll. Often times, he would have the battery warm up right up to the time the corps entered the field for competition. Jack called these warm-ups and exercises "calisthenics for the hands." His philosophy was that the warm-ups should make the show routine seem easy. There is no doubt Jack was a tough taskmaster and demanded perfection, but there was a method to his madness. His attitude and approach helped his drummers build stamina. endurance. strength, become the best of the best, and ultimately win contests and World Championships handily!

Jack was born and raised in Seneca Falls. New York: He developed an appreciation for music at a very young age, learning to play piano from his mother, Frances Pratt. As a young man, Jack sought out local instructor, Norman Drum Peth for lessons. Peth became his mentor and he spent countless hours drumming daily with him. His instruction helped propel Jack to many great accomplishments, including becoming a member of the West Point Hellcats in 1950, eventually becoming the instructor there.

Jack was a prolific writer of drum solos. Belwin Mills published the first of many of Jack's rudimental drumming books. Fourteen Modern Contest Solos for Rudimental Snare Drum by John S. Pratt quickly became a staple for competition drummers and has remained a Best Seller since its introduction in 1959. Critics praised Jack's music as

"challenging, fresh, creative, interesting, swinging, and fun to play, with unique musical phrasing that flows across the bar line."

Jack Pratt was a sometimes feared, but highly respected, technically exacting. All-American Contest Judge, adjudicating many corps including the Caballeros. When he judged, Jack demanded excellence. He was known to be a tough grader, but he was fair and if you earned a high score from Judge Pratt, you knew you deserved it. At times, though not always, Jack was particularly hard on the Cabs' percussion battery in the late sixties. Jimmy Costello managed to solve that problem by hiring Jack to the staff. A brilliant Costello play.

Pratt's Passion for Perfection has driven him to work endlessly to hone his craft, earning the befitting accolades, "Living Legend" and "Father of Modern Rudimental Drumming" during his life-Jack was an authority time! on Classical Music and all the conductors and orchestras. Jack's distinguished life's work of nearly nine decades fueled within him an intense desire to Preserve Traditional Rudimental Drumming and Excellence of Technical Execution for Future Generations. "Tradition is worthy of being preserved and inherently may

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.... Tribute

not be altered!" His organization, the International Association of Traditional Drummers (IATD), honors the most highly accomplished rudimental drummers for their excellent technical execution of traditional rudiments and certifies them as "Internationally recognized Master Drummers!"

A true Living Legend, John S. Pratt's illustrious contributions to the world are many and varied. Some of the highlights of that career are:

Percussive Arts Society Hall of Fame

World Drum Corps Hall of Fame

New Jersey Drum Corps Hall of Fame

American Patriots Rudimental Drummers Hall of Fame

Drumming For Our Veterans Hall of Fame

CADRE - Canadian Association of Drummers for Rudimental Excellence

USARD Lifetime Achievement Honoree

Founder and President of International Association of Traditional Drummers (IATD)

Technical Arranger & Music Consultant to Famed Conductor Leopold Stokowski

Acclaimed Drum Instructor and Winner of Numerous World Championship Titles and High Drum Awards, Including:

West Point Hellcat Drum Instructor and Field Music Arranger - 1950-1969, 20 Years

Four-Time DCA World Champion Drum Instructor, Composer and Arranger for the Hawthorne Caballeros Drum Line and Winner of multiple High Drum Awards

Champion Drum Instructor - Interstatesmen (NY / MA)

Champion Drum Instructor / Arranger - Criterions, NY

Drum Instructor / Musical Arranger - King's Regiment - Wayne, New Jersey

Drum Instructor / Musical Arranger - Kingston Indians, Kingston, NY

Drum Instructor New York Kingsmen - Bronx, NY

Drum Instructor / Musical Arranger - The Vagabonds Poughkeepsie, NY

Drum Instructor / Musical Arranger - Grey Knights - Rochester, NY

Drum Instructor / Musical Arranger Tri-County Incorporated (TCI) - Rochester, NY

Drum Instructor / Musical Arranger - New Jersey Field Music – NJ

Seneca Chiefs - Seneca Falls, NY

Geneva Appleknockers - Geneva. NY

After retiring from the West Point Hellcats, Jack attended Fairleigh Dickinson University and graduated Summa Cum Laude, first in his class. He then embarked on a second career teaching English at Hackensack, High School. In addition to writing drum solos, he also wrote poetry!

Maybe you didn't always agree with Jack's methods. Maybe you felt he pushed too hard at times - but no one can deny that he got results! Despite his quirky and often eccentric behavior, he was very much admired and well-respected by those under his mentorship. Everyone has a "Jack" story or two to tell. I'm certain in days to come those of us who had the privilege of knowing him and being instructed by him will be doing just that.



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.... I'm a Fan

get near Jimmy - he was standing with everybody at least 50 feet away from him.

Henry & I noticed the famous beautiful Seagrams nearby. We convinced 2 girls to give Jimmy a kiss because 'it was his birthday'. And these 2 beauties did just that, taking off his hat and one girl kissing his cheek while the other kissed his head. But we also arranged for the newspaper photographer to take a blinding flash shot. The girls got a kick out of the prospect of being front page photo news. Jimmy turned shades of red and purple but also wearing his well known wide grin. The spell was broken and the whole corps breathed a sigh of relief. You could almost hear the sound.

With this, Jimmy came over and accused me & Henry of being responsible which we of course denied. But also standing with us was the Parade Grand Marshall, Baseball Hall of Fame Pitcher, Bob Feller. Henry & I spoke with him earlier to congratulate him for recovering from a serious illness but also asked him to speak to Jimmy.

Mr. Feller went to Jimmy and said "Hi, I'm a fan!". Jimmy was speechless and just stared with admiration of his sports idol. Mr. Feller told us how he enjoyed the corps' performances the many times the corps played at Yankee Stadium. He mar-

veled at the corps power and precision. He also spoke about the meaning of competition and gave a very inspiring, sincere talk to Jimmy. Mr. Feller said he'd be in DC next year and expected to see us.

Next year, I got a call at the hotel from Mr. Feller to come to his suite at Legion National HQ with Henry & Jimmy. Mr. Feller gave a very inspiring talk again and made Jimmy promise to do everything possible to win the title back.

With that, Jimmy told Mr. Feller that he would dedicate our Finals performance to him. Yes, we won.

I'm pretty sure that Jimmy never spoke to anyone of this encounter then or since. I am the last survivor of those special events and feel that it is time to be shared.

How many times have we been approached by complete strangers at our performances by people from all walks of life who would come over to say: "Hi, I'm A Fan!"



Remember When

Fifty Five Years Ago August 1965

1 Crusaders	83.580
2 Caballeros	82.900
3 Joaquin Caballeros	63.880
4 Hamms Indians	61.180
5 Leathernecks	46 410

Sixty Years Ago October 1960

1	Caballeros	86.060
2	Musketeers	84.020
3	Skokie Indians	79.910
4	Appleknockers	71.930
5	Yankees	71.360
6	Boys Of '76	71.060
7	Black Knights	63.560
8	Colonials	63.400
9	Lamplighters	63.330
10	Spirit Of St. Louis	56.130

Correction

In the last issue of the Ole! newsletter, I stated that it had been 15 rears since the last publication. I calculated wrong. It was taken over by dedicated Alumni Corps members for a few years, so the absence was only 11 years.

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....Season Cancelled

sions. I guess as we get word from the different sponsors of parades, stage shoes, etc., just cross them off or circle them depending on the decisions that are made. As time moves on during this season or lack there of, we will be notified by director Paul Bongiovi. Until then we will have to be careful, stay healthy, check on one another from time to time and know that this will end.

Stay well and stay safe!
Chris Sortino — Editor



Trivia Question

How many contests have the Hawthorne Caballeros won in an indoor venue?

Rehearsal Schedule 2020

* Sunday, March 8, 12-5 *

Music, Kennedy HS, Paterson

* Sunday, March 22, 12-5 *

Music, Kennedy HS, Paterson

* Sunday, March 29, 12-5 *

Music, Kennedy HS, Paterson

* Sunday, April 19, 12-5 *

Music, Kennedy HS, Paterson

* Sunday, April 26, 12-5 *

Music, Kennedy HS, Paterson

- * Sunday, May 3, 12-5 * Drill, Rutgers Bubble
- * Saturday, May 16, 9-5 * Drill Camp, Wildwood
- * Sunday, May 17, 9-2 * Drill Camp, Wildwood
- * Sunday, May 31, 12-5 *
 Drill, Hawthorne HS
- * Sunday, June 14, 12-5 *
 Drill, Rutgers Bubble
- * Sunday, August 16, 12-5 * Drill, Hawthorne HS
- * Saturday, September 5, PM *
 Music, Williamsport, PA
- Sunday, October 4, 12-5 * Music, Post 199
- Sunday, October 18, 12-5 *
 Music, Post 199
 - Sunday, November 8 * Music, Post 199
 - Sunday, November 15 *
 Music, Post 199
 - Saturday, December 5 *
 Music, post 199

Remember When

Fifty Years Ago September 1970

1 Caballeros	80.975
2 Yankee Rebels	80.000
3 Hurricanes	79.575
4 Buccaneers	79.525
5 Skyliners	77.925
6 Sunrisers	75.000
7 Boys Of '76	72.050
8 Crusaders	71.600
9 Kingsmen	70.450
10 Les Diplomats	68.375
11 Bonnie Scots	66.625
12 Rockets	64.350

Forty Five Years Ago September 1975

1	Skyliners	88.500
2	Buccaneers 88.250	
3	Caballeros	87.200
4	Phoenix	85.750
5	Hurricanes	85.710
6	Yankee Rebels	84.330
7	Sunrisers	83.330
8	Crusaders	82.700
9	Matadors	81.110
10	Thunderbirds	74.600
11	Spirit of '76 71.720	
12	Royalaires	70.100

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...Beginning

The first thing that Jimmy Costello did was notify the Northeast New Jersey Drum Corps Association that we were resigning, and that the Caballeros would become members of the Philadelphia area senior drum corps circuit. This meant we would not be eligible to participate in the Barnum Festival contest. The show was limited to members of the northeast association on-

We were preparing for the upcoming inaugural parade in Washington, DC for newly-elected President, Dwight Eisenhower. The Caballero's had made special arrangements to use the main dining room in our hotel as a bunk room for the Caballeros. We were sleeping in double-decker bunks like we slept in back in the service.

The night before the parade, the business manager, whose room was located at the end of our hall, had the door open and the bathtub was full of beer and ice. We were all drinking, joking, and having a good time. At the far end of our bunk room a couple of Caballeros came in, one being George Hayek, complaining "hey who is the loud mouth in here making so much noise." He said it sounded like Charlie Bratton. a character from the Jackie

Gleason TV show. When he found out who it was, yours truly, he gave me the name of "Charlie Bratton" which became my nickname in the Caballeros. You might say a new personality was born in 1953. It eventually became more of a comedy duo between George and I.

The next day we marched in the inaugural parade. It was a long parade but the weather was good and we were satisfied with our performance.

In February, we started working on a new show. We were looking for something different, something moving like a dance we could do on the field that would draw attention and applause from the crowd. One of our snare drummers was also a dance teacher. He went to Jimmy Cos with an idea for a song that could include dance steps. The song was called "Two To Tango." It was sund by Pearl Bailey and was getting a lot of play on the radio, and a lot of play on the juke box. The radio was the most popular medium of listening to music at the time. Now back in those days you have to remember that disc jockeys and jukeboxes were the only way you got the hear what artists and songs were on top and moving up the charts.

Later that month while practicing in Hawthorne on a Tuesday night at the post, the drummers came up from marching in the street and they wanted us to come out and see what they came up with for something new in the drill. Most of us went out on the porch to see

them, some standing on the porch and some on the steps. We were all watching the drum line do a nice tango step for "Two To Tango." We all were thrilled with it, and couldn't wait to get started on the music.

Some of the members weren't exactly dancers, you know the two left feet kind. Thanks to Jimmy Cos and his training us to be the top marching corps on the field, he found a way to make all of us proficient in this new tango dance.

The next week Al Mura, our music instructor, had the arrangement that we would play for "Two To Tango." With Jimmy Costello's expertise in marching technique, he developed a perfect step for the corps regardless of the difference in corpsman He tailored the heights. marching and dance steps so that it would work well and we would be confident of the movements without having to look down at our feet. We were going to keep dress perfect not only across the ranks but on the files. Much to our delight, the song was a big hit with the crowd, who gave us both cheers and applause. We finally achieved what we were trying to do, with the expectation that this was what crowd wanted from us.

At rehearsal the end of February, Ralph Silverbrand told Jimmy Costello and John (Mac) McAuliffe (one of the

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...Beginning

founding members and original drum major) that he received a call from George Rodriguez from the Gabarina post corps that he had about 12 members - drums and bugles, that wanted to join the Caballeros. Jimmy and Mac agreed to accept them and told Ralph to have them all come to the next Tuesday rehearsal. This was a positive step as George Rodriguez was one of the top soprano horn players in the northeast, and the other members of Gabarina would follow George. At the time. we were losing a few horns from the original corps who had made decisions to leave due to the needs of raising a family.

Our drill rehearsals moved to the Newark Armory. We



would be fielding 8 snare drummers, 4 of which came from Gabarina; plus an additional squad of 4 buglers. These new members would replace those that we lost. I must say that this mix of men

from the Caballeros greatest rival at that time, blended well. As a matter of fact, one of the horn players from Gabarina marched with us from 1953 to 1988, 35 years. His name was Johnny Grada.

The season opened. We were all speculating what the crowd would think with our dance to the "Two to Tango." The tango number was added to the show to follow the color presentation. After the tango number, we went into "Chiu Chiu Chiu" which took us to the concert formation.

We held our breath as we went on the field and came to a halt to start "Two To Tango." We all wondered how well it would be received by the fans. We started at a slower tempo than began our marching dance step - left foot, then right foot, then left slide to the left, and then the right foot steps behind the left foot, then crosses over the right with right moving to the left and halt position for one count. The crowd went wild! Cheers, applause, and whistles erupted, all because we were playing and dancing to a top tune of the day. We were 8 abreast and stacked in sections behind the first set of 8 snare drummers. We all moved together as one block of playing men. It felt good to all of us and gave us a big boost for the rest of the

show. And believe or not, we did that same dance with different songs through 1963.

However, the season was soso as far as winning contests. It was not a winning season, but it was getting better. The exuberance of the crowd throughout the year told us they were anxious to see our show, and when we started the Tango dance the noise level of the crowd went down a bit in their anticipation. Like they were taking a deep breath before they cheered for us.

Remember this was 1953 and there was only one other corps that was doing any kind of dance steps and that was the Riley Raiders.

This season culminated with us participating in the American Legion Nationals in St Louis Missouri. The Rilev Raiders were also there, and again took first place, with the Caballeros coming in second, and Gabarina placing third. Only this time, Gabarina came prepared with a special photographer to capture Riley's best baritone player who was not a veteran. With this evidence, they filed a protest with the American Legion. The Caballeros joined the protest after Garbarina showed the photos and other evidence to prove Riley should be disqualified. The Caballeros were needed in the dissent since they came in second. The protest meet(Continued from page 9)

...Beginning

ing was held at the end of the year and in early 1954, it was announced that Riley was disqualified and they had to return the flag, the trophy and the prize money. The Caballeros gained an additional \$250 in prize money.

The music show in 1953 was as follows:

La Virgen de la Macarena, Fanfare, The Three Caballeros/ A Gay Ranchero, Off the Line. Finicule Finicula. America Beautiful/ the Yankee Doodle Dandv. Two To Tango, Chiu Chiu Jealousy/Green Chiu. Eyes, Valencia, Rio Rita, Chiquita Banana, Mambo Jambo, In Spain They Say Si Si, Adios.

Both Wikipedia and Drum Corps Planet allege that we played Zena Zena Zena. But that is incorrect. We played a Spanish song, Chiu Chiu Chiu.



April Birthdays

April

Larry Coleman
Michelle D'Andrea
Tom LoPorto
Dave Chadwick
Rich DePinto
Rose Silverstein
Fran Lauritano
Bruce Ziegler
Linda Gathen
Brernda Cotton
Joe Silverstein
Kenny Clancy
Mike Maiuri
Jack Zampella



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March-Birthdays

March

Pepe Algarin Donna Cetani T.J. LoPorto **Brad DeWaal** J. Oliver Plunkett Nick Srefano Nick Carlson 7ack Grilk **Rick Solow** Arlene Black **Hawthorne Caballeros Competing Corps** Bob Cook Elaine Daye Glenn Kubacki Chris Manear **Curt Hawkins** Frankie Salati **Hawthorne Caballeros** Alumni Corps Lisa Valez Yocum Pat Chadwick Beth McGarril Mike Del Vecchio



SHALF NOTES...

🗖 Sadly, we lost eight Caballeros recently. Jack Pratt, renowned percussionist, ar- 🎝 🕡 ranger, adjudicator, teacher and one of the drum instructors of the Caballeros com- 🕡 $oldsymbol{Q}$ peting corps in the 70's. He helped the corps, along with the other instructors, win $oldsymbol{Q}$ 🕡 several DCA and National Championships during his time here. Our condolences go 🕡 🕡 out to his family. We lost soloist Bill Hayes who 🛮 made "Cherry Pink And Apple Blos- 🕡 🕡 som White" a treasure for the Caballeros fans...and John Houghton a drummer in the 🕡 $oldsymbol{G}$ competing and alumni corps. $oldsymbol{\mathsf{Vic}}$ $oldsymbol{\mathsf{Jascot}}$ was a solo soprano in both Caballeros $oldsymbol{\mathsf{G}}$ 🗗 corps. Cliff Teidemann played soprano and cymbals during his time in the Alumni 🗗 Corps. We also lost Pete Garcia, Tom Harvey and Bob Kay to round out our departed $oldsymbol{d}$ members......Please take care of yourselves. I hate adding names to this list. When $oldsymbol{d}$ this National crisis is over, I want to see everyone at the next rehearsal, parade or 🗗 stage show that we finally participate in. We are a great family! Stay safe, stay well!that's all for now!

A "Bit of Wit" from the Quill of Charlie Bratton...



Since Americans throw rice at weddings do Asians throw hamburgers?

Since light travels faster than sound, isn't that why some peopled appear bright until you hear them speak.

If you think nobody cares for you, try missing a couple of payments.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all the evidence.

I just got skylights put in my place. The people who live above me are furious.

I played a blank tape on full volume. The mime who lives next door complained.

WHAT IS THE SPEED OF DARK.

HELP WANTED!

The Alumni Corps has openings in ALL SECTIONS, especially Contra in the Horn line, **Color Guard and** openings for Bass, Cymbal and **Double Tenor in the Drum Line.**







The OLE! welcomes all impressions/expressions. Send your input/articles to



Cabalumno1@aol.com



