

Ole!



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

Volume 2, Issue 3

May/June 2021

Caballeros..... In The Beginning Part Nine

By Mike DelVecchio

Caballeros History 1961

We finished the 1960 season with the best record for wins in the history of the Caballeros. Our goal for 1961 was to better 1960 as we aimed for our first undefeated season come 1961. 1960 saw an explosive Caballero drum Corps hit the field. A new decade brought about a different and more exciting and entertaining show for the crowd to enjoy.

As the 1961 season began the concern was what new thing could we present to the crowd that would make them cheer the Caballeros. We gave them the "Two To Tango" dance step, then came

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Cabs 1972: A Magical Year Continued

By Jim Mallen

In the last issue of the Ole!, I wrote an article entitled **CABS 1972: A MAGICAL YEAR**. It was about the miraculous win of the 1972 DCA Championships by the Hawthorne Caballeros after a struggling and unsuccessful competition season. This is a continuation of that **MAGICAL YEAR** story.

After we won the DCI Championships in 1972, we were firing on all cylinders. We now had **Swagger!** We went to Wildwood in Sept. and performed unopposed for another American Legion NJ State title. Our performance there was superior. We were now the real deal! We celebrated that weekend joyously and returned for some serious rehearsals in the fall.

In October we were contacted by the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade committee and were invited to participate in their 1972 parade. We felt it was an honor to again be asked. But this time it was a special honor. They told us we would be the musical group to precede the Santa Claus float on

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Alumni Event Schedule

Saturday, June 5 *

Parade

Wildwood

Saturday, July 10 *

Virtual Performance

P.C.T.I.

Saturday, August 14 *

T.B.D.

Saturday, August 21 *

Virtual Performance

P.C.T.I.

Saturday, August 28 *

Virtual Performance

P.C.T.I.

Saturday, September 11 *

Parade (Tentative)

Atlantic City

Saturday, September 18 *

T.B.D.

Sunday, November 7 *

Parade (Tentative)

Clifton

Saturday, September 20 *

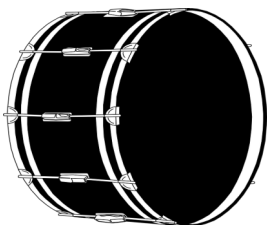
Parade & Stage Show

Plymouth, MA

Saturday, December 4 *

Parade

Hawthorne



Alumni Rehearsal Schedule 2021

Sunday, May 2 *

Music

Lake Hopatcong Elks

12:00-5:00

Sunday, May 16 *

Music

Lake Hopatcong Elks

12:00-5:00

Saturday, May 30 *

Music

Lake Hopatcong Elks

12:00-5:00

Sunday, June 13 *

T.B.D.

Sunday, June 27 *

Music

Lake Hopatcong Elks

12:00-5:00

Saturday, July 24 *

Music

Lake Hopatcong Elks

12:00-5:00

Sunday, August 1

Music

Lake Hopatcong Elks

12:00-5:00

Saturday, August 14

Music

Lake Hopatcong Elks

12:00-5:00

Sunday, September 26 *

T.B.D.

Sunday, October 10 *

T.B.D.

Sunday, October 24 *

T.B.D.

Sunday, November 14 *

T.B.D.

Saturday, December 4 *

A Note From Our Alumni Association President

Dear Alumni,

It has been a while since there has been something from the Alumni Association. We all hope all is well in these crazy times the past 14 months.

Our deepest condolences to those who may have suffered losses or illnesses.

We are still doing our best to keep the Association afloat. A small contribution of \$10 can keep your membership active and help us support our goals. Please contact directly at Larrybari199@gmail.com with any questions. Please put "Alumni Association" in the heading.

Thank you to Chris Sortino for reviving the Ole! issues.

The 2021 season, although virtual at this time, for both the Competing and Alumni corps is not stopping either for putting together the usual Hawthorne tradition of greatness. This is the 75th Anniversary year and hope all will support the

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.....The Beginning 1961

"Cherry Pink," next the Rumps, which the crowd liked as they could join in with our music. Then we opened the 1960 season coming off the line in an attack mode with Dueling Sopranos in the concert and in Cha Cha Cha Flamenco. The drum corps crowd must have been thinking what else could the Caballeros do to better the 1960 show.

Word had gotten to some of the competing corps which caused some of them to try to file a protest even before our first show. It dealt with a drum in the percussion section that corps claimed must have a drum head on both top and bottom of the drum to qualify as a drum. So we come off the line with the rumps into Carmen. Then in formation for Cachita. We hit the intro and at the same time the drum line opens up and Carumba, es Timbales es Bobby Hoffman pounding on his timbales and dancing his way towards the Drum Major. The

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Trivia Answer

Volume 2 Issue 2

Q: What year and where did the Caballeros win their last AL National Championship?

A: 1980 Boston, MA



OFFICERS

Alumni Assn. President

Larry Mastroberardino

Alumni Corps Director

Paul Bongiovi

Alumni Corps Asst. Dir.

Steve Racowski

Post Commander

Doug Tennis

Ole! Newsletter Editor

Chris Sortino

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..... Magical 1972

its way to the reviewing stand at the end of the parade. Well, they do not put a mediocre musical group at the conclusion of the parade. And, after all, we were the reigning DCA World Champions! Okay, our director Jim Costello sWe began rehearsing our performance at the Paterson Armory. We learned a street drill for "Everybody's Everything", a popular Santana song. Their committee came to watch us rehearse at the armory. They approved.

Every year the TV networks require everyone who will perform at the reviewing stand to come to 34th St. and Broadway before the parade and perform your featured routine for the cameras. It's done that morning between 6:00 and 8:00 AM. It is done in parade order: the band performing first does their pre-show performance first. Since we were the last musical unit, we did our run-through last. The run-throughs ran late. The parade officials were worried that, with midtown NYC gridlock traffic, we might not get up to Central Park West in time for our scheduled step-off. So, instead, they recommended that we stay at the reviewing stand and wait for Santa Claus to come to us. They ushered us into the Macy's store to wait. It was warm on a very cold morning. We loved it. We sat there with the Radio City Rockettes dance troupe and Olympic gymnast Olga Korbut, who spent her whole time inside the store rehearsing on a balance beam.

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.....The Beginning 1961

crowd went wild as the Ca-balleros again presented another new instrument into the percussion section. Meanwhile some corps directors are protesting as the timbales do not have a drum head on the bottom of them.

One was so mad at this new set of drums he slammed his crutch on the judges table and yelled for the judges to look at the rules against the timbales. There was no such rule. This was a Latin musical instrument and they could find nothing in the book to require drum heads on the bottom of any drum.

Well, we continued on with the season and pleasing the crowd with Bob Hoffman and his "tin can" drums. Sometimes he would be on the end of a company front with me and I called them his pots and pans. These drums were only about 6 inches deep and were made of brass.

In 1961 the Nationals were in Denver Colorado. We

flew out on an old TWA Super Constellation, which looked like a sway back fuselage with triple tails. It was a night flight, and on the way out, one of our men suffered some sort of attack so we had to aim for an FAA airport in Delaware to land and get him to a hospital. To do that we first had to fly over Pa. and dump most of our high-grade aviation fuel. There was a nozzle on the back of the wing. The pilot turned on lights aimed at these nozzles so everyone could see it. That was a pretty sight. Their joy at seeing this was somewhat dampened when the pilot advised everyone that if one of the engines were to backfire we could become a rocket with the explosion of the fuel. We landed safely, dropped off the sick passenger, gassed up and took off for Denver.

At the finals contest, everything seemed to go well. The best thing about the legion National is the corps in the finals have to pick a number put in a hat to determine their position for

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May Birthdays

**Mary Lou Bonn
Bill Hoyt
Tyrone Laval
Guy LaFlamme
Arline Clayburn
Lisa Menear
Tony D'Andrea
Bob Hendershot
Bob Bonn
Lizann Lander
Richard Jessop
Roger Perez
Larry Di Renzo
Ann Durborow
Steve Tanner
Denny O'Connell**



(Continued From Page 4)

.....The Beginning 1961

entering the field. Talk about the luck of the draw, we drew the position directly behind the 7th Cavalry. You guessed it already didn't you? The 7th marched around the field mostly like a parade with almost no difficult maneuvers in their show. Their DM wore a large tan cowboy hat and a buck skin jacket with the little leather strings on it. His corps was all in dark blue uniforms with blue hats of the 7th Cavalry. Now you would think we had the show in the bag, right? Wrong! That is not exactly how the events happened.

We got on the starting line and got all set when our DM Ralph Silverbrand came from the back of the corps taking his giant steps to get to me so we could kick off the line. His message was short and demanding. It seems Don Angelica failed to make it to the field in time and I was going to have to han-

dle his solos and the duets with Jim D'Amico. He then turned around and took off for his starting position in front of the corps. I had spent the afternoon learning to march in a squad not having to worry about my spot or playing. Now I have to move in and out of my squad and hope when I come back to the squad that there still would be a place for me.

That is only the first problem we had that night. We no sooner start playing the concert when a snow squall came upon us for a good 2-3 minutes. Seems like we had another venture for the Wetbacks, only now we added the Snowbacks.

We won the show by 6 points in spite of our problems.

Trivia Question

What place did the Caballeros come in at the 1968 AL Nationals in New Orleans, LA?

OUR SHOW FOR 1961

Rumps
Espana Cani
Carmen
Cachita
Siboney (Concert)
I Love Lucy/Cuban Pete
with Tango dance step
Cha Cha Cha Flamenco
Nightingale / Rumps

Remember When

Sixty Years Ago

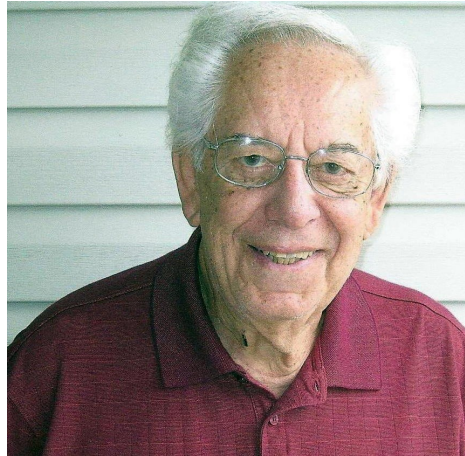
1961 AL Nationals

Denver, CO

1	Caballeros	89.03
2	Boys of 76	83.31
3	Goldcoasters	80.38
4	Black Knights	79.86
5	Spirit of St. Louis	74.77
6	Hamms Indians	70.78
7	Goldenaires	69.52
8	Toreadors	66.20
9	Grenadiers	59.52
10	7th Cavalry	56.28



Terrible Loss For The Caballeros Family



Alumni Corps Founding Member



This May we lost, in my opinion, the biggest personality that ever existed in the Caballeros. George DelMonte was a father, a husband, a high school teacher, soccer coach, play director, drama coach, show announcer, columnist, mentor, member of the NJ Drum Corps Of Fame, member of the Buglers Hall Of Fame, owner of more awards then anyone can count, comedian extraordinaire, a Caballeros Alumni Corps founding member, one of the best soloists the Caballeros ever had, friend and all around great guy.

He was one of the best friends I've ever had. He was a best friend to so many people. To have him as a best friend was an honor. My kids called him Uncle George. He genuinely cared about people. He would help anyone who needed it. He would make you laugh the entire time you were in his company. You loved him the minute you met him. When he was around, he made you feel good about everything. He was an amazing practical joker. If you were the brunt of one of his jokes, you would laugh too. You could never be mad at him. He had the hutzpah to pull off the most incredible feats. You out there that knew him, know what I'm talking about. His smile and his laugh were infectious. There are a million stories about him. If you never met him, find someone who new him and just listen to what they have to say about George DelMonte. I lost a great friend this May, one that I will never forget. He made me a better person. Thank you George. Rest in Peace.Chris Sortino

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.....Association Note

Competing corps. Your support goes a long way for pushing the corps to the finish line.

A reminder to all, the plans for the 75th Anniversary dinner have been rescheduled a few times, but so far so good on planning for a great time on December 10th. See details on the Competing corps Facebook site. If you are not on Facebook, do not hesitate to contact me as well for details.

If anyone that marched in the Competing corps would like to make a short video (appx 1 min) as to what your time meant to you, please contact Kim Roman at roman8@TCNJ.EDU or Alfredo Alexander at alfredalexandergumds@gmail.com. There is still time to get this done so the video can be incorporated for the dinner.

Stay safe and additional letters from the President to follow in the next issue.

RUMP on.

Larry Mastroberardino

Letter From The Editor

By Chris Sortino

The Caballeros Alumni Corps has started its 2021 season with a trio of music rehearsals at the Lake Hopatcong Elks Lodge. The first rehearsal was a little uncomfortable because it had been so long since our last rehearsal, March 8, 2020.

Now, I think we are ready to put a quality product out on the street at the State Elks Convention parade in Wildwood on June 5th. We still haven't met our standard, which is and has always been a very high bar to reach, but we're getting there. We are missing some key people due to many reasons, mainly related to the pandemic.

The balance of our performances, that are confirmed, will be taped and broadcast in conjunction with DCA virtual competitions. After that, I hope the balance of our Caballero time will resemble something more normal. Only time will tell.

Stay safe and stay well!
God bless!

Ole! is published every other month.

Next issue: July/August

June Birthdays

Ed Zwanziger

Rich Stanzack

Patrice Schwab

Nancy Mingle

Lou Blancato

Marianne Kerr

Andre Thibault

Barry Wagner

Steve Racowski

Bill Duncan

Debbie Darcy

Allan Vogel

John Merthens

Robert Doyle

John Smith

Mike Risley

Happy
Birthday

Shared Recollections Of George DelMonte

My clearest remembrance of George DelMonte was 45 years ago in 1976 with the Hawthorne Caballeros. We were on hand at the first ever football game played at Giants stadium on October 10th, 1976 between the Giants and Cowboys. The Giants had to play their first 4 games on the road waiting for the finishing touches to be put on the stadium. The Caballeros were given the privilege of being the first group to ever entertain the crowd at the stadium with our halftime show. The attendance was 76,042 and I do not remember if we also played the national anthem, but I do remember it was about 50 degrees and chilly and a little windy.

Here is where George enters the scene. George had a lot of solo features in our second tune, Brazil. The tune winds up with George out in front of the corps right at the sideline a few feet from Jimmy Russo. His ending solo had him hitting high notes and then he went into a fancy flourish with a flutter tonguing run right up the scale and then the last few ending notes. Well, George always being the showman that he was takes his horn and throws it up in the air expecting it to go end over end come right down and catch it. Almost. He threw it up in the air, but the wind carried it a bit and George had to make a quick lunge to get it and made a one-handed catch to save the day. Wherever I was in the drill as we were set up in concert formation, I had a bird's eye view of it. When we came off the field, I asked George what made him decide to put in the GE move. He said it was a spur of the moment thing and he said it was not exactly as he planned but it wound up ok! We had a good laugh about it.

Joe Silverstein

* * * * *

I can't help but submitting the "squirt gun" story about George.

The Time and place was the 1978 Wildwood States. As we (snare line) were marching on the field during the show I caught a glimpse of George out the corner of my eye. What he did next totally took me by surprise and amazed the entire snare line and everyone else around us. There was a judge, I think horn or M&M, about 6 feet in front, whose back was turned to us. At this point George was directly in front of the snare line. I noticed George reach into his blouse and, much to my amazement, pull out a squirt gun. What is he going to do with that I thought! Well George shot off a few squirts right into the back of the head of the Judge and immediately put the gun back into his blouse and acted like nothing happened. Holy smokes, did I just see that! I thought to myself, this judge is going to disqualify us on the spot.. Much to my surprise, that judge spun around, pointed right at George and broke out in a loud roar of laughter, as we all did in the snare line. I'll never forget that. But I always wondered, did Costello see that too? ..LOL

Vince Marchese

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..... Magical 1972

aid, we would do it.

We began rehearsing our performance at the Paterson Armory. We learned a street drill for “Everybody’s Everything”, a popular Santana song. Their committee came to watch us rehearse at the armory. They approved.

Every year the TV networks require everyone who will perform at the reviewing stand to come to 34th St. and Broadway before the parade and perform your featured routine for the cameras. It’s done that morning between 6:00 and 8:00 AM. It is done in parade order: the band performing first does their pre-show performance first. Since we were the last musical unit, we did our run-through last. The run-throughs ran late. The parade officials were worried that, with midtown NYC gridlock traffic, we might not get up to Central Park West in time for our scheduled step-off. So, instead, they recommended that we stay at the reviewing stand and wait for Santa Claus to come to us. They ushered us into the Macy’s store to wait. It was warm on a very cold morning. We loved it. We sat there with the Radio City Rockettes dance troupe and Olympic gymnast Olga Korbut, who spent her whole time inside the store rehearsing on a balance beam.

When the Santa float reached 36th St, they ushered us out to line up on Broadway and 35th St. Right in front of us was a long line of mounted police horses. We did not play a note

until parade officials said “GO”. So, we started our street beat and the horses went **ballistic**. They reigned back and fought their police handlers. They parade officials were yelling at us “GO GO GO” as they were on a tight schedule. But we said NO WAY are we marching into them. After a brief delay they settled down, thankfully. We did our reviewing stand music and drill on camera for a national TV audience, made a right turn onto 34th St. and marched one block to the end of the parade. We marched a total of just TWO BLOCKS, performed live before a large national TV audience, boarded our buses and were back in Hawthorne post in time to see the parade show ending in the post bar! What a great memory.

Here is a link to the video of the Caballeros 1972 performance at the Macy’s Parade reviewing stand. If it will not open, you may have to copy and paste it.

<https://www.facebook.com/agrilk/videos/10157477158412483>

But the best was yet to come. The Pittsburgh Steelers NFL football team were having a great year. They contacted us to possibly do a halftime performance for them at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh.

THE IMACULATE RECEPTION. Without it, I would have no story to tell you here. It is one of the most famous plays in the history of American football. This play is also selected as the **Greatest Play in NFL History**. 12/23/72, on the Steelers very last chance in the AFC divisional playoff game, a fourth and ten play, with 30 sec-

onds left, Steeler’s QB Terry Bradshaw threw a long pass to a receiver which was batted away by a defender. It flew in the air right into the hands of rookie fullback Franco Harris who ran it into the end zone for a winning touchdown with 9 seconds left in the game! A miracle! The Steelers would play the Miami Dolphins on New Year’s Eve in Pittsburgh. It was the Steelers first playoff win ever.

The Pittsburgh Steelers had contacted the Caballeros to perform the halftime show at Three Rivers Stadium on New Year’s Eve in Pittsburgh if the Steelers won. Caballeros director Jim Costello told them that he could not subject his members to a 7–8-hour bus ride home from Pittsburgh which would get everyone back to their loved ones after midnight. So, the Steelers administration and the team owner, Art Rooney, agreed to charter a plane and fly the Caballeros from NJ to Pittsburgh and back.

At 8:00 AM on 12/31/72 we met at a commercial hangar in Newark airport for our flight. It was not a passenger terminal; it was a commercial terminal hangar. There were no seats there for passengers, so we sat on the floor with our uniform bags and waited for the jet to arrive. Airport workers loaded our equipment into the plane’s cargo hold, we boarded and took off for a two-hour flight to Pittsburgh. Bass drummer Wayne Kubacki remembers being invited to visit the cockpit of the plane while we were in flight. Hey, it was a different time back then. No cockpit visits are allowed today, eh?

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..... Magical 1972

When we arrived, it was a surprisingly warm and sunny day. Perfect for a halftime performance. We boarded chartered buses and were escorted by two PA State Trooper vehicles, with lights flashing and sirens blaring, through the stadium traffic to Three Rivers Stadium. When we arrived, we were shown to the dressing room of the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball team. Of course, it was unused by the Pirates in December. In the room, they had put out for us a long table and fed us with a lunch buffet of sandwiches and salads before our performance. We were being treated well, and we thoroughly enjoyed the attention. **We felt like we were drum corps royalty!**

With two minutes before halftime, we lined up in the tunnel and marched proudly onto the field. The stadium was packed, sold out. 59,000 fans. These were football fans, not drum corps fans. Yet, our performance was so impressive that many fans starting paying attention to us. We were rocking the house. By the time we finished, we received enthusiastic and rousing applause from many in the audience. Some fans sitting midfield actually stood up and gave us a standing ovation! Wow.

We trooped the stands, marched back into the tunnel, changed in our locker room, boarded the buses, and rode back to the airport for our return flight. Our spirits were soaring, and we just could not believe our good luck.

We were National champions and were being treated that way. We loved it.

Many memories were made that day, the plane to fly us was late, so those of us who were late getting to the airport made the flight. Timbale player Mike Hull remembers us marching off the field past the cheerleaders who were crying! Why were they crying? Drum major Jim Russo later told me that they were the Kilgore Rangerettes. They were supposed to perform their halftime routine that they had rehearsed, after we played. But we took up too much time, and the network executives cancelled the Kilgorettes' performance. (Those damned Caballeros! -smile-) Members Frank Amalino and timpanist Dave Tintle remember us lining up in the tunnel after we played. The Steelers were lined up right next to us, waiting to go out. Dave remembers Mean Joe Green looking like he was ten feet tall!

So, we were back to Newark Airport by 6:00 PM and home by 7:00 PM in time to celebrate New Year's Eve with our loved ones! PERFECT. Just imagine saying *"Honey, tomorrow I have to fly to Pittsburgh and perform a halftime performance in front of an audience of 59,000 fans, but I'll be home by 7:00 PM."* **Unbelievable.**

FYI the Miami Dolphins beat the Steelers in the game where we performed and went to the Super Bowl (VI) and lost to the Dallas Cowboys. But the Steelers succeeded. After four decades of futility the Immaculate Reception was a turning point for them. They went on to win four Super Bowls in the 1970s. A true NFL powerhouse.

And we, the Hawthorne Caballeros, were a true DCA powerhouse. We went on to win the DCA Championship **for three years in a row: 1972, 1973 and 1974!** In 1973 we had an unprecedented undefeated season. The first one ever in DCA history. Yes, my friends, **1972 was indeed a magical and miracle year for the Caballeros.** We all will never forget it!!

Jim Mallen is an alumnus of the DCI founding Blessed Sacrament Golden Knights. A School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Jim is a former DCI/DCA Percussion Judge who has two sons and lives with his wife in Wyckoff, NJ. He is an NJ certified K-12 Instrumental Music Teacher who was a marching member, instructor, and Percussion Caption Head (1985) for the Hawthorne Caballeros. In 2004 he was inducted into the NJ Drum Corps Hall of Fame. In 2005 he was inducted into the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame.

Jamesdrum007@optonline.net



HALF NOTES...

We lost an icon in the Caballero family. Soloist **George DelMonte** passed away in May. Condolences to his wife Carole, children George, Crista and Gary.....Rest in Peace my friend!.....thanks to **Joe Silverstein** and **Vince Marchese** for sending in some memories of George.....hey, double tenor players, you finally got your new drums. How do you like them?.....check out the latest news from our Alumni Association President **Larry Mastroberardino** about the competing corps 75th Anniversary dinner.....also check out **Mike DelVecchio's** ongoing history of the Caballeros. The 1961 story is a pip.....thanks again to **Jim Mallen** for his interesting and entertaining journey through the Caballeros 1972 season. It was a "Magical Year:.....that's all for now!



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

The man who created autocorrect has died. Restaurant in peace.

Every novel is a mystery novel if you never finish it.

I killed two birds with one stone by giving up my New Year's resolution for Lent.

I went to see my doctor about my short term memory problems. He made me pay in advance.

I don't want a talking car. When I get stopped by the police, it might squeal on me.

Wouldn't exercise be more fun if calories screamed while you burned them?

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

