



*Where to run?
The question keeps recurring
with every new show.*

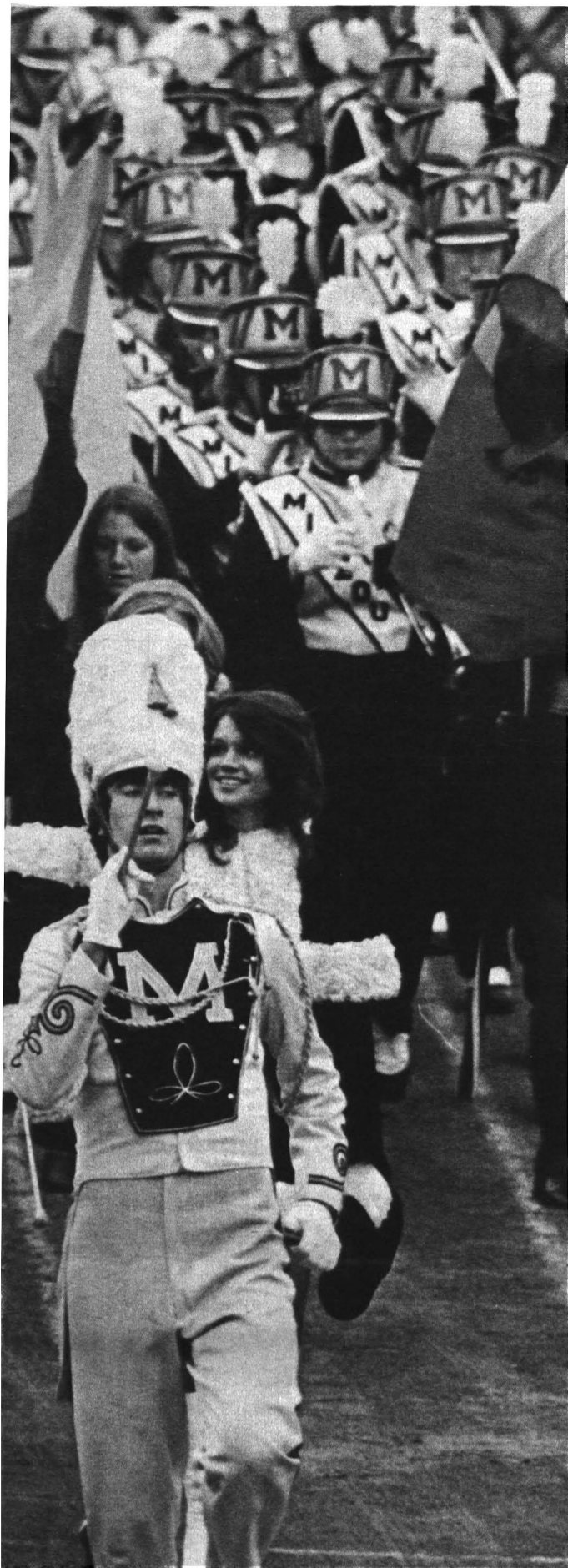


*If you don't move soon,
you'll get trampled.
The others went that way.*



*Honest men may differ
when the map is not clear.
Maybe to the left, huh?*

MARCHING MIZZOU:



You have to wonder what makes them run.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening during football season you could see them, 300 strong, rehearsing their show again and again, rain or shine. As the winter days grew shorter, practices ended in total darkness because there are no lights on the practice field. So a couple of students came to practice wearing miner's helmets with carbide lamps to light their way while the snow froze on their horns. They slid in the mud and tried to play flutes with mittens. All this for a half-time show at Tiger football games, a show sometimes cancelled because of a wet playing field.

Marching Mizzou members earn only two hours credit and a small stipend for their effort, yet band director Alexander Pickard says he turned away 100 applicants this year.

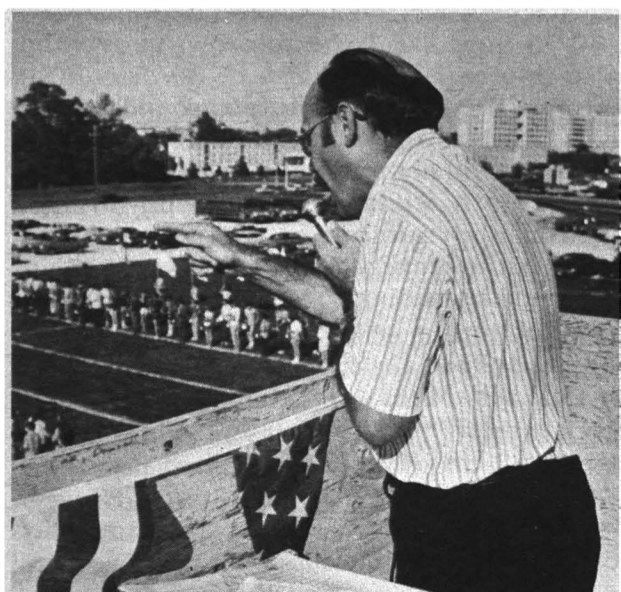
Marching band is required only for music education students. Most of the members are not music majors, but they devote a lot of time and effort to what they modestly call "the best damned band in the land."

"You might say it's sort of a co-ed fraternity," says vice-president Gene Young. Another member, David Young, an engineering major, has been in the band for three years. "Sure we work hard, about nine hours a week," he says, "but it's so much fun!" Weekends make up for the work during the week.

Pickard tries to strike a fine balance between running a first-rate performing organization and providing some social enjoyment for the students. The students feel their opinions about what the band does are important, and so does Pickard. Whatever the combination, it seems to be working.

Marching Mizzou has been designated Missouri's official Bicentennial band. They have been invited to play at the England-Scotland rugby match this year. The match is the British counterpart to the Super Bowl, and the invitation is a genuine tribute to the band's performing abilities. Raising the money to get there is the big problem now. Band members are confident that they'll make it. It's similar to a story member Debbie Schmidt tells about the band's trip to the Fiesta Bowl.

"We had arrived about 4 a.m. and had no sleep," she says. "I had ear trouble and I was sitting in the stands near some Arizona State band people. Dr. Pickard said, 'We have a half hour. Let's run through the show four times.' The band said, 'Yeah, let's go!' and the guys from Arizona said it would never happen. After 21 minutes they'd gone through it three times and were ready to go again. Some guy from Arizona said 'By God, they're really gonna do it!' And we did." □



Usually, a gentle word from "Uncle Al" Pickard can straighten things out.



The snow won't stop rehearsal. Sometimes one may wish she had learned to play piano.



But Saturdays are worth the whole week's work. All this and England, too.

BAND ON THE RUN

By Dave Holman