

we love you mini mizzou

... we love your music, those high-powered, big-band sounds that keep us jumping at basketball and away football games. We love your polished musicianship and your inspiring, if somewhat manic, style of performance. And we love you for taking your evenings and weekends and vacations to practice and to play for the Tigers and to entertain alumni who, naturally, have come to expect the best little band in the land and are never disappointed.

Mini Mizzou, a compact version of Marching Mizzou, hit the road this spring on a tour financed by the Alumni Association. Forty-three young musicians and 10 Golden Girls piled into a bus and headed East. Their first stop was New York's Rockerfeller Center (left), and they drew a crowd so large that latecomers barely could get a glimpse of them. And the story was the same at concerts for alumni and the public in New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Washington.

It wasn't all performing, of course. There was time, (but never enough) for sightseeing — the skyscrapers of New York, Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell in Philly, the Smithsonian and Arlington in Washington. For Mini Mizzou it was an unforgettable experience. But the impact may have been even greater on the alumni. As Regional Alumni Director Jim Leslie said: "Mini Mizzou blew East with love, and four alumni clubs never will be the same again."

Photos and text
by Aaron Levin

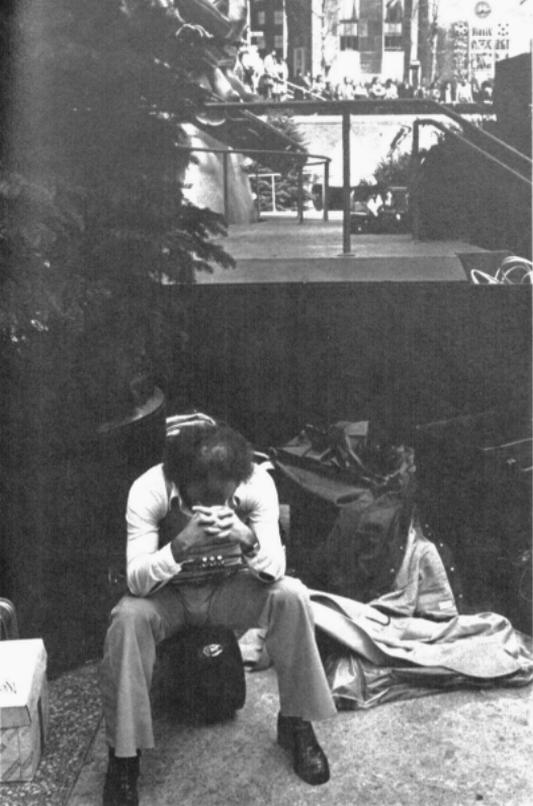
The afternoon sun sifts through

the concrete canyons of Manhattan as Dotta Shell helps unload instrument cases from the Mini Mizzou bus. An estimated 3,000 listeners jammed Rockefeller Center, drawn by the band's rousing sound.

One hundred faithful Mizzou

alumni from the northern New Jersey area gathered for a dinner and concert by Mini Mizzou. The supper-club atmosphere was enhanced by the song stylings of Michele Montgomery, a junior from Kansas City. Eastern alumni leaders worked long and hard to coordinate the activities.





After a 20-hour bus ride, trumpeter

Mike Lee takes a quiet moment of concentration as he prepares himself for the start of the concert in New York.

In New Jersey, Mizzou musicians

stayed at the homes of alumni like Fred Schwab, whose two sons entertained trombonist John Broadfoot with some post-concert games.



The Bus . . . like a second home

after five days on the road. Band director Norman Ruebling (left) distracts driver Paul Bassinett as Mark Winter, Bob Huch, Kathy Klosterman and Mike Lee join in.

Liberty's home, Independence Hall,

rises in the background as the band plays a 90-minute concert for an appreciative audience in Philadelphia. Besides alumni, hundreds of passersby flocked to the pavilion on Independence Mall to listen.



There's no hot-dog vendor

on the streets of Columbia, so Kara Young (back to camera), Dawn Bittinger and Renee Barbosa enjoy exotic culinary delights on the sidewalks of Philadelphia.



As the long miles rolled by

outside the bus window, Golden Girl Sherri Overton found plenty of time to write postcards to friends back home.

Lively times on Capitol Hill

are not restricted to politicians, as alumni get into the show with Sherry Bedard (left), Michelle Fishbach and Sherri Overton in the Rayburn Office Building in Washington.



They didn't see King Tut

or Jimmy Carter, but like most tourists before them, Mini Mizzou stopped to immortalize themselves in front of the White House.

