

Donations push band toward new uniforms

By Jolayne Houtz
Of the Emerald

The Fighting Duck Marching Band received nearly \$20,000 from alumni during the past year and will use the money to buy new uniforms for band members, says band director Steven Paul.

The band's fundraising drive began late last year and will conclude in December, says Hope Pressman, special programs director for the University Foundation. Donations generally have ranged from \$25 to \$2,500, with one gift totalling \$5,000, Pressman says.

Contributions have come from California, Idaho and Oklahoma, with fundraising now beginning in the Eugene area under the direction of University alumnus Mary Gerlinger. Most of the donations have come from Salem, Pressman adds.

"There has been lots of positive response from friends and alumni of the University," Gerlinger says. "The music department is so gifted and has such quality. Now all they need is nice, new uniforms."

Gerlinger and two other Salem residents, Bob and Beverly McKellar, have raised the money through parties for friends and area alumni.

Approximately \$60,000 is needed to replace the old, worn uniforms, which Gerlinger estimates are 15 years old and were bought when the band

reassembled in the late 1960's. New uniforms will be purchased this winter for next fall's marching season.

A local company will make the uniforms after a professional designer comes up with a "rain-proof design," Paul says.

The band has three sources of income, he says. The Incidental Fee Committee allocated \$32,318 after receiving the go-ahead from student voters in April. Other money will come from the athletic department and donations.

Enthusiasm for the band is growing, Paul says. He attributes this to increased pride in band performance and being able to travel this year to the football game against the University of Washington. "It (traveling) is definitely a recruiting incentive."

The band has 150 members this year, 50 more than last year. The average member works about seven hours a week, spending about 1½ weeks to completely learn each eight-minute drill.

"I've taken a different approach with the music and included Broadway show tunes, contemporary rock and jazz," says Paul, who also choreographs the band drills.

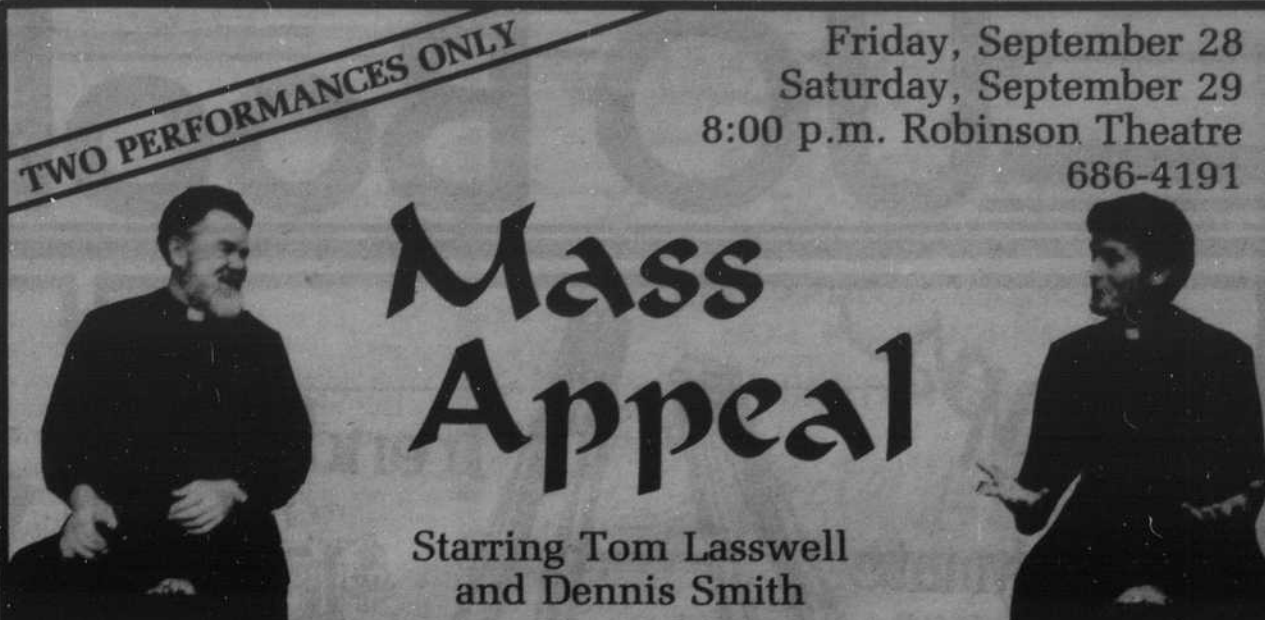
"I think the band is getting a lot better, and the better it is the more pride there is," he says. "Like any creative process, it's great to see it finally happen on the field."

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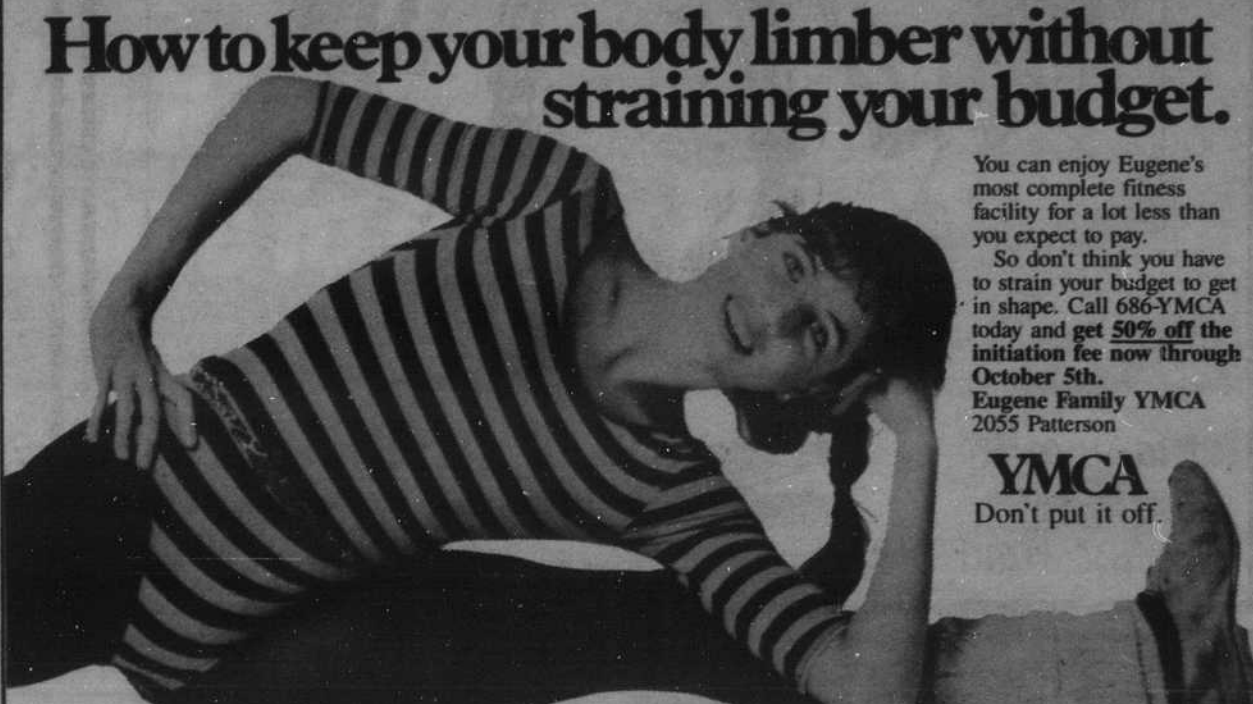
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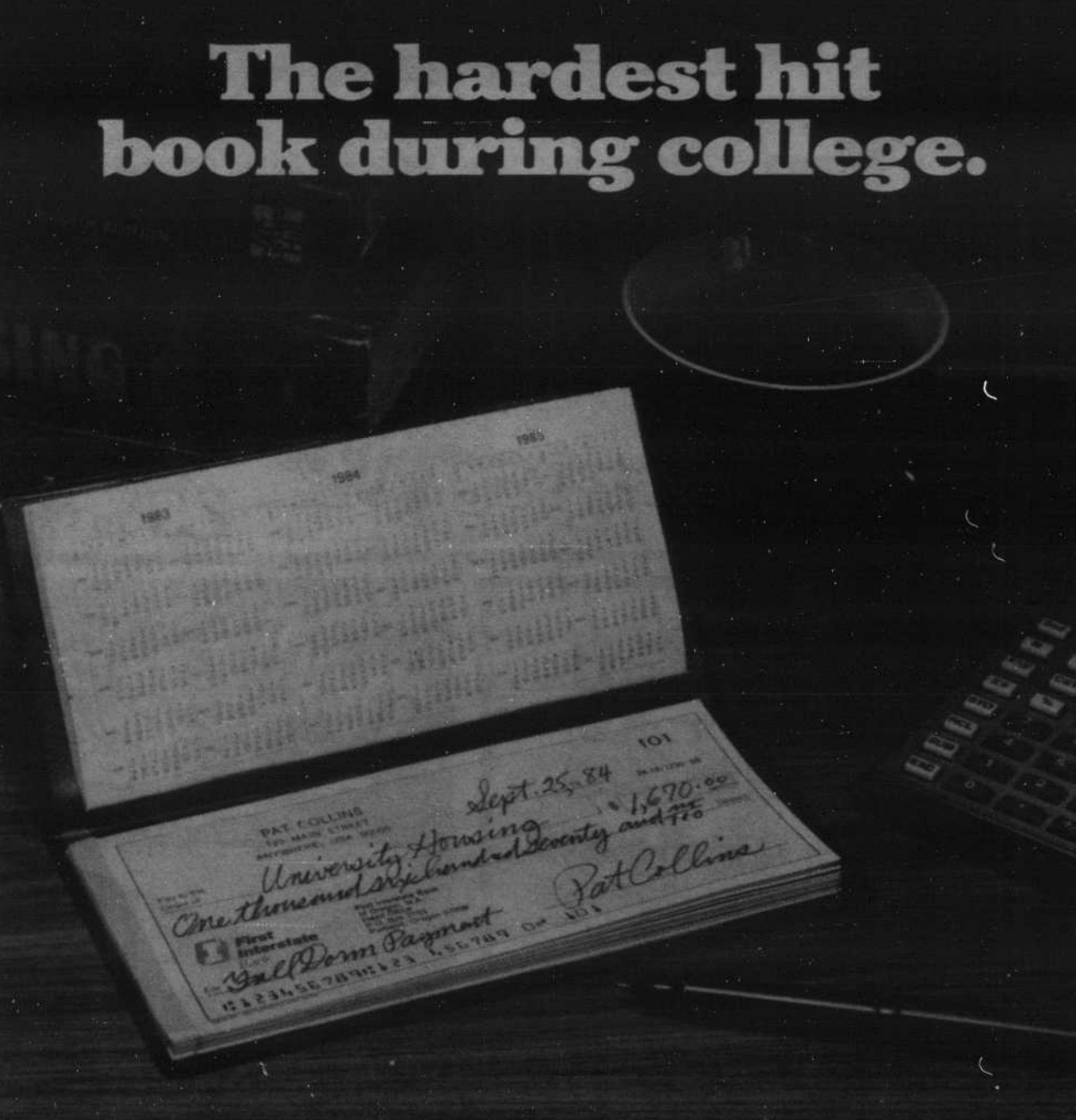
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