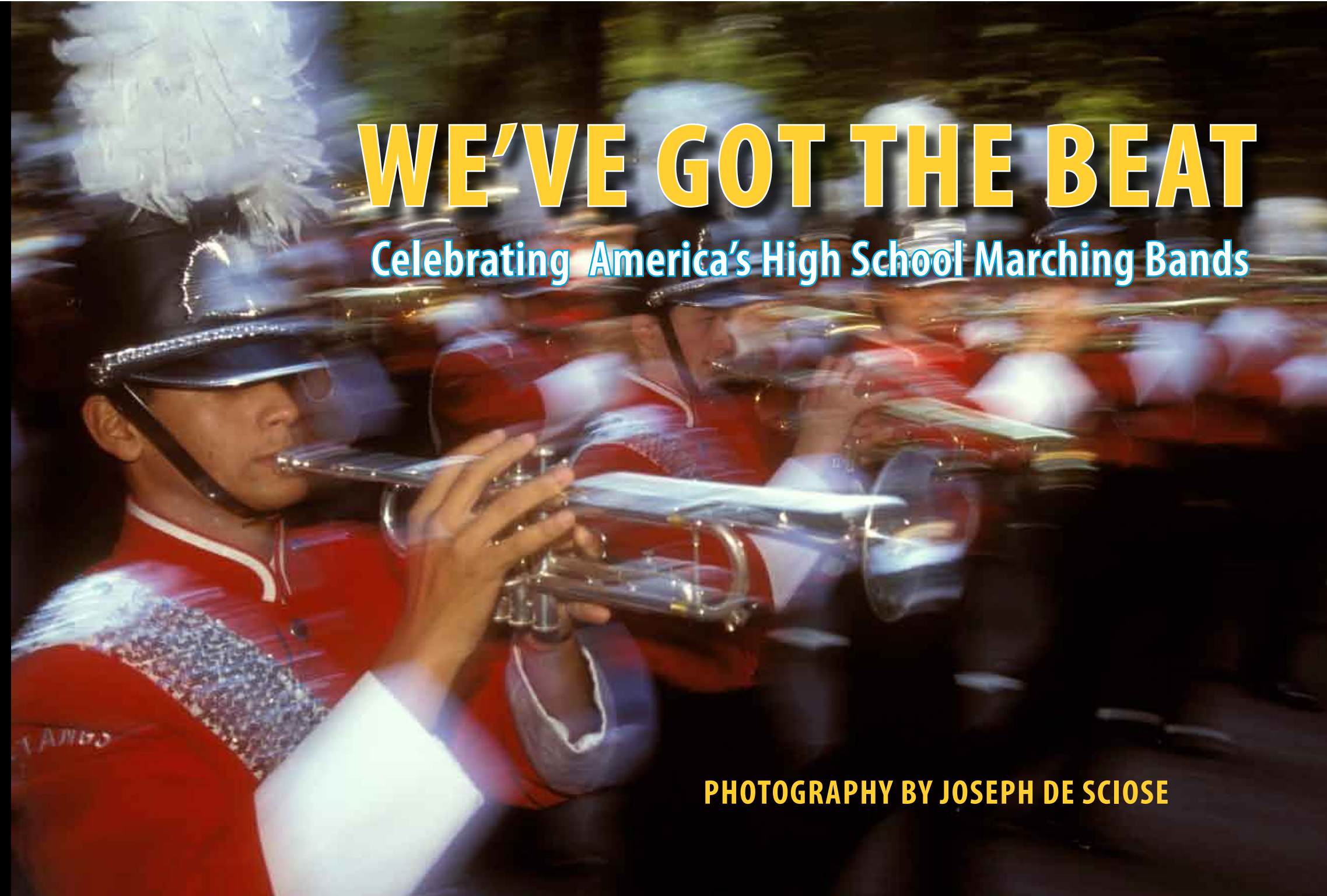




WE'VE GOT THE BEAT

Celebrating America's High School Marching Bands



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOSEPH DE SCIOSE



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WHY I DID MARCHING BAND

Band is like family. We all become brothers and sisters, and the directors are your parents. You eat with them, travel with them, sleep with them, win with them, cry with them. Through the good and the bad, when you like each other or you don't, band is a way of life and there's no turning back once you've committed.

Rebecca Carter
Grenada, Mississippi High School, Class of 2002



I've followed the beat of a band for most of my life. As a ten-year-old I was encouraged to join the clarinet ranks of our local community band. And currently I participate in a band camp for adult musicians where, at the relatively young age of 60, I still qualify as one of the "junior" members. Along the way my band journey also took me to the United States Marine Band, "The President's Own" where I enjoyed a 36-year career, first as a clarinetist, then as an assistant director, and finally as the band's 26th director. Although I was the leader of America's oldest musical organization and ever mindful that I occupied the same position once held by John Philip Sousa, there was never a day when I felt like what I was doing could be described as "work". In fact, to say that I have "played" in bands all these years is exactly true.

Bands occupy a special place in our American musical culture. Whereas symphony orchestras will always be viewed as elitist, bands are populist. They are set apart from other performing organizations by their versatility, diversity and mobility. Bands travel. Historically they have provided their music wherever people gather – at the parades, dances, picnics, circuses, battles, ball games, park concerts and assemblies for the masses. Today the recreational and instructional role of bands on public school and college campuses continues to have a widespread impact on American musical values. At their best and most influential, bands have always embraced the new, revived the forgotten, and revitalized the musical mainstream. And it is

music, after all, which will be the primary and lasting motivation for anyone playing in a band. Music is simply one of the great joys of being human. As our children navigate through an incredibly chaotic and complicated world, music diminishes the cynicism surrounding them and reminds them of the qualities of love, friendship and understanding, though which human beings can create rather than destroy.

It has been said that a young man or woman can learn more about the principles of good citizenship by playing in a marching band than in most any other endeavor. Band musicians are big-hearted, fair minded, resourceful and fun loving. They are also a tough, resilient, remarkably hardy lot whose legs, lips and lungs must function effectively in all circumstances. Bandspeople tend to be fanatically devoted and loyal to their own band, which they view not as an organizational activity but as a way of life. I invite you to observe and enjoy this way of life through Joseph De Sciose's marvelous photographs. *We've Got the Beat* captures the essence of the band experience – the youthful wonderment of it all, to be shared by young and old alike.

Timothy Foley
Colonel, USMC, Ret.
26th Director, United States Marine Band
Source: United States Marine Band literature.



Colonel Foley holds the Sousa baton before the start of the 1997 Presidential Inaugural Parade.



INTRO

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Dr. Tim Lautzenheiser

I love bands. All I have ever wanted to be was a high school band director. I am living my dream job. The kids are infectious. There is nothing better than watching them achieve excellence and then sharing in their successes.

I am inspired by the challenge of creating a new field show every year. Every show is unique. Our goal in performance is to eliminate all the mistakes so that, instead of creating complexity, we reach a mastery of purity and clarity.

Greg Bimm
Director
Marian Catholic Band
Chicago Heights, Illinois



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THE FACES OF MARCHING BANDS

Twenty minutes in a good marching band teaches a kid more about How Things Really Are than five years at Mother's granite knee.

from "Wilbur Duckworth
and His Magic Baton"
by Jean Sheperd



The Pickerington, Ohio Band at the 2001 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. As a tribute to the 343 New York City Firefighters who perished on September 11th, every band member wore at least one ribbon with the name of a fallen hero.











BAND CAMP

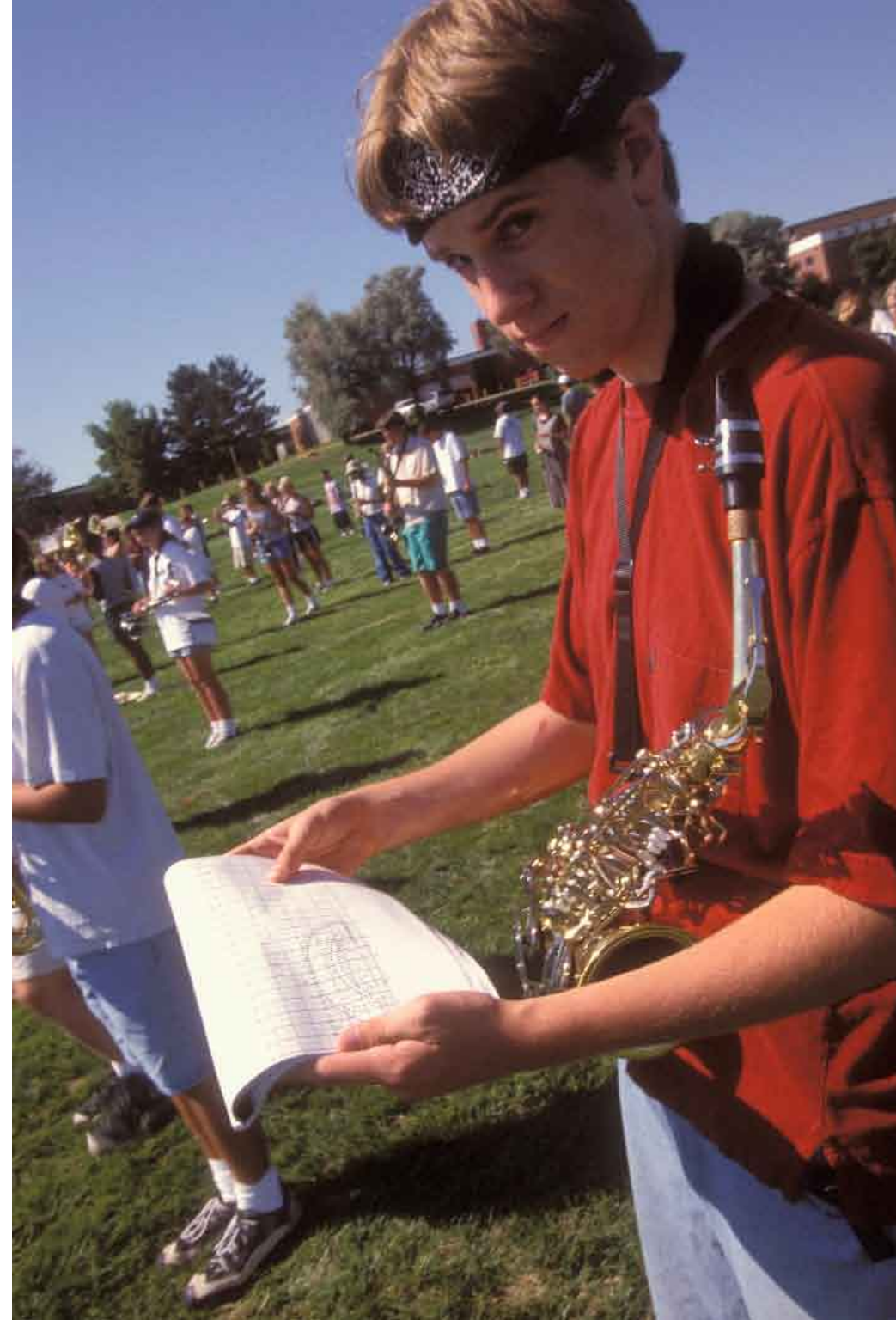
I love being in marching band because at the end of the day, after the hours and hours of work, after the tons of Advil taken for headaches, sore legs, and immeasurable back pain (no thanks to a 35 pound brass Sousaphone), I can perform a powerful, beautiful, amazing show with 260 friends. At the end of the season I can look back and know that I put all I had into it, and got back every ounce of it and then some.

*Kait Payne
Lassiter Band, Marietta, GA
Sousaphone, Class of 2008*

















REHEARSAL: THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

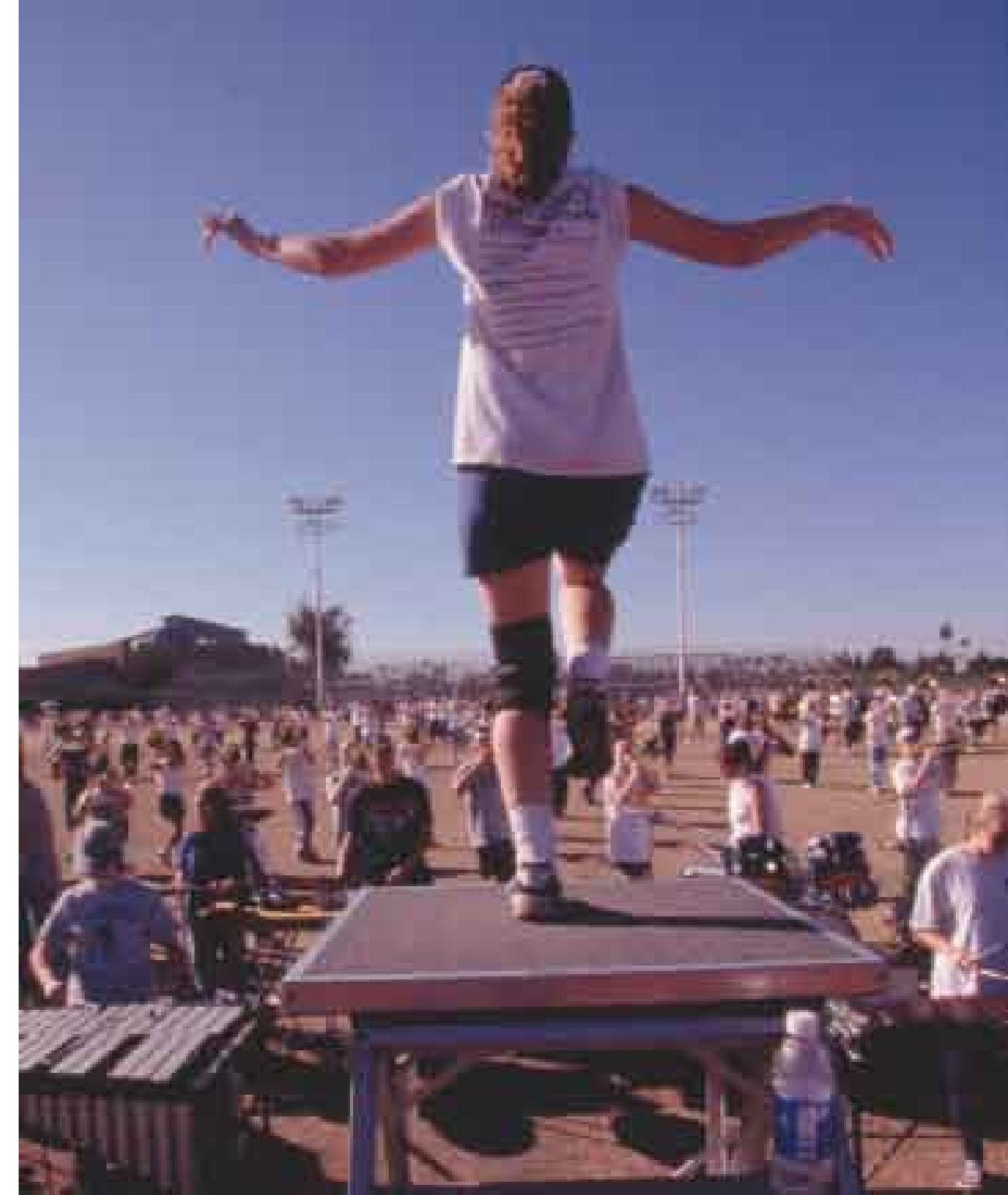
"We find the best talent a kid has and then polish it."

—Dr. David Daignault
Grenada Band, Mississippi

















WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM PARENTS

They are the Roadies, The Crew, The Pit Bulls. . .whatever their names, no band goes anywhere without the support of parents and volunteers. They are the proud, the loyal and the faithful.

















ON THE ROAD

Friends, Fun, Fame.

















LET THE SHOW BEGIN

In high school, there is no other event that represents more planning, more rehearsal and more people than the field show performance of a marching band.

A nine minute performance requires months of planning and hundreds of hours of rehearsal. Many of the top show bands march over 200 musicians plus 40 color guard members.

A successful show is a perfect synchronicity of music, dance, rhythm and color. It is the culmination of expert teaching and dedicated adult volunteers. Every teenager on the field is committed to achieve the highest level of musicianship and choreography. They know when they do their best. They give it their all. The audience lets them know.

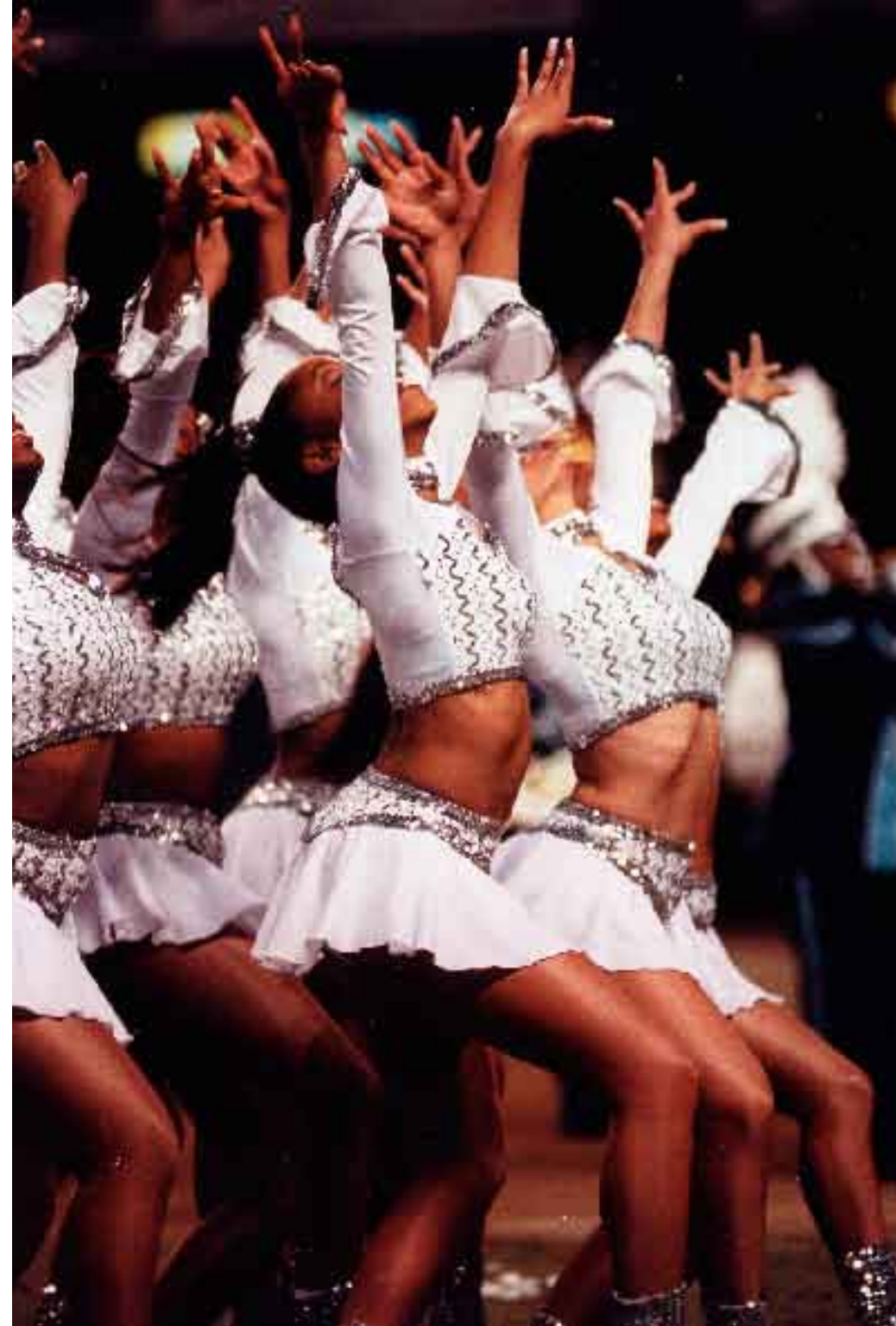


















Marian Catholic High School band members celebrating their first place finish at the 2000 Bands of America Grand Nationals marching band competition.

“We all knew we had given a perfect performance. The true excitement was realizing that we had mastered the music and the drills. From the first day of band camp we all had the expectation that we would be great.”

Cara Morantz,
Marian Catholic High School
Marching Band, class of 2001



PARADE DAY: THE BIG SHOW

From Broadway to Main Street, parade day means excitement and marching bands. In towns all across America spectators will often camp out days ahead of the parade to insure a great view.

Parades have different themes or purposes but most have some form of a marching band. The major parade events in the U.S. invite as many as 12 high school bands.

The bands may perform before small home town audiences of friends and neighbors or in front of millions in New York in what is truly the biggest show on Broadway.

Depending on the distance traveled a band will fund raise and spend upwards of \$300,000 to get their band, teachers and roadies to the Tournament of Roses Parade or the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.







