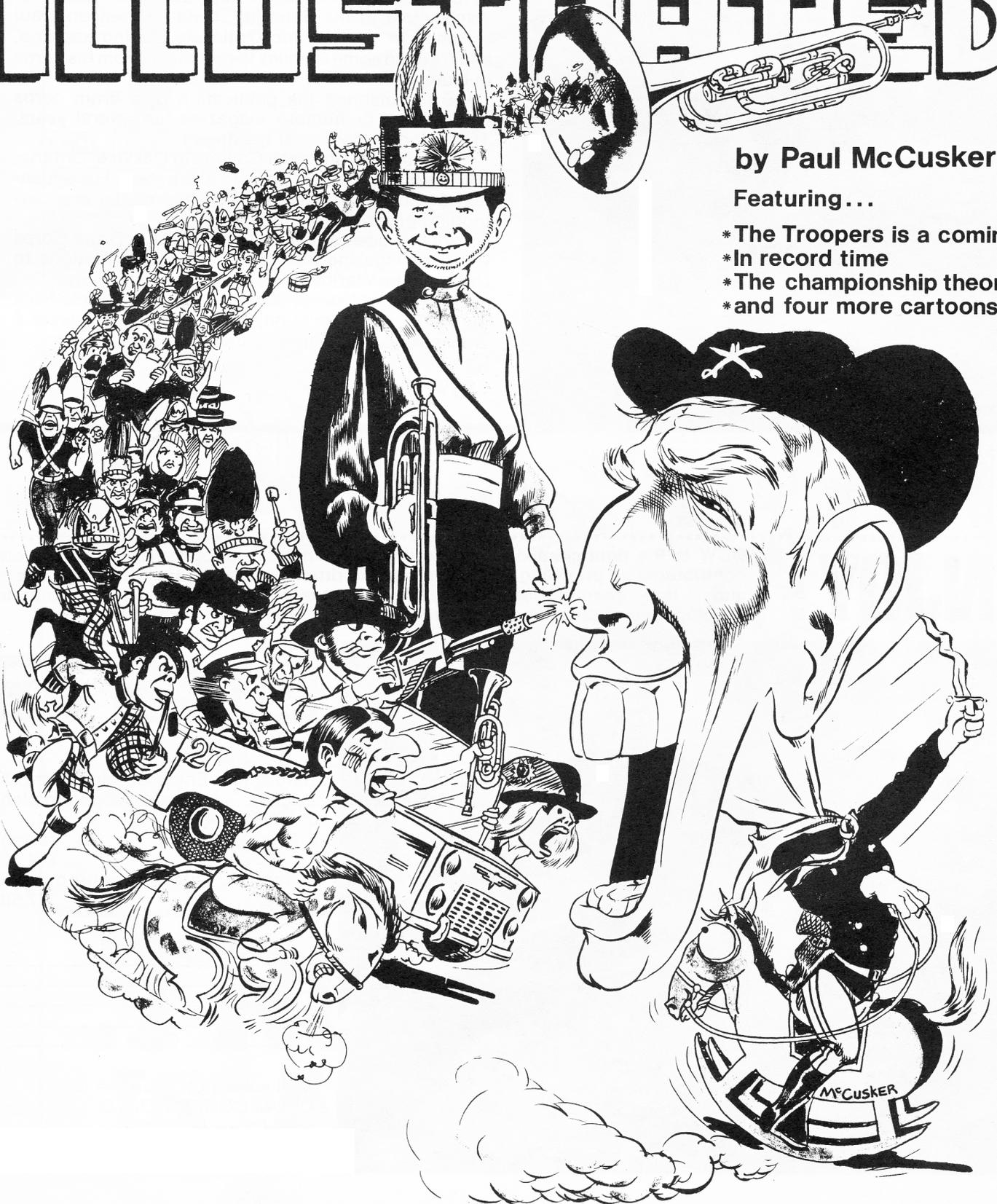


DRUM CORPS ILLUSTRATED

by Paul McCusker

Featuring...

- * The Troopers is a comin'
- * In record time
- * The championship theory
- * and four more cartoons



THE WORLD HAS LOOKED UPON THE OLD WEST AS A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY! THE TROOPER'S, IN NAME AND APPEARANCE REFLECT OUR WESTERN HERITAGE... THEY BRING TO MIND THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN...



...THE COVERED WAGONS... BUILT THE HUTS, PLOUGHED THE LAND, RUSTLED THE CATTLE... AND SHOT CRAPS WITH THE INDIANS! THE TROOPERS, IN NAME AND APPEARANCE REMIND US OF WHAT AMERICA WAS...



YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN UNDER THE TROOPER BANNER REFLECT WHAT AMERICA IS TODAY!



JIM BONES, A SUCCESSFULL CONTRACTOR WAS THE MAN WHO STARTED THE CORPS! I STARTED IT WHEN I WON THE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF AN OLD ARMY BAND IN AN ALL NIGHT POKER GAME!



I SAID ANY KID, BOY OR GIRL COULD BECOME A MEMBER AND AM I GLAD I DID... ER... I CHOSE THE TROOPER UNIFORMS BECAUSE I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A COWBOY!



HEY! YOU GUYS IN THE CROWD SIT DOWN AND WATCH THIS OR GET OUT!

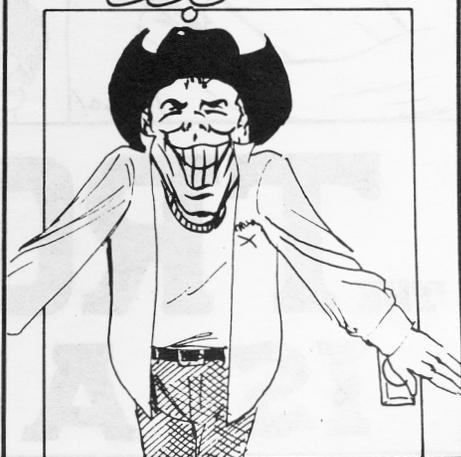


THAT'S BETTER! NOW THIS IS OUR MAIN REHEARSAL ROOM... THIS IS WHERE WE DO MOST OF OUR HEAVY PRACTISING!



HEH-HEH! THEY'RE ALWAYS PLAYING TRICKS ON ME, THE LITTLE... JOKERS!

WAIT'LL I GET THEM OFF CAMERA

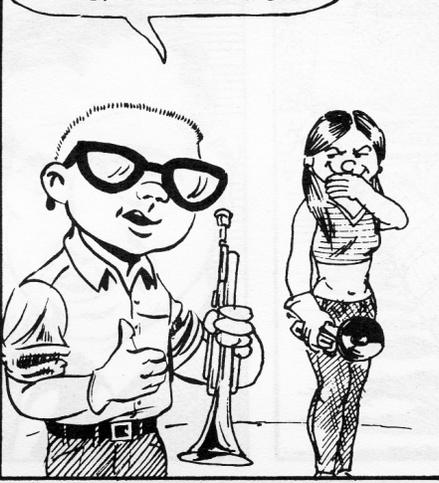


THE TROOPERS, IN NAME AND APPEARANCE, HOLD FREQUENT SECTION PRACTICE...HERE WE SEE THEIR ALLEGED THIRD SOPRANO LINE IN ACTION!



TATA RA DA EHEHTA!

WE ASKED ONE OF THEM WHY HE ENJOYED BEING IN THE CORPS AND GOT A STRAIGHT, OFF THE CLIFF ANSWER!
WELL... I LIKE BEING A TROOPER BECAUSE...



I LIKE THE OTHER KIDS IN THE CORPS AND...



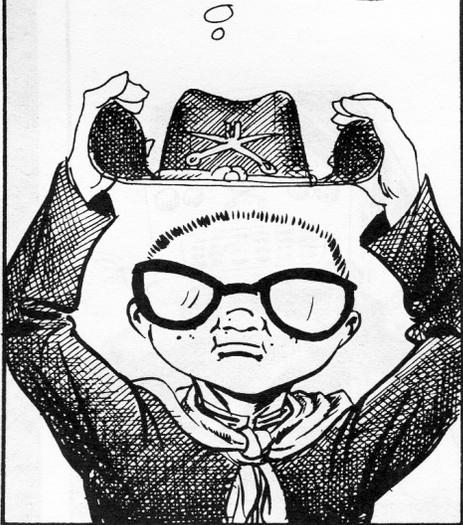
SCENE-THE ROOM OF A CORPS-MEMBER...STRAINS OF BATTLE HYMN IS HEARD IN BACKGROUND! IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING SPECIAL TO PUT ON THE UNIFORM!



TROOPER, SMOOPER-SOME BIG CORPSMAN YOU ARE, CAN'T EVEN CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM! YOU WANT PEOPLE TO THINK YOU LIVE IN PIG PEN?



LET'S SEE NOW! THE SHINY THING GOES TO THE FRONT!



OKAY LETS HAVE A CLOSE-UP
OKAY GREAT, NOW CUT...
... CUT!



I SAID CUT,
YOU DUMMY!

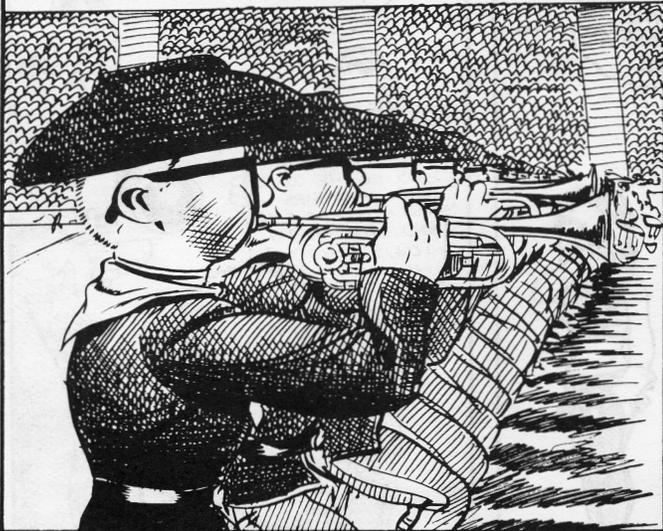


TROOPERS, YOU MAY TAKE THE FIELD FOR COMPETITION!

DUH! WHERE SHOULD WE TAKE IT?



DAA DA RAAAA, DA DAA TATA TA DADADAAA!
SUNG TO THE TUNE OF "HOW THE WEST WAS WON!"



WELL DON! I'M SURE THE FANS WILL ENJOY THESE HIGHLIGHTS!

YES HOWARD, THIS FIRST ONE IS WHERE JOE MAMOTH, STUBBS HIS NOSE!



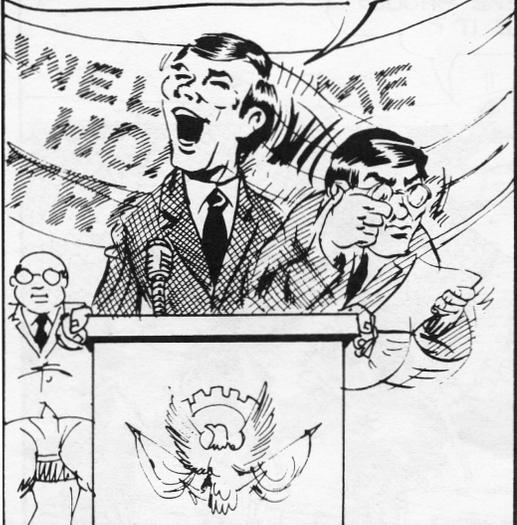
WITH CASPER BEING SO FAR OUT IN THE STICKS WE HAVE TO DO A LOT OF BUS TRAVEL...



WE TRY TO KEEP THE KIDS ENTERTAINED ON THE LONG TRIPS!



WELCOME HOME...ER...UM...OH YES WELCOME HOME TROOPERS, IN NAME AND APPEARANCE!



THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR COMMERCIAL!

OKAY! NOW LETS HAVE EVERYONE BACK ON THE SET FOR THE BIG BIG... BIG... FINALE!



OKAY JIM BABY, THIS IS IT! THE BIG END SCENE, YOU AND THE AH...ER...TROOPERS, IN NAME AND ETC! GO MARCHING INTO THE SUNSET! JUST THINK OF IT! YOUR KIDS MARCHING OFF PLAYING THE BATTLE HYMN! KINDA GETS YA RIGHT HERE, EH?



THE END

THIS IS BARRY TONE AND HIS WIFE BADA! BARRY IS AT A STAGE IN HIS LIFE WHEN HE CAN NO LONGER MARCH IN A JUNIOR CORPS AND LIVES TOO FAR AWAY FROM A SENIOR CORPS! BECAUSE OF THIS BARRY AND HIS WIFE WERE FORCED TO BECOME...

TYPICAL DRUM CORPS FANS...



LIKE MANY OTHER ANIMALS, THE TYPICAL DRUM CORPS FAN, GOES INTO HIBERNATION DURING THE WINTER MONTHS, WITH ONLY A FEW RECORDS, AND TABLOIDS TO CURB HIS VORACIOUS APPETITE FOR DRUM CORPS!



BUT THE WINTER MONTHS ARE LONG AND THE FAN AWAITS THE DAY OF THE FIRST CONTEST OF THE SEASON!



FINALLY THE DAY ARRIVES AND THE FAN MUST PREPARE.

BADA! WHERE DID YOU HIDE MY STUFF?

IN THE CLOSET WHERE YOU LEFT IT!



HMMM...LET'S SEE, CAMERA AND ACCESSORIES, BINOCULARS, CHECK!



TAPE RECORDER... EXTRA TAPES... SUNGLASSES...



CUSHIONS... PENNANTS... BUTTONS AND BLANKET... CHECK... CHECK... CHECK!



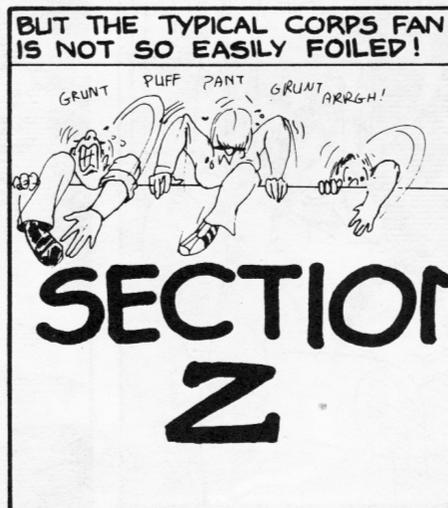
AND NOW THEY ARE READY TO DEPART!



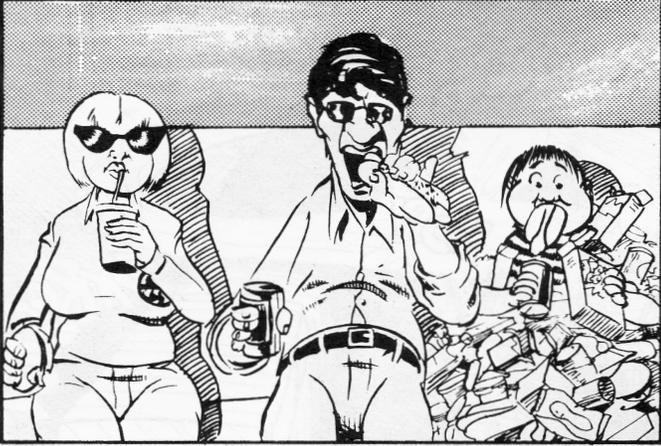
FINALLY-THEY'RE OFF- A TYPICAL DRUM CORPS FAN NEVER GIVES ITSELF ADEQUATE TIME TO GET TO THE STADIUM. THEY ALWAYS MAKE A MAD DASH TO GET TO THE SHOW, AND USUALLY FIND TIME TO STOP IN, AT THE NEAREST HAMBURGER PIT!



NOW THAT OUR TYPICAL FANS HAVE MADE IT TO THE SHOW ON TIME FOR THE SPEECHES, ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE JUDGES, AND THE FIVE EXHIBITION CORPS, THEY CAN WAIT IN LINE FOR A COUPLE MORE HOURS TO BUY THEIR TICKETS.



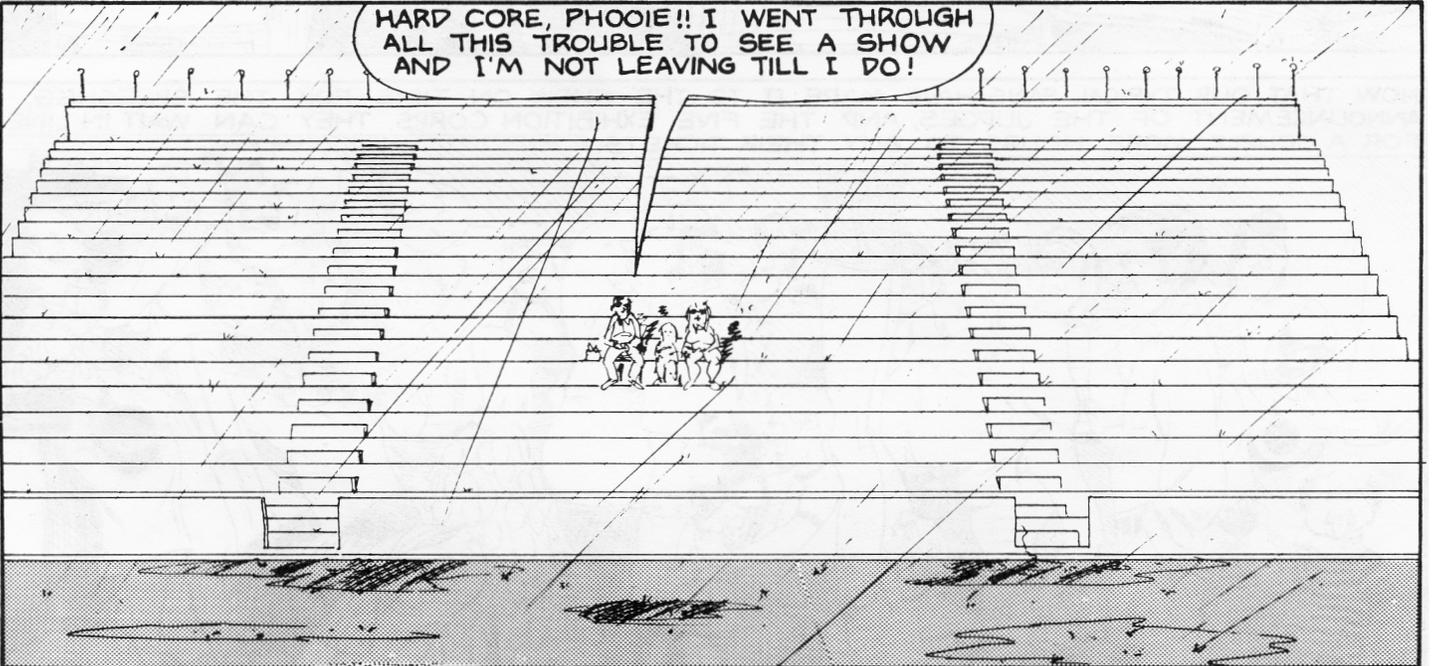
BY NOW, THE FANS USUALLY END UP IN A HAVEN WELL-KNOWN TO MOST CORPS FANS COMMONLY CALLED GENERAL ADMISSION! THEY'RE ALL SET TO WATCH THE SHOW! NOTHING CAN DAMPEN THEIR SPIRITS!



NOT EVEN THE FORCES OF NATURE! THESE HARD CORE FANS ARE JUST TYPICAL OF THE BREED, OF THE DRUM CORPS NUTS, TODAY!



HARD CORE, PHOOIE!! I WENT THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE TO SEE A SHOW AND I'M NOT LEAVING TILL I DO!



ON AND ON THEY STRIVE! CONTEST AFTER CONTEST... TILL FINALLY THE SEASONS END BRINGS OUR FANS HOME FOR ANOTHER WINTER'S HIBERNATION!



THE NEXT DAY...



JOIN A DRUM CORPS!

DRUM CORPS ROUNDS A GUY OUT!



IN DRUM CORPS YOU LEARN THE ART OF GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP!



IN DRUM CORPS YOU MEET NEW PEOPLE!



IN DRUM CORPS YOU GO IN PARADES!



IN DRUM CORPS YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT!

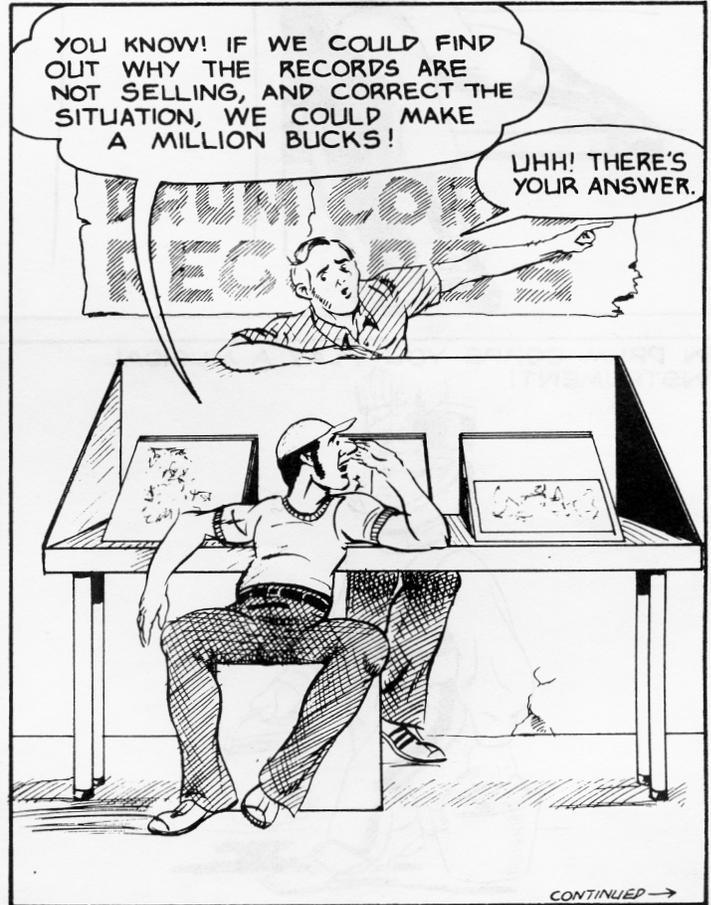


IN DRUM CORPS YOU LEARN WHAT IT IS TO BE A ROOKIE!

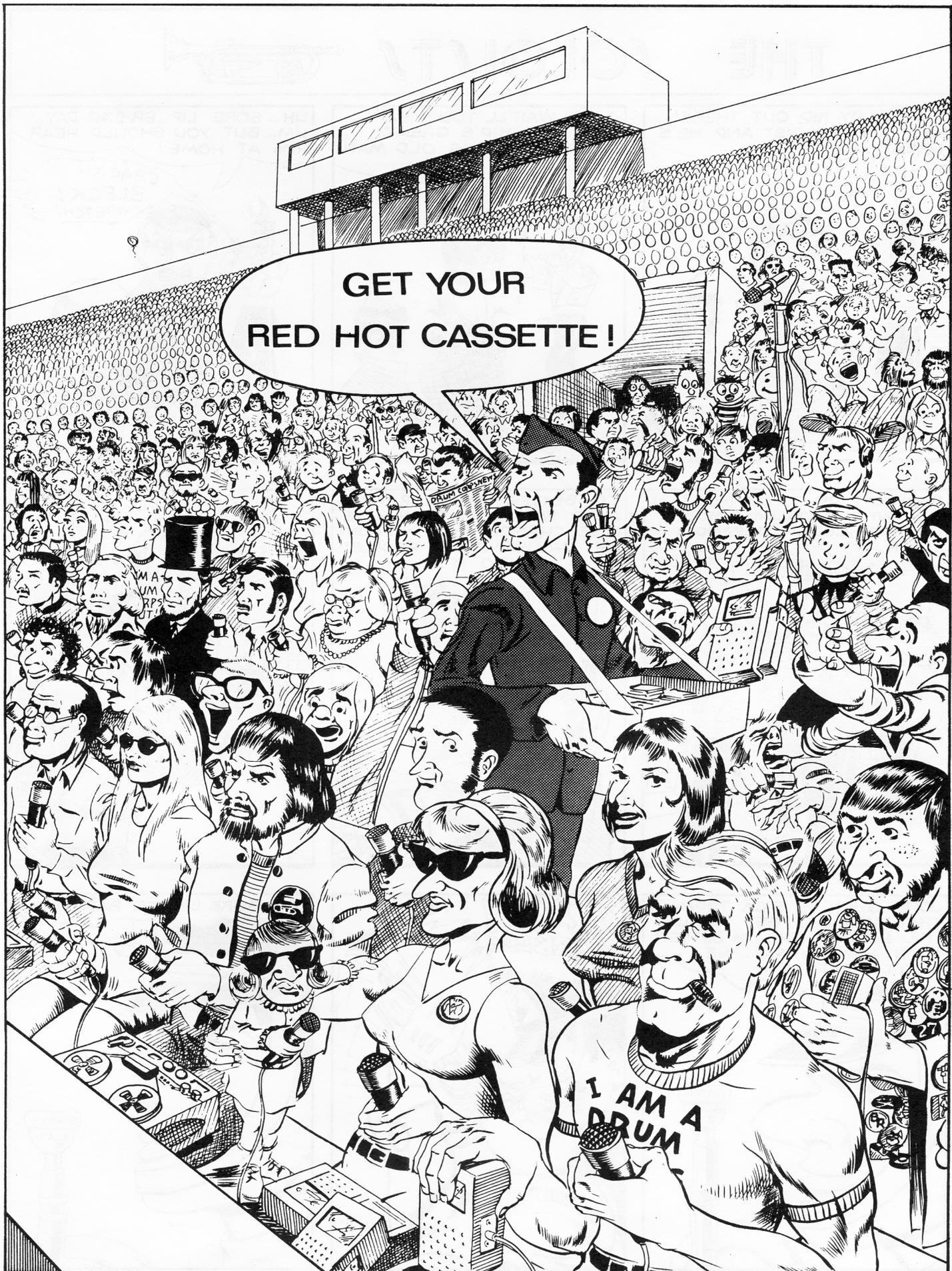


IN RECORD TIME!

WRITER - DON DABER
ART - PAUL McCUSKER



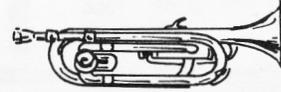
CONTINUED →



GET YOUR
RED HOT CASSETTE!

I AM A
DRUM

THE SOLOISTS



THAT'S MY KID OUT THERE!
HE'S THE SOLOIST AND HE'S
GREAT!



JUST WAIT'LL YOU HEAR
THIS! THE KID'S GREAT...
TAKES AFTER HIS OLD MAN!



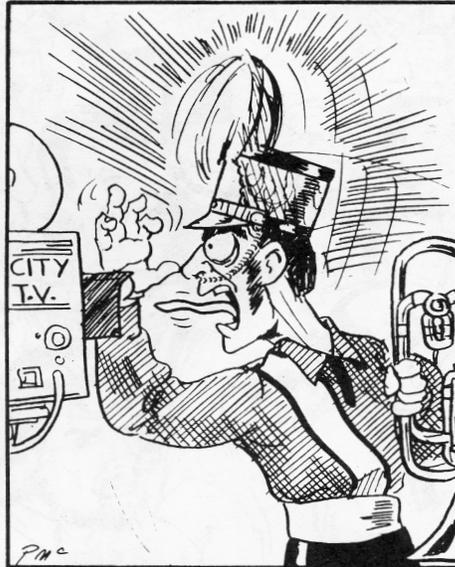
UH... SORE LIP... ER. BAD DAY...
UM... BUT YOU SHOULD HEAR
HIM AT HOME!



SHOULD I DO IT, OR NOT?
MY WHOLE DRUM CORPS
CAREER COULD DEPEND
UPON IT!



I'D BETTER MAKE UP MY
MIND FAST. I'LL ONLY HAVE
ONE CHANCE AND IN FRONT
OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE!
I'LL DO IT!



JOHN GRON IS SICK TODAY...
THAT MEANS I GET TO PLAY
THE SOLOS. HEH... I'M BETTER
THAN HIM ANYWAY... WE
DON'T NEED HIM!



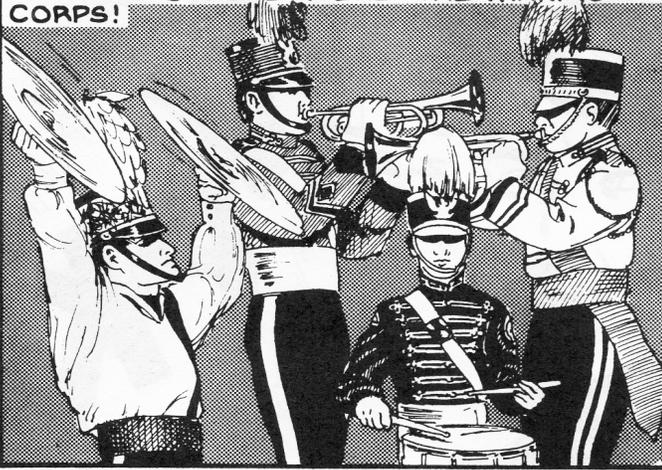
UH... SORE LIP... ER. BAD DAY...



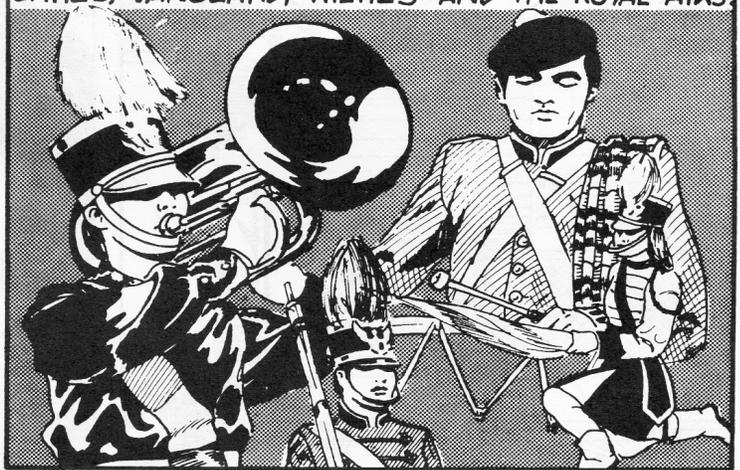
THE CHAMPIONSHIP THEORY

IS THERE A PATTERN IN THE LOCATION OF CHAMPIONSHIP DRUM CORPS ?

IN THE BEGINNING, THERE WAS THE EAST! ST. KEVIN'S, SAC, CRUSADERS, AND THE GARFIELD CADETS WERE THE WINNING CORPS!



AS THE YEARS WENT BY THE TROPHIES FELL INTO THE CLUTCHES OF THE MIDWEST CORPS CAVIES, VANGUARD, KILTIES AND THE ROYAL AIRS!



THE LOCATION NOW MOVES FURTHER WEST TO WYOMING! HERE THE TROOPERS HELD A MONOPOLY ON WINS!



TODAY THE POWER-HOUSE CORPS COME FROM THE WEST COAST...KINGSMEN AND SANTA CLARA VANGUARD!



NEXT YEAR... WATCH OUT...

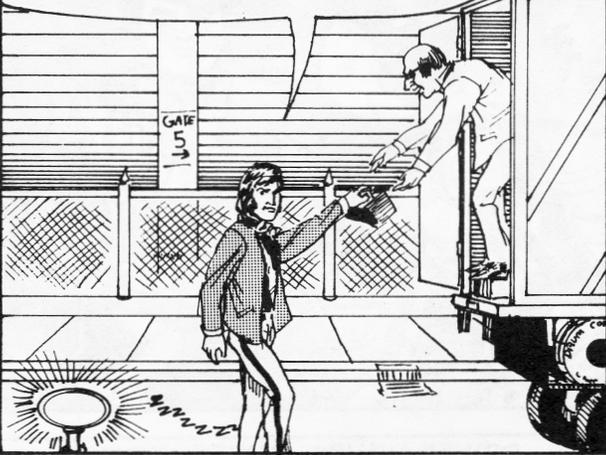


THIS PANEL IS DEDICATED TO DON MARTIN "MAD'S MADDEST"

IDEA BY GARY "CHOPS" CHAPINSKI

2001!! a drum corps odyssey

THE YEAR IS 1974... JOHN ANDREWS HAS DECIDED TO END HIS CORPS CAREER! FUNNY THING! SOMEHOW I THOUGHT THAT MY LAST YEAR IN DRUM CORPS WOULD BE DIFFERANT... NOW I CAN'T WAIT TO GET... HEY WHAT'S THAT?



IT STARTING TO...

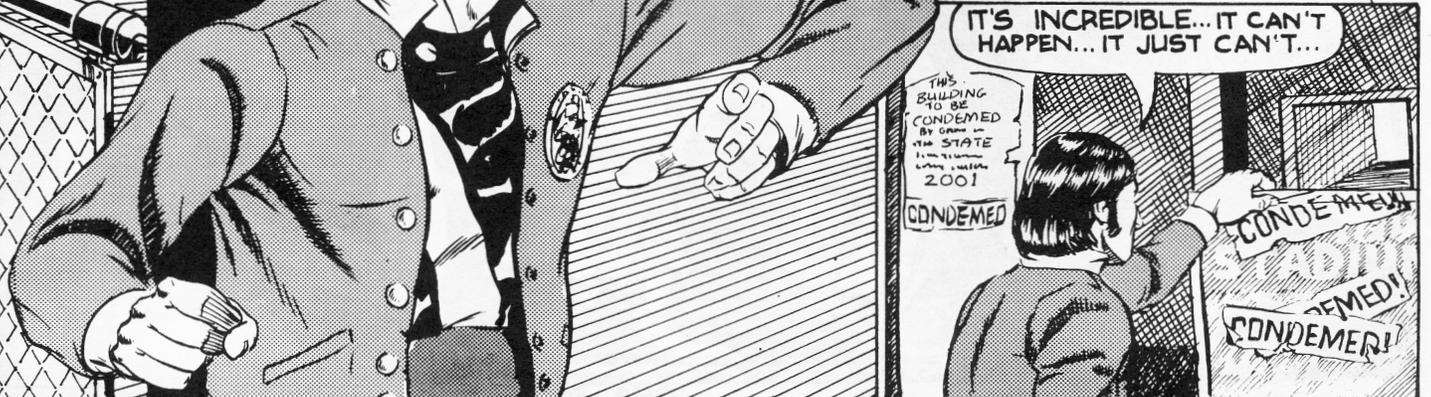


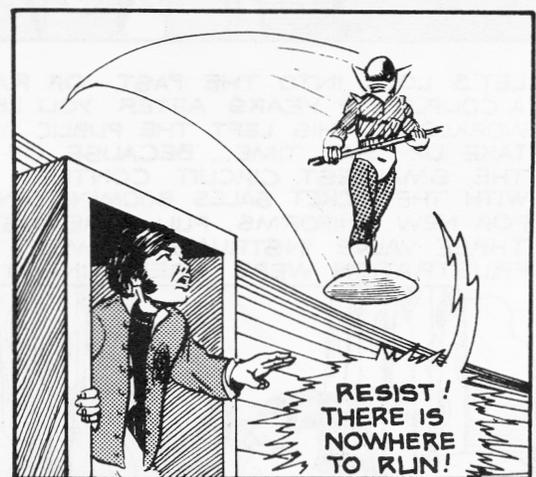
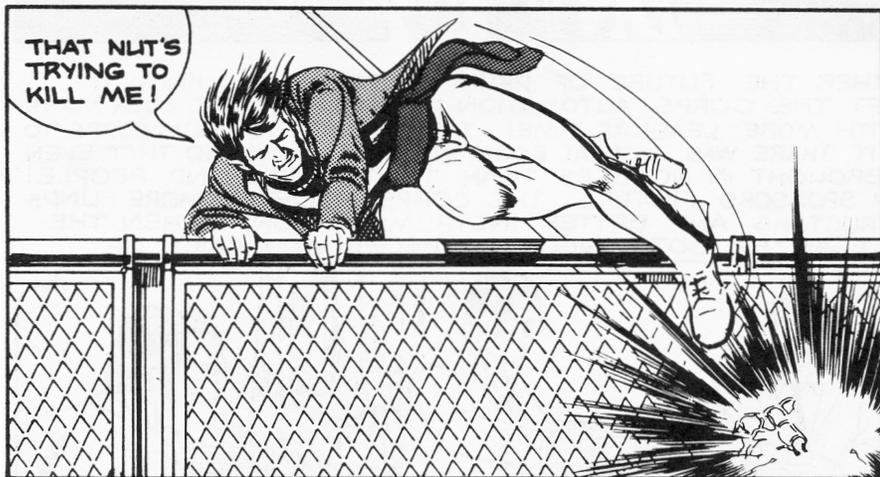
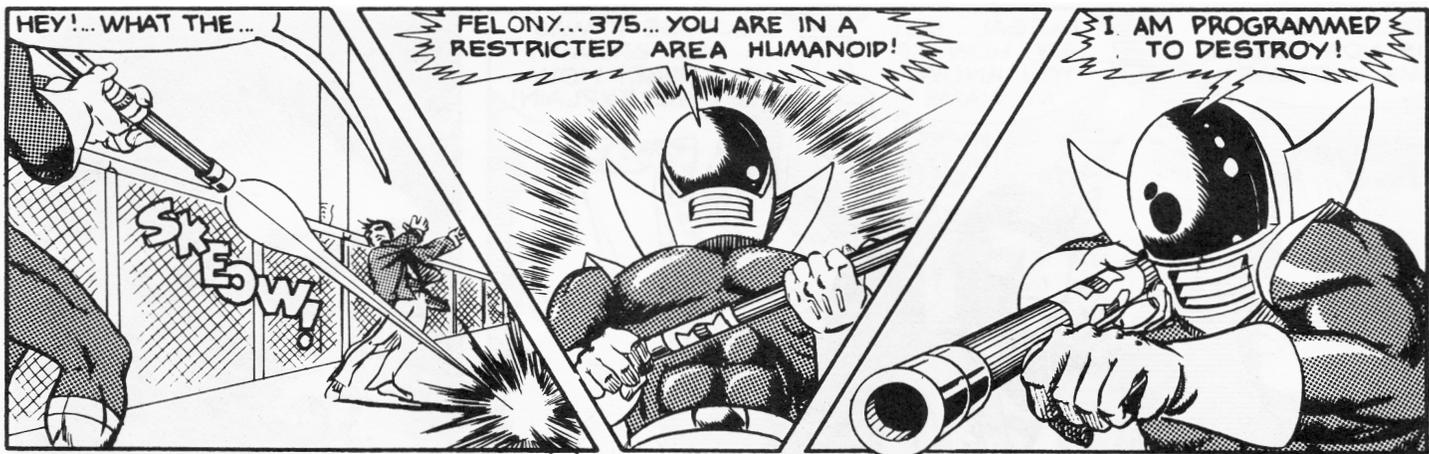
GOOD LORD! EVERYTHING'S CHANGED! WHAT'S GOING ON?... WAIT... THAT SIGN... "THIS STADIUM CONDEMED BY ORDER OF THE STATE IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD..

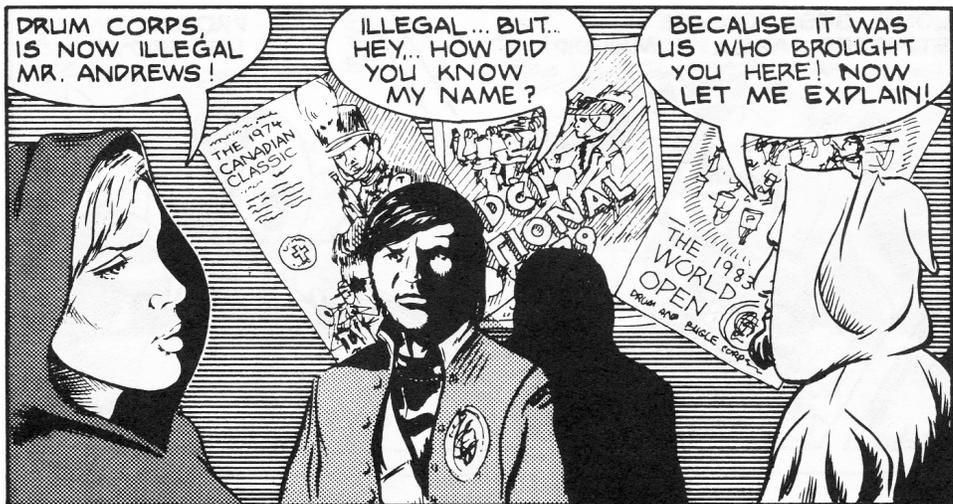
2001!"



IT'S INCREDIBLE...IT CAN'T HAPPEN... IT JUST CAN'T...







DRUM CORPS, IS NOW ILLEGAL MR. ANDREWS!

ILLEGAL... BUT... HEY... HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?

BECAUSE IT WAS US WHO BROUGHT YOU HERE! NOW LET ME EXPLAIN!



LET'S LOOK INTO THE PAST, OR RATHER THE FUTURE OF DRUM CORPS AS YOU KNOW IT! A COUPLE OF YEARS AFTER YOU LEFT THE CORPS, AUTOMATION BEGAN TO TAKE OVER MANS' WORKLOAD! THIS LEFT THE PUBLIC WITH MORE LEISURE TIME! THEY TURNED TO DRUM CORPS TO TAKE UP THAT TIME... BECAUSE OF IT, THERE WAS A GREAT BOOM IN CORPS FANS SO THAT EVEN THE SMALLEST CIRCUIT CONTEST BROUGHT IN NO LESS THAN THIRTY-THOUSAND PEOPLE! WITH THE TICKET SALES BOOMING AND SPONSORS FRUITFUL, THE CORPS RECEIVED MORE FUNDS FOR NEW UNIFORMS, FULL TIME INSTRUCTORS AND BETTER INSTRUMENTATION! WHEN THE THREE VALVE INSTRUMENTS WERE LEGALIZED, BOTH SIGHS OF RELIEF AND CRIES OF FRUSTRATION WERE PREDOMINANT!



"THE YEARS MOVED ON! NO LONGER DO PEOPLE JUST JOIN A CORPS! THEY MUST BE PICKED IN THE AMATURE DRAFT! DRUM CORPS HAD BECOME A FULL TIME PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY!"

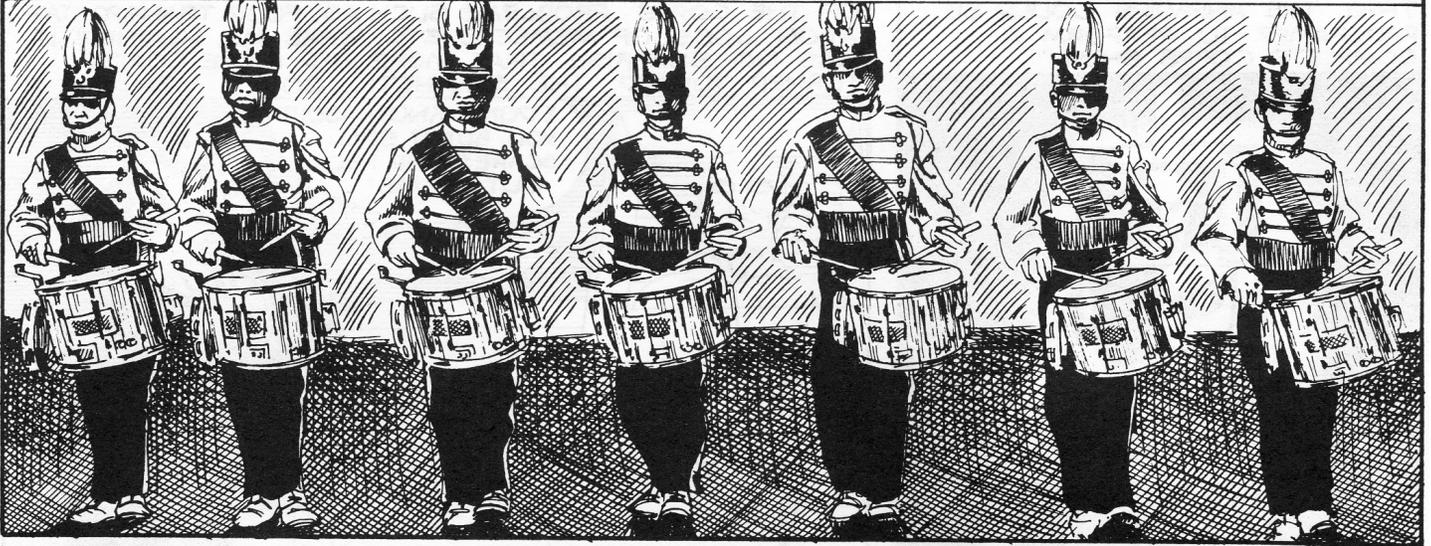


THAT'S OUR MAN! HE'S GOOD BUT HE WANTS \$500. A WEEK! WHAT DO YOU THINK, RAY?

"1985- WITH HIGHER TECHNOLOGY, THE BRASS REALLY TOOK A TURN! THE NEW QUARAPHONIC, FOUR VALVE TRUMPET, WITH A BACK-PACK AMPLIFIER WAS USED!"



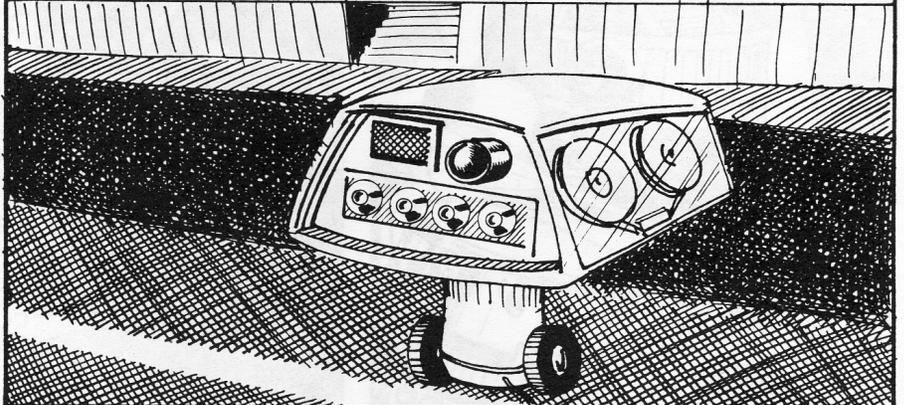
THE DRUMLINES ALSO PROGRESSED RAPIDLY! THEY BECAME MUCH GREATER IN SIZE AND CARRIED MORE MODERN EQUIPMENT!"



"THE JUDGING ALSO CHANGED! HAND HELD RECIEVERS PICKED UP THE MISTAKES THAT HE HAD TO FIND BY EAR PREVIOUSLY."



"FINALLY THE COMPLETE DEVICE WAS INVENTED! IT CALCULATED MUSICAL ERRORS, AND HAD AN ELECTRIC EYE THAT CAUGHT M+M MISTAKES. IT ALSO GAVE A COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF THE SHOW FROM A GENERAL EFFECT STANDPOINT... THE HUMAN ELEMENT IN JUDGING WAS NOW A THING OF THE PAST!"



"AFTER ALL THESE ACHIEVEMENTS, ONE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT DRUM CORPS WOULD HAVE FLOURISHED FOR THE NEXT THOUSAND YEARS, BUT IN 1990, A SCIENTIST IN NEW AMERICA, THE FIFTY-SIXTH STATE, HAD JUST COMPLETED A PROJECT THAT WOULD REVOLUTIONIZE THE WORLD... AND FINALLY LEAD TO THE DEMISE OF ALL DRUM CORPS!... HE HAD JUST CREATED THE FIRST PERFECT ANDROID... THE SIMULATED MAN!"



IT WASN'T LONG AFTER THAT WHEN SOMEONE DISCOVERED THAT THE ANDROIDS COULD BE PROGRAMED TO PERFORM A COMPLETE CORPS SHOW!"



"THE ANDROIDS NEEDED NO OVERHEAD EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL MAINTAINANCE. AT LEAST EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE CORPS PROBLEMS SUCH AS, FOOD, TRANSPORTATION, LOSS OF MEMBERS, ETC, WERE ALL NULLIFIED! IT WAS NO SURPRISE THAT MORE AND MORE CORPS TURNED TOWARD THE SYNTHETIC CORPS MEN!"



IT WAS MAINLY THE WEAKER, LESS PROMINENT CORPS THAT TURNED TO AUTOMATION AT FIRST. THE LARGER AND BETTER CORPS HAD TOO MUCH PRIDE TO CHANGE! BUT THEIR SITUATION WAS DESPERATE! THE HUMAN CORPS COULD NOT COMPETE WITH THE ANDROIDS, EITHER ON THE FIELD, NOR FINANCIALLY... THE ANDROIDS WERE TOO TECHNICALLY PERFECT! THEY CONTINUED TO LOOSE CONTEST AND MONEY! MORE AND MORE CORPS BEGAN TO FOLD, THE TOP CORPS IN THE NATION ALL FELL VICTIM TO THE EMERGENCE OF THE AUTOMATED CORPS! THE UNION OF MECHANIZED CORPS WAS FORMED TO BRING ABOUT THE FINAL ELIMINATION OF THE HUMAN CORPS!

IN ONE FINAL EFFORT THE GREATEST MINDS IN DRUM CORPS HELD A SECRET MEETING... THEIR AIM... TO PUT TOGETHER WHAT WAS LEFT AND CREATE A SUPER-HUMAN CORPS! A CORPS STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT THE POWERFUL MACHINES! FINALLY 150 OF THE BEST MUSICIANS IN DRUM CORPS WERE CHOSEN AND METICULOUSLY TRAINED UNTIL THEY HAD BECOME A HUMAN MACHINE! THEY WERE READY!



THE DAY OF NATIONALS CAME! FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THREE YEARS, A HUMAN CORPS WOULD TAKE PART IN THE CONTEST! THEY CALLED THEMSELVES THE MANCORPS FOR APPARENT REASON! EVERYONE KNEW THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE!... THE PEOPLE LAUGHED!



THE SHOW WAS WELL UNDERWAY, WHEN THE MANCORPS TOOK TO THE STARTING LINE... THE PEOPLE LAUGHED!

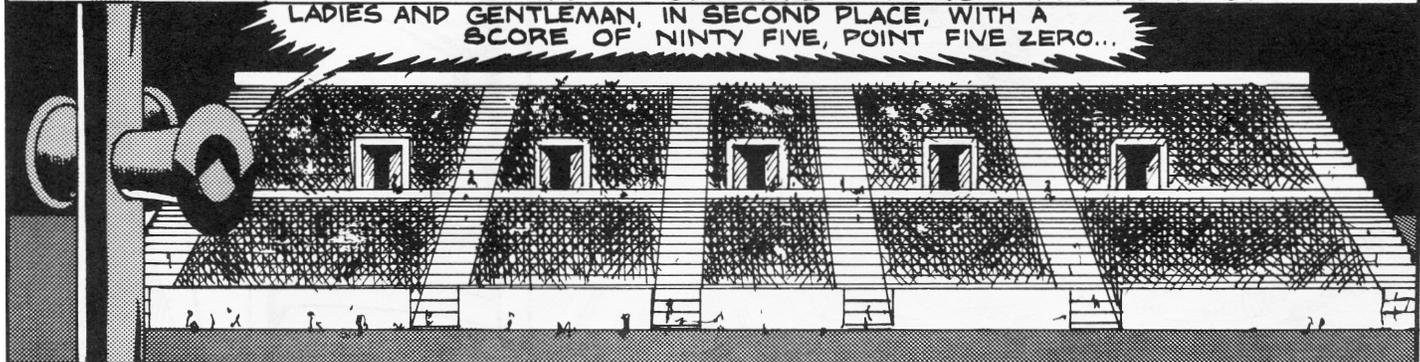


THE CORPS STEPPED OFF THE LINE- THE PEOPLE STOPPED LAUGHING!... THEY STOOD UP... THEY LISTENED... FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER THEY STILL STOOD, THEY CHEERED, THEY CRIED, THEY SHOUTED FOR MORE, THEY HAD REMEMBERED WHAT IT WAS LIKE BEFORE THE ANDROIDS! NO MATTER HOW PERFECT THE ANDROIDS WERE, THEY DIDN'T HAVE WHAT THIS CORPS DID! SPIRIT, SENSITIVITY, AND EMOTION !!



BUT WHAT ABOUT THE JUDGES? THEY TOO WERE MECHANICAL- COULD THEY COMPREHEND THE EMOTION THAT THIS CORPS HAD POURED ONTO THE FANS? THE SCORES WERE ANNOUNCED! ONE BY ONE CORPS DROPPED BY THE WAY-SIDE UNTIL ONLY TWO CORPS REMAINED...

LADIES AND GENTLEMAN, IN SECOND PLACE, WITH A SCORE OF NINETY FIVE, POINT FIVE ZERO...



THE MANCORPS!



THE AUDIENCE EXPLODED INTO A PACK OF WILD ANIMALS. THERE WAS MUCH HISsing AND BOOING, SEATS WERE TORN UP AND SOFT DRINK CANS AND REFUSE FOUND ITS MARK SHORT OF THE JUDGING MACHINES. PANDIMONIUM PREVAILED! THE STADIUM GUARDS WERE CALLED IN TO PUT A STOP TO THE RIOT, BUT THEIR NUMBERS WERE TOO FEW AND BY NOW THE PEOPLE HAD BEEN WORKED UP INTO SUCH A FRENZY THAT THEY COULDN'T HAVE STOPPED EVEN IF THEY HAD WANTED TO!



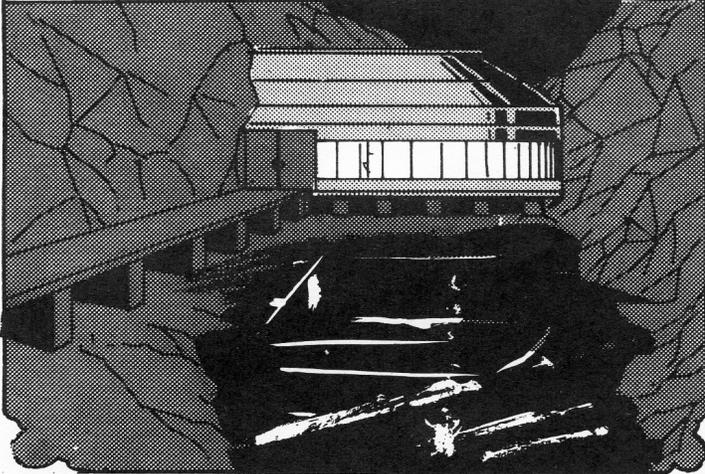
FIGHTING BROKE OUT IN THE STREETS...THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE UNION OF MECHANIZED CORPS WAS BRUTILY ASSASSINATED... HE WAS NOT HUMAN!



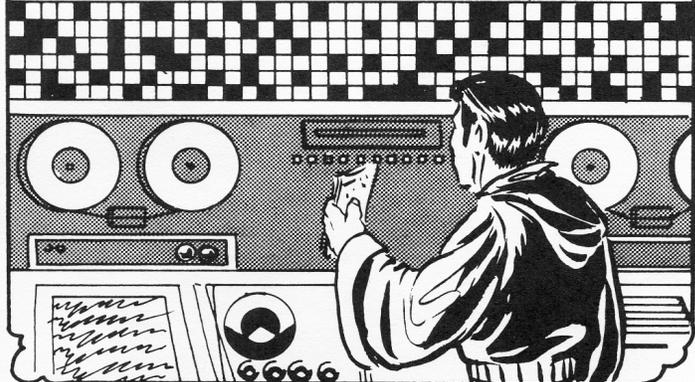
THE STATE DECLARED DRUM CORPS ILLEGAL!... ANDROIDS WERE PROGRAMMED TO SEEK OUT CORPS FANS AND KILL!



IN ORDER TO STAY ALIVE CORPS FOLLOWERS WENT UNDERGROUND. SLOWLY COMMUNITIES BEGAN TO EMERGE!



THEY DEVELOPED A SYSTEM FOR HOLDING CONTEST! PUNCH CARD DATA OF A CORPS SHOW WOULD BE FED INTO A COMPUTER! ALONG WITH OTHER SHOW CARDS, THE COMPUTER WOULD EVALUATE THE NON-EXISTANT SHOW! THE CONTEST IS OVER IN A MILLI-SECOND! NOT MUCH OF A FUTURE, IS IT?



NOW THERE ARE ONLY A FEW OF US LEFT! OUR ONLY GOAL, TO SAVE THE PAST!



GREAT! BUT WHAT HAS ALL OF THIS TO DO WITH ME?

WHEN WE BROUGHT YOU HERE! YOU WERE ABOUT TO LEAVE DRUM CORPS! YOU MUSTN'T!

WHAT?



YOU MUST GAIN POWER IN DRUM CORPS AND PERSUADE MAN TO KEEP DRUM CORPS HUMAN!

BUT WHY ME?



LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY! I AM THE GUILTY ONE WHO, THROUGH GREED, FIRST BROUGHT ANDROIDS INTO DRUM CORPS. NOW IT IS TOO LATE FOR ME TO CLEAR MYSELF. YOU CAN DO THAT FOR ME!

HOW CAN I CLEAR YOU? WHY SHOULD I?



BECAUSE I AM YOUR FUTURE JOHN ANDREWS... I AM JOHN ANDREWS!

