

# Young Men Drum Their Way Across Europe

They each lost 10 pounds and practiced 10 to 12 hours a day, but given the opportunity they would do it again.

Derrick Chavis and Jerry Bouthillet, both of Newport News, spent from June 16 to Aug. 23 drumming their way through Belgium, Holland, England, France and eight states in the United States before winding up in Canada to compete with 70 other drum and bugle corps also on summer tour.

Derrick, a junior at Menchville High School and a drummer in the marching band, jazz ensemble, orchestra, symphonic band and show choir, first picked up the drumsticks when a seventh grader.

Jerry, a 1982 Denbigh High School graduate, started drums as a ninth grader, and, just as Derrick, was a member of most of the school's bands.

Both boys took private drum lessons from Keith Conley, who brought a record of a drum and bugle corps to class one day. "Gotta do that," was Derrick's reaction.

Jerry followed suit and so the teacher found a corps, the "Boston Crusaders," for the boys to join.

They joined in January, met weekly in Norfolk for practice and once each month spent a weekend in Boston practicing with the main corps.

In addition to the practices, Derrick and Jerry helped with fund-raising projects for financing the summer tour. Beach towels, magazines and candy sales kept the basic cost of the trip to only \$415 per member.

Practice days during the tour found the 116-member group spending up to 12 hours going through the precision formations.

"While you're doing it, you think you're crazy," Derrick said. "But later you are glad you did and take a lot of pride in what you can do."

They slept on buses, gym floors and in host families' homes during the tour. They were responsible for their laundry and for keeping schedules on time. There were many benefits for both.

"I learned a lot about the world that I have never been exposed to," Derrick said. "It was like they said it was on TV, and it showed me how things really are. I also learned you gotta get up and do things for yourself if you want to get them done."

"I learned a lot of self respect and self discipline," Jerry said. "When I got back, I was changed."

Both agree that their musicianship is better. "They (the corps leaders) demanded perfection and precision" Jerry said. "You must do everything the right way."

Penalty for not doing it right meant 10 pushups. For four days straight, each of the boys did 400.

All, however, was not work. There were free days for touring — one in Paris, another in Amsterdam and two in London.

Jerry and Derrick will continue with the weekly practices in Norfolk and monthly trips to Massachusetts.

They want to tour with the group again next summer, and they'd like to interest other young musicians in joining. The corps is open to boys and girls ages 12 to 21.

"I've told the whole story at least 10 dozen times," Derrick said. "I think I can remember everything."



Derrick Chavis and Jerry Bouthillet spent their summer drumming through Europe and the United States.

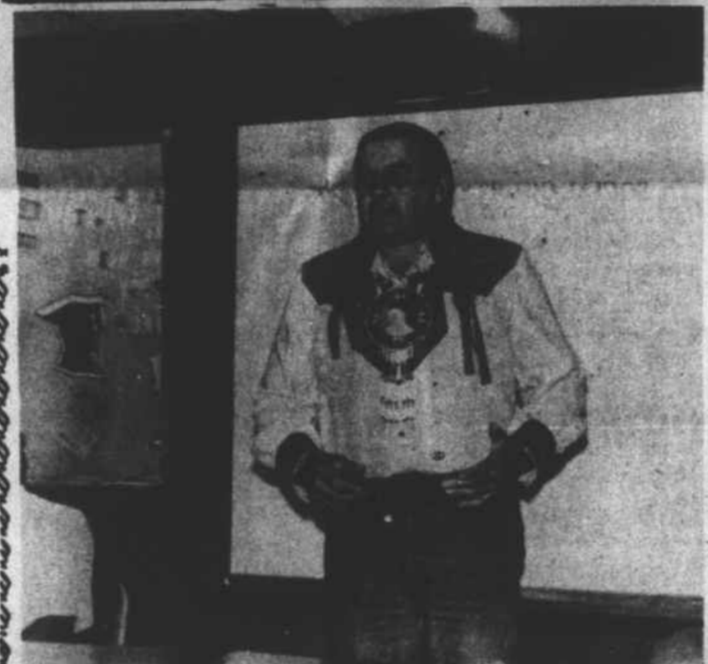


Shown above are Jaycette May, Dr. Cheryl Locklear, DDS, and Jaycette of the Month of Pembroke Jaycettes held their August 24th meeting at Sheff's Seafood Restaurant.

Visiting the Pembroke Jaycettes were the Mt. Airy Area Jaycettes. Highlights of the evening were the announcements of Jaycettes of the Month for May—Dr. Cheryl Locklear, DDS, June—Rose Marie Lowry, July—Nanci Smith, and Jaycette of the First Quarter—Molly Locklear. Pembroke Jaycettes welcome any young lady, 18 years and older, to join their organization. Please contact President Karen Dial at 521-8228, or Internal Vice Pres. (521-3896) about meetings and planned activities. [Elmer Hunt Photo]

## LRDA IN ACTION

by Garry Lewis Burton  
LRDA Public Relations  
Officer



Vernon Bellecourt (standing) is shown addressing LRDA's staff meeting Sept. 13. Rev. Elias Rogers (left) also made a presentation to the staff.

**AIM FOUNDER SPEAKS TO LRDA STAFF**  
Vernon Bellecourt, one of the founders and a leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM), was guest speaker at LRDA's Monday, September 13, 1982 staff meeting. Bellecourt, whose Indian name is Wabun-inini (meaning "Daybreakman"), is an Ojibwe Indian, more commonly known as Chippewa. The very personable Bellecourt began his presentation with a spiritually-rife peace-pipe ceremony, complete with spiritual intonations to "Grandfather," evidently the Chippewa Indian equivalent to our Jesus Christ.

enlightening and exciting experience.

**INDIAN HERITAGE WEEK SEPT. 19-25**  
This week (the week of Sept. 19-25) has been set aside as Indian Heritage Week in North Carolina. A number of activities have been scheduled for the Pembroke area as Indian Heritage Week is observed state-wide. These activities will be reported on in next week's column.



Some people once believed that shooting arrows under a fruit tree would cause the fruit to fall off the tree just as the arrows fell.

Before presenting a slide show presentation showing what AIM is doing on a regional, national and international level, the extraordinarily dynamic and articulate speaker made a brief presentation. "The tree of life has four roots," said he. "They are spiritual, cultural, economic and political. If we allow these roots to wither, the Tree of Life of the Indian Nation will wither..." Also speaking at the staff meeting was the Rev. Elias Rogers who, along with Mr. Ralph Hunt, is the local distributor of the revolutionary and new "Watt Guard." This device, specially designed for homes or businesses with central heating and air, is advertised as being able to save at least 20% on light bills over a year's time if installed. These two men, each enthusiastic and dedicated to their specific cause, made the Sept. 13 staff meeting a truly



The first moving picture theater was the Electric Theater on South Main Street in Los Angeles, which opened in 1902 with an hour-long presentation. Admission was two cents.

Derrick Chavis is the son of Alton and Dianne Chavis of Newport-News, Va. formerly of Pembroke N.C. His maternal grandparents are Ervin and Woodrow Cummings of Pembroke, NC and his paternal grandparents are J.W. and Lillian Chavis of Pembroke, NC.

## THE PEMBROKE VFW Presents LORI ANN LOCKLEAR

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