

# UNC Band begins 81st spirited year

By **RAY JONES**  
Staff Writer

The Pride of the ACC, The Band of Champions, The Marching Tar Heels.

Already 81 years old, UNC's marching band is almost 300 people strong and perennially spirited. Led by Major John Yesulaitis since 1964, the Marching Tar Heels are the backbone of spirit for Carolina athletics, present at events ranging from football games to women's field hockey.

According to Susie Keeter, the band's president, the band tries to work with the cheerleaders as a spirit unit. "We try to keep the spirit up," she said. "It makes a big difference when the players have the crowd really behind them."

Band camp for incoming freshman members began August 16. "The newcomers come from different schools with different styles," Yesulaitis said. "We teach them our style," which is somewhere between military and corps style.

Major Yesulaitis is the only paid full-time staff member of the band. "The tremendous amount of work involved with running this band is done by band members volunteering to do it," he said.

"We're the only major band in the country that has to operate this way, with so much done by the students," Keeter said.

"They have so much input," Yesulaitis said. "They're the ones that make it go. They love this university so much. I'm so very proud of them."

Yesulaitis relies on his assistant, Allen Reep, and the band members for input on the halftime shows.

"Roughly figured," he said, "for every minute of performance time we put in one hour of practice and rehearsal."

Divided into 28 squads for rehearsal purposes, the band is sometimes required to learn 140 to 150 moves a football game. These moves must be executed while the members are playing.

In addition to Keeter, the student leaders

of the band are Billy Williams, vice president; Nannette Wallace, secretary; and Jay Osborne, drum major. "We work as a unit to help Major Y with the band," Keeter said.

There are also two pep bands, one of which is exclusively for women's sports. Becoming a pep band member is based on merit. "Every position is earned," Yesulaitis said. "Seniority doesn't mean you're automatically in."

Yesulaitis is planning for the whole band to travel to the football game against Clemson, and more than half the band will go to the Wake Forest contest. Post-season competition usually means a trip for most of the band members to the site of a bowl game.

As for freshmen interested in joining the band, Yesulaitis said, "Come see us. Don't be talked out of joining band because of scholastic worries. But if band interferes with your grades, drop it. No stigma to that."

"They're the nicest kids in the world, honest. I can't get enough of this band." Pride of the ACC.



Major Y directs the Marching Tar Heels. ...The band is beginning its 81st season this year.



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## Orientation week eats

Many restaurants in and around Chapel Hill are not offering orientation week specials for the homecoming of students. Most owners are concerned mainly with having an adequate staff to serve the students.

Pete Dorrance, owner of Spanky's Restaurant on Franklin Street, said they are not offering any special prices to freshman. "But don't get me wrong, we'd love to have the freshmen come

in," he said.

The Porthole restaurant, however, located in Old Fraternity Row, is offering a free meal to all orientation counselors when they accompany their group to the restaurant, said owner Lena Marley.

Other restaurants may have daily specials later offered throughout the year.

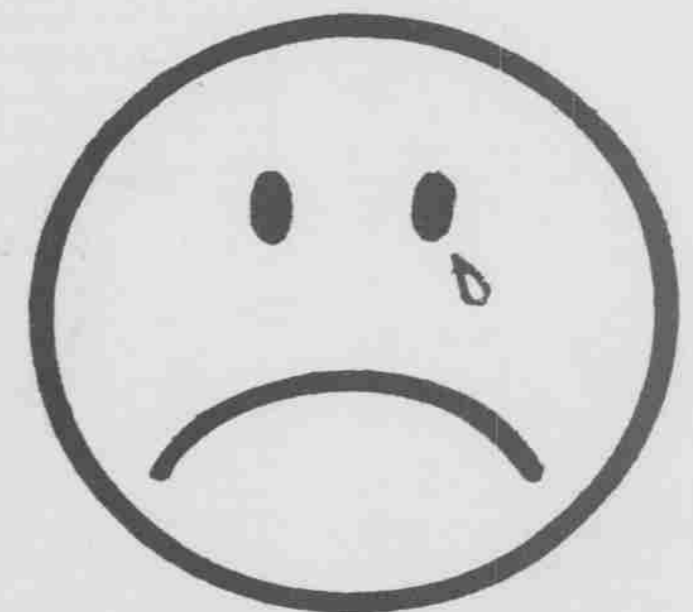
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