

# Bandstand



Volume 11, Number 2

April, 1988

Free to band people

## Elrod for President!!

### Forced to run as a write-in

compiled from wire reports

Elrod T. Snidley, long-standing Brown Band mascot, is running for the position of President of the Undergraduate Council of Students.

Though support for Elrod's campaign has been overwhelming, Elrod has been forced to run as a write-in candidate. The campaign collected over 500 signatures of endorsement to qualify as a candidate and presented a confirmation of his student status signed by Assistant Registrar Josiah S. Carberry.

On campus, the word-of-mouth is extremely good and many students are eagerly awaiting the elections. Many of the other Ivy League Bands plan to officially endorse Elrod.

"I really think we have a shot at winning," said assistant campaign manager Rich Feifer '88. "We're certainly going to put up a fight."

Band president and Elrod campaign manager Scott Perrin '89 noted that since he is not a registered candidate, Elrod is not limited to the usual ten dollar campaign limit. "We plan on having a full-scale campaign,"

said Perrin.

Elrod is certain that his long-standing devotion to raising school spirit and his position (leaning against the drum) is more than enough to send him to a Presidential suite in Faunce House.

### Elrod's Platform.....

"Ladies and gentlemen, friends and alumni, and all you huddled masses tired of those feckless sniveling toadies in student government, presenting the only UCS presidential candidate who's already got an "S" and a "C" in his title, so all he needs is "U"—it's the Brown University Band's mascot, Elrod T. Snidley!"

Let's face it, the present members of UCS are barely able to speak for themselves, let alone anybody else. UCS is lazy, cannot produce results, and consistently confuses EDS (Eric Delos Santos) with FDS (Feminine Deodorant Spray). Then why, you ask, would I want such a black hole of a job? Well, I epitomize what has made past USC administrations great: like them, I've done nothing for years and only exist in two dimensions.

Hey, and I'll drum up gratuitous publicity too! Elect me as your UCS president and we're in the ProJo and those trashy "On

Campus"-type magazines so fast it'll make your head swim—not to mention the scathing letters we'll get in the BAM from interchangeable crotchety alums high on making Brown the prison it was fifty years ago. You think they could stir up this much self-righteous indignation in the present SCU? Bah!

Improvements? The university won't institute any that *we* think up. The only "improvements" around here involve extra ditches outside Faunce House ("renovated by 1985") and the institution of new requirements by the Marquis de Blumstein. To change this, I submit my "no more ugly CUS's" platform:

- A) All special interest groups on campus placated through generous sums of money,
- B) Half the endowment spent on Spring Weekend concert that has U2 opening for the reunited Beatles before an acoustic jam in the Underground with the Dead,
- C) Jacob Neusner given laminated copy of the Supreme Court's recent ruling on satire (Go ahead! Sue! I dare you!),
- D) Worthless elections that prove apathy really exists at Brown abolished,
- E) Toby Simon consulted to discover how to
- F) The Princeton Band.

My campaign slogan? Well, you can choose between "Vote Snidley! He won't do diddley!" and "Vote for Snidley and he'll give you the best SUC you've ever had."

### An editor's note

This *Bandstand* is published in recognition of two principles: 1) that journalism can be fun, informative, and still readable and 2) I'll print anything submitted.

At any rate, here you have it in front of you, my first *Bandstand*. It is chock full of interesting information. There are some satires (OK, a lot of satires), some analysis and some news. In fact, I had enough material to allow myself to put off some of my article ideas until next semester. I hope that whether you're a first semester freshman reading this next year or a distinguished alum that you enjoy this piece of work. It is a fun publication. The *Bandstand* lives and has come a long way from its days as BARF (the Band Alumni Relief Fund newsletter). Not to say we don't need and appreciate money from alums, but that is no longer the focus.

However, the only reason why this *Bandstand* was so much fun was because of the ideas and articles submitted to me for publication. So work on new ideas now, and get ready to hand them in.

Thank you.

### The Band in the Real (Campus) Press

As usual, the Band was featured in many campus publications this year. Some more memorable bits of headline babble are reprinted below.

- "Player of the Week." - *Brown Hockey Weekly*
- "Brown Band Cuts Album." - *Brown Daily Herald*

The Band also received recognition as it celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> year of skating shows.

# Is It Real?.....Or Bruce?

## Being something at Brown

The following is an article reprinted from the *Brown Daily Herald* studying the topic "Being Jewish at Brown."

....Although Jews still make up a minority of the student body, they are over-represented in many extracurricular activities. OWC [Orientation and Welcoming Committee] is almost completely Jewish, said one OWC Executive Board Member.

Undergraduate Finance Board Member Eli Ungar '90 says that UFB is "at least 80 percent Jewish." Its chairperson, as well as the President and Vice President of Brown Student Agencies is Jewish. At the *Brown Daily Herald*, the three top editors are Jewish. On the business staff at the *Herald*, the first five in charge are Jews. And all but one of the infamous *Film Bulletin's* staffers are Jewish.

### Finding a Definition

But what makes them Jewish? Most of those interviewed had to pause for a minute before answering. Indeed, the majority of Jews on campus do not attend services on Friday nights; fasting on Yom Kippur, or knowing how to read Hebrew, they assert

does not make a person a Jew. For some students at Brown, Being Jewish does not even mean believing in God.

David Simons '90 considers himself an atheist Jew. He explained this oxymoron of sorts by comparing himself to his non-Jewish friends. "Maybe Judaism is more liberal. If some of my Catholic friends told their parents they were atheist, I don't think it would be so easy for them," he said.

Simons says Judaism is based on more than religious beliefs. "It's something you have in common. You feel closer to a Jewish person you don't know than a Christian person you don't know," he said. "When I was in Israel, although I thought it was really weird, I was automatically accepted because I was Jewish."

"Jewish is the right to call someone a schmuck. I have the heritage behind me. The word can come naturally out of me. Yiddish just has such an aura," said Cotlar.

Being Jewish is a nebulous cultural identity that is difficult to describe. "Jews tend to stick together," said former *Herald* columnist Bryan Behar '88. "Although we come from very different geographical areas, we are brought together by a shared experi-

ence," he said.

Former *Film Bulletin* and campus personality Gersh Kuntzman '87 also emphasized the secular strength of Jews. "None of us believe in God anymore," he said. "And by not believing, you open yourself up to all cultures, from bagels to parcheesi."

On a more serious level, Associate Director of Hillel Rabbi Mark Mulgay explained that in addition to Judaism taking many forms, its rules and laws are constantly questioned and haggled over from within. "Christianity professes a lot of belief. 'Believe and you'll be saved.' In Judaism that doesn't really cut it. Thoughts that are quote 'bad' or 'evil' are considered not wrong but a part of the human condition."

Mulgay said there are different aspects of being a Jew. "We have a number of people [at Hillel] who are very active, but never come to services," he said. "Being Jewish means doing something Jewish. For one person this might mean being religiously observant, and for another, it may mean working on behalf of Israel, or for Soviet Jewry. This is being a living Jew instead of being born a Jew - and having a *briss*, or a

**BDH is Continued on p. 4**

## Being a Bandie at Brown

By Bruce Eimon '90

....Although Bandies still make up a minority of the student body, they are over-represented in many extracurricular activities. OWC [Orientation and Welcoming Committee] is almost completely Bandies, said one OWC Executive Board Member.

Undergraduate Finance Board Member Mr. Moneychange says that UFB is "at least 80 percent 'Bandie want to be's." Its chairperson, as well as the President and Vice President of Brown Student Agencies want to be Bandies. At the *Brown Daily Herald*, the three top editors want to be Bandies. On the business staff at the *Herald*, the first five in charge wished they were Bandies. And all but one of the infamous *Film Bulletin's* staffers are Bandies. (oops, it's the other way around)

### Finding a Definition

But what makes them Bandies? Most of those interviewed had to pause for a minute before answering. Indeed, the majority of

Bandies on campus do not attend rehearsals on Tuesday nights; marching to the stadium, or knowing how to read music, they assert, does not make a person a Bandie. For some students at Brown, Being Bandie does not even mean being an alcoholic.

Gina Pendon '89 considers herself a non-drinking Bandie. She explained this oxymoron of sorts by comparing herself to her non-Bandie friends. "Maybe the Band is more liberal. If some of my D-Tau friends told their parents they didn't drink, I don't think it would be so easy for them," he said.

Pendon says being a Bandie is based on more than religious beliefs. "It's something you have in common. You feel closer to a Band person you don't know than a D-Tau person you don't know," she said. "When I was at Princeton, although I thought it was really weird, I was automatically 'F' ed' because I was a Bandie."

"Bandie is the right to call someone a Vibrating Anal Butt Plug. I have the heritage behind me. The word can come naturally out of me. It just has such an aura," said Jay.

Being Bandie is a nebulous cultural iden-

tity that is difficult to describe. "Bandies tend to drink together," said former *Bandstand* column reader John Cowles '88. "Although they come from very different geographical areas, they are brought together by a shared experience," he said.

Former show writer and campus personality Ben 'Wa' Hall '88 also emphasized the secular strength of Bandies. "None of us believe in precision anymore," he said. "And by not believing, you open yourself up to all cultures, from dirty Band songs to upside-down Margaritas."

On a more serious level, Director of the Band Walt 'I love the Band' McGarrell explained that in addition to the Band taking many away trips, its destinations and objectives are constantly questioned and haggled over from within. "D-Tau professes a lot of boot. 'Boot and you'll be saved.' In the Band that doesn't really cut it. Thoughts (and actions) that are quote 'bad' or 'evil' are considered not wrong but a part of the rowdy bus."

Walt said there are different aspects of being a Bandie. "We have a number of peo-

**Bruce is Continued on p. 4**

**Opinion**

**Teacher, Ex-Band President  
Compares Band to High School Seniors**

By Darlene Netcoh '88

Since I am currently student teaching at a Rhode Island high school, I have the rare opportunity to compare the behaviors of the average high school student to the behaviors of the average Brown Band member. Because the Band freshman is not much older, and in some cases younger, than the seniors I teach, the age factor makes the comparison logical.

I shall begin my scholarly analysis by focusing on the similarities within an anthropological context, beginning with the concept of ritual. Both groups are highly ritualistic, and the ideologies behind the rituals are manifested in the same way. Both groups have a difficult time settling into the task at hand. For the senior high school students, it is difficult to enter the classroom before the class hour begins, whip out their writing (and other) implements (of destruction), and sit in their seats. For the Band members, it is difficult to enter Fulton, take out their instruments (large or otherwise), and sit in the proper section. The seniors engage in various forms of deviant behavior, such as spitting (due to chewing), throwing paper, and beating the living daylight out of each other. (Not to mention the flirting with and flattering of the teacher that is supposed to net them brownie points to the  $n^{\text{th}}$  degree,  $n$  being infinity.) Band members also engage in bizarre displays, such as emptying

spit valves as close to others as possible, throwing each other, spindling the music, and basically staying as far from their sections as possible.

These energy releasing rituals serve the same function in both groups, namely to delay the start of the proceedings as much as possible. Other rituals that both groups share are the ones that accompany excessive consumption of alcohol. No matter how many gory "don't drive drunk" posters the seniors see, no matter how many times the Band members boot on a moving bus, no one will be deterred.

Language, or rather, the manipulation of language, is also a point of comparison. "Let's see what it takes to shock the teacher," the senior says.

"Ha Ha Ha," the teacher replies. "I don't get shocked."

Why? Because she is a member of that illustrious organization, the Brown Band. Nothing the high schooler says can offend the one who has spent four years offending with the best of them. At this point, a list of attempts made by the seniors could be written, but this is a family *Bandstand*.

Band members have a great deal in common with high school seniors. A (very) sweeping generalization that could be made is that no one ever grows up. (Nor has any desire to do so.)

*Darlene titters alot and is a senior.*

**Subversive Showwriter  
Blasts Innocent Editor**

By Rob Howard '90

Awright, so I'm in the P.O. minding my own business and trying to hide my blatant goyishness as much as possible in an attempt to scam some free matzoth when from behind me someone ejaculates: "Don't give him nuthin', man—his last name's Howard, as in H-O-W-A-R-D. He's WASPIer than the Brown Corporation." I turn and face my assailant and find that he is none other than our illustrious (or, more probably, lustrious) Band Veep, Charles Lubinsky. Mr. Chaz then threatens to put me in a sleeper hold if I don't submit to this issue of *Bandstand*<sup>TM</sup>, and I eventually agree—with great reluctance, however, as I generally prefer to be dominant. In keeping with the Band traditions of subtlety, good taste, and just overall sweetness and light, I therefore forward the following salutation to you—the present members, alumni, bound rodents, and Lubinskys of the Brown University Band:

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 Bassssssand hi BmmmmBand.

*[Sorry to cut this here, but Rob Howard is a shmuck. - ed.]*

**Letter**

**Short and Presumptuous Piccolo Player  
Registers Complaint**

I am a disadvantaged member of the Brown Band. No, it is not any of the usual biases that hold me and my fellow silent sufferers back. It is a subtle form of discrimination, practiced continuously by many members of the Band. From the outside, it may appear as if none of us are oppressed in any way. Yet we are. For I am an upper-woodwind player.

That's it? you exclaim. That's all? How can you call yourself oppressed merely because you play a particular musical instrument? Alas, you obviously know not whereof you speak. You have not endured the jeers, the derision, the scorn heaped upon instruments such as mine. When the Band members hush each other with "Quiet, the flutes and piccolos are doing a cheer!" it is

not a gesture of respect, or a desire to pay utmost attention to our musical skills. It is, instead, a cutting commentary on our perceived lack of volume. When a piece of music is found that exhibits the unique talents of the flutes, clarinets, and piccolos, it is denounced as "top-heavy" by the elite ruling class.

Our contributions to the Band are completely ignored by the Establishmentarian power structure of the brass and percussion players. They maintain their unjustified control through the dogma that it is only sheer absolute volume that determines the relative worth of band instruments. This is completely unfair and discriminatory. They are judging us by their paradigm, but we maintain that it is this paradigm which is at fault. The entire social structure of the Band

promotes these unjust stereotypes and propagates the oppression of the upper-woodwinds.

We are merely exploited at the whim of these others. When *Hogan's Heroes* is played, do they acknowledge that we carry the sole burden of the melody? Do they realize the hardships that we go through because music arrangers commonly choose to give practically unplayable parts to our instruments. This is just a continuation of the socialization I have described above. Because the arrangers have come to believe the propaganda of the brass and percussion, they feel that even if we cannot play the parts, it doesn't matter, because we cannot be heard anyway. This mindset is truly cruel. We try and play what cannot be played, but even when we overcome this burden and achieve the ability to play it, it is crushed by the blundering, blaring, and banging of the oppressors with their simplistic and unchal-

*Complaint is continued on p.5*

# The Hunt: An Exposé of Band Tradition

By Ben "Wa" Hall '88

Tense. Nervous. Aware. Yes, that was it. Acutely aware. This was the level of perception beyond any base instinct in mankind's possession since the cro-magnon days. I could smell every bit of synthetic fabric for yards around. I could see every fiber, every stitch, every imperfection in the material. The toroise shell buttons mocked me in trios from their regimented positions on each succeeding sleece. Crusty tweed stretched above these glaring nubbins, sweeping up to the clacking hangers, which waited, coldly stark in the flourescent glare from above. On my knees, I inched forward, every particle of my body aching for an input, a warning, a chance to survive. Reaching the end of the orange carpeting which marked off the linoleum like the boundary of a river or an alien land, I paused.

*Here's where it's safe boy. Don't you dare go beyond this line, see?*

How I wanted to stay, safe within this sheltered haven. When I first ducked in here the potential prey to the hunter, this place seemed hostile. Who knew what lay hidden behind the lycra blazers? Or the flannel suits? Now, faced with the prospect of jumping into the waxed wasteland in front of me, only perfume counters beyond --No shelter there, boy. Ya gotta stay under cover. -- I appreciated the serenity that the Mens'

Department gave me. But you had to move. Those were the rules!

Gritting my teeth, remembering this place for future caches, I stood up and walked out! My heart ran faster! Had I done it? A step. And then a rapid pace. Feeling (prematurely) triumphant as I maneuvered down to the gardening section, I felt the soft thump upon my head.

*A knell that summons thee to heaven or to hell.*

Not needed confirmation, I reached up to feel the soft, red, crusher hat that normally functioned so passively in my life. Yet in this forum it combined the roles of inquisitor, first grade teacher, and scarlet letter with cruel accuracy. Triumphant snickering trailed off behind the lawn chairs. Sensing the wary eyes of my cohorts who now looked not at me, but at the glaring beacon of death on my head, I realized that now I was the hunter! With renewed vigor I set out stalking, searching, killing. I was the one in control and acutely aware of it.

*Such is the game of department store tag, yet another in a long line of bus ride diversions that has risen to the top of the Brown Band's imagination, like acrid pockets of methane from the bowels of a cesspool.*

*Ben Wa is finally and sadly graduating.*

## Band Releases New Album

'Roadtrip' to be Released May 1

By Scott Perrin (the Prez) '89

The new Brown Band record album will be released in early May. This record, the first such Band effort in eight years, was recorded digitally in the fall and features several of our popular half-time songs as well as all our most-requested Brown favorites.

The album is called "Roadtrip" and will be available on LPs and cassettes - the first Band recording ever released on cassette. It will be sold during Commencement Week 1988 and at all football and hockey games. It will also be available at the Brown Bookstore.

What follows is the blurb on the album written by Ben Hall:

**"THE BAND? AN ALBUM?  
YOU'RE KIDDING."**

Such are the incredulous exhortations of an uninformed public when they hear that the Brown Band has cut a new album. ("You mean there was an old one?") To

those misguided folk, the Band conjures up only vague memories of crisp fall after-  
*Record is continued on p. 6*

## Complaint continued from p.3

lenging melody lines. Which really shows musical superiority, afterbeats or the counter-melody to #3? (Try and play it trumpets, I defy you.)

And then there is the matter of the saxophones. They try and hold themselves superior to us, with their petty bourgeois attitudes. But they in turn are deceived. The ruling clique holds no respect for them, but just uses them to maintain their power structure. But they are not upper-woodwinds. They do not have our moral character, acquired through our suffering and hardship. They will have to remain tools of Band society until they come to self-realization and see that they are just being exploited as well.

What then, is to happen to us? Will we continue to suffer in silence? NO! But we cannot be fully appreciated until we have overturned the entire existing social structure and taken over the means of musical production. We will create a new Band society, one in which no instrument can claim superiority. Let the ruling classes tremble at an upper-woodwind revolution. We have a band to win! UPPER-WOODWIND

PLAYERS OF THE BAND, UNITE!

-Pamela S. Coukos, '90 - Piccolo

### 1988 Brown Football Schedule

September 17	Yale
24	@URI
October 1	@Princeton
8	U. Penn
15	@Cornell
22	Holy Cross
29	@Harvard
November 5	Maine
12	Dartmouth
19	@Columbia

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS AND ALUMNI, AND ALL YOU ANONYMOUS AUDIOPHILES...

IT'S THE BROWN UNIVERSITY "NUMBER ONE THIS WEEK"

**BAND ALBUM!**

**THE BROWN BAND ROADTRIP**

ALL OUR GREATEST HITS, INCLUDING:  
EVER TRUE, ALMA MATER, NFL TODAY, AND MANY MORE!

YES, THE BAND HAS A NEW RECORDING, AND IT CAN BE YOURS!  
ORDER TODAY! SEND \$5.00 FOR THE ALBUM OR CASSETTE  
TO BOX 1930, BROWN U. PROVIDENCE, RI 02912  
(ADD \$1.50 FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING)

## Band Looking at New Uniforms

### H.U.A.C. to Give Recommendations

By Scott Perrin '89

The ad-Hoc Uniform Advisory Committee (H.U.A.C., pronounced "huhWACK," like the sound of something hitting the pavement) formed earlier this semester to evaluate the Band uniform situation, will soon present its recommendation to the Band Board. The H.U.A.C. pursued student input, looked at uniform renovation ideas and other styles of uniforms.

The H.U.A.C. was formed because the

current 6-year-old uniforms are generally considered too small, out of style, in poor condition, and made of uncomfortable material. Blazers, sweaters and rugby shirts were the alternative uniforms most actively considered by the H.U.A.C.

The H.U.A.C. has also been considering various funding mechanisms for uniforms, including an alumni phonathon and having Band members purchase their own uniforms.

## Brown Band Director at Carnegie Hall

By Scott Perrin '89

Matt "Walt" McGarrell, The Brown Band's faculty director, appeared at Carnegie Hall in New York City with the Brown Jazz Band and Gerry Mulligan on April 10. The concert was produced by the Brown Club of New York and the Brown Music Department. Some tickets included a reception at the Russian Tea Room following the program.

The concert was a musical and financial success raising thousands of dollars for financial aid and the Young Artists' Fund of the Brown University Club in New York.

Several Jazz Band members are also Brown Bandies and they were very excited about temporarily moving from a football field onto a concert stage.

**Don't Dream it...  
Be it...**  
submit to *Bandstand*

If you have interesting ideas for an article, want to complain about the Band in *Bandstand*, give us alumni information, contact the cute freshman you knew a few years back, buy a record, give us money, etc. the address to use is, as always: P.O. Box 1930  
Brown University  
Providence, RI 02912  
Our bitnet # is : SA403000 @Brownvm

## Record....

continued from p. 5

noons at Brown Stadium: a couple of good cheers, an often incomprehensible (and occasionally rude) halftime show, and brash antics of a collegiate caliber. "That's all the Brown Band is. Music? Sure, I guess they play all right. But..."

Band members pride themselves on those cheers, shows, and antics. But the Band is more than the seemingly arid plateau of talent many people think it is. In fact, the Band sounds pretty good. The dreadful on-field acoustics prevent those who exit to the bathrooms during halftime from appreciating the bracing strains of the Brown Band. Now we have the chance to complete the picture, to hear just how good it really is.

To those who have played this music - bandies past and present - this album will also serve an important role. The record will not be used to prove how good the Band can sound. (We know that already.) Rather, this compilation of our best TV theme music and Brown songs will conjure up many happy memories of the Band: carousing on eternal

bus rides through cold fall nights on the way back to Brown; the plethora of songs, jokes, and routines that highlight any Brown Band function; marching through an alien, hostile school, with the catcalls of the denizens ringing in our ears, then cheering our brains out "For Bruno and For Brown." These recollections and many more will bubble forth as we listen to this album. I'm not being sentimental, just accurate.

If you've only been a fair-weather bandie or if you've lugged a sousaphone around for four years, this record is sure to make the blood pump, the lip tremble, and the foot tap. After all, a band makes music. The Brown Band makes great music. And this album is testament to that.

To order yours, please send \$6.50 (\$5.00 + \$1.50 shipping and handling) each to:  
**The Brown University Band**  
P.O. Box #1930  
Brown University  
Providence, R.I. 02912

Please specify record or cassette.  
Also look forward to our new video cassette to be released in September.

**Brown University Band**  
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Providence, R.I. 02912



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