

# Bandstand

Vol. 3. No. 2 • Box 1145 Brown University, Providence, RI 02912 • April, 1980

## New recording tops charts

by Norman Meyrowitz

Awaited with the same anticipation as spring break, the band's hot recording, "Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Alumni . . . The Brown University Band" rolled off the presses in late January.

Shipped platinum (over 1,000,000 units), Business Manager Bob Wells reports that about 1620 are still left to be bought by collectors and aficionados everywhere. Five dollars buys a piece of Saturday afternoon at the stadium and Saturday evening in the . . .

Featuring one side of Brown music and another of time-tested favorites, the record was the brainstorm of the 78-79 Band Board. Former President Bruce

Yannett researched recording studios, engineering facilities, and marketing prospects, while the former (ask any female band member) corresponding secretary Billy Leiserson procured copyright rights from the sometime elusive music publishers. Director of Bands John Christie spent the months of football season whipping the band up for that extra-special edge on the record.

Recording took place at two sessions in late November, with six microphones picking up the acoustically perfect sound in new Fulton Rehearsal Hall. Christie and engineer Pat Downes edited and remixed the tape during the next few weeks. In a frantic week in late December, Jay Boulas's photo of the pre-game "B" (note that Jessica is the

only person not in line) was incorporated into a cover, the back cover was designed, set, and laid out, and the special feature, the complete Brown Band songsheet, was printed. The entire conglomeration was driven to Crest Records in Huntington, NY, where the master was cut and records were printed.

Critical acclaim for the recording was unprecedented. Gene Shalit shaved his moustache in an honorary gesture. Barbara Walters, in a special segment on ABC's 20/20 said "the Brown Band wecawd was pwobobwy the downwight best wecawding I can wemember in my wong journawistic caweer."

More mundane sources were equally as loaded with praise. Vice President for University Relations Robert Reichley wrote: "Geez, it was great. Brown Band music . . . and no halftime show! Seriously, the record is excellent and we enjoyed playing it last night. I do thank you for sending it along and we will get great fun out of it many times in the future. I hope the record sales are fast and furious . . . I am a friend, as we say, and I've noted the extra lengths the Band went to to play for basketball this season."

President Howard Swearer, in a handwritten note, said "Many thanks for the outstanding record of the Brown University Band. You and the other members of the band should be pleased and proud. May it sell many thousands of copies! . . . I do miss the halftime jokes!"

## Basketball Band sparks Marvel crowds

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Friends and Alumni, presenting for the first time ever, the Brown University Dribbling and Technically Foul Band."

Is this a glance at things to come? It may be, as the band finishes its first full basketball season since Irving Harris first corralled the troops back in 1924 (see *Sound Off* for more details).

With hockey games scheduled twice and rehearsals once each week, and an occasional skating rehearsal thrown in for good measure, it would seem that the band was quite busy enough. Just to make sure, and to lead Brunonia to victory, the band attended home basketball games this winter.

Urged by Athletic Director John Parry, who contended that before a team could be a winner it had to have the band behind them, the fearsome flautists, deafening drummers, et. al. took their seats behind the backboard at Marvel for a new musical experience.

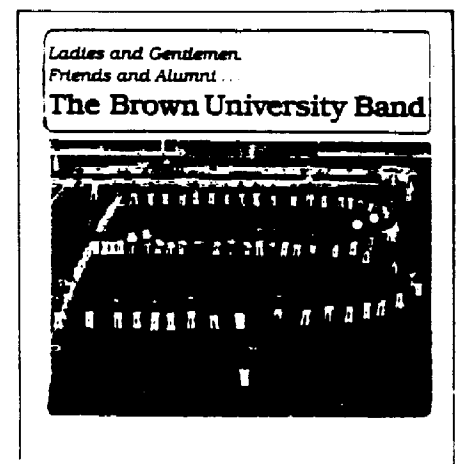
At first, crowd and cheerleader reaction was confused. The faces seemed to say "what are they doing here? Did they lose the rink or something?" Yet with the first strains of "Ever True," the band etched its place in Brown basketball.

Games at the Civic Center often left the band as the sole supporters of the team. The first game in that arena saw the Brown team lose by 2. Yet the small Brown band severely outplayed the large Providence College band, whose repertoire consisted of "The Horse," "The Horse," and "The Horse."

The next Civic Center game began as a Brown onslaught, as the team led by 16 with 5 minutes left to go. Again, the band (this time playing unopposed) were seemingly the lone voice of Brunonia. Soon, however, the lead began to slip—with less than 30 seconds to go, Brown was leading by 1—and PC had the ball.

No problem. Ugly Bruce Yannett, backed by the screaming and clapping of the band, played the famed cowbell cheer, inciting the crowd, now standing and clapping at their seats. PC blew it, and with the band playing the "Alma Mater," the basketball team left the court victorious.

Captain Peter Moss continually praised the band's play. "This is the biggest game of my career," he said after a 36-point game at the Civic Center. "Every time the Brown band shows up, we win. I love it."



# MOO!

## Traitors try out life on the farm

by Alisa DiBiasio and Paul Freitag

Every year the biggest road trip of the year is to Cornell. The various traditions surrounding this trip have a mystique which is infamous within the Brown Band. These escapades have been set down for posterity in the words of numerous Brown Band songs (which somehow didn't make the Band album) and indeed the trip itself conjures such lines as "Give my regards to Ezra," "The lunch that never returned," and the ever-popular, "Don't eat the yellow snow." But has anyone ever stopped to consider the other view, that is, the Cornell viewpoint on these colorful traditions? On this year's trip, we found ourselves quite unexpectedly in a position in which viewpoint became terribly important.

After the long bus trip up in the snow, we arrived at Cornell at game time to

encounter a stadium full of Aggies (who take their hockey very seriously). The game proved to be a grueling battle of wills between the home crowd and the Brown Band (outnumbered 50 to 1). Even though the team fell to defeat, the band definitely held its own against the crowd. The ensuing party in the motel consisted of friendly exchanges between the two bands and as the keg dwindled, the contingency from Brunonia grew more spirited in preparation for the nights activities.

It was at this point that Freshman No. 1, and Freshman No. 2 (we've got to live with this band for 3 more years), armed only with stomachs full of beer and a pint of apricot liquid, decided to venture off into the snow-covered night in order to "experience" the Cornell campus. We left the haven of our motel, crossed over the infamous gorge onto the Cornell campus, and quickly encountered vast numbers of Aggies. They had pilched

the majority of trays from the Cornell cafeteria, and were now winging down the hills of Cornell on their makeshift sleds. Putting our Brown education to use, we remembered the animalistic Cornell crowds, realized we were outnumbered 10,000 to one, and decided not to reveal our identities. Posing as Aggies, we struck up a conversation with the homefolk (who incidently speak English) and soon we were offered trays and invited to join them.

After an hour or so of traying with our new found friends, a cry of, "Here comes the Brown Band!!!!" pierced the crowd of thousands. In one move, the multitude bent to the ground and began shaping snow into balls, and rushed off towards the statue of Ezra Cornell in order to protect their founder from liquid humiliation. Frosh No.'s 1 and 2, realizing the delicacy of the situation, had no choice but to keep to the rear and look on as Billy Leiserson's speech was disrupted by flying snow. The outnumbered Band held for a minute but eventually was forced into a hasty retreat.

As the Cornell mob returned to their sledding slope, Frosh No. 1 turned to Aggie No. 1 and asked (as innocently as possible), "What was that all about?" The Aggie proceeded to explain the "disgusting" traditions of the Brown Band, concluding with, "After all, what's the color of ----?" To which Frosh No.'s 1 and 2 responded "Brown."

Okay. Perhaps we were a bit disloyal to Brunonia, and perhaps we shall feel a decided twang of guilt as we raise our voices to "Ever True," but, as the night wore on into the early morning and we continued traying with our new friends (taking occassional sips of brandy to combat the cold) we couldn't help but think tht perhaps we had begun a new tradition. Only next year will tell.

**EPILOGUE:** It is important to note that the diehard members of the Brown Band were not about to be defeated that easily and returned to the statue at 5 in the morning to appropriately baptize Ezra anew.

If you happen to have some extra money that you want to get rid of before the tax man comes, why not give to the Band. It's easy—just make out your check to "Brown University—Brown Band" and mail to Tony Allison, Box 1877, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912. If you'd like copies of halftime shows between 1975 and present, include a note and we'll send you them.

## How about that clambake

by Barry Fagin

Up until now, the show writing process has been shrouded in mystery. Few people realize the magnitude and creativity of the effort put into each week's halftime extravaganza. Below are some typical quotes from meetings?

### How a show is begun

"Alright, we're playing Harvard this week. What can we do?" (Silence). "Come on, people. You're supposed to be funny." (several minutes of silence). "... Wait, I've got it! We'll build a drum bigger than theirs, and Michele will pop

out of it on her unicycle in a body stocking!" "Yes, yes, I like it. Okay, lets go with it ... input, I need input! ..." (etc, etc).

### How a show is developed

"Penn? My God, there's nothing funny about Penn at all ... How about a self indulgent formation that only the Band will understand? ... If only we could find a word that means 'car' and 'student.' English is such a barren language ... Look, why don't we just form a ---- on the field and get it over with? I think we've been teasing the audience long enough ... How about that clam bake, and those Oysterettes? ... Can we put the number 38 in a show? I'd understand it, and I think it'd be really funny! ... What do you mean, 'Why?' **Who cares?** I'm sick and tired of worrying about audience comprehension."

### Difficulties

"Howard Swearer's wife complained that the shows weren't rude enough. What are we supposed to do? ... You'll never get **that** past Parry ... Unless you hyphenate it ... Change public to pubic and claim it's a typo. It's so tough to find good help these days ... I don't think we should worry about survival at Dartmouth. We should just do the show and trust in the Almighty. He went to Brown, anyway."

I think you get the idea.

## Bandstand

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Box 1145  
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Providence, RI 02912

Long live bazingas!

### Staff:

Alisa DiBiasio  
Paul Freitag  
Barry Fagin  
Irvin Lusting

Editor: Norman Meyrowitz

# Press praises Band spirit

With the Brown Band involved in more sporting events than ever before, visibility in the "press" (we use this exceedingly loosely) has increased greatly. It has been hypothesized, in fact, that we may be the only student organization about which the Herald has written something nice. (What are we doing wrong, you ask?) We reprint for you some of the clippings of the 79-80 season—remember you saw it in Bandstand last.

The saga of the Brown Band continues.

Angry alumni spurred President Howard Swearer to urge the band to temper their "offensive" remarks during halftime shows. Last year at a game against Holy Cross, alumni and members of the opposing team crowd objected to the band show, calling it "extremely sacrilegious on Catholicism. They (the band) joked about abortion, the Pope, the Holy Ghost, you name it."

"Personally, it (the humor) doesn't phase me a helluva lot," (Athletic Director John) Parry said. "I just have to change my own sense of what is appropriate when I censor the scripts. I have to think of the most conservative person I can think of and use that as a scale.

"Ninety-eight percent of what the band does is good," he continued. "They are dedicated, good musicians, and they add a tremendous amount to college athletics."

—from "Band warned to tone down halftime acts" by Ellyn Isaacs, *Brown Daily Herald*

The Brown Hockey team and the coaching staff would like to thank the Brown Band and the student body for their support this year. We have the best band and fan support of any school and your enthusiasm makes Brown a great place to play hockey.

Coach Paul Schilling in the *BDH*.

There are times in sporting events when a force, stronger than the will of the athletes engaged in competition, takes control of the contest.

Such a force pervaded Yale's Ingalls Rink Saturday night when the Brown Hockey team defeated the Elis . . . One could hear it in the music of the Brown band which reverberated off the walls and ceiling of the small arena, making it seem like a Bruin home game.

*Brown Daily Herald*, March 10, 1980

I've always wondered about the alumni who, on the one hand, criticize the Brown Band for its suggestive half-time shows, but who also stand and cheer for the band at tent parties after games. It also seems very ironic that the university administration, which loves to talk about "Brown community spirit," also loves to chastise the band. Without the band's rousing play, hockey games would just be sporting events and not university happenings.

One additional note of interest: The new band album, which contains all those songs that no one knows the words to, is now on sale. If you play it backwards, the record confirms what I have long suspected, that Dean Harriet Sheridan will be replacing Tim Bruno as the Brown bear.

Ed Hershfield in "Armchair Bruin," *BDH*, February 13, 1980



The Brown Daily Herald - Mike Stone

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends and Alumni . . .  
The Brown University Band

Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Friends and Alumni . . . .

## The Brown University Band RECORD!!!

<p><b>BY THE WAY</b></p> <p>By the way, the band is looking for new members. If you are interested, please contact the band manager at the address below.</p>	<p><b>ALUMNI AND FRIENDS</b></p> <p>We are looking for alumni and friends to help support the band. If you are interested, please contact the band manager at the address below.</p>	<p><b>THE BROWN UNIVERSITY BAND</b></p> <p>The Brown University Band is a group of talented musicians who play a variety of instruments. We are looking for new members to join our team.</p>
<p><b>FOR A BROWN BAND SHOW</b></p> <p>If you are interested in having a Brown Band show at your school or organization, please contact the band manager at the address below.</p>	<p><b>FOR THE BROWN BAND</b></p> <p>If you are interested in joining the Brown Band, please contact the band manager at the address below.</p>	<p><b>FOR THE BROWN BAND</b></p> <p>If you are interested in joining the Brown Band, please contact the band manager at the address below.</p>
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# Lions and Tigers and Bears: The Year in review

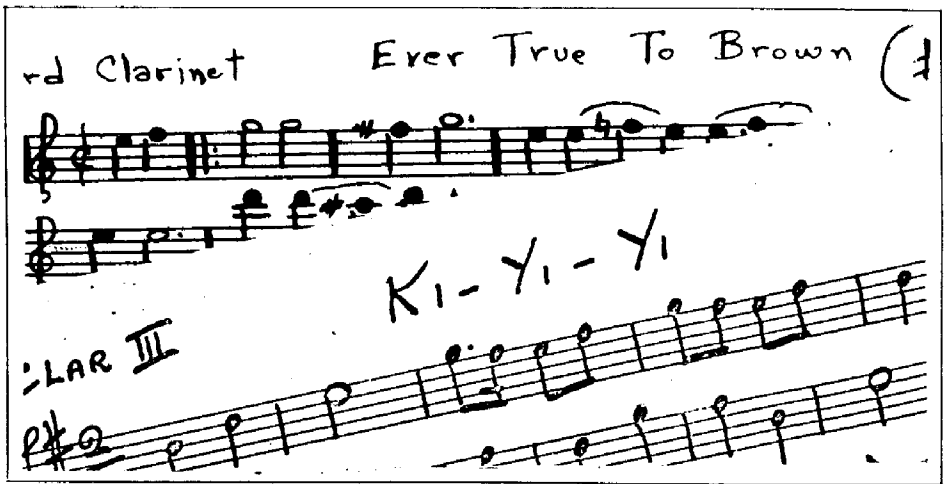
by Norman Meyrowitz

Over 150 people signed up in September for what came to be the busiest year in Brown Band history.

The first week saw a 3-bus Yale trip—or almost 3 buses. On the way back from New Haven, the school bus we had rented rejected one of its retread tires. The 2-hour trip became a 6-hour extravaganza as the bus limped homeward. Yet bad sometimes brings good, and this was no exception. The freshmen on the stalled bus debarked late that evening with a thorough knowledge of every band song ever sung.

The URI game, with its "Strike Up The Band" theme marked the band's return to Brown stadium with the traditional costume show. The week after, another home game, saw Princeton hit the Providence area. We showed them how to have a barbecue and proceeded to learn some songs even we didn't know.

The Penn game in glorious Philly spawned an 11-verse song, indicating the strangeness of that trip. Cornell, on vacation, visited with just a small pep



band. At Holy Cross, the band did a "Jewish grandmother" show, complete with Dave Muller telling the confused crowd, "Eat, eat. You'll waste away to nothing."

Harvard Homecoming was the annual "let's stand out in the pouring rain until we catch pneumonia" show, but the band still formed the famed "Brown in script."

Elections were held that following Tuesday. Victorious were Jessica Stulman '81, who became President, Norman Meyrowitz '81 who became Jessica's Vice, Bob Wells '81 who became business manager, Sluggo "Steven" Shinn '82, who took over the corresponding secretary job, and Tanya Falbel '82, who became recording secretary.

Hockey season stretched from November 27 to March 8. The first game took the band 7 hours North to Orono, Maine, where the hockey team played the University of Maine for the first time. The Maine athletic director was so amazed and happy to see us that he

asked us to play the "Star Spangled Banner."

At home, skating shows took on mammoth proportions. Each of the four shows had an average of 85 people skating. This allowed more complex formations, such as the dazzling geometric patterns which brought the crowd to their feet.

As usual, the Cornell road trip was a highlight of the season. A full busload trekked up to Ithaca to see the Aggies. Though, the team lost, the band certainly incited the crowd, which booed ever time we played a note on the cowbell. A party with the Cornell band and the traditional "liquidation" of Ezra followed.

The final game of the season, the Yale away match, was one of the most spirited contests of the season. We had 50 musicians, 25 alumni, and amazing goaltending from the graduating Mark Holden. While Holden made 55 saves, the band played on and on to the applause of the Brown and Yale fans. Published reports all said that Ingalls Rink sounded like Brown's home arena.

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