

not



-Dan Ladely

by Steve Kadel

To the football fans sitting in the upper reaches of Memorial Stadium, they look like serious, well drilled precision marchers intent on their music and steps. Which they are. Usually.

But watch them off the field and they appear considerably more relaxed. Hats are an obsession—hardhats with Nebraska stickers plastered on them, even World War I flying ace caps. They wear all kinds.

And when Nebraska fumbles or has a pass intercepted you can bet it was one of them who organized the "Awwww, shit!" cheer.

Don't worry, mother. It's just the Nebraska Marching Band having a good time.

Some of them have been at it a long time. Lynn Alexander, for example, has been a member of the marching band every year since 1966. Now he's



attending the University of Nebraska Law School, but still finds time to play piccolo in the band.

What does he remember best?

"Probably the 'Battle of Boulder' in 1968," Alexander said. "We were suppose to play on the field after the game, but a large group of inebriated Colorado fans started harrassing us and wouldn't let us out there. We complained to the police, but they ignored us.

"Some Colorado guys jumped our drum major and he beat them back with his baton," he said. "Then we all started climbing a fence to get back to the Union where we had dressed, but some fans jumped another Nebraska guy and took all his clothes off."

"Yeah," another bandsman agreed, "you practically have to go into riot training for that campus. I'm already



-Bill Ganzel