

# Band more than just laundromat quality

By Lori Merryman

A laundromat at Fanny's on Saturday afternoon—if Linda Ronstadt could see them now, maybe she'd be playing a washboard instead of singing.

Fanny's doesn't really change to a laundromat on Saturday's. Better than that, it's the place to hear the washboard lyrics of the Delta Delta Delta sorority Washboard Band.

The 25 band members play three washboards, three tamborines, three maracas, seven guitars and three wash-tubs as six of the members do dance routines and mix with the audience.

The band, now a tradition for the Tri-Delts, was started 15 years ago by twins in the house to make money for charity, Diane Carper, three-year washboard band member said.

The money is still used for charity, but also for projects in the house, Carper said. Some of the money goes to the American Cancer Research Fund, she said.

Originally, the band played for house functions, and sometimes at nursing homes, Carper said.

But now, dressed in cut-off overalls and red and white

gingham shirts, the musicians play to the old-faithful Big Red fans.

"We try to learn as many new songs as possible," Carper said. Some of their songs include those by Linda Ronstadt, Jimmy Buffet and Johnny Cash, she added.

"Ode to Nebraska" has found its place in the ratings for the fans. Carper explained that during each of their three sets in a performance, the band plays one of the school songs.

The object, Carper said, is to play music that the crowd can participate in and enjoy.

Audience participation varies depending on the game, she said. "Sometimes they're mellow and sometimes they're too crazy," she added.

"After the first game the crowd was ungodly," she said. "They were really excited and really rowdy."

"On the other hand, the homecoming crowd was really mellow. For the most part they just listened," she said.

Sometime during each performance, members of the crowd are brought on stage for one song and to help sing.

The crowd, which is usually divided equally between students and people visiting for the game, likes to participate with the band, she said.

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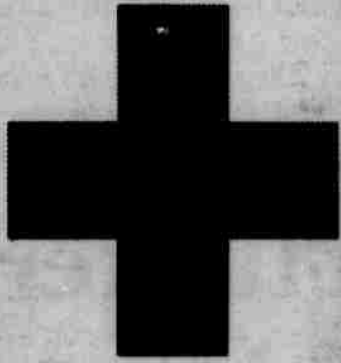
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