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Band hopefuls march to beat of different summer

By George Davis

For most UNL students summer is a time to relax. Although some will take a part-time job or take a class or two, the pace is slow.

But more than 150 freshman band hopefuls are marching to the beat of a different summer — a fast-paced summer full of hard work and competition.

Musical auditions for the 1984-85 Cornhuskers Marching Band are underway and will continue until the end of June. UNL students interested in trying out must have a 2.0 grade point average, according to Rose Johnson, administrative secretary for the band office. A total of 350 students will be invited to the band camp beginning August 18th where the final selections will be made. Among the 150 freshmen trying to gain membership in the band are Sharon Frohning and Richard Johnson.

Frohning, who plays the clarinet and will be a food science and technology major in the fall, said she was nervous about the audition but said her experience in the Lincoln East band was helpful. Frohning said she has attended many UNL football games and was impressed by the enthusiasm and performances of the band.

Richard Johnson, also a freshman from Lincoln East High School, plays trombone. Johnson said he has played the trombone for eight years and was never quite as nervous as he was before the audition. Once he got started though, he felt more confident. He also cited his knowledge of the UNL campus and experience in playing before only one person as factors which helped to relieve some of the pressure. Both Johnson and Frohning hope to be invited to the UNL band camp in August.

William Ballenger is conducting the musical auditions this summer and will be in charge of the marching band next fall. During the auditions for new band members he said he looks for good technique, good sound, proper range, and the ability to read new music. He said that most of the new students auditioning probably would be invited back to the band camp to join the returning band members for the final selections of the 1984-85

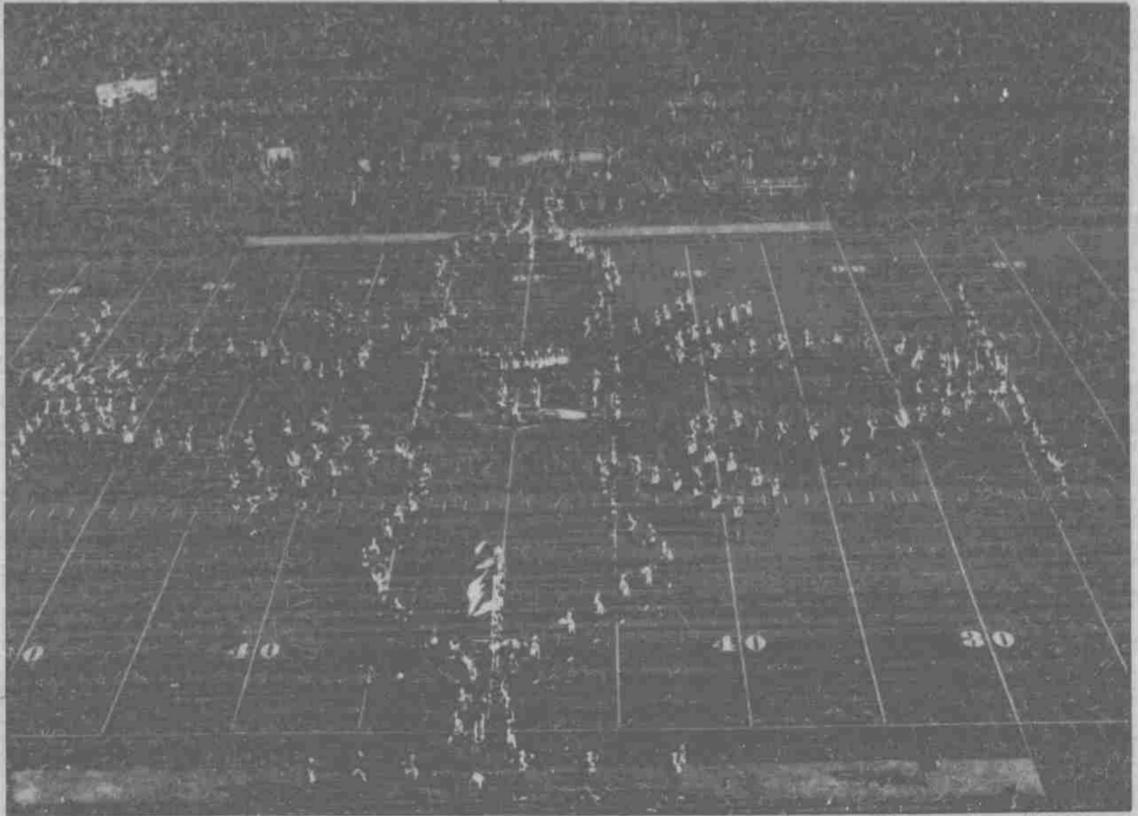


Photo courtesy of UNL Band

The Cornhusker Marching Band at Memorial Stadium.

marching band.

The UNL marching band was founded in 1879 and is 10 years older than the Cornhusker football team. Originally the ROTC band, they first played in parades and for troop drills.

Today the UNL marching band has more than 270 members and is considered one of the finest bands in the nation. The band was one of the first to play as halftime entertainment at football games and prepares a new show for each appearance. This takes a great deal of work.

With all of the hard work, competition and long

practice hours every morning, why would anyone want to be in the band?

"I never thought of it as work," three-year band member Jerlene Finley said. "It was too much fun to be work."

Finley played the piccolo in the band and traveled to the Orange Bowl three times as a band member. She said the friendship, satisfaction, and camaraderie were among the things she will always remember about her experience with the band. She also said she experienced a great feeling of satisfaction playing before 76,000 cheering fans.

Hand-painted shoes — artwork to walk around in

By Donna Sisson

Most art just hangs on the wall collecting dust. But Mufich Designs' shoes is artwork people can walk around in.

Mufich Designs is a Kansas-based company that produces original hand-painted sneakers by contracting artists. Currently, at least 200 artists paint

for Mufich, according to Bebe Jones, marketing representative for Mufich Designs.

The idea started about a year ago when artist Rosanne Mufich-Smith, from Kansas City, Kan., painted a pair of shoes for her daughter, Jones said. Mufich-Smith's daughter came home from school with the news that everybody liked the shoes, which encouraged Smith to send samples to New York City

and other places, Jones said.

The samples were so well-received, she said, that a group of investors bought out the artist and her name, Mufich. After that, they advertised for artists and set up the company as a cottage industry, Jones said.

Artists pick up a few cases of shoes and take them home to paint. According to production orders, the artists are assigned specific designs to paint, Jones said. However, because each artist paints differently, each shoe is original, she said.

Jones said she started working with Mufich Designs in March to help with marketing, advertising and public relations. The shoes already have been advertised in the May issue of Seventeen Magazine and is scheduled to be advertised in the June and August issues, she said.

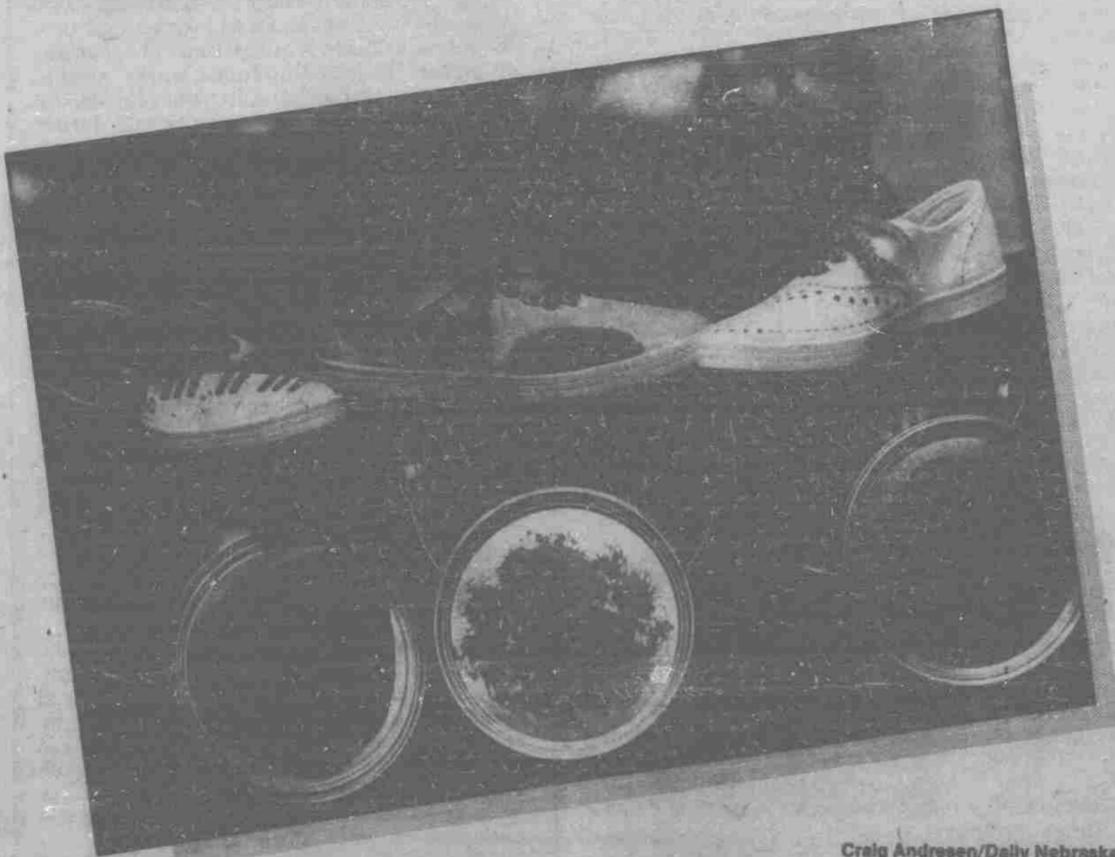
The shoes also will receive exposure on national television, June 20, when CBS airs the American Junior Miss finals competition, Jones said. The competition includes a fitness routine during which the girls will be wearing the Mufich "California Rainbow" design.

The company keeps 25 active designs which include a piano keyboard design, a desert shoe, a design with strawberries and one with sailboats, Jones said.

Designs are submitted by the artists and then chosen according to criteria set forth by the production department, Jones said. Jones said Mufich sneakers are painted with a secret permanent water-base paint. Nothing stops people from painting their own shoes, she said, but when they do, they usually just ruin a good pair of shoes. Like Colonel Sanders has a secret recipe for chicken, Mufich has a secret to making the paint permanent without cracking, she said.

The company is hoping to expand to produce hand-painted men's shoes, children's shoes and other styles of women's shoes, she said. Many male musicians write that they want a pair with the piano keyboard design and, Jones said, once they have men's shoes, they would like to get Dudley Moore's shoe size and send him a shoe with the piano keyboard.

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Craig Andresen/Daily Nebraskan