

Michael E. Leckrone: band director, School of Music.

[Madison, Wisconsin]: [s.n.], [s.d.]

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Michael E. Leckrone

6263 Paske Ct., Middleton

Michael E. Leckrone joined the faculty of the School of Music at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1969 as an Assistant Professor and Assistant Director of Bands. He has been Director for the past six years. He conducts the marching band, varsity band, concert bands, and handles the administrative duties of all five bands. He is a composer and trumpet player.

The Marching and Varsity Bands have well-known reputations. Professor Leckrone arranges the music and sets up all the marching formations for the Marching Band. He has published music for high school and college bands as well as books that deal with music arranging, marching band drills and marching band techniques. He is particularly noted for his rapport with the students and his ability to focus his outstanding teaching skills in areas of great service to the University.

Michael Leckrone, band

Michael Leckrone is the Director of the Marching Band and Director of Bands at the University of Wisconsin. A native of Indiana, Mr. Leckrone received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from Butler University in Indianapolis and has continued his studies at the doctoral level at Indiana University. Before coming to Wisconsin he taught at his alma mater, where he developed one of the finest marching bands in the Midwest. He is in constant demand as a clinician, guest conductor and adjudicator throughout the U.S. and Canada, and his experience also includes considerable professional work as an arranger, composer and performer. Leckrone has composed or arranged music for numerous high school and university bands, and over 200 of his arrangements and compositions for marching band and concert band have been published. He is also the author of two texts for use by marching band directors and a handbook for band arranging and a text dealing with popular music in the United States.



MM, Butler University; BM, Butler University



MICHAEL LECKRONE
DIRECTOR OF BANDS
DIRECTOR OF MARCHING BAND

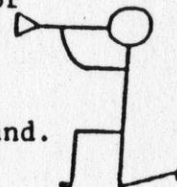


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He holds memberships in numerous professional organizations, as well as such honorary fraternities as Kappa Kappa Psi, Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Kappa Lambda, Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Beta Mu. He is a 14 year member of ASCAP and has been elected to the American Bandmasters Association. In 1970 he was cited as an "Outstanding Educator of America" by the Outstanding Americans Foundation, in 1973 was awarded the "Outstanding Bandmaster Award" by the Wisconsin Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, and in 1986 was presented with a Citation of Excellence by the National Band Association. He is a recipient of the "Pat O'Dea Award," and was commissioned a "Kentucky Colonel" by the Governor of Kentucky. Recently the University of Wisconsin honored him with an appointment to a prestigious "John Bascom Professorship."

Mr. Leckrone has composed or arranged music for numerous high school and university bands, and over 200 of his arrangements and compositions for marching band and concert band have been published. He is also the author of two texts for use by marching band directors and a handbook for band arranging. Mr. Leckrone is beginning his 19th year with the Wisconsin Band.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**December 23, 1999****CONTACT:** Michael Leckrone, (608) 263-1896**UW BAND GETS LITTLE REST DURING ROSE BOWL WEEK**

MADISON -- The University of Wisconsin Marching Band has another typically frenetic schedule in the run-up to the Rose Bowl next week.

After its final rehearsal Monday, Dec. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the McClain Athletic Facility, 1436 Monroe St., the group flies out of Madison at 7 a.m. the next day and begins performing almost as soon as members can grab their gear off the L.A. airport baggage carousels.

In 1993-94 and again in 1998-99, the band entertained southern California with its many Rose Bowl-related performances in the Los Angeles area. This time, its itinerary again includes daily rehearsals and public appearances including:

- A concert aboard the historic ocean liner, the Queen Mary, Long Beach, 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28.
- A performance at Knott's Berry Farm, Buena Park, 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 28.
- A mini-parade and pep rally at the Disneyland train station, Anaheim, 1 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 29.

The band will also continue a tradition it began in 1993 when it literally rocked the Santa Monica pier with a rousing nighttime performance that attracted thousands of Badger fans and curious spectators. The band will perform at the Badger pep rally at the ABC Entertainment Center plaza, across from the Century Plaza Hotel, Century City, 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 30. And of course, there's the Rose Bowl parade and Wisconsin's Rose Bowl halftime show. The show will feature "The Sounds of the Beach Boys," and once again the band will perform its zany Fifth Quarter for approximately 20 minutes following the game and the award presentations.

The Wisconsin band will offer a clear contrast to the Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band.

"We always try to emulate what a good Broadway show would offer in terms of content, precision and performance," says the Wisconsin band's inimitable director Michael Leckrone, who has led his troops for 30 years.

Make no mistake -- he and his charges always have a lot of fun providing what Leckrone has called "hard-core entertainment" and encouraging audience participation. They play to sell-out crowds at their spring concert shows, now approaching their 26th year.

The Stanford band is a student-run organization that marches to a different drummer - in fact, it doesn't march at all, and its members don't wear traditional marching band uniforms. It is known as a scatter band - one of only a handful across the country. Its members run screaming onto the field, then scatter or scramble from one loose formation to another, focusing on a humorous theme rather than their music.

Leckrone, M.

Under the heading "Differences between us and them" on the Stanford band's web site, it notes, "Some scatter bands tend to theme their shows around making fun of the other school. ... (We) usually stick to lampooning current events or other things that seem funny. Unless the other school happens to be U\$C or Cal."

"One of the big differences between us has to do with organization," says Leckrone's assistant director Michael Lorenz.

"With a student-run band, it's hard to maintain a tradition of organization throughout the years. There is no constancy of leadership, something we're very fortunate to have at Wisconsin."

For more information, contact the band office at (608) 263-1896.

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Liz Beyler, 263-1986, lbkraak@facstaff.wisc.edu

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Books tell UW's tales

Barbara Wolff

Winter's chilled slick-under-foot landscapes are best enjoyed inside, in front of a fireplace with a cup of cocoa and a tasty book. Since UW-Madison will reach the apex of its sesquicentennial celebration shortly, your literary tastes also may have boarded that train of thought. Here are a few selections from the many worth looking up:

- **Proud Traditions and Future Challenges: The University of Wisconsin-Madison Celebrates 150 Years**, David Ward and Noel Padomski, eds. (February 1999: University of Wisconsin Press). To celebrate the anniversary season, seven UW-Madison administrators and faculty assess the current and future missions of public higher education. Subjects include the future of liberal arts; technology; graduate, undergraduate and global education; public access to higher education and more.
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- **Moving a Battleship with Your Bare Hands: Governing a University System**, Laurence A. Weinstein (1993: Magna Publishing). Memoirs of a former UW Regent.
- **Distinguished Service: University of Wisconsin Faculty and Staff Helping to Build Organizations in the State**, a collection of case histories on organization building in celebration of Wisconsin's sesquicentennial, Ayse Somersan (1997: New Past Press).
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- **The University of Wisconsin: A History** (UW Press). The late UW-Madison history professor Merle Curti wrote *Vol. II, 1848-1925* with Vernon Carstensen in 1949; an earlier *Vol. I* covers the same years. Former College of Letters and Science Dean E. David Cronon and historian John W. Jenkins wrote *Vol. III*, covering 1925-1945. A fourth volume, examining the decades of post-World War II educational expansion and '60s activism, is due in August.
- Author Tom Bates also explores UW's role in the anti-war movement in *Rads: The 1970 Bombing of the Army Math Research Center at the University of Wisconsin and Its Aftermath* (1992: HarperCollins Publishers).
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- The university's innovative and influential printmaking tradition will be celebrated this summer in *Progressive Printmaking: Wisconsin Artists and the Print Renaissance*, Warrington Colecott and Arthur Hove (July 1999: UW Press).

Research road trip

UW-Madison and Milwaukee Public Museum unite for day of discovery

Brian Mattmiller

For two institutions in the discovery business, it's a natural alliance. Campus experts will hit the road Tuesday, Feb. 16, to bring their research ideas to the halls of the Milwaukee Public Museum. More than a dozen faculty, staff and students will give presentations on topics that complement museum exhibits, from the age of the dinosaurs to the "Streets of Old Milwaukee."

The 10 a.m.-2 p.m. "Whys and Wows!" program is open to the public and is being promoted to school districts around the state. The event kicks off a series of visits by UW-Madison experts and leaders to communities around the state, a traveling program dubbed "On the Road" by its planners. The visits, customized for each community, are meant to help illustrate the close ties between the university and state and the tangible benefits UW-Madison brings to the communities that support it.

The museum visit is one of many activities planned to celebrate UW-Madison's 150th anniversary during the Feb. 15-16 program in Milwaukee.

"The Milwaukee Public Museum is happy to host this program in conjunction with the university's sesquicentennial," says William Moynihan, president of the museum. "The museum's walk-through dioramas and galleries provide a unique educational backdrop for UW-Madison experts to share their research."

"Thousands of people from across Wisconsin visit the museum's standing and special exhibits every week," adds Miriam Simmons, associate director in the Office of Outreach Development at UW-Madison. "We're honored to be able to bring some of UW-Madison's talent to that environment."

University experts will share a new perspective that relates to a museum exhibit. For example, four people will be stationed within the museum's rain forest exhibit, a richly detailed tour through the floor and canopy of a simulated Costa Rican forest.

Karen Strier, an anthropology professor, will describe her studies of the endangered woolly spider monkey. Veterinary Medicine Assistant Professor Joanne Paul-Murphy will bring along a few exotic animals of the rain forest, such as a green iguana and a boa constrictor.

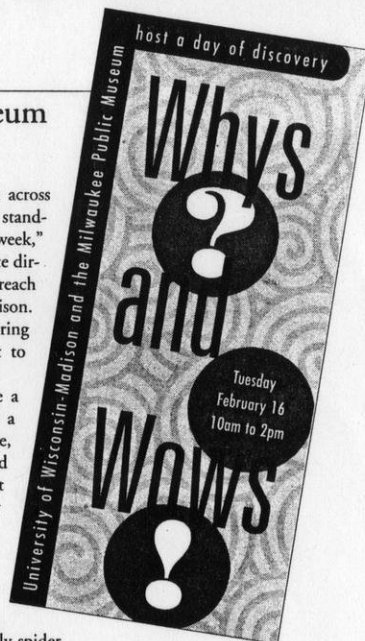
In total, the university has booked 15 presenters for the day, including:

- Geography Professor Robert Ostergren, co-author of *Wisconsin Land and Life* and *The Cultural Map of Wisconsin*, will tell stories about Wisconsin's settlement history. He will be stationed in "Streets of Old Milwaukee," which recreates an 1850s city storefront.
- Ada Deer, a lecturer in American Indian Studies, will read legends of Wisconsin Indian tribes while stationed in the exhibit on North American Indians.
- Joseph Salmons, director of the Max

Kade Institute for German-American Studies, will talk about the rich languages of Wisconsin throughout history, spanning Native American, European and more recent Asian languages including Hmong.

- Thomas Zinnen, outreach director of the Biotechnology Center, will use the museum's own biotech station to lead an experiment on extracting DNA from a plant.

Other UW-Madison events in Milwaukee include a gala reception Monday, Feb. 15, at the Milwaukee Art Institute, 5-7 p.m.; and a public open house the same day at the Clark Square Health Center, 1818 W. National Ave., 10 a.m.-noon. Visits to schools, civic groups and business organizations are also planned.



Postal card to be unveiled

The first 150 years of classes at UW-Madison will be commemorated in first-class style when the U.S. Postal Service issues a new stamped card Friday, Feb. 5, in conjunction with the UW women's basketball game against Penn State at the Kohl Center.

The card, the latest in the Postal Service's Historic Preservation series, features a reproduction of an 1879 lithograph of what today is known as Bascom Hill. The work by an unknown artist is from the UW-Madison Archives.

Here's what's happening Friday, Feb. 5:

- 6:15 p.m. pre-game ceremony. Nicholas-Johnson Pavilion at the Kohl Center. Madison Chancellor David Ward and Postal Service officials will unveil the stamped card.
- Half time. The card will be unveiled in a brief ceremony at center court.

The stamped card will be sold only in Madison on Feb. 5. Postal officials will be on hand Friday night, in the Kohl Center's main and second-floor concourses, to offer a first-day cancellation. The first 5,000 people will receive a special ceremony program, which includes the historic stamped card. The card goes on sale elsewhere Feb. 6 for 21 cents.

Buses to debut

Liz Beyler

A trio of Madison Metro buses brightly decorated in honor of the sesquicentennial will begin transporting passengers around campus early next month.

The idea for the eye-catching transit vehicles came from UW-Madison Transportation Services.

"We are always interested in promoting bus ridership," says Kay, "and since we were restructuring routes, I thought it would be a great time to do something special with these buses and use them to help celebrate the university's 150th anniversary."

Each bus will be partially wrapped in a huge vinyl decal displaying stars and ribbons of red and white, and carrying the message "Celebrate 150" and the university's sesquicentennial logo.

The decal was designed by graphic artist Barry Carlsen of University Publications, who wanted to blend the university's sesquicentennial graphics with a celebratory theme. The colorful fabric banners that have become a tradition on Bascom Hill prompted Carlsen to include the ribbons, or streamers, in his design. He says they will appear to be in motion as the buses pass by.

Splat!, a large format digital printing company in Milwaukee, produced the decals, which were put on the buses in Madison this week by a crew from Signs and Lines By Stretch, a Milwaukee company that specializes in the application of large graphics.

Owner Stretch Wenzel describes the decals as "big bumper stickers" that run the 35-foot length of the buses.

BOOKS TELL UNIVERSITY'S STORIES

Winter's chilled slick-under-foot landscapes are best enjoyed inside, in front of a fireplace with a cup of cocoa . . .

. . . and a good book. As the University of Wisconsin-Madison celebrates the sesquicentennial of its first classes next week, here are a few selections from the many worth looking up:

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###-- Barbara Wolff (608) 262-8292



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June 29, 1998

TO: Editors, news directors
FROM: Liz Beyler, (608) 263-1986
RE: The Fifth Quarter To Rock D.C.

“When you say ‘WIS-CON-SIN,’ you’ve said it all!”

The throngs of visitors attending the Smithsonian Folklife Festival on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on Friday, July 3, will hear that message loud when they have a chance to experience a popular modern-day Wisconsin tradition — the UW Marching Band’s Fifth Quarter. The band, led by director Mike Leckrone, will be performing at the Wisconsin Tailgate, which begins at 5:30 p.m (EDT). on Friday.

Leckrone will discuss Wisconsin Marching Band traditions from 7 to 7:30 p.m. (EDT) He and his charges will launch into their rousing Fifth Quarter celebration at 8:30 p.m., (EDT) introducing festival goers to such Badger favorites as the Chicken Dance, On Wisconsin!, and Varsity.

The Wisconsin Alumni Association has invited Badger alumni to the festival to “relive Camp Randall moments” with the band.

The Wisconsin Tailgate will also feature a polka party, pep bands, a table-top football tournament and a “Best Wisconsin Tailgate Costume” contest.

This year’s Smithsonian Folklife Festival is showcasing Wisconsin’s heritage and traditions as the state celebrates its sesquicentennial. A Wisconsin Folklife Festival will be held in Madison August 20-23.

For more information on the American Folklife Festival, check out the web site at <http://www.si.edu/folklife/fest98/start98.htm>

(Note: The band is scheduled to rehearse outside of Gate 15 at the north end of Camp Randall Stadium on Thursday, July 2, at 10 a.m., then will load instruments and luggage and leave for the airport at 11:30 a.m. to catch a 1 p.m. flight to Baltimore. Band members will have a free day to experience the nation’s capital on the Fourth of July, and will fly back to Madison Sunday night, July 5.)

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From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: 608/262-3571

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CONTACT: Michael Leckrone (608) 263-1896

TICKETS ON SALE FOR UW BAND'S ANNUAL CONCERTS

MADISON--Tickets are on sale for the 16th annual University of Wisconsin Varsity Band concert, UW Band Director Michael Leckrone has announced.

Performances will be held Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7. Both begin at 7:30 p.m. in the UW Field House.

The rollicking concerts have become one of the campus' most popular spring events. Leckrone said that this year's shows will be the most spectacular ever. The stage will be enlarged by about 25 percent and risers added to put band members on different levels.

"That should greatly increase the clarity of the sound and will provide the best sight lines the concert audience has ever enjoyed," Leckrone said.

He said the new stage should give the Field House the feel of a Broadway theater, in keeping with the centerpiece of the concert, a "very theatrical presentation" of music from Andrew Lloyd Webber's "The Phantom of the Opera."

Special guests will be popular rock group Little Vito and the Torpedoes. In addition, the band will perform many of its best-known songs and include a version of the "fifth quarter" concert it performs after Badger football games.

Tickets are available at the UW Athletic Ticket Office at 1440 Monroe St., (608) 262-1440, and the Vilas Box Office, (608) 262-1500. Mail orders are being accepted only at the Vilas Box Office, 821 University Ave., Madison, Wis. 53706. Tickets are \$7 each, \$6 for UW-Madison students for Friday night.

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9/7/89

Dee Willems, (Mike Leckrone) or Kirk Zentner, (608) 263-1896

UW BAND TO MARCH TO FIRST WOMAN DRUM MAJOR

by Barbara Wolff
University News Service

MADISON--Her name's not Macnamara. But she's the leader of the band.

Dee Willems, a senior majoring in Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, will take up the baton this fall as UW Marching Band drum major. She will be the first woman to hold the post in the 104-year history of the marching band.

The Badger game against the University of Miami this Saturday (Sept. 9) will mark Willems' debut. As drum major she will call the tune, so to speak, for the 200-plus performers on the field: while marching band director Mike Leckrone marshals the musical end of the performance, Willems will give commands governing the band's physical movements.

Hers also will be a position of leadership. "I'll talk to band members before we go out there and dismiss them when we're through. I may lead some warm-up calisthenics as well," she says.

Although this is Willems' first season as drum major, she is no stranger to the marching field. She was drum major to her high school band, and played trumpet in the UW-Madison Marching Band for three years. As assistant drum major during Paul Wagner's tenure last season, she prepared for her current position.

Willems' appointment illustrates the increasing role women are playing

Add 1--Drum major

within the marching band, according to Kirk Zentner, a field assistant with the band. Zentner has watched the band social evolution from a 10-year perspective, starting in the ranks as a trombonist.

"I joined the band shortly after women first were allowed in," he says. "In those days, they typically were ignored and the men made allowances for the women's performances. Now there is a single performance standard, and women are assuming more leadership," both formally and informally, Zentner says.

"When I first joined, women made up about 20 percent of the band. Now it's close to 50 percent. They often become rank (section) leaders, or may become leaders by virtue of their enthusiasm, talent or teaching ability," he says.

The exact tone that Dee Willems will set in her position of leadership is, at this point, at least a partial unknown -- "some drum majors," says Zentner, "are cheerleaders. Others are more authoritarian."

Band director Mike Leckrone agrees. "The personality of the drum major never has been set as standard. We've had very showy drum majors and very military ones. I think Dee will establish her own style."

However, Willems has formulated her own goals: "I want to instill enthusiasm for the band. Music is very important to me, and I want to convey my enjoyment to other people."

Zentner, a member of the committee that selected Willems, says her marching style is key to her brand of communication. "She is very precise in her movements, very close to ideal. She's also very consistent," he says.

Leckrone also foresees unmitigated success for Willems. "So far, she's proved herself very well both as a leader and a performer. In terms of constancy and endurance, she has few peers."

Willems says she is as constant in her loyalty to the band as she is in her marching technique. "I really love the band -- I live for it," she says. "But so does every other band members. We're all completely dedicated to the same goal. It's a thrill to get out there and see all 220 of us working toward the same thing."

###

--Barbara Wolff, (608) 262-8292

Release: Immediately

4/28/89

CONTACT: Mike Leckrone (608) 263-1896

LECKRONE DENOUNCES 'LEWD-N-CREWD' BAND SONGBOOK

By Patrick Dorn
University News Service

MADISCN--University of Wisconsin Marching Band Director Michael Leckrone Friday (April 28) denounced as "despicable and totally unacceptable" a songbook produced by several band members that contained obscene lyrics and cartoons.

Leckrone said he first learned last October of the objectionable nature of songs in the book and immediately ordered that all copies be destroyed. The songbook was published by band members who dubbed themselves "Lewd-N-Crewd, Inc." It was titled the 12th annual edition of the "University of Wisconsin Marching Band Hymnal."

"I spoke to the band at the first rehearsal after I learned about the unacceptable nature of the material," Leckrone said. "I told them that distribution of the book would stop and all existing copies were to be destroyed."

Leckrone said he also met privately with about 15 women band members to address their concerns and spoke with the entire band about the book on at least two subsequent occasions. He further directed that any future publications must be reviewed by an editorial board made up of an equal number of men and women selected by the band advisory council.

He said he then reported the steps he had taken to School of Music

Director, Eunice Meske, who supported his actions and felt he had acted appropriately.

"I considered the issue closed at the time, and I feel the band did too," Leckrone said. "While I was terribly unhappy about what had happened, I was pleased with how it was handled. I thought the problem had been met and solved."

Contents of the book became public knowledge recently when a sophomore band member gave a copy to a Wisconsin Student Association official. The WSA Senate Thursday passed a bill asking for the dismissal of any band member who sings similar songs or produces such a book in the future. The bill also asks that the 240 band members participate in workshops on sexism and racism.

Leckrone said one of the most disturbing aspects of the book is the fact it was published under the guise of being an official band publication. He said the book was published by several band members and was not widely distributed. Members who wanted copies purchased them from students who published the book.

Leckrone said he believes the book is an outgrowth of a humorous songbook put out by the tuba section in the late 1970s. The tuba book contained harmless lyrics set to tunes like "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

"At what point the songs became objectionable, I'm not sure," Leckrone said. "I have to share some of the blame in this matter, since I didn't move to exert more control over the publication.

"Until last fall, no one had called my attention to the fact the book had become objectionable. Once they did, I acted immediately."

UW-Madison Dean of Students Mary Rouse said the book was brought to her attention in early March. At that time, she asked College of Letters and Science Dean E. David Cronon to conduct an investigation of the book's history and the behavior of marching band members. That investigation is expected to

Add 2--UW Band

be concluded within the next several weeks.

"When sexist materials such as the band hymnal come to our attention, we need to remember that values have changed dramatically over the past decade," Rouse said. "We need to view incidents like this as opportunities to educate and sensitize members of our university community."

###

-- Patrick Dorn (608) 262-2650



STRIKE UP THE BAND: Mike Leckrone, UW Marching Band director, will wave his baton over a very special band on Saturday, Oct. 15. On that day, during the Badger-Illini football game, 75 developmentally disabled young adults will join the band for the first-ever Very Special Saturday, sponsored by Very Special Arts-Wisconsin, a statewide organization which matches Wisconsin artists with people with disabilities.

Developmentally disabled join UW Band

By Barbara Wolff

There is something in the American psyche that drives us to do whatever we do perfectly. We don't allow ourselves room for mistakes; we must be experts at every activity, regardless of how casually we pursue it.

Mike Leckrone believes this is an unfortunate attitude. Leckrone, director of the UW-Madison Marching Band, objects to the quest for flawless performance at the expense of participation.

To put theory into practice, band members will share the spotlight with 75 young adults with developmental disabilities on the first Very Special Saturday, Oct. 15, during the Badger-Illini football game.

"I'd like the audience to see firsthand how great it is to perform on any level," Leckrone said. "Music is fun for everyone, and if the band and the guests don't fit together perfectly, so what?"

Joined by individual mentors from Madison area high schools, the musical visitors have been rehearsing through the fall. Leckrone said their repertoire

includes special arrangements of "Strike Up the Band," "On Wisconsin" and "Varsity."

The schedule for Very Special Saturday calls for participants to meet their high school mentors for a warm up with the Marching Band early in the morning. The whole crowd will march to the stadium, and take part in pregame, half time and Fifth Quarter shows.

Leckrone, a board member of Very Special Arts-Wisconsin, has been an advocate of the developmentally disabled for about two years. He credits his interest in such issues to his wife's work with learning disabled students, and to his acquaintance with Steve Singel, a particularly dedicated Marching Band fan.

"Steve has loved the band and they've loved him as long as I can remember," Leckrone said. "He goes to all the games, and comes to most of our rehearsals." In tribute to Singel's enthusiasm for the band, his family has established a scholarship in his name. Each year, interest from the fund is awarded to a UW-Madison student deemed to

best exemplify "the Wisconsin band spirit," Leckrone said.

Marching with the UW band is only one of the artistic outlets available to VSA-Wisconsin participants. Established in 1985, Very Special Arts-Wisconsin pairs volunteer artists with the disabled for one-on-one tutorials.

"There are opportunities in drama, visual arts, dance, and vocal and instrumental music," said Mary Hartwig, VSA-Wisconsin program director. "All of our statewide programs culminate in festivals which showcase participants' abilities."

Hartwig added that Jean Kennedy Smith, sister of the late John F. Kennedy and founder of the national Very Special Arts program, will be on hand for Wisconsin's Very Special Saturday. Hartwig said Smith will attend the game and talk with VSA-Wisconsin young people.

For more information on Very Special Saturday events, contact Hartwig at (608) 255-9908. ■

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CONTACT: Mary Hartwig, (608) 255-9908

DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED JOIN UW BAND FOR 'VERY SPECIAL SATURDAY'

by BARBARA WOLFF

University News Service

MADISON--There is something in the American psyche that drives us to do whatever we do perfectly. We don't allow ourselves room for mistakes; we must be experts at every activity, regardless of how casually we pursue it.

(Mike Leckrone) believes this is an unfortunate attitude. Leckrone, director of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Marching Band, objects to the quest for flawless performance at the expense of participation.

To put theory into practice, band members will share the spotlight with 75 young adults with developmental disabilities on the first-ever Very Special Saturday, Oct. 15, during the Badger-Illini football game.

"I'd like the audience to see firsthand how great it is to perform on any level," Leckrone said. "Music is fun for everyone, and if the band and the guests don't fit together perfectly, so what?"

Joined by individual mentors from Madison area high schools, the 75 musical visitors have been rehearsing through the fall. Leckrone said their repertoire includes special arrangements of "Strike Up the Band," "On Wisconsin" and "Varsity."

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Add 1--Very Special Saturday

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For more information on Very Special Saturday events, contact Hartwig at (608) 255-9908.

###

--Barbara Wolff, (608) 262-8292

UW news

From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: 608/262-3571

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4/4/88

CONTACT: (Mike Leckrone) (608) 263-1896

UW BAND TO FEATURE NATIONALLY KNOWN TROMBONIST IN FIELDHOUSE CONCERTS

MADISON--Nationally known trombonist Chris LeDain will be the featured guest artist Friday and Saturday (April 8 and 9) for the University of Wisconsin-Madison Varsity Band's annual Field House concerts, Director of Bands Mike Leckrone has announced.

LeDain has been a regular performer in Broadway and Las Vegas shows for several decades and has appeared on television with such celebrities as Jackie Gleason, Ed Sullivan and Bill Cosby. She has been a member of the musical group "Your Father's Mustache" since 1973 and currently works out of the Philadelphia area. LeDain is a native of Appleton, Wis.

Leckrone said LeDain will perform solo renditions of the popular songs "Just A Closer Walk With Thee" and "Sweet Georgia Brown." She may also perform a selection or two with guest trumpeter and band alumnus Grant Manhart.

Manhart, who has performed in the national touring company for Dream Girls and with the Buddy Rich band, will play a medley of Harry James classics. Two members of the band also will be featured as soloists. Trumpeter Roxanne Vrooman will perform "MacArthur Park," while trumpeter Jon Linker will perform Chic Corea's, "La Fiesta."

Leckrone guarantees the performances will be highlighted by the band's usual theatrical flair and spirited enthusiasm. Also on tap are an array of special effects, including an extensive light show, indoor fireworks and a gravity-defying stunt by Leckrone that may top last year's act in which he

Add 1--Fieldhouse Concert

was beamed down to stage Star Trek style.

"I promise the end of the show will be an assault on the senses," Leckrone said. "It'll be Vaudeville, Broadway, Las Vegas, half-time, the circus and a Charlie Chaplin comedy all rolled into one."

Tickets for the two shows are still available at the university's Athletic Ticket Office, 1440 Monroe St., and Vilas Hall Box Office, 821 University Ave. Prices for Friday's show are \$5 and \$6, with tickets selling for \$6 and \$7 on Saturday. UW-Madison students receive a \$1 discount with presentation of a validated student I.D.

For further ticket information, phone (608) 263-6347.

###

-- Patrick Dorn (608) 262-2650



From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: 608/262-3571

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11/10/87

CONTACT: (Mike Leckrone) (608) 263-1896

EDITOR'S NOTE: Patrick Dorn, former newspaper reporter and current returning adult student in music education at UW-Madison, is a student reporter at the University News and Information Service on campus. He spent two weeks as a temporary member of the UW Marching Band to prepare this story.

BEING 'BAND MEMBER FOR A DAY' AN EXPERIENCE TO SAVOR

By PATRICK DORN
University News Service

MADISON--Two hours of steady rain had dampened everything but our spirits.

Draped in red rain ponchos, hats turned backwards in a traditional victory salute, we were heading home along University Avenue, more than 200 of us triumphantly placing one soggy foot in front of the other in time with the familiar cadences being hammered out by the percussion.

Those of us bringing up the rear could see him coming. Our leader was all smiles as he made his way through our ranks, patting backs, shaking hands and occasionally stopping to briefly embrace someone.

"You were part of something today you're never going to forget," he said, finally reaching us. Mike Leckrone, director of the renowned University of Wisconsin Marching Band, was sharing another moment of joy with his extended family following Wisconsin's 26-24 upset victory over Ohio State.

It was my privilege to be part of that family Saturday as an honorary band member for a day. But my memories are of more than just Saturday and a frenzied "fifth quarter" bash after Wisconsin's first Big Ten victory of 1987. They run back nearly two weeks prior to the game when this fairy tale began.

-more-

Add 1--Band member

My mission was to discover what makes this popular group tick. What exactly does it take to blend 200-plus students into an entertaining, precision marching unit? And why are students willing to give as much as 20 hours of time on game weeks as part of the band, for a single course credit?

As a clarinet player, I was assigned to an alternate spot. An alternate is the equivalent of a benchwarmer in athletics. The designation essentially meant my hopes for marching a pre-game or halftime spot hinged on the health of fellow clarinet players. If enough of them died, I had a shot at a spot.

Alternates, however, play an important role. They represent the band's future in many respects. And as I quickly discovered my first practice, they aren't exempt from any work.

"Point your toes! Point your toes!" Those words, from a field assistant taking great delight in abusing a rookie marcher, were my constant companion that first practice.

Flopping into bed later that night with calf muscles knotted like pretzels, I already had the answer to what it takes to produce a finely-tuned marching machine -- dedication, hard work and younger legs than mine. Oh yes, and a director insistent upon nothing less than the highest standards.

Leckrone is prone to temper tantrums and he had warned me I'd likely see at least one during two weeks of practice. I witnessed my first within the first 20 minutes. A general lack of attention and constant chattering among band members triggered the outburst.

"What is it with you people?," Leckrone screamed, disgustedly hurling his microphone to the ground. "Why do I have to go through this the first practice after every show? You want all the fun, all the glory, but you don't want to put in the work. You don't know what it means to work. You're about one-third as good as you could be!"

The following day he was chuckling about the incident and informed me I had witnessed a typical first practice following a game.

The second day brought me my first taste of real marching. A trumpet player was missing, so I filled the spot. Just trying to find my "X" on the charts was enough trouble, yet with some help from neighboring players I managed to actually learn my maneuvers.

Practice complete, it was on to watching films of the previous week's show. Perhaps the only people who view more film than Leckrone each fall are the football coaches. Pointer in hand, he succeeded in embarrassing a handful of people who made "stupid" mistakes, and in pointing out where there was room for all to improve.

Names of members caught goofing up are posted for everyone's pleasure on the "dummy list." Those who make the list are required to make nominal contributions to the band's party fund.

By the end of practice on Thursday of the first week, the members of the band pretty much knew the pre-game show and had a good start on the half-time show, a marching tribute to Fred Astaire.

Leckrone, however, had one serious piece of business to discuss. He huddled the band, and relayed a story of several members who had a scrape with the law during Homecoming week.

Those involved in the incident sheepishly acknowledged it and apologized. It was a difficult moment, but Leckrone turned it into a learning experience, reminding band members of their visibility on campus.

"We work too hard to draw attention to ourselves," he said, "We can't ask people to only notice us when we want them to. You owe it to yourselves and each other not to embarrass the group.

"I'm proud of you. You've done good work this year, and I know these last two shows will be even better."

With that, the group was off until the following Tuesday. The four-day break was welcome relief for my aching body.

The next week was much the same, with the group's concentration and

Add 3--Band member

intensity increasing as game day drew closer. I was given a second shot at marching a halftime spot when a clarinet player missed Wednesday's rehearsal.

I was finally getting comfortable with the regular marching step. But Leckrone had seen fit to add Latin, brush, cross, rocking and swaying steps to the show. We were doing everything except dancing on the ceiling. At best, I completed about 60 percent of my assigned maneuvers. I felt fortunate to escape with only one near head-on crash with a trumpet player.

The marching, even in practice, was a ball. I could only imagine what standing in uniform would be like in front of 65,000 fans at Camp Randall Stadium. Saturday didn't come soon enough.

Game day started with group breakfast at 7:45 a.m., followed by rehearsal at 8:30 a.m. The pre-game and halftime shows looked crisp with the exception of one major gaff corrected during a brief Leckrone tantrum. The band was dismissed shortly after 10 a.m. and the rest of the day went all too fast.

The traditional Union South concert, the band's pre-game march to the stadium, halftime and the fifth quarter were gone before I was able to log all the emotions that go along with being a band member.

The band holds a special place in the hearts of Wisconsin fans who are not shy about showing their affection for the group or any individual in uniform. As the 200 of us locked arms to close the day with our own singing of "Varsity" -- standing wet and dripping at the Humanities Building long after the game -- the reason for the band's popularity suddenly seemed clear: Mike Leckrone manages every year to fashion a group that truly becomes a family; one that embodies the spirit of UW-Madison's larger family of students, faculty, alumni and anyone else claiming to be a Badger backer.

###

-- Patrick Dorn (608) 262-2650

UW news

From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: 608/262-3571

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CONTACT: (Mike Leckrone) or Gail Johnson (608) 263-1896

UW-MADISON BAND PLANS FINAL CENTENNIAL BASH

By PATRICK DORN
University News Service

MADISON--The P.T. Barnum of Wisconsin's music community is at it again.

University of Wisconsin-Madison Director of Bands Mike Leckrone is promising a once-in-a-century "show extraordinaire" in UW-Madison's Camp Randall Stadium Friday, May 9, to conclude the band's centennial celebration.

"This is a chance to see the band in a unique situation, one people will likely never be able to see again," Leckrone said. "I think it's going to be a heck of a show.

"I don't know why anyone would want to miss it, because something like this is not going to happen again. I know I'd go to see it."

Leckrone is sparing no expense for the extravaganza, which will be held on a stage similar to that used for the FarmAid America benefit concert last year. The 40- by 80-foot, roof-covered stage will require 20 hours of set-up time by a 24-person stage crew. It will be flanked by 35-foot-high acoustical wings and two large screens that will carry close-up, closed-circuit television coverage of the event.

Elaborate lighting and sound systems also will be brought in for the show. Leckrone emphasized that it will not be a duplicate of the popular concert the band holds in the UW Field House each spring.

"I've worked hard to make sure this performance is very different from the one in the Field House, because I'd like people to go to both," he said.

-more-

Add 1--Band Bash

The show will be divided into three parts, led by a parade of musical groups that will open with a presentation of the history of wind music.

The 1st Brigade Band of Milwaukee, a 60-member troupe dedicated to performing authentic Civil War music, will start the evening with a version of the Star Spangled Banner dating to 1854 -- before the song was adopted as the national anthem. The 1st Brigade also will give a pre-concert performance at 6:30 p.m. at Union South in the spirit of marching band pre-game shows.

Bratwurst and beverages will be available at Union South and a special appearance by the UW Marching Band tubas is expected. The tuba section will make an appearance during the wind music history segment.

A circus band, the University Symphonic Band, the Madison Area Technical College jazz ensemble and a Dixieland band will round out groups playing the various styles of wind music.

In the second segment of the show, the marching band will make its traditional stadium tunnel entrance for a brief concert-marching performance.

After an intermission, the marching band will present the stage show. Concert selections and solo appearances by special guests will precede the group's traditional Fifth Quarter celebration.

Pyrotechnics, special lighting and "the usual number of surprises people have come to expect from the band" will be part of the show, Leckrone said. A number of big-name entertainers may grace the stage as well, he said.

"The only thing that's going to limit the show is the fact I don't want it to run all night," he added.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. show are \$5 and are available at the UW-Madison Athletic Ticket Office, 1440 Monroe St., and Vilas Hall Box Office, 821 University Ave. Seating will be reserved by section, meaning sales will begin with sections closest to the 50-yard line and move outward. Rain date for the concert is Saturday, May 10.

###

--Patrick Dorn (608) 262-2650

UW news

From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: 608/262-3571

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4/2/86

CONTACT: Mike Leckrone (608) 263-1896

BOOK CHRONICLES 100 YEARS OF UW-MADISON BAND HISTORY

MADISON--It was a fateful fall day in 1978 when a lackluster first three quarters of play by the Badger football team prompted Wisconsin band director (Mike Leckrone) to call for the tune "You've Said It All."

The band played, the crowd responded and the team was inspired, finally scoring against the University of Oregon to close within striking distance at 19-7. Each time the "Bud Song" was played that fourth quarter, the team scored and the fans moved another notch closer to happy hysteria.

Headlines the next day heralded a 22-19 come-from-behind victory along with concerns about the upper deck of Camp Randall Stadium swaying in time with fans doing the polka.

Such are the beginnings of the famous Wisconsin Fifth Quarter as portrayed in "Songs to Thee Wisconsin, 100 Years," the first comprehensive history of the UW-Madison bands. The 240-page, hardcover book was put together by Leckrone after five years of research. It is being released as part of this year's festivities commemorating the bands' 100th anniversary.

"I thought it was important to do," Leckrone said of the book. "I wouldn't want anyone to say the 100-year mark passed us by and we didn't do it right." He credited band alumni for extensive help in supplying information for years when details of band activities were sketchy.

The book is organized into sections detailing the band's beginning years starting in 1885 and later periods under the direction of conductors Edson W.

-more-

Add 1--Band History

Morphy, Ray Dvorak and Leckrone. Other sections include a tribute to marching band drum majors, a history of UW-Madison's traditional songs, a glimpse at band traditions and a view from behind the scenes.

Trivia buffs can learn the origins of hand waving during the playing of "Varsity" and of the giant 50-year-old Paul Bunyan Drum. Also included is a tribute to band members in the form of a 100-year roster. The roster fills 30 pages with names of more than 8,000 men and women who have been band members over the years.

While he is unable to guarantee that a name or two isn't missing, Leckrone said the book overall is very accurate. "I'm really pleased at the way it turned out," he said.

"Songs to Thee" is available at University Bookstore, 711 State St., or by mail from the UW-Madison School of Music, 4561 Humanities, 455 N. Park St., Madison, Wis., 53703, telephone 263-1896. The price is \$29.95 plus tax. There is a \$3 shipping charge for copies ordered through the music school.

###

-- Patrick Dorn (608) 262-2650



From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: 608/262-3571

Release: Immediately

9/11/85

(NOTE TO EDITORS: Photos of the band and of Michael Leckrone are available from University News Service, [608] 262-8280.)

CONTACT: Michael E. Leckrone (608) 263-1896

UW-MADISON BAND MARCHES INTO ITS 100TH YEAR

MADISON--The University of Wisconsin-Madison Marching Band will celebrate its 100th birthday the weekend of Oct. 11-13.

The weekend will feature a number of events, highlighted by the appearance of hundreds of band alumni with the current band in a halftime show at the Wisconsin-Iowa football game.

There also will be a number of banquets and receptions for both band alumni and School of Music alumni. The UW-Madison band office (telephone (608) 263-1896) has details of the events.

Remarkably, the Marching Band has had but two directors in the second 50 years of its history. Raymond Dvorak directed the band from 1934-1968; Michael E. Leckrone, the present director, took over in 1969.

The first 50 years were not nearly as stable. The Marching Band was formed in 1885 to perform at military functions. It had fewer than 15 members and was directed by F.O. May, about whom little is known except that he was a student.

In 1894, the band played at its first football game, and also began playing at prohibition rallies. Still, membership was only 26. Earl Chapin May, who had played in circus bands, became leader in 1897, simultaneously

-more-

directing and playing the cornet.

The band's first long-term director was Charles Mann, who held the position for eight years, from 1908-1916. During this time the band grew to 100 members, and embarked on a tightly-budgeted national tour covering more than 7,000 miles, 14 states and 100 appearances.

The band members took turns cooking.

Edson Morphy, director of bands from 1919-1934, disliked marching bands and jazz, and left the Marching Band to an assistant. He started the Concert Band and a smaller ensemble which in recent years has become known as the Wind Ensemble. These two groups played "serious" music.

Despite Morphy's attitude, or perhaps because of it, the Marching Band improved during his leadership of the band program. The first director of bands with advanced musical training, he brought national recognition to the university band program by judging band contests around the country. Morphy also fought for academic credit for band, which until his time had been considered an extra-curricular activity.

A fierce man on the podium, Morphy was known as "Major." But he was afraid to cross University and Park streets by himself. He got himself across by pretending to be helping others.

Morphy died of a heart attack in 1934 following a broadcast band concert. Morphy Recital Hall in the Humanities Building is named for him.

His successor, the legendary Raymond Dvorak, also will have a hall named for him if the School of Music is successful in its current fund drive.

Dvorak was dynamic and deeply respected. He lost an arm in 1948, but continued conducting, frequently in pain, with an artificial arm. He was named Wisconsin's Handicapped Man of the Year in 1955, and inducted into the National Band Association Hall of Fame in 1985.

In addition to directing the university's several bands -- including the Marching Band -- he frequently conducted clinics and judged competitions

nationwide. He also worked with programs to rehabilitate the handicapped.

After Dvorak's retirement, H. Robert Reynolds assumed the position of director of the band program, and Leckrone took over the Marching Band.

Band membership had dwindled to 90 in the late 1960s, but Leckrone's enthusiasm has created so much interest that tryouts must now be held each fall to select the group's 240 members.

In 1975, Leckrone became director of bands. He currently directs the Marching Band, Varsity Band and Concert Band.

Leckrone also has taught arranging, orchestration, band conducting and the history of popular music. He has written four books and has arranged or composed more than 250 works, including a fanfare commissioned for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. In 1982, he and the Marching Band were featured on television's syndicated PM Magazine and the NBC Nightly News.

Leckrone has won the respect of band members by sharing their problems. He never dresses more warmly than they do, and once earned a "Muddy Knee Award" from them for being the first one to go to one knee during a performance on a particularly sloppy field.

"When the going gets tough, the tough get wet," is one of his gems of wisdom; "If it was easy, anybody could do it," is another.

Leckrone has continued the tradition started by Dvorak of touring the state regularly, playing concerts and giving clinics in the schools. The Wisconsin State Legislature honored him and the band for their contributions to the state in a special ceremony at the Capitol last May.

"The band deserves credit for establishing a Wisconsin spirit," said Leckrone at the time. "But it works both ways. The university community and the state as a whole have been so enthusiastic, they make us feel important."

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4/17/85

CONTACT: Michael Leckrone (608) 263-1896

UW-MADISON MARCHING BAND TO BE HONORED BY STATE SENATE

MADISON--The University of Wisconsin Marching Band will be honored by the Wisconsin State Senate Tuesday (April 23) at a noon ceremony in the rotunda of the State Capitol building.

The Senate unanimously passed a resolution introduced last month by State Sen. Carl Otte (D-Sheboygan) citing the band and Director (Michael Leckrone) for their contributions to the state of Wisconsin.

The citation also notes that the band is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1985.

As part of the ceremony, Leckrone will lead a contingent of 15 to 20 band members in a brief concert in the Capitol rotunda.

Leckrone said he was proud of the honor. "The band deserves a lot of credit for establishing a Wisconsin spirit," he said. "We like to think we are a center for that. But it works both ways. The university community and the state as a whole has been so enthusiastic, they make us feel important."

Leckrone and the Marching Band -- best known for their rousing shows at Badger football games -- give concerts and clinics regularly throughout the state.

"Just this year we gave 40 concerts, from Merrill in the north, to Milwaukee, and over to Platteville," Leckrone said.

Leckrone himself is also in demand, having made 20 appearances in the past year as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the country. As a composer

Add 1--Marching Band honored

and arranger, with 200 publications to his credit, he was commissioned last year to write a fanfare performed at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Leckrone has given the band his personal stamp with both musical and marching arrangements. He writes all the band arrangements and charts all the band's drills.

"I do it partly because I like to," Leckrone said. "But mainly, doing the arrangements and the drills together gives us a tightly-knit show."

Under his direction, post-football game concerts have become a phenomenon known as the "Fifth Quarter." Thousands of fans remain after the games to listen to the band, sing along and dance in the stadium aisles.

Leckrone came to the UW-Madison School of Music in 1969 as director of bands. He directs not only the Marching Band, but also the Varsity Band and the Concert Band. In addition, he teaches a course in American popular music.

He is known for the humor and enthusiasm he brings to the grinding band workouts. During one rainy practice session he was reputed to yell, "When the going gets tough, the tough get wet!"

Leckrone said he makes it a point to never dress more heavily for the weather than the band members.

Band members have honored their director in a variety of ways. They presented him with a "Muddy Knee Bow Award" when, during a particularly muddy game, he led them by being the first to go to his knee in the mud. Several years ago they arranged a song in his honor, "Mike Leckrone, He is the Greatest," set to a Cherokee Indian melody.

Since Leckrone became director, the Marching Band has grown from 90 to 240 members. Over 90 percent of the members are from Wisconsin. Most are not music majors, but from the College of Engineering and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

The Marching Band was founded in 1885 by F. O. May with 16 members. Its primary purpose was to assist in military functions.

Add 2--Marching Band honored

May directed for one year and was succeeded by several graduate students until the School of Music, founded in 1895, took over the band and made it part of its instructional program.

Leckrone's best-known predecessor was Raymond Dvorak, who directed the bands from 1934-1968. With 50 years of leadership between them, Dvorak and Leckrone cover half the band's history.

Although he lost his right arm in 1948, Dvorak continued to conduct. He was leader of several state and national music organizations and worked actively in the area of rehabilitation for the disabled.

Dvorak remained active after his retirement and was instrumental in the establishment of the John Philip Sousa Hall of Fame, honoring the great band leader and composer of marches. He died in 1982.

To celebrate its 100th birthday, a Marching Band alumni weekend is planned for the weekend of next Oct. 11-13. The weekend is part of a two-week celebration of the School of Music's 90th anniversary.

During celebrations of the two birthdays, donations are being sought to build a new band rehearsal hall to be named in honor of Dvorak.

The School of Music has produced a recording of the Marching Band, including such favorites as "Varsity," "On Wisconsin" and "Wisconsin Forward Forever," written for the band by Sousa.

###

-- Steve Groark (608) 262-2650

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

NEWS SERVICE

RE: PROMOTION

<u>LECKRONE, Michael E.</u>	<u>Music</u>
Last Name First	Department

was promoted to Assoc. Professor

by action of the Board of Regents in their meeting of 5 / 5 / 72 .

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

NEWS SERVICE

RE: PROMOTION

Leckrone, Michael E. L&S - Music
Last Name First Department

was promoted to Full Professor

by action of the Board of Regents in their meeting of 6/10/76.



From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: 608/262-3571

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7/31/84

CONTACT: Mike Leckrone (608)263-1896/238-7257

LECKRONE AND BAND MEMBERS MAKE "OLYMPIC TEAM"

MADISON-(Mike Leckrone,) director of bands at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Music, has written a fanfare that is being played throughout the Olympics, and two members of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Marching Band have been selected to play in the Olympic All-American Band.

Leckrone was one of sixteen composers from around the country asked to write fanfares for the Trumpet Choir. These fanfares are being played at ceremonies and at the introductions to athletic events.

Bill Walker, a sophomore from Madison, and Jay Beckman, a senior from Glenbeulah, Wisconsin, will play trumpet and euphonium in the band. Leckrone had recommended them to Bill Nesbitt, coordinator of the Olympic All-American Marching Band.

Walker and Beckman have been in Los Angeles since July 12, and will stay there through the Olympics. All of their expenses are being paid by the Los Angeles Olympics Organizing Committee.

###

--Steve Groark (608)262-2650



From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: 608/262-3571

Release: Immediately

3/8/83 sjs

CONTACT: Don Schutt (608) 262-6907

OGG JOG SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 23

MADISON--The fourth annual Ogg Jog 5- and 10-kilometer run for the benefit of the Easter Seal Society of Wisconsin will be held April 23 at 9:30 a.m. on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.

UW Marching Band Director Michael Leckrone is the honorary chairperson of the event, sponsored by the Ogg Hall dormitory student association. All entrants receive a T-shirt and are eligible for drawings for merchandise donated by area businesses. Pre-registration is \$5, race-day registration \$6.

Last year's run drew about 500 runners and raised \$950 for Easter Seals. Registration forms for this year's event are available by telephoning (608) 263-4261, or 262-6907.

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feature story

From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: (608) 262-3571

Release: Immediately

11/26/82 sjs

CONTACT: Michael Leckrone (608) 263-1896

WISCONSIN BAND'S 'FIFTH QUARTER' IS A VAST POLKA PARTY

MADISON, Wis.--"They're a team of wild horses," shrugs University of Wisconsin-Madison band director Mike Leckrone, masking his pride with an air of resigned tolerance as he describes his musicians.

Badger fans whoop when band members break ranks and sprint to capture an opponent's cheerleader for a polka, then fall to the ground and kick their heels in the air, or trade drums for pompons and form a ragged kick line.

The band is legend on the Madison campus. In 1969, when the football team broke a two-year, 23-game winless streak with a victory over Iowa, the band led thousands of fans on a two-mile march through the city to the state capitol grounds for an impromptu, still-talked-about pep rally that lasted well into the evening.

On the road with the University hockey team during the NCAA championships, the band closed off streets in Providence, R.I., for a block party enjoyed by visiting Badgers and natives alike. On another road trip, they stopped for hamburgers and fries while in uniform, and realizing that some customers thought they must be filming a commercial, they linked arms and performed the McDonald's jingle in the parking lot.

At home football games, the band is so popular with fans that the post-game concert, mere background music for the exodus to the parking lot at most colleges, has been dubbed "The Fifth Quarter." Well over half the 75,000 fans who pack Camp

Add one--Badger band

Randall Stadium stick around--singing, dancing on the bleachers, begging for one more tune, creating an uproar--for as long as an hour after the final score has been posted.

The band's rendition of the jingle used by Budweiser, done to a polka beat and capped with a rousing "When you've said Wis-con-sin, you've said it all," became so popular that it drew contributions from the beer company and legislative complaints about the publicity it was giving an out-of-state beer.

Fan loyalty to Wisconsin football owes a lot to the band. Even during lean seasons in the Big Ten, the stadium in Madison was filled game after game. Fans let defeat roll off their backs, turning their attention to ongoing parties in the student sections and to entertainment by the band. Many a bleak fourth quarter on the field was enlivened by such sideline antics as the tuba section's stately "March of the Rhinos."

This band is not just a sideshow, its backers point out. The musicians fill the air with an enormous brassy sound and shake the ground with fast-paced precision marching. Style is what director Leckrone is looking for and he's never satisfied until the snap and polish are perfect.

Leckrone studies videotapes of each performance as closely as any football coach. When he spots a sluggish foot or a lapse in enthusiasm, he fines the offender a dollar--for a party fund.

Just making a mistake doesn't annoy him, but if one of his marchers makes an error, it had better be a stylish one.

An annual award is presented to the band member who makes the most glorious mistake and recovers without the audience knowing about it. The first award went to a french horn player who made a wrong turn and marched alone off the field. He recovered with enough bluff to convince the audience it was a silly but intentional piece of vaudeville.

Add two--Badger band

All 220 band members are volunteers. This year more than a hundred hopefuls didn't survive the cuts. Only a few are music majors, although almost all have previous experience in high school marching bands or drum and bugle corps.

Leckrone extracts the best from his crew with a charming combination of demagoguery and good humor, merciless drilling and high expectations, as well as what are reported to be some of the best parties in town.

"They work awfully hard," he explained. "What they do had better be fun, too."

The hard work and fun begin with almost daily two- or three-hour rehearsals. Even the practices draw a crowd--students and professors on the way home from classes, kids waving twigs, marching along, and being pulled by mothers from the paths of oncoming formations.

The drills continue through Saturday morning, followed by a traditional fire-up concert at the student union. And after leaving the stadium late in the afternoon, they play yet another concert on campus before breaking up. Small groups still in uniform can be found serenading fans outside campus watering holes until the bars close.

"And they do all this for one lousy credit," Leckrone exclaimed.

But anyone who has seen them play at Camp Randall Stadium, and has heard the cheers and applause, knows why they really do it.

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feature story

From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: (608) 262-3571

Release: Immediately

11/23/81 meb

CONTACT: Michael Leckrone (608) 263-1986

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Add one--band

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###

feature story

From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: (608) 262-3571

Release:

9/17/81

By Mary Ellen Bell
(UW-Madison News Service)

It was just an innocent ditty pulled out of the music folders one night when some boisterous Wisconsin fans demanded a polka.

"I didn't know any polkas," (Michael Leckrone) UW Band director apologizes. (He must be forgiven as he was new to the polka-loving state of Wisconsin in 1972 when all this started.) "We did have this piece of music, so we put it to a polka beat. It just sort of took off."

Wisconsin fans are known throughout the Big Ten as most likely to snatch ^{the} opportunity for a party as quickly from disappointment of defeat as from euphoria of a win. The Badger rooters quickly adopted the tune as thoroughly appropriate to either circumstance. And while the official fight song "On Wisconsin" and the hymnlike "Varsity" may stir the souls of alumni, it's this catchy little tune that will set student feet to stomping.

The song is "You've Said It All," better known as the theme jingle for Budweiser beer. In Madison, the whooping lyric at the finale is amended to "When you've said WIS-CON-SIN, you've said it all."

Wisconsin fans react so maniacally to the song the the bouncing bodies cause vibrations felt throughout the upper deck at Camp Randall Stadium. It is a perceptible swaying which, though proven well within the tolerances of the concrete-and-steel structure, is a bit unnerving to some spectators.

So, although some 80,000 voices may plead for the ditty, though begging cheerleaders may prostrate themselves and Bucky Badger himself may fall to his knees in supplication, Leckrone will not strike up the song at home games until well after the final whistle. He provides the faint-of-heart with a chance to flee from the upper deck.

Nonetheless, almost nobody leaves the stadium immediately after a game. The postgame concert, merely background music for an exodus to the parking lot at many universities, is, in Madison, the final act of the spectacle.

"Winning or losing doesn't matter much at Wisconsin," says Leckrone. "What matters is that it's a party. That's why, even during losing seasons, Wisconsin fans fill the stadium for almost every game. And when the game is over, nobody wants the party to end."

When the first "boom boom" telegraphs the impending Bud Song, cheerleaders and fans, half the bandsmen, and sometimes members of the team who haven't retired from gridiron to showers start to dance.

As the Bud Song began to take on a life of its own, some university officials began to worry a bit about commercial implications. Although the band had been playing the tune before the beer company took it as its theme, some people were concerned that using the tune might smack of advertising -- and for a beer not even produced in the state.

When brewery officials wanted to bring the firm's famous horse-drawn wagon into the stadium at halftime last year, an event that probably would have driven howling fans right over the brink, the athletic department refused permission. The horses' hooves might damage the brand new artificial turf, it was pointed out.

The Wisconsin band is scheduled to entertain at today's game. So, listen for the Bud Song. Keep an eye on the Wisconsin cheering section when it's played. If you can resist the temptation to join in, that is.



From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: 608/262-3571

Release: Immediately

10/22/81 jts

CONTACT: Mike Leckrone (608) 263-1896

SPORTS VICTORIES BOOST BAND'S RECORD SALES

MADISON--Sales have tripled this year for "Badger Ballads," a 45 rpm record including "Varsity," "On Wisconsin," "If You Want to be a Badger" and "You've said it All," the University of Wisconsin-Madison band office reported this week.

Marching Band Director Michael Leckrone said he thinks the record sales are "directly proportional" to how well Badger athletic teams are doing. The football and hockey teams both got off to good starts, he pointed out.

The \$2 collection of most requested songs is available at the band office in the Humanities Building, 455 N. Park St.; Discount Records, 658 State St.; The University Book Store, 711 State St.; and Lake Street Station, 544 State St.

The songs were recorded two years ago in Mills Concert Hall. Proceeds help defray miscellaneous band expenses in an era of tight budgets, Leckrone said. He cited a uniform cleaning bill which will reach \$3,200 this year.

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feature story

From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: (608) 262-3571

Release: **Immediately**

9/4/80 jts

CONTACT: (Micahel Leckrone) (608) 263-1896

TELEVISION FAVORITES WILL HIGHLIGHT BAND'S HALFTIME ENTERTAINMENT

MADISON--Television's favorite programs, like "Dallas" and "The Tonight Show," will highlight halftime football entertainment by the University of Wisconsin-Madison marching band this fall at Camp Randall Stadium.

The Badger opener against Purdue Sept. 13 will feature "Who Shot J.R.?" Fans of "Dallas" who are trying to solve the shooting of the notorious character may get some musical clues, hinted the band's director, Music Professor Michael Leckrone.

"I won't reveal the ending, but we are going to indicate some prime suspects--some that no one would ever suspect," said Leckrone, director of the band for 12 years.

The band is using the theme show idea because people like to know ahead of time what the show is going to be about, Leckrone said.

A program titled "Gone, But Not Forgotten," or as Leckrone's band members call it, "his tribute to obituaries," will recall show business memories. Music associated with Jimmy Durante, Alfred Hitchcock, Richard Rodgers and Peter Sellers will be included. To act out the Sellers number, Leckrone said he may have band members bump into each other a lot.

Other themes in the planning stage are: "The Tonight Show," "Saturday Afternoon at the Movies," "It's Still Rock and Roll to Me" and "All that Jazz."

Add one--marching band

Leckrone's aim is to get a more diversified show. "We're just going to try to get better--a little more intense," said the 43-year-old director.

"One of the saddest losses" for Leckrone has been not playing a post-game show for Children's Hospital patients, who have been moved with the relocation of University Hospital and Clinics. This year Leckrone is planning to transport the musicians to the new hospital at the western edge of campus at least once to perform for the youngsters.

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feature story

From the University of Wisconsin-Madison / News Service, Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive, Madison 53706 / Telephone: (608) 262-3571

Release: Immediately

4/26/79 jlb

CONTACT: Charles Kroncke (608) 263-3635

ELDERHOSTEL: LAKESIDE LIVING, FELLOWSHIP AND RELAXED COURSES FOR THE 60-PLUS

MADISON--Over 60 and interested in a low-cost vacation that combines lakeside living, fellowship with people from around the country, and relaxed courses from talented instructors like the director of Wisconsin's famous marching band?

You may be interested in "Elderhostel."

Inspired by the European youth hostels, Elderhostel combines summer travel with classroom study and dormitory living. University of Wisconsin-Madison is one of 12 campuses in the state and over 200 nationally participating in the program.

The UW-Madison Elderhostel program will run during the weeks of July 29-Aug. 5 and Aug. 6-12. Three courses will be offered each week, and participants can sign up for one or both weeks. Course meeting times do not overlap so participants may sign up for all three courses.

The cost is \$115 per week per person. It includes registration, meals and housing in Kronshage Hall, located in a wooded area next to Lake Mendota.

Courses emphasize creativity and participation, and it makes no difference whether you have a Ph.D or never finished high school.

First-week offerings include "Landscape Design--With Nature," "Creative Writing" and "The Band--How it Works." During the second week, courses will include "Contemporary Techniques of Painting," "Looking for the Theater in Us" and "Photography as an Expressive Medium."

Add one- Elderhostel

No previous experience is necessary for any of the courses although participants with expertise often entertain and instruct one another. There are no grades, exams or homework.

Courses are taught by regular University instructors, such as band director (Mike Leckrone) who have a special interest in sharing their talents with beginners. Enrollment is limited to 40 students each week.

According to the director of Elderhostel at UW-Madison, Charles Kroncke, most participants last year were making their first visit to the campus in Madison. Kroncke especially encouraged Wisconsin residents to try the program. "They've been paying tax money to the University or sending their kids here for years; why not come down and take a look," he said.

Kroncke said participants in last year's program included "people who have been all around the world and some who had never left Milwaukee." Most had no previous connection with the UW-Madison.

Elderhostelers share their dormitory and dining room with regular summer school students. A number of informal social events are scheduled, and participants often draw on their own talents to provide entertainment ranging from a magic show to slide demonstrations.

Persons wanting more information about the program can write to Wisconsin Elderhostel, Room 230 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St., Madison 53706.

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feature story

TEMPORARY NEWS SERVICE LOCATION:

115 Science Hall

550 North Park Street

From The University of Wisconsin-Madison / University News and Publications Service, Bascom Hall, Madison 53706 / Telephone: (608) 262-3571

Release: Immediately

10/21/75 kp

(MADISON AREA EDITORS: The marching band will be practicing from 3:30-5:30 p.m. daily through Friday across Observatory Drive from the Natatorium at the west end of the campus, if you want to obtain photo coverage.)

BIGGEST MARCHING BAND IN BADGER HISTORY WILL GO HOLLYWOOD FOR HOMECOMING

MADISON--Nearly 200 strong at an all-time membership peak, the University of Wisconsin-Madison marching band is preparing a Homecoming show with a theme of "Those Great Hollywood Epics."

Saturday's half-time show at the game with Northwestern will feature songs from "West Side Story," "Ben Hur," "Lawrence of Arabia," and "Three Coins in a Fountain."

This year's band boasts 197 musicians. Last year there were 148, before about 120. (Director Michael Leckrone speculated about the increase:

"Enrollment had something to do with it. But I personally think the values have changed and students are interested more in this kind of activity now. Also, all the favorable pre-season talk about the football team had some effect."

The band also has increased its women musicians to 14.

Women never played in the band until last year, because of a long-standing tradition, rather than a rule against them, said Leckrone.

"We don't use any flutes or piccolos, so naturally this cuts down on the number of women in the band," he said. "But I really don't like to classify it this way, because some of the best trumpet players I've had in bands have been women, and some of the best clarinet players in this band are men."

The band has developed a different sound and look in the past few years.

Add one--marching band

"The biggest change we've made in the sound is what I would call the big band-jazz kind of style. The band, at times, has that Buddy Rich-Woody Herman approach," said Leckrone.

The band also has developed a unique marching style.

"We use the 'high knee lift' but we've put a little more physical action into it. It's just the way we point our toes, and the way we bring our feet up and down and make them stop momentarily, that gives more energy and snap to what we're doing."

The students' hard work and enthusiasm has paid off. Leckrone said audiences have become more responsive in the past two seasons.

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UW news

From The University of Wisconsin-Madison / University News and Publications Service, Bascom Hall, Madison 53706 / Telephone: (608) 262-3571

Immediately

9/14/72 mcg

Release:

MADISON--Band day at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Saturday will bring 57 high school bands to Camp Randall stadium to play at halftime of the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin football game.

Weeks of rehearsal in their home towns have prepared the more than 5,000 young musicians to present the following program:

"Theme from the Summer of '42" and "Londonderry Air," with UW-Madison band director H. Robert Reynolds conducting; and "Everything is Beautiful," and "Fanfare" and "March" from "Tannhauser," led by (Michael Lekrone,) director of the marching band.

In pre-game presentations, the marching band will play "If My Friends Could See Me Now" while they go into formation of the new UW emblem, a feature of their new uniforms. This will be followed by "Wisconsin Forward Forever;" "Hey Jude," a new arrangement of the Beatles' hit; "This is My Country;" "Your Land is My Land;" "Star Spangled Banner;" and "If You Want To Be A Badger."

The marching band also will provide the second part of the halftime show, playing "Granada" and "Varsity," and delivering a special "thank you" to the UW Foundation campaign that financed the sparkling new uniforms.

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