

Drum major marches her way to the top

by Stephanie Penner

Tracy Pickett marches confidently onto the field and onto her podium at every UNLV home football game. She conducts the 130-piece marching band of which she assumes control during the halftime show presented to Rebel spectators.

Pickett, a senior, has been drum major of the UNLV Star of Nevada Marching Band for the past three years. She is a music education major and intends on becoming a band director after she graduates.

In order to be a drum major, Pickett said, one must possess an appearance of authority, have musical knowledge to read scores, the ability to conduct and enough coordination to march.

Behind the scenes, she has her work cut out for her.

"Most of the work involves painting the field, putting out yard markers, setting up the podium and just doing what needs to be done," Pickett said.

She said that although she is not directly involved in running rehearsals, she does help fix forms during cleaning rehearsals.

"This involves setting people in their forms according to the drill charts by using yard lines, hash marks and other people," she explained.

Pickett said she spends most of her spare time preparing herself for her role as drum major.

"Whenever I have a free minute I'm studying scores, checking my tempos or running errands," she said.

Pickett got involved with music in the sixth grade when she began playing the oboe. She continued in music by participating in marching band in junior high and high school. It was during her sophomore year at Valley High School that she became interested in being a drum major.

"I noticed the drum majors and I saw what kind of position they were in. I made the determination that I was going to try to become a drum major for the next year," Pickett said.

She auditioned and became an assistant drum major during her junior year. Pickett was the head drum major during her senior year.

She became drum major of the Star of Nevada Marching Band as a sopho-

more and has been on the podium ever since. She intends to audition again next year.

Pickett is also an assistant director of the drum major camp at the UNLV Star of Nevada Marching Auxiliaries Clinic. This role involves teaching marching and conducting to a group of high school drum majors.

Pickett said the leadership opportunities she has had as a drum major will help prepare her to be a band director.

"I've had the chance to teach which is the ultimate test. If I can teach somebody how to march or to read music, that's going to help me when I have to teach high school students how to march," Pickett said.

When asked why she decided to become a band director, Pickett said it was all she ever wanted to do.

"The feeling of helping somebody else learn about music and the teamwork involved to make a piece of music on paper become beautiful is an incredible feeling and I want to teach other people about it," she said.

MELON

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Ham) as an appetizer with Ensalada de Funghi Crudi (Raw Mushroom Salad.) Five delectable entrees were provided including sauteed lamb, stuffed veal rolls and mixed seafood.

A managing team is responsible for the entire meal. Students patiently research all recipes, prepare a listing of the recipes with diagrams of how each are cut, arranged and placed on the plate and finally prepare the meals for guests.

The "restaurant" is divided into two parts, the front and back of the house.

The back of the house is the food production where students plan the menu and buy and cook the food with a budget they are given in class. The front of the house consists of service technicians, management and bar class. The bar class learns how to manage the spirits and run a bar.

Each part of the meal is broken down into segments and a specific group is in charge of making sure their part is finished with precision.

"Tonight we have re-created a restaurant in Venice along with menu items and wines from the region," said Luciani Valetino, who teaches the class. "Guests are invited, such as faculty members and prominent citizens, and it gives students the opportunity for on the job experience."

Every meal is centered around a theme and the "restaurant" is re-created around that theme. The class has toured the "Rhapsody" restaurant in the Tropicana and re-created its very essence, down to the last minute detail. These students put a lot of time and effort into providing a truly unique fine dining experience for anyone wishing to sample their cuisine.

Every Wednesday they have a lunch which features regional American cuisine such as Alaskan and Northwestern. Recently they had a barbecue with specialties from Kansas to the Carolina's.

"It (the class) is really a joy to us," Colebrook said. "Yet, it puts us under a lot of pressure because we have to do our very best and everyone does such a good job in their team."

The 467 class will offer a luncheon to students in the Spring of '92.

"We want students to be able to participate in our wonderful program and see what a fine restaurant is available to them," Valetino said.

It is an opportunity to take advantage of the best hotel college facilities in the country at a reasonable price, \$3 to \$4, and sample the students delectable cooking.

APPLES

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food crops that contain cancer-causing carcinogens. Of the 35,000 pesticides used, only 10 percent have been tested for their effects on people. Amazingly, 50,000 illnesses in the United States each year can be traced to pesticides. It is vital that we eat, but it is more important that we survive.

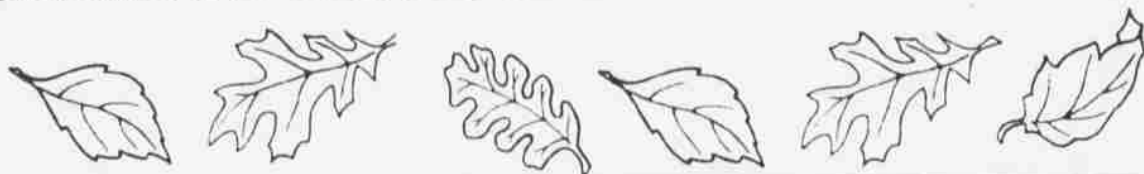
Organically grown food is safer for us and the


environment. While most farmers try to conquer nature and overcome its natural entropy, organic farmers work with it. Some say "an apple is still an apple," but an apple without Alar is safer for you and the environment. Dole and Chiquita bananas are grown on banana plantations in Costa Rica on the Caribbean coast. These plantations use pesticides that have been banned in

the United States, due to their toxicity, and also contaminate groundwater and damage the nearby coral reef. Forty percent of pesticides are used mostly for colorization or to make food look appealing to the consumer. However, organic food tastes the same if not better and it's better for you and the environment.



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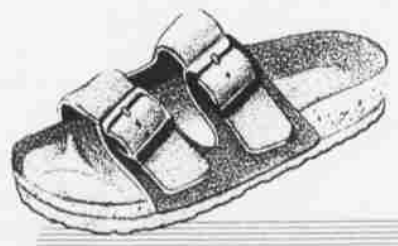
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