

### Vampires, Seagulls and Pot Shards

by Anne Cospers, Editor

Every night I conduct a slipper check -- making sure that all footwear is pointing away from my bed. The need for organization isn't behind this ritual, nor is it simply a quirk.

I blame vampires. Well, actually something I read in a book of Slavic myths titled *Forests of the Vampire*.

Positioning shoes toward the bed only makes it easier for the creatures to find you. While I'm in favor of tipping the odds against an attack, I realize that it does seem absurd. But is it really?

Stories are a part of what makes us human. We are all storytellers and sometimes archeologists, collecting stories like found pot shards.

Today a seagull flew over the house and I was reminded of one of our pottery pieces.

My daughter is fearful of sea gulls. No, it has nothing to do with Slavic myth, but a trip we took last fall. We were fortunate to benefit from a free trip to Niagara Falls. Included in our itinerary was dinner at a restaurant overlooking the falls.

During the meal we watched people feeding seagulls. Savvy scavengers, the birds knew that the scenic walkway was the place to be. They congregated there, not to enjoy the view, but in hopes of receiving handouts from the tourists.

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### Plan B or Brand X?

by Lisa Chernesky, Staff Writer

Most consumers are product loyal. My ketchup has to be Heinz. My toothpaste is Crest. I like Hanes socks. I couldn't move out of state because Middleswarth potato chips are only available in Pennsylvania. We don't like change to products, either. Remember the "New Coke" fiasco of the 1980s? Since Tastykake stopped using lard, their baked goods taste more like wax and sawdust than the gooey-rich sweet confections they're meant to be.

Worse than product change is product discontinuation. Whenever I find a product I really like, the manufacturer decides to stop making it. The first time product discontinuation affected me was with pantihose. No matter what brand I bought, I could cause a run in them; just by removing them from the package. Life expectancy of my nylons was usually one wearing. A little fingernail polish to stop the runs could extend the wearability to about a week.

One day at Sears, I found "Opaque Tights." The Lycra-Spandex combination sounded durable. I bought two pairs: one black and one electric blue -- well, after all, it was the '80s! I was amazed! I was hooked. I could wear them for months and not get a run. They were affordable and they were comfortable. For five years, I bought them. One day, I saw them on the clearance rack for 75% off. Discontinued! In a panic, I bought the last three pairs in my size. I looked for them in other Sears stores. I whined and complained while searching for a replacement and have never found anything as durable, economical, and comfortable.

Around the same time my nylons were discontinued, I lost two more products -- LouLou perfume by Cacharel and Wet and Wild Lipstick No. 525. Shortly after that, Bath and Bodyworks discontinued their Lavender Flowers scent. Snackwell marketed a chocolate yogurt. It was rich, creamy and full of "live and active cultures." After less than a year on the market, it disappeared from the shelves. My friend Anne reminded me that Ming's Dynasty restaurant in Danville made this excellent eggplant in garlic sauce. Its velvety texture was toe-curling, slide-off-of-your-chair good. When Ming's relocated from Mill Street to

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### Spring Concert

Tuesday, May 8, 2007

7:30 p.m.

Caldwell Consistory Auditorium  
Market Square, Bloomsburg

No Admission Charge

## Coming Events

March 28, 7:30 p.m., Bloomsburg University Concert Band with father Samuel Hazo, the last Poet Laureate of Pennsylvania, and son Samuel R. Hazo, composer of *Echos*, written in tribute to Richard Martin. The program will include pieces by Samuel R., featuring the poetry of his father, as part of the Provost's Lecture Series. Mitrani Hall, Haas Center, Bloomsburg University.

April 15, 2:30 p.m., Bloomsburg University Concert Band, Spring Concert, Mitrani Hall, Haas Center, Bloomsburg University. Directed by Dr. Terry Oxley.

May 15, 7:00 p.m., Catawissa Military Band concert in the central gazebo of the Columbia Mall, Columbia Mall Drive, Buckhorn.

May 28, The Catawissa Military Band will be participating in three Memorial Day ceremonies. The Parade and service in Mifflinville will begin at 9:00 a.m. The service in the Old Rosemont Cemetery in Bloomsburg is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., and the Parade in Catawissa, followed by a service in Union Cemetery, will begin at 1:30 p.m.



Submissions or comments may be sent to the Editor at [delta2@ptd.net](mailto:delta2@ptd.net) or Stevan Galbreath at [sagalbreath@hotmail.com](mailto:sagalbreath@hotmail.com).

Written material may be given to Stevan Galbreath.

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## Tuba Titans on Broadway

By Josh Shelhamer

*Editor's Note: This is an account of Josh Shelhamer's experience with the 300 piece Tuba Titans in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Josh is a student at Central Columbia High School and a four-year member of the Military Band.*

I have always dreamed of marching down Broadway on Thanksgiving morning, and this year I took the opportunity of a lifetime to do just that. Last Thanksgiving, my family and I traveled to New York City for a week filled with fun activities and preparation for the big parade. Every morning we held a rehearsal that lasted until a little after lunch where we then broke and went out in the city. The director of the Tuba Titans was Dr. Joe Hanneman, past tubist from Julliard. Some of the many activities we participated in while on the trip included a dinner cruise, Broadway show, Medieval Times dinner and tournament, concert at Carnegie Hall, and other things available in New York City.

When Thanksgiving Day finally came, I could hardly believe it. After our tv run-through at 3:00 a.m., we ate breakfast and made our way uptown for the beginning of the parade. For the parade, the weather did not cooperate, so we had to wear a clear rain poncho for most of the parade. We marched from uptown down to Broadway, and the whole time the crowds were going wild. The sound between the big buildings was incredible! Then, finally, we made our way to Herald Square. At Herald Square we quickly ripped off our rain ponchos and got ready for our big show on tv as the premier band. Well, the parade manager approached the drum major and told her that we were going to just march right through and not perform our show. We were bummed at the news, but still got to march through Herald Square. After making our way through Herald Square we turned the corner and played for hundreds of Macy's staff and employees, and they enjoyed our show.

All together this was a trip of a lifetime, and one I will never forget.

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## DID YOU KNOW

Often thought to be a traditional Irish folk song, *When Irish Eyes are Smiling* is actually the sole remanent of a rather mediocre musical titled *Isle O' Dreams*. Written in the fall of 1912, it had a three week run on Broadway in early 1913. The music was by Ernest Ball and the lyrics by George Graff, Jr. and Chauncey Olcott, a vaudeville and music theater performer who produced the show. All three were Tin Pan Alley veterans specializing in sentimental "Irish" music that was very popular with second and third generation immigrants. The song became a major success after famed Irish tenor John McCormack recorded it in 1916. Chauncey Olcott also wrote the lyrics to *My Wild Irish Rose*.

Stevan Galbreath

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Visit the Catawissa Military Band  
Website at: [www.geocities.com/greg\\_bitler/](http://www.geocities.com/greg_bitler/)

## Shards Cont.

Noticing my daughter's fascination with the gulls, a couple at our table suggested saving some of the extra dinner rolls for the birds. She wrapped the rolls in a napkin and after dinner set off in quest of hungry seagulls. Disappointed, when at first only a few were brave enough to eat, she soon had her own flock. The seagulls were quite entertaining, diving and scrambling for tidbits, sometimes even catching them in mid-air.

The spectacle soon drew a picture-taking crowd, including a documentary filmmaker who asked to film my daughter and the gulls. She was having a grand time and all was well until the food ran out.

Once the food was gone the situation degenerated into a scene from *The Birds*. About fifty irate and hungry seagulls stalked my daughter, running and flapping after her in the air and on the ground. We escaped by making a mad dash back to the tour bus, to the amusement of the other passengers. From the safety of the bus, we could contemplate which was worse, the laughter of our tour mates, or the few determined seagulls that still lurked outside.

My daughter is ten now, an age when we can still share things, but soon that will change. I will treasure this pot shard from our combined history and know that no matter what happens, we will always have our stories.

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### Answers to St. Patrick's Quiz

1. The Emerald Isle. 2. The shamrock 3. The sound of a shoemaker's hammer tapping. 4. True, he was from Britain. 5. Ireland Forever. 6. Boston, Bonus: 1737.

## Plan B Cont.

the former Howard Johnson's, the recipe changed. The eggplant in garlic sauce lost its flavor. Neither one of us could ever duplicate the sauce.

The discontinuation of a well-loved product is always unexpected. We rarely have a back-up in mind. Finding a suitable substitute usually involves the long process of trial and error. Each time we use the replacement, we complain to our friends or ourself about how much we miss the original.

I recently went sneaker shopping for work. Adidas sneakers feel tailor-made for my feet. I can buy a pair without trying them on and have been wearing them faithfully for more than a decade. I like the simple plain-jane white leather style. But, every time I go sneaker shopping, I find there are more and more colorful-striped "urbanized" Adidas. In the same store, I did see a pair of plain white K-Swiss sneakers I thought I would try. You know -- just in case I need a back-up.

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### Saint Patrick's Day Quiz

1. What is Ireland's nickname?
2. What herb was used by St. Patrick to illustrate the trinity?
3. Listening for what sound will help you find a leprechaun?
4. St. Patrick wasn't really Irish, true or false?
5. What does "Erin Go Braugh" mean?
6. What U.S. city had the first St. Patrick's Day parade?  
Bonus: in what year?

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### NOTES

We wish to thank the Rev. Allen Acor for the donation of a copier to the band. With some minor maintenance, it should significantly reduce the band's administrative costs. We appreciate his generosity and continuing interest in the band.

The CMB Newsletter is available on a subscription basis to non-band members who make a donation to the band. The donation will be used to cover printing and mailing costs. Contact Stevan Galbreath, manager, for information at [sagalbreath@hotmail.com](mailto:sagalbreath@hotmail.com).

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*Your tax deductible contributions are gratefully accepted  
by the Catawissa Military Band. Donations may be sent to:*

*Catawissa Military Band*

*115 S. Berger Ave.*

*Catawissa, PA 17820*

*Thank you for your continued support.*

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# Who Invented the Sousaphone?

by Stevan Galbreath, Asst. Editor

Ask anyone "Who invented the sousaphone?" and they will tell you John Philip Sousa. Well, not exactly. As is the case with most developments, it was actually the result of several influences that came together during the 1890s in which Sousa played a relatively small role.

It began with the invention of the helicon bass, which was derived from the 18th century practice of carrying large hoop hunting horns over the shoulder. Current research indicates that the helicon originated in Russia around 1845. By 1849, Vienna instrument-maker Ignatz Stowasser was producing them in commercial quantities. Marketing them primarily to mounted cavalry musicians, he promoted the weight-bearing design on the shoulder as a means of freeing the left hand to control the reins -- something that was difficult to manage with a conventional tuba.

Easy to carry, the helicon was soon adopted by marching players and, within ten years, had largely replaced the tuba in military bands throughout central Europe. Helicons were less common in western Europe and America where saxhorns and tubas remained the primary band basses.

In 1883, Czech maker V.F. Cerveny introduced a series of wide bore brass instruments of which the bass, known as the kaiser bass, became the most notable. The helicon kaiser bass (which is still in production) has virtually the same tubing configuration and valve placement of a sousaphone.

## J.W. Pepper

Always open to innovation, Sousa acquired a pair of kaiser bass helicons for the Marine Band. In a chance comment to J(ames) W. Pepper, Sousa said that he really liked the wide-bore sound of the helicons, but felt that the forward pointing bells made the tone too

harsh. He preferred a more generalized sound from the basses -- perhaps hoping to recover the balance inherent in the over-the-shoulder low brasses the Marine Band used during his years as an apprentice musician.

Pepper took Sousa's comments to heart and designed what was essentially a kaiser bass with an enlarged bell pointing straight up. This was the famous "raincatcher" that became the only design ever used by the Sousa Band, even after the bell-front version became more popular. Pepper named it the "sousaphone," after Sousa's suggestion.

## The Prototype

By the time the prototype was finished, Sousa had left the Marines and was leading his own touring band. The elaborately engraved raw-brass instrument was shown at an industrial exposition in Philadelphia and then forwarded to Sousa. The date of its initial performance is now lost, but is believed to have been sometime during the spring of 1893. However, it is known that it was first played by Herman Conrad, a German-born tubist who was an original member of the Sousa Band.

For unknown reasons, no further instruments were produced by Pepper and the prototype was returned to the Philadelphia factory after limited use. It remains in the possession of J.W. Pepper & Sons and is occasionally loaned out for special performances.

## C.G. Conn

Sousaphones were revived four years later by C.G. Conn who made a set of silver plated raincatchers for the Sousa Band. In their publicity, Conn still claims to have invented the sousaphone despite clear evidence that Pepper actually made the first instrument. However, Conn did develop the well-known bell-front design.

Early recording technology was



C.G. Conn Advertisement

## 1898 Conn Raincatcher Designed by Ted Pounder

entirely mechanical, not having the advantage of electrical powered amplification. Engineers and conductors soon found that upward pointing low register instruments (especially tubas) did not record well. In an attempt to correct this, C.G. Conn developed the recording bass by attaching a forward facing bell to a tuba. In 1908, someone in the Conn organization suggested replacing the upright raincatcher sousaphone bell with a forward facing recording bell. This was the origin of the standard sousaphone in use today.

Sousa was not pleased. He felt that the forward facing bell restored all the old problems with the helicon and adamantly continued using the raincatcher design through his final tour in 1931. By then, most musicians outside the Sousa Band considered raincatchers to be more quaint than practical. The irony is that, more than 100 years later, the instrument Sousa had intended to be a concert bass is now almost exclusively relegated to marching bands.