

# The Winds of Freedom Blow!

News for Alumni and Supporters of the  
Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band

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SPRING 2011

## DON'T STOP 'TIL YOU GET ENOUGH

by Joel Knudson, '02, MA'11

Winter quarter ended yet another record-breaking performance by the LSJUMB, as we became the first Pac-10 Band in history to play in four consecutive Final Fours. From a rally at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway to game time at the Conseco Fieldhouse, we would like to think the Band gave the city the entertainment it deserves. And while Texas A&M apparently failed to receive the memo that Kayla Pedersen and Jeanette Pohlen deserved to close out their careers with a national championship, well, the Band always wins.

Spring quarter began with a twist on an old tradition, as the annual Cardinal & White game played to a packed house in San Francisco's historic Kezar Stadium. The game gave the Band a chance to get off the couch and hit up the Haight, where deafening rock music may have been the only thing to distinguish the players from the natives. For a group accustomed as we are to authority figures on power trips, the novelty of police officers stepping away from their patrol to take pictures for their families was a nice feature of a rally that felt like home.

The game itself gave the Band the rare opportunity to exercise our field show chops in the middle of spring quarter. Rave reviews flooded the airwaves almost immediately, with praise like "What the hell was that?" and "Why would you try to spell words

with a 40-person band?" In other words, the show was an unparalleled success.

Funding shortages prevented the Band from continuing the recent tradition of traveling north for Seattle's HONK! Fest West, but we remain optimistic that we can jump back into the mix next year. As for the rest of spring quarter, Davis Day featured the typical unending afternoon of sound, bloody lips, and feeding of ducks. It also marked the public

debut of a few new charts, including Dragonforce's *Through the Fire and Flames*, Paramore's *Ignorance*, and a Boston/Muse mash-up we call *Foreplay of Cydonia*. Look for these gems in the Band's upcoming album, scheduled to record this fall.

Back on campus, Dolie Splash introduced five lovely young women—Paula, Jessi-

ca, Clare, Jessica, and Danna—to the wildest ride of their lives. All Campus, Fountain Rally (in the rain...go figure), and the NCAA Tennis Championships (featuring another new chart, Kanye West's *All of the Lights*) were additional highlights of a packed quarter. Finally, commencement allowed us to welcome a freshly minted batch of all-knowing and bitter assholes to the Old Fart ranks. We trust that they'll fit right in.



Banner at the Cardinal & White Game

Photo: Al Ponce

# TAKE ME OUT

*LSJUMB Alumni Bring the Band's Most Storied Athletic Competition Eastward*

*by Adam "Slater" Cohen, '07*

For those of us who were born on the East Coast, spring brings to mind fantasies of street hot dogs, Puerto Rican women in gratuitously revealing pants, the light aroma of garbage marinating on the street, and of course, baseball. Gusto—that glorious Band tradition in which a team's point total consists of runs scored *and* beers consumed—is a natural fit.

The First Annual East Coast Gusto had been held in Central Park in the fall of 2009, and while successful, ran into several unforeseen difficulties. For example, it is apparently illegal to play softball in autumn in New York City (thanks Mayor Bloomberg!). Also, Central Park is constantly being used by "legitimate" sports, making it hard to find a nice secluded area in which to play a leisurely game of Gusto. The Second Annual East Coast Gusto therefore migrated to Commodore Barry Park in Brooklyn, an out-of-the-way place, in the spring, to avoid the aforementioned problems.

Commodore Barry Park is an expanse of crabgrass awkwardly attached to a massive parking lot that doubles as a set of basketball courts. It's the kind of place where you half-expect to turn a corner and see a group of emaciated children playing pickup soccer with a deflated volleyball.

Despite extensive scouting, the grassy area was teeming with adult softball leagues, leaving us field-less. After some brainstorming, we decided to innovate, as good Stanford students are wont to do. The parking lot would become a makeshift Gusto arena. After a quick trip to a local sporting goods store, we exchanged our softball bat and ball for a plastic whiffle bat and something called a SuperBounce™, which tempted us with claims that it could be drilled as much as 400 feet on the fly. That's what she said.

By noon our group had mostly straggled in. Players hailed from New York proper, Brooklyn, Washington DC, Boston, and a few die-hards even flew in from the West Coast for the occasion. The teams, as is tradition, were broken down by age into "Team Old" and "Team Older", with the class of 2005 serving as the

age cutoff. To deflect police attention, libations found new homes inside of coffee cups. The game commenced.

Of the entire cast of characters, including numerous ringers, the SuperBounce™ turned out to be the MVP. It is evidently made of some sort of space-rubber that has the curious property of making hops of increasing height while bouncing on asphalt. Suffice it to say that if you get that bad boy rolling in a parking lot, you'd better hope there's a fence somewhere.

Both teams attempted to adjust their defense to the "infinite ground ball" phenomenon. Team Older did this by setting up several concentric rings of defenders in the outfield. Team Old did this by recruiting a local twelve-year-old boy to play shortstop. Indeed, "Israel" is the Ozzie Smith of SuperBounce™.

In addition to being a transcendent shortstop, Israel served the important purpose of reminding all the other players that (a) none of us ever had any athletic talent to speak of, and that (b) being good at a sporting event heavily weighted towards beer consumption is not a particularly good indicator of one's baseball skill.

In any event, the game proceeded in exceptional weather for about 4 hours. When the beer was finished, the scoring looked like this:

Team Older	121 [12 runs, 109 beers]
Team Old	115 [17 runs, 98 beers]

Six points were all that separated the teams, but in the end, age and treachery defeated youth and vigor.

All in all, the event was a raging success, as no one was seriously injured, arrested by the NYPD (barely), harassed by the Parks Department, or abducted by Brooklyn hoodlums. May the third annual East Coast Gusto be just as successful. Should you find yourself taking your talents to the greater Atlantic seaboard, we'd love to have you join us. BYO "Coffee". Contact Alumni Relations for details.

# STORY IN YOUR EYES

*A Preview of the LSJUMB History Project*

*by Steve Blasberg, '72, MS '74*

**Q: What is the LSJUMB History Project?**

A: The LSJUMB History Project is an attempt to preserve the informal history of the LSJUMB. With the 50th anniversary of The Band As We Know It™ rapidly approaching and as someone whose own history with the Band is fairly lengthy, I felt that it was important to collect, organize, and save historical anecdotes about seminal (snicker) events in Band history. I made a proposal to the Stanford Band Alumni Board (SBAB) and Band management about the project, and everyone bought into the concept. Recognizing that no good deed goes unpunished, the SBAB appointed me to head the project.

**Q: Why are you doing this?**

A: Although the Band archives contain a lot of our history, it exists mostly in the form of letters, newspaper articles, and other documents, and not the anecdotes and stories that Bandspeople pass down from generation to generation. As one of the oldest active members of the LSJUMB, I find that a lot of the experiences I have had over the years are completely unknown to current Bandies, and I would hate to see the history of the Band disappear.

**Q: How can I help?**

A: If you were directly involved in any Band event that should be preserved for posterity (or posterior), you can submit what you know about the event to

me, either by email ([steve.blasberg@wvm.edu](mailto:steve.blasberg@wvm.edu)) or in writing (1615 Loch Lomond Lane; San Jose, CA 95129). I will be collecting, collating, editing, and organizing all the information I receive. Feel free to submit stories at any level of anonymity. Although I am happy to accept any stories you find amusing and typical of the Band, I am particularly interested in recording the true (or at least as true as I can imagine) story behind such memorable events as the Band Strike, the first road trip to Arkansas in 1970, the origin of the Tree, the trip to Australia for the World's Fair, and the trip of the Stanfu Militang Band to China (those of you on that trip will know what I mean).

**Q: What are you planning to do with all of this?**

A: My goal is to have a fairly accurate history of the LSJUMB ready by the 50th reunion in October 2013. Although no decision has been made, there is a possibility that the stories might eventually be published and made available to Band members and Band alumni. I certainly hope to have the stories made available in some form (perhaps accessible at [lsjumb.stanford.edu](http://lsjumb.stanford.edu)) before the 50th reunion.

**Q: What if I have questions about the project?**

A: You can contact me at the addresses above with any comments, concerns, or questions. If you have a story to tell and aren't sure whether it's of interest, SEND IT IN!



Our stalwart East Coast Gusto heroes pose for a victory picture.

Photo: Erin Mallery

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### SAVE THE DATE!

*LSJUMB 50th Reunion, October 2013*

## WE LOVE US SOME US

*Stalking your favorite band on the internet*

**SportsCenter Commercial Features the  
Stanford Tree**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4C4kNt2fIM>

**Blast from the Past:**

**LSJUMB Plays with The Tubes in 1975**

<http://www.wolfgangsvault.com/the-tubes/video/living-in-the-u-s-a-stanford-marching-band-1877688875.html>

## COME OUT AND PLAY

*Join us for our summer tour of fun and debauchery*

**Monday, July 4**

*Redwood City Fourth of July Parade*

**Sunday, July 17**

*San Francisco AIDS Walk*

**Saturday, July 30**

*Wedding at MemChu*

**Saturday, September 3**

*Football: Stanford vs. San Jose State*

*...and of course, rehearsal every Monday night*



Photo: Al Ponce



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