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Alisha, John, Jenn and Nate with HUB percussionists

74 MT. AWESOME!

For the last few months, I've spent my time thinking about what I could say about The Band. As I sit down to write this piece, I return again and again to all that has been said, and what that means. It's impossible to answer, but I ask, what is the Band?

First, we are a marching band: the product of over 80 years of development; school spirit; an asset to the athletic department, and to the University; a completely student run group; two entirely dedicated faculty members; a product of our dedicated, caring, and enthusiastic alumni; an esoteric humor group, priding itself on years of tradition; a corporation; support of football, hockey, basketball, and parades. Still, while I take great pride in all that we do, there is something more to the Harvard University Band, the something that has endeared the group to me, and to so many others. The HUB is a home.

When I came to Harvard, I had no idea what I would do. Coming from an extremely tight group of friends, I only knew that my heart was back in New York, and I wasn't sure how I would find another group so dear to my heart. During freshman week, I called a friend from home.

Ten minutes into the conversation, I was deafened by the sound of a marching band marching through my dorm. We laughed at the seeming ridiculousness until the band had passed through. Within a few hours, there would be a knock on my door. Two Bandies were standing there, asking me to audition.

Three years later, I'm still here, and I've found a group of people who rival my crowd from home. The Band has become my family in Cambridge. For the fall semester, I always know what my Saturday plans will be, and I always know that despite the rain, early hour, and long field rehearsal, I'll laugh like crazy. I know that weekends during the winter will always have a great hockey or basketball game. I know Commencement can be one of the most emotional, but also most rewarding and beautiful days of the entire year. And I know I can go



to the band room at any time of day and find someone to go have ice cream, watch a movie, or help me count 1650 brochures.

This past year, I've had many great opportunities with the Band. The end of our undefeated football season marked the beginning of our new senior staff – myself, along with Courtney, Chris, Natalie, and Erin. Drawing on the excitement of that season, we managed to gather a huge student staff. The staff is so dedicated and enthusiastic – it's been such a pleasure to work with each one. Our winter season saw many new arrangements, by entirely new arrangers within the HUB, and Chris ran efficient rehearsals for these new songs. We played at the women's basketball NCAA tournament down in North Carolina. The men's hockey NCAA playoffs created a small emergency – it was spring break, and there was little hope of assembling a band. Organized in part by Kris Gauksheim '01 and Brad Barnhorst '00, we managed to create a group of alumni and current bandies to send to the