

Director wants 'live' bodies to march, play

Gerald Poe is looking for bodies — not dead bodies, but live, musical, marching bodies. Poe, the director of the University's Fighting Duck Marching Band, is currently recruiting members for the '78-'79 season.

"Our main function is to present entertainment for the pre-game, half-time and post-game show," Poe explains. "But without bodies we can't do it."

The marching band consists of 150 members who play at all home football games, two out-of-town games and, this year, at one professional game — the Seattle Sea Hawks vs. the Oakland Raiders.

The weekend of the pro-game performance will include a free tour of the King Tut exhibit in Seattle.

"The Seattle weekend is really the reward for being a band member," says Poe. "It was designed as a reward for all the hard work."

The marching band practices two days a week — usually Wednesday and Friday afternoons — and the mornings before games.

Members receive two credits for the term and grading is based strictly on participation, Poe says.

Uniforms and transportation are provided free, so there are no costs to the band members.

Poe is recruiting members now because the first game performance is scheduled for Sept. 23 — one day after fall registration.

"We start orientation week and we work pretty intensely," Poe explains. "we work about six hours a day, so by the following Saturday we'll have a show ready to go."

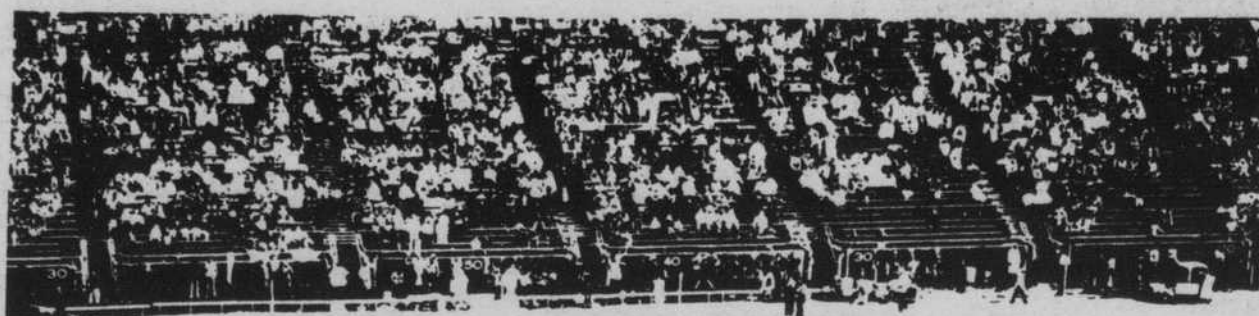
He points out that the University's marching band doesn't practice all summer, as do some drum-and-bugle corps, and that is the reason for the week of "crash" practice.

The intense practice also helps new members march well while they play. Poe explains that almost half of the new members have had no marching experience, because Oregon high schools don't usually have marching bands.

Poe also points out that fewer than 30 percent of the band members are music majors.

"There are many activities that students can get involved in without being in a certain school," Poe explains. "This (the marching band) is one way of getting people involved."

He encouraged anyone interested in the marching band to contact him at Beall Concert Hall, Room 269, before the end of the week. Poe stresses that students who indicate an interest at this time are under no obligation to join the band in the fall.



Emerald graphic

Senior citizens faring well in Eugene housing crunch

Senior citizens — something every person will be someday — may be able to grow old gracefully in Eugene better than they can in other parts of the state. Especially when it comes to putting a roof

over their heads.

According to Betty Niven, Chair of the State Housing Council and a Eugene resident, Lane county senior citizens fare far better in the housing market

than those of many other parts of Oregon, including Portland.

Niven, citing statistics compiled by the State Housing Division, says state and federally subsidised rental housing for low-income families and senior citizens makes up about one-third of the Lane County housing market.

From a report on housing in Oregon published four years ago, Niven pointed out that while other counties in the state average nearly one quarter subsidised housing, Lane County's ratio of one to three is the highest.

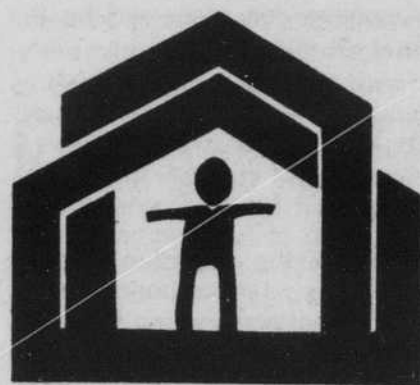
The housing subsidies began funding low-income family and senior citizens' dwellings eleven years ago as part of a Federal housing lease plan, Niven says.

The plan was administered at the local level. The City housing department would use federal money to rent several housing units and then sub-lease them to low-income families and senior citizens.

Although the plan was an apparent success, Niven says the federal department of Housing

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles examining housing in Eugene.

By KEVIN HARDEN
Of the Emerald



and Urban Development stopped funding the program in Lane County because the area had

reached a "saturation point" of subsidised housing.

When the funds were cut off the federal government's reason was that the money was to be used to establish more low-income family dwellings and not senior housing, Niven says.

Even without the federally subsidised housing senior citizens in Lane County are better off than ever before. Those living under a tight rent squeeze will be able to breathe a little easier because of last month's passage of a state wide ballot measure that will set up a state fund to provide nearly 15,000 housing units for the elderly in Oregon. Almost 300 of those units could be built in Eugene and Springfield.

"I'm sure that the elderly have had more of an improvement in their housing situation than single parents," Niven says. "Their (the elderly) plight is a lot more visible to the public."

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