

Pep band members face new rules

By DOUG McRAE
Of the Emerald

Enforcement of a music school policy requiring University Pep Band members to participate in other, larger ensembles is "changing the rules in the middle of the game," say two members of the band, but music school officials claim the rule is "nothing new."

According to Scott Clark, a junior political science and English literature major, and Mike Lee, a sophomore in journalism, policy that calls for members of small ensembles to play in the school's major ensembles has not been enforced on pep band members in the past, and is now being enforced unfairly. The two also say members were not notified of the requirement before auditions were held.

But Gerald Poe, music school professor and instructor for the pep band, says the rule has been a music school policy "forever."

"This ruling has always been in existence — it may not have been always strictly enforced in the past, but it is something that has been a policy all the time," he says.

Clark and Lee claim there has definitely not been any enforcement of the policy in the past, and they cite their own participation in the pep band as evidence.

Lee says he played in the pep band last year also, and was never told he must play in another ensemble to maintain his membership in the pep band.

Effective enforcement of the rule has been carried out among other small ensembles for quite some time, however. Morrette Rider, music school dean says, "I thought it (the policy) was being enforced (in the pep band). I know it is with other groups."

Rider, who conducts the University Sinfonetta, says he is "very careful to check that each member of the sinfonetta is a member of the big orchestra."

"The reasoning in back of it (the policy) is that we feel the major ensembles are the most important to the School of Music and the University," says Rider. He adds that the policy was also set up "to protect the student who wants to play in a large group" by insuring there will be



Photo by Steve Dykes

Pep band members may be enjoying their stints at home Duck basketball games but a policy requiring them to participate in others, larger ensembles strikes a sour note with many of the musicians upset. They say the policy is actually a new one requiring more work.

the participation and balanced instrumentation necessary for the larger ensembles to perform.

Rider says there are exceptions to the requirement in cases where there is a class conflict in scheduling, or when the member of a smaller ensemble is unable to earn a position in the larger ensemble.

Poe says these reasons for exception will also be considered in the rule's enforcement concerning the pep band.

But the policy itself is not the bone of contention as far as Clark and Lee are concerned. "We don't feel that it is the issue. We feel the issue is they're chang-

ing the rules on us in the middle of the game — or enforcing the rules in the middle of the game," says Clark.

Clark and Lee's disagreement with the music school centers on their claim that they were not notified of the requirement before auditions, and the policy itself is not the object of their complaints.

In their battle with the music school, Clark and Lee appealed to the Student University Affairs Board and the Office of Student Advocacy for help, and Gary McMahon, SUAB chairer, and Don Chalmers, Director of the OSA have began investigations into the matter.

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