

# Garter Band snaps and swings

By Colette Doudin  
Of the Emerald

As the University's women's volleyball team takes a timeout, the Green Garter Band springs into its version of the Lennon-McCartney tune, "Back In The U.S.S.R.," — complete with an extended drum solo and a left and right swaying of instruments, their metallic surfaces shining in the glare of Mac Court.

As the timeout ends, so does the music, and the band members ready themselves to strike up the tune again during the game's next break.

The Green Garter Band is a student-run, mini pep-band, composed entirely of University Marching Band members. The group's student director, trumpet player Mark Wees, describes the group as a "traveling PR unit" for the University, the athletic department and the Marching Band.

The Green Garter Band also caters to people who want to hire a marching band, but just don't have the room. Marching Band Director Steve Paul says that he often refers band music requests from the community to the Green Garter Band.

The band's performance ability, energy and compact size have proven effective at a varie-

ty of engagements, ranging from volleyball games to tailgate parties to loggers' conventions — even a pizza parlor's grand opening.

In one recent instance, the band was featured in a Lane Transit District television commercial. LTD had originally wanted the entire marching band, but realized it would be too large.

The band is composed of one player each on the clarinet, alto and tenor saxophones, the French horn, tuba and drums. In addition, there are three trumpet and two trombone players.

The music selections are chosen in keeping with the band's aim of playing "any style of music known to man," says trumpet player Dave Chartrey.

The tunes performed tend to be upbeat, and are selected to keep audience excitement high, whether the crowd members be rock fans (Earth, Wind and Fire's "In The Stone"), the young-at-heart ("The Muppet Show Theme"), lovers of big band ("In The Mood"), or even those with a sentiment for European music ("The Can-Can").

Visual as well as musical entertainment is integrated into the Green Garter's performance,

as the players rehearse choreographic moves with their instruments.

But choreography isn't confined to moments during a song. The entire band frequently rises from their seats during volleyball games for a quick spin in the stands when one team loses the serve.

Certain bits of choreography originate at isolated events the band finds amusing. Saxophone player Kathleen Downey explains that once when a volleyball referee made a call with a move the band had never seen before, they thought the motion was hilarious and have adopted it with their other choreography.

Majoring in music is not required to join the band, but displaying proficient musical ability in an audition for Wees and Paul is a must. The members are supported by a scholarship, which is given for additional time and dedication outside the Marching Band.

Green Garter Band members stress that participation in the group, and not money, is their priority.

The band was originally the forerunner of today's University Marching Band, Chartrey says. About 10 years ago the large Marching Band was replaced by



Photo by Steven Wall

Members of the all-student Green Garter Band add their mini-pep version of music not only to women's volleyball games, but to restaurant openings and commercials as well.

a small group of brass players and electric-guitar players. And because everyone in the new group would wear green garters, they called themselves the Green Garter Band.

When the band switched its attire from green garters to green visors, the name became the Green Garden Band. Meanwhile, the large Marching Band seen at the University today was brought back.

Last year the Athletic Department requested a band for volleyball games, and Chartrey organized a small pep band, which took up the original, garter-inspired name. The band

began as a quartet and gradually expanded.

Trumpet player Bill Kester says the Green Garter Band, unlike the Marching Band, "can change styles like crazy."

"Performance is a big reward," Wees says. He also enjoys getting to know the other band members and seeing things others might not see, such as alumni functions and volleyball games.

"The rewards of Green Garter Band are getting out and playing for people, being entertaining, crazy people having a good time together, and having that rub off on the audience," he adds.

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## Weekend dance workshop stresses rock 'n' roll style

By Kristen Bolin  
Of the Emerald

Lifting, sliding and special acrobatic exercises are in store for anyone attending the "Rock 'n' Roll Dance Workshop" on campus this weekend.

The special seven-hour session will be taught by West German exchange students Norbert Vogele and Evelyn Langer. Vogele, vice champion of the 1984 Swiss International rock 'n' roll dance championships, has taught more than 3,000 people this partner-dancing style. He says it is similar to swing dancing so popular in the United States during the 1950s, when musical artists like Bill Haley and Chuck Berry were the rage.

"It's a big success in all of Europe," says Vogele, who adds that there are rock 'n' roll

clubs in Switzerland, France, Austria, Italy and Germany.

The workshop is geared toward people of all ages, and acrobatic maneuvers are approached with caution.

"It isn't dangerous," Vogele says. "We start with the easy things and work toward the more difficult moves."

He claims only two minor injuries in all of his teachings, and he says that was because his students "didn't do what I told them to do."

The rock 'n' roll dance workshop will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and again from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday it will go from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is at the S.H.A.P.E. office in Room 181 Esslinger Hall.

The fee is \$15 per person and \$25 per couple.

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