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Fund-raising efforts fall short for band

The University Marching Band will not attend the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on Nov. 26

By Amy Goldhammer
Oregon Daily Emerald

When the parade passes by this November, the Ducks will not be strutting their stuff.

The University of Oregon Marching Band had to decline its invitation to march in the famous Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade because it did not raise enough money in time.

The Oregon Marching band was one of twelve bands invited to march in the parade.

Out of the \$250,000 dollars the band needed, it raised only \$6,000 of it, said Sid Haton, University associate director of bands. The band wasn't even able to make deposits on plane reservations, he said.

"I think the mistake that I made was in trying to raise money without a fund-raising mechanism in place," Haton said.

The band had anticipated to raise about \$100,000 each month of the summer, he said. However, the plan wasn't successful.

"We had people who really busted a gut trying to raise money," Haton said.

The marching band received moral support from the athletic department, but the University was not responsible to help pay for any of the expenses, Haton said.

"It is nobody's responsibility but ours," he said. "Everyone on campus agreed we were on our own."

The band will not be able to go next year because bands are al-

lowed only one application every four years, Haton told the Register Guard.

Major donors and contributors were sent cards explaining the situation and offering to return the donation or distribute it to other need in the University's School of Music, he said.

Although the decision to withdraw from the parade has put a damper on the marching band, the members are now looking forward toward other upcoming opportunities, Haton said.

"We have an exciting group with some amazing abilities," he said.

The marching band is the largest the University has had in recent years with a great number of returning class members and a huge incoming freshmen class, Haton said.

During the first part of the year, the band will focus some of its energy toward alumni, he said.

"We will be doing some more formal things, trying to promote a sense of tradition," Haton said.

As well as the traditional and formal aspects, the marching band will be livening up the stadium during half-times, he said.

"All our shows are built around the blockbuster summer music," Haton said. "This will give us a chance to play some pop tunes and music people will recognize."

The marching band is expecting the Ducks to be invited to a bowl and are looking forward to attending that, he said.

"We are trying not to dwell on the fact we can't go," Haton said. "But, there are other things to look forward to."

"It is nobody's responsibility but ours. Everyone on campus agreed we were on our own."

Sid Haton
associate director of bands

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