

# Benefit

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and his Christian faith have helped him tremendously, as well as the love he gives and receives from friends and family.

"I have cancer, but it's not slowing me down," Becerra says. "I am so blessed to be able to play my trombone."

According to many of his friends and teachers, Becerra has a wonderful attitude about his situation.

"If you saw him walking down the street, you'd never know [he was sick]," says Dana Huddleston, administrative coordinator for athletic bands. "He's got a great spirit and a strong face."

Ron Bertucci, Becerra's trombone teacher from LCC, says Becerra has an incredible effect on all of those he comes in contact with.

"Through his actions and what he's going through in strength, he makes everybody aware of how lucky we are and the opportunities we have that perhaps we're not taking advantage of," Bertucci says.

Though he is only 23, Becerra says he has lived a full life. He's played with some of his favorite musicians, including Andy Martin, an internationally famous trombonist who Becerra spontaneously called one day and is now one of his pen pals. He's traveled around the country and world and has plans to take a trip to New Orleans this spring. He is currently the head coach of Junction City High School's soccer team, his alma matter.

"I have lived a wonderful life,

and I've lived a lot," he says. "I don't take anything for granted anymore. The small things... mean a lot to me," Becerra says. He says he saves little things, like ticket stubs and the letter he got that announced him as head soccer coach.

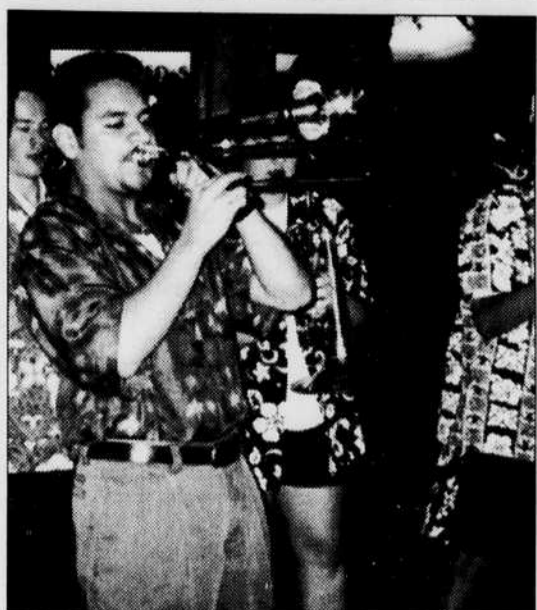
After undergoing a bone marrow transplant last year, Becerra was in the hospital for almost two months. Once he began to recover, Becerra said he started playing the trombone in the hospital.

"I played quietly, and people would open their doors to hear," he recalled. "It was kind of cool... Music is very healing."

Becerra continues to study and teach private lessons at the University, as well as coach the high school soccer team.

"I'm telling my body that I don't have cancer... I'm going in the other direction, to see how long I can go," he said.

What is remarkable is Becerra's attitude toward his life. Though he is challenged by cancer, he has nothing but positive things to say about life.



Courtesy photo

Ray Becerra is a junior trombone player and is a member of the Oregon Marching Band, basketball band and Green Garter Band.

"I'm not scared of dying because I know where I'm going," Becerra said. "I don't think it's my time to go, but if it is, it's ok."

Though he says all the attention is kind of strange, he highly appreciates all that people are doing for him.

"It's nice to see how many people really love you," he says. "[I want to say] a huge thank you to everyone... I'm so happy they are showing their love through all that they're doing."

Sunday's concert is free of charge, but voluntary donations will be accepted to pay Becerra's medical expenses and help send him on a trip to New Orleans.

# Famous funk artist to visit Eugene

Bernie Worrell, of Parliament fame, will visit the Wild Duck Feb. 2

By Ben Garvey  
for the Emerald

Former Parliament-Funkadelic keyboard captain Bernie Worrell will steer his own motherhood into the Wild Duck Music Hall on Feb. 2.

Accompanied by his fellow cosmic travelers, the Woo Warriors, Worrell is touring the West coast to promote the band's new album "Bernie Worrell & The Woo Warriors Live."

From being one of the founding members of George Clinton's P-Funk, to collaborating on critical-

ly acclaimed music projects with groups such as The Rolling Stones and The Pretenders, Worrell has performed on more than 300 albums. But Worrell was not the cosmic cat as we know him until he started hanging around his local barber shop — George Clinton's barber shop, that is.

According to Worrell's Web site, he and Clinton began planting the seeds of P-Funk in 1968. Worrell helped produce for P-Funk such tunes as "Flashlight," "Atomic Dog," "Knee Deep," "Cosmic Slop" and "Red Hot Mama."

Since leaving Parliament in 1980, Worrell has had a successful solo career. His album, "Funk of Ages" launched his solo career,

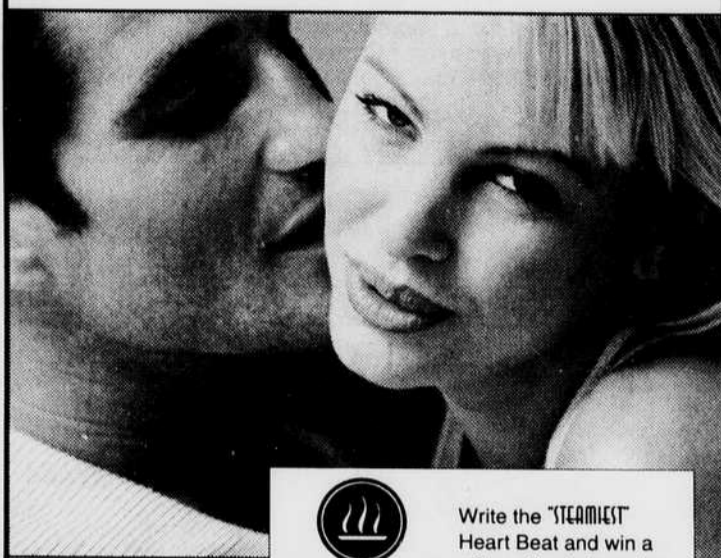
and his material has been sampled by rap and R & B artists such as Dr. Dre, Ice cube, Salt n' Pepa, Snoop Doggy Dog and En Vogue.

In the latest live collaboration with The Woo Warriors, Worrell produces an interesting and unique blend of funk and jazz with elements of African motifs. The album is less of one artist performing a certain style but more of a conglomeration of varied artists. Like P-Funk, Worrell and The Woo Warriors bring different cultural traditions and influences into the music.

The album's first track starts off with an eerie blend of synthesizers and Australian instruments,

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