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Adam Amato Photo Editor

Along with the football team, the Oregon Marching band got new thunder-green uniforms.

Marching band uniforms receive mixed reactions

Green overalls and a helmet are just a few changes to the Oregon Marching Band uniforms

By Kyle Harris
Freelance Reporter

More than 59,000 fans who crowded Autzen Stadium on Sept. 20 for the Oregon-Michigan game got the first peek at the Oregon Marching Band's new uniforms. The outfits were provided by the Oregon Athletic Department, courtesy of its contract with Nike.

The uniforms were kept hidden from public view before the game and the unconventional design, much in

line with Nike's new design for Oregon's football uniforms, may have shocked spectators.

The uniforms feature slim thunder-green overalls and matching jackets with lightning-yellow accents on the shoulders. Band members also wear simple white undershirts beneath the jackets.

The most distinct addition to the band's uniforms are the hardtop helmets. The untraditional helmets were the main source for rumors about a new "biker gang" look for the marching band the week leading up to the Michigan game.

According to OMB Director Todd Zimbleman, the decision to keep the public from getting a peak at the new uniforms was more about timing than trying to create a buzz.

"The media was trying to get a look at them prior to the Michigan game, but we barely had all the pieces together and we were heavy into rehearsals," he said. "It was easier to hold everyone off until we actually had them fitted and dis-

played for all to see at the same time." Nike, as part of their athletic contract with the University, conceived the idea for the new uniforms. However, members of the marching band did provide input for the final design, and Zimbleman said there were "some minor alterations that took place."

What has been the reaction to the new look? Among the band, it is mixed. "I really like them," band member Laura Marshall said. "The helmet I don't know about — I wish we had more traditional helmets."





Matt Conrad, another member of the band, said the new uniforms make up in function what they might lack in fashion.

Decidedly less happy with the new look is fellow band member Elliott Gavino.

"I'm proud to march under the school's name, but not under Nike's new uniforms," he said.

Kyle Harris is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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through the window.

Half of the tiny residence hall room is bare, without pillows or blankets on the bed or papers on the desktop. The other half is occupied, but neat and tidy. Clothes hang in the closet, the bed is made, and a row of books — including a Merriam-Webster dictionary and a copy of "Wuthering Heights" — is lined up neatly on the shelf.

Jennifer French, an 18-year-old who rarely smiles, sits at a desk crammed between the window and the foot of the bed. Her mother, Mary, reads a book on the bed.

It is Sept. 25, French's first day at college and only her second day on the University campus. The residence halls buzz with activity: doors are propped open and groups of students pour in and out. A father and daughter wander with bags of clothes and other belongings in their arms. Booths line the walkways east of Agate Street, near Hamilton Complex, where students petition passersby to recruit them for the greek community, Club Sports and other groups and causes.

Noise from the walkways drifts into the room where French sits, quietly.

The Beaverton native is a little nervous. She hasn't met her roommate yet.

"I've talked to her a couple of times online," she says. "I've never actually met her in person. You hear

horror stories (about roommates), but it's more that I'm afraid I'll be that bad roommate.

"From what I've heard about her, she's really into music. She plays a couple of instruments. So, she'll have talent."

"We hope," her mom jokes.

Apprehension about school The night before she left home for Eugene, French had a nightmare: She failed a class.

"I walked into the class and the teacher pointed at me and said I got an 'F' for no reason," she says, adding that the teacher accused her of missing all of her classes and failing all of her tests.

French is a little nervous she won't be able to handle the 15-credit course load she has registered for. Mostly, she's worried she won't have enough time to do well in class. School is important to her. She was always a good student in high school, she reiterates.

Beyond school, French also wants to find a job. She hopes to work at a library, where she can do work she is familiar with. French says she reads too much, gobbling everything from classics to science fiction to murder mysteries and horror fantasies. But in a few days she will be trading all of those for chemistry books — she's registered for three chemistry classes this term.

But French says she's excited, too, hoping that her classes will be more in-depth than they were in high school. And she is hoping that she won't have to listen to stupid ques-

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