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The Green Garter Band performs at its annual band camp in September, which takes place at the University. The band, made up of 12 advanced student musicians, will celebrate its 20th anniversary Tuesday at Beall Hall with a special performance.

BAND

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time, helped steer the group in the right direction.

"(Paul) was trying to change the marching band into something high quality, and he used the Green Garter Band because they were the

"There aren't many opportunities to play the kind of music we play. ... We're the only group (at the University) that does that. Mostly, it's about having fun playing."

Brian Silva

Bandleader, Green Garter Band

core players," Arthur said.

Over time, the student band began arranging its own music and performing contemporary tunes, from the theme to Duck Tales to Outkast to Lenny Kravitz. Silva said the band plays mostly cover tunes and about five or six student-authored songs. The horn-filled group covers 1980s music, funk-era sounds, rock, soul, hip hop and rap.

Marching Band drummer Eric

Baca, who is doing public relations work for the Green Garter Band's anniversary show.

Baca said the Green Garter Band performs for the marching band at the beginning of band camp every September, displaying a level of quality for new band members to strive toward.

"They have a positive stigma," he said. "They're associated with greatness, because the best of the best is in the Green Garter Band.

The band's members follow a set instrumentation that includes players of baritone, alto and tenor saxophones, electric bass, mellophone. drums, lead and bass trombone, and trumpet. Silva said the band gives him the chance to have unique musical experiences.

"There aren't many opportunities to play the kind of music we play," Silva said. "We're the only group (at the University) that does that. Mostly, it's about having fun playing."

Tuesday's show, which they are calling their "20th anniversary extravaganza," will include visits from Green Garter Band alumni and postings of historical information on the group in Beall Hall. The performance starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are available at the door for \$5 general admission and \$3 for students and seniors.

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Soldiers celebrate Army's 'warm and magical' aspects

Friday's dinner-dance gala was put on for those back from Iraq to boost morale after the prison scandal

By Meg Laughlin Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

BAMBERG, Germany - They came in dress blues with medals. They came in uniforms with ribbons. They wore ball gowns and swept-up hair. They had shoulder boards and gold ropes.

For the 500 or so soldiers from the 7th CSG, an Army corps and combat support group based in Germany, Friday's dinner-dance gala was a chance to celebrate their return from Iraq after a year's deployment in which they suffered only one fatality among 2,000 soldiers

It was a chance to show "that the Army has a warm and magical side," said their commander, Col. John P. Gardner.

They've seen everything ugly and hard about the Army. They need to see the opposite," Gardner said.

As the party approached, many acknowledged that it was hard to feel good about what was going on in Iraq.

'We do our best because that's what soldiers do, but with this war, with the dead and the prisoner abuse, it's hard not to be sad," said Capt. John Wilson, a military intelligence officer who graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1997

Wilson spoke of the need for soldiers to have "increased cultural awareness in Iraq" for "more thinking and less shooting." He said it upset him that wounded soldiers have to fight the Army for decent benefits when they return with missing limbs. He also said he worried about a lack

of equipment, such as protective plates for flak jackets.

Earlier, Wilson confessed he'd looked on the Internet to see what jobs civilian life might hold.

On Friday, no one faulted one another for the problems in Iraq. They praised Gardner as a hero for getting them through the desert. They listened as 3rd Corps Support Commander Gen. Vincent E. Boles acknowledged their disappointment over the prisoner-abuse cases

"I know you feel bad," he said. "I feel good you feel bad."

From a stage in the front of the room, Boles told the soldiers that it was their duty not to blindly obey, but to think and question. He said that if the soldiers see something wrong, "stand up and say something.

"People take their cues from their leaders, and if there is a problem, look to the leadership," he said.

The speech seemed to do the trick. "He made it clear that a thinking

soldier is preferable to a soldier who never questions," said Maj. David Allen, a 7th CSG staff logistics officer.

Wilson agreed. He said Boles gave him hope "that hating the war and wanting to help Iraqis doesn't put me at odds with the Army."

When Boles finished, the soldiers scooted tables off the parquet floor and peeled off their jackets. They jitterbugged and danced the salsa and cha-cha. They formed a conga line and snaked through the room, under multicolored lights. They laughed and cheered.

Later, Boles said: "I know the soldiers need their morale built up, but not as much as I do."

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HOUSING

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by a housing specialist for the city, which deals with an estimated 35 calls per month and investigates an average of 12 cases per year, according to the agenda.

The Corvallis program is funded by. a yearly \$8 per-unit fee, and the Eugene code may be similarly funded. City staff estimates the ongoing program would cost about \$200,000 to \$290,000 each year and require two to three full-time staff members to oversee it.

Ward 1 City Councilor Bonny Bettman said housing violations are a significant issue in the city.

"It seems that without a mechanism to enforce (standards), we have no way to inventory complaints," she said.

Bettman said residents desire housing standards.

they would change about their program. He also said a future housing office should be initially understaffed until the need for additional workers is demonstrated.

Ward 7 City Councilor Scott Meisner also supported creation of a housing program, although he said it may be a temporary measure.

"I hope we reach a point in the future when there's no need for such a program," he said.

Ward 8 City Councilor Nancy Nathanson said she hopes exemptions are made in the ordinance for University housing and units that are partially occupied by their owners and partially rented. Nathanson also expressed concerns about fees, asking city staff to look into multi-year licenses, which she said might lower the cost of fees.

Bettman applauded community efforts to create housing standards. "I just want to briefly comm



"The Green Garter Band song-book is pretty thick," said Oregon

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'I heard very, very strongly ... that that was their top issue," she said. "I do think there's an undocumented problem.'

Ward 2 City Councilor Betty Taylor said a combination of fines and fees would help enforce housing rules.

"If landlords know they can be fined, they will be more likely to respond," she said.

Mayor Jim Torrey said housing standards will alleviate pressure on city courts.

"I'm definitely in favor of not going to municipal court for this," he said.

Torrey recommended that the council ask Corvallis officials what and congratulate the community coalition that worked on this," she said. "I think they did a very thorough and fair and inclusive job on this."

Former ASUO President Maddy Melton, who has worked with the Eugene Citizens for Housing Standards, said the decision to base an ordinance on the Corvallis system will be beneficial to renters.

"We are very excited that the council is paying attention and taking action on an issue that's been around for 20 years," she said.

Contact the city/state politics reporter at parkerhowell@dailyemerald.com.

