

The Pine Needle

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Band performs tribute to America

By Wade Allen
Editor

When the Band of the Irish Guards and the Sutherland Highlanders 5th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland performed in GPAC on Jan. 19, patrons were treated to a rare sight as members of these legendary bands performed traditional European music dressed in full regalia.

The Band of the Irish Guards, also known as "Queen Elizabeth's Band" is world-renowned for their impeccable sound and precision marching.

The bands traditionally only play in Europe and are currently embarking on their first tour within the United States.

"We are thrilled that they chose this town for their inaugural tour," GPAC Executive Director Patricia Fields said. "This is their 10th stop and they have 80 more."

The Band of the Irish Guards performed a special tribute to the United States with the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner" and a special tribute to the branches of the United States armed forces. An audio narrator explained the special bond shared between the



The Band of the Irish Guards performs at GPAC to a crowd of 450 people. The band offered an American tribute along with traditional British celebration music on Jan. 19.

United States and Great Britain before the band performed John Philip Sousa's "Hands Across the Sea."

The band, consisting of horns, woodwinds and percussions, played for two hours. They were often joined onstage by the Sutherland Highlanders bagpipe and percussion band for an effect that left some audience members in awe.

"I'm really, really

enjoying it," said Diane Neal of Fayetteville. "My husband's in the military and it's what I expected. The bagpipes are super."

The audio narrator explained that the band stays busy performing at Buckingham Palace and fulfilling command performances from Queen Elizabeth II. The Band of the Irish Guards performs for state occasions such as the Queen's Birthday Parade, coronations, royal

weddings and state dinners honoring visiting world leaders.

Along with the American tribute offered by the band, they performed traditional British celebration music and the National Anthem of Great Britain with so much pride and gusto that many members of the audience had their mouths open.

Although only 450 people showed up to watch the performance,

GPAC sold over 600 tickets for the show and, according to Fields, would have loved to have seen more people in the audience.

"We would always like to have more people in the audience," Fields said. "Some of our longstanding patrons have said that it's the best show they've ever seen here."

Students come together for Haiti relief

By Hayley Burgess
News Editor

The devastation in Haiti is not as far away as some people may think. The earthquake that devastated the country has hit close to home with some of the students at UNCP, who are now working on ways to provide relief for Haiti.

Carine Francois is one of those students. Francois has relatives in Haiti and currently has lost 21 members of her family. She is currently working on a clothing drive, along with the Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs and other organizations on campus, called Hearts for Haiti that is accepting clothing and food donations through Feb. 15. Boxes are placed throughout the campus.

"When I heard about the earthquake, I was in total shock," Francois said. "I hope that the students realize by giving either time/volunteering, clothes or food they are helping rebuild Haiti."

The community and campus are holding various events to help Haiti. A yard sale was held Jan. 23 at Pembroke Pointe apartments in association with the Center for Leadership and Service, Sigma Sigma Sigma, Zeta Tau Alpha, Lumberton Ford, Lumbee Tribe Boys and Girls Club and The Commons to help raise money for relief efforts in Haiti.

The yard sale raised over \$400 that went to Haiti Outreach Ministry to assist with fuel for water purification, food rations and tents.

"It's important to mention that the campus as a whole contributed with their very generous donations," Associate Director for Community Service Christina Poteet said. "We collected over 50 boxes of donations from the campus and community."

The Office of Multicultural and Minority Affairs will also host a canned food and clothing drive and the Center for Leadership and Service will have another yard sale Jan. 30 at Pembroke Pointe from 7 a.m.-12 p.m. because of the surplus of items that were donated.

The Haiti relief effort comes after a magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck near the capital of Port-au-Prince Jan. 12 and left the country with an estimated 200,000 dead. Since the earthquake hit, Haiti has been experiencing aftershocks as people try to help with relief efforts.

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New door alarms in dorms offer safety, piercing noise

By Hayley Burgess
News Editor

Students living in residence halls were welcomed back with new alarms on the emergency exit doors when returning from winter break, an installation that has caused controversy with some students living in the residence halls.

The University installed alarmed, delayed egress doors to the emergency exits in Oak, Pine, Belk and North Hall. When anyone attempts to exit through the emergency exit doors, an alarm will sound and the door will not unlock. The alarm will continue sounding until the alarm is reset by a staff member of the residence hall.

The new alarms on the emergency exit doors came after recommendations from the Campus Safety Taskforce. The Campus Safety Taskforce was developed by University of North Carolina President Erskine Bowles following the Virginia Tech shooting April 16, 2007, to look at ways to improve campus safety.

"They saw some areas we could make improvements," Director of Housing and Residence Life Preston Swiney said.

However, because the alarms continue sounding

until someone resets them, the residents living on the first floor by the emergency exit doors are upset by the new distracting sound when someone attempts to open the doors.

A Facebook group has been started in support of getting the alarms removed and there is a petition circling Oak Hall to get the alarms removed.

Ed Ricker, a student living on the first floor in Oak Hall, is responsible for pushing for the elimination of the alarms.

"Many of the first floor students who live near the doors in question are concerned about the study/sleep atmosphere that is interrupted by the alarms on the doors when someone touches the handle on them," Ricker said.

Another area of concern for the residents is the fact that the new doors are an inconvenience for students who used to use them as shortcuts instead of walking the entire building's length.

"I will not sacrifice security for convenience," Swiney said.

Ricker also added that there was some concern about operating the doors in the event of an emergency.

"The doors have a 'delayed egress' locking system that many students don't know how to oper-



The new emergency alarms put in the residence halls over winter break were installed as a safety measure due to the Virginia Tech shootings April 16, 2007.

ate in an emergency," Ricker said.

However, Swiney said that students would not have to operate the doors when an emergency happens because when the alarms go off in the residence halls, the doors automatically unlock.

Ricker has since hit a roadblock with the petition since the doors are not UNCP policy, but is now a policy for the state after Virginia Tech. He is waiting to see what other campuses will do concerning the new policy before he moves along with it.

Swiney said he knows that the new safety improvements will take time to adjust to.

"We understand it's going to be an adjustment period," Swiney said. "I encourage students to be responsible to other residents and assist with com-

munity responsibility as it relates to safety."

Some of the other safety improvements to the campus include card access doors, cameras and alarms for the emergency exit doors.

The Campus Safety Taskforce examined UNCP in May 2007 and produced a lengthy report of ways to improve safe housing, making sure the University is prepared for events like what happened at Virginia Tech and making sure the University is prepared for dealing with people with mental disorders.

After receiving funding from the University of North Carolina system, the University put in new entrance doors to Pine Hall, alarms to the emergency exit doors and new security cameras in some of the residence halls.