

Campus News:

Pep Band

By Jennie Howell, staff reporter

The "Hey Song," "Tequila," "Louie Louie," "Wooly Bully," "Old Time Rock & Roll," which of these songs don't draw you to the flame? The Brevard College Pep Band coordinators, April Banks and Davis Whitfield-Cargile are very energetic about playing at the Basket Ball games to liven it up a bit. Although the Pep Band has not been as active as they had hoped this year, they debuted their talents at the double header Basketball women's and men's home game Saturday, December 6 as Brevard hosted Alice Lloyd College, conference team home games.

Davis Whitfield-Cargile, commenting on his participation in the Pep Band, concludes, "I've been a part of the Pep Band every year since I have been at Brevard. Each year, however, the Pep Band has seen many a change. My freshman year, Pep Band was offered as ensemble class for which you received .5 credit hours. We had a number of instruments which we could rent out to students who did not have an instrument. My sophomore year (this past academic year), the class was cut.

"Upon receiving this news, Coach Jones, Cam West, Greg Milton and I worked out a way in which students could get paid on a per game basis to play a minimum number of games. The group was open to everyone, whether current student or not, and we were pretty successful. However, this was much unorganized, unstructured, and a big hassle. I researched the way other schools compensated students for playing in the pep band, and saw that most schools either pay \$50 per game, or provide a \$500 scholarship to members per semester. Cam West left the institution before I could draft a proposal for Pep band in the future."

The club is now an official club sponsored by the SGA. "This fall, I pursued the idea of creating an SGA sponsored club. The idea was well received by the SGA senate, and we now have an official SGA Club, known as the Brevard College Basketball Pep Band. This club is open to all students who have something to contribute to the club," Whitfield-Cargile explains.

The current members of the club/ensemble are: Eric Krouse, on drums; Ryan Morris, on Guitar; Henry Westmoreland, on Keyboard; Vas Sanchez-Colon, on Drums as well; leader Davis Whitfield-Cargile, on Tuba; leader April Banks, on flute, officer (not present for debut); Lindsay Shields, flute (not present for debut); Auston Knight, tenor sax, officer (not present for debut); Steven Whitt, clarinet (not present for debut); and Shante McKoy, Bari Sax (not present for debut).

The club is open to anyone who has something to contribute. They are currently looking for trumpets/saxes and a bass player. Next semester, they will meet in the South Village Pavilion (Coffee house) and have jam sessions. Currently they take a non-traditional approach to pep band playing, since they have a very small range of instrumentation. Rather than playing stock charts, they jam and try to include popular themes. They would love to receive feedback and to increase membership. "If you have something to offer, please come out next semester," Cargile encourages.