



Black Watch offers Scottish tunes

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him to research the history of the land of his ancestors.

Helmuth said The Black Watch began in 1729 as a police regiment patrolling the Scottish border.

There are a few legends explaining how the patrol received the nickname that would become its identity.

The most popular explanation, Helmuth said, is the tartan (the kilt pattern) color worn by the regiment.

"Each tartan is distinctive to its own clan," Helmuth said. "(The regiment) took the colored stripes out of their kilts and came up with a generic tartan."

The black kilt explanation is perhaps the most widely accepted legend, but Helmuth said another story is also likely.

One of the functions of the original corps involved investigating blackmail and exploitation among territorial clans fighting for possession of fresh water, land and other assets; earning the group the omi-nous title of The Black Watch.

Helmuth said the regiment was soon engaged in battles in France,

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DON HELMUTH associate vice chancellor for research

forging a tradition of combat that spanned from the 19th century to both World Wars to the Gulf War.

Today, The Black Watch proudly continues this tradition of military excellence along with maintaining its historical roots, garb and ceremonies.

Music played an essential role in European combat, and the Scots employed two basic instruments in warfare, the bagpipe and the drums, Helmuth said.

"There is a double usage for the bagpipe," he said, "a ceremonial one like a single bagpipe to express mourning, often with a funeral.

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To give directions to forces, drums were used to issue orders to those on the field of battle.

The carefully guarded traditions of the Scots Guard have earned the division of the British forces special privileges: It is the Scots Guard, bedecked in the giant beaver-hats, which protects Buckingham palace; and it was a member of The Black Watch who played the bagpipes as the British flag was forever removed from Hong Kong last summer.

Tickets for Saturday's perfor-mance are \$30, \$26 and \$22, halfprice for students. Call (402) 472-4747 for more information.





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