

# Combined problems eliminate YSU marching band at games this year

The lack of a YSU marching band is a result of combined problem with the practice area, music student needs, university attitudes and funds.

Donald W. Byo, director of the school of music, and Robert E. Fleming, associate professor of music talked about the problems to *The Jambar* on Thursday.

Funding has been an issue, said Byo, however it is not the only issue, because if it were, some relief could be obtained.

One problem has been the Harrison field practice area. The field is a city playground, not controllable by YSU. Consequently people can wander into the area during band practices, breaking ranks and causing confusion.

More importantly, the field poses safety problems, both men have witnessed "clubbings" at Harrison in the past. It has also become necessary to constantly guard all items taken onto the field.

As far as students of Dana themselves are concerned, they see little need for the experience of a college marching band. Fleming said many students who have participated in high school bands are "burned out" from

those years. The graduate of Dana is looking for a professional performing or teaching career. There are no professional marching bands therefore the continued study in that area is of little benefit.

Dana schedules 16 hours for the full time student (which make up the majority). Participation in a marching band is an additional class load and an extra expense (\$18 for the overload 17th hour).

Byo and Fleming feel this could be partially compensated for if there were more spirit at YSU football games, but the attitude shown toward the games offers little to attract the music student into a marching band. They express that community high schools have done an excellent job of performing at games and having them do so is a good recruiting feature for the university.

Byo noted that since it was made known there would be no marching band this year, he had received only four letters and a half dozen phone calls from concerned people. None of those were from YSU students.

It was stressed by Byo and Fleming that YSU is not without

a band, only a marching band.

There are in fact three bands at this time, the concert band, a wind ensemble and a reading band. YSU's wind ensemble is nationally known and respected as is Mr. Fleming who will guest conduct around the country including performances at Theil College,(PA), Slippery Rock (PA), State Teacher College, and the Maryland All-State Honors band this year.