

Queen's Guard renowned for drills



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The Queen's Guard has performed in a number of foreign countries, and has been invited to perform at the Royal Tournament in London.

By TOM KEHOE
Staff Writer

Although the Queen's Guard may not be too well known on campus, the University trick rifle drill team is renowned for their innovative drill techniques in many other parts of the world.

Having performed in Canada, West Germany, Australia, and most recently in Scotland, the Queen's Guard is considered to be the defending national champion on the intercollegiate circuit. Despite their international reputation, Queen's Guard members feel they are little recognized in their own backyard.

"We're really not that well known around here because we don't have any place where we can perform," said Jeff Dunne, Queen's Guard executive commander. "We need a place that is at least 200 by 100 feet, and even that is cutting it a bit close," added Dunne.

Because of their space requirements, the Queen's Guard holds both their practice sessions, and competitive drills, at the Elizabeth Armory.

Dunne, a three-year veteran of the Guard, said that their "military" image could be another reason for the lack of recognition by University students. Although the Queen's Guard has been traditionally regarded as a military unit, and has space provided by the R.O.T.C. as a campus headquarters, they have no official affiliation with any of the armed services.

"It's kind of bad in a way," said Dunne. "People come in, and think that we're part of R.O.T.C., and don't want to get involved. But we're really just a group of Rutgers students, like any other student club."

The Guard has represented New Jersey in the inaugural parades of Presidents Johnson and Kennedy, and represented the United States at numerous military drills and parades around the world.

"It's a sport that requires a lot of endurance and discipline," said Dunne. "It can get kind of dangerous, and the team is only as strong as its weakest member."

The members of the Guard haven't yet decided which overseas invitations to accept this year. The Guard has been invited to attend the Royal Tournament in London, and to give a special performance in South Africa.