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# Fiscal woes befalls Pikes

By Jolayne Houtz

Of the Emerald

The 50-year old University chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity folded during the summer because of financial difficulties, says Mitch Vance, Interfraternity Council president.

"The situation kept perpetuating itself and ultimately the chapter had to be closed," Vance says.

The closure was actually done by the Internal Revenue Service because of back taxes and rent that had not been paid, but Vance cites many other obstacles the chapter had to face.

About three or four years ago, the "Pikes" lost their lease on what is now the Maranatha Christian Center and were forced to seek new housing. The new Pike house was not as large as the first, so not as many

members could live in it. Monthly per-member house bills soared to \$300 a month, the highest on campus.

To complicate the situation, the 1982-83 house treasurer, Darren Berg, was accused by fraternity members of funneling \$21,000 in fraternity funds into his business account to save his dying business, Darren Berg Tours.

The case has never been resolved, and the missing money "came down like a lead brick," Vance says.

"The house just wasn't strong enough, especially financially, to bounce back after all that happened."

Vance explained further, "It was especially tough for them (Pi Kappa Alpha members) because they had no support from their nationals. In my opinion, the national fraternity turned around and stabbed

them in the back."

The chapter made a combined effort to eliminate their debts, including payment plans with creditors, but "eventually it got to a serious state, and when the IRS steps in, you're history," Vance says.

This year, the chapter made an effort to "recolonize" and find housing while participating in rush, but Vance says there was "no support from nationals, alumni or within the house," and (chapter president) Lea Davies decided he couldn't do it on his own.

The Pikes' charter was revoked through the University after the IRS closed the house, and it will probably be revoked through the Pi Kappa Alpha national organization as well.

"A few years ago, they had one of the highest memberships on campus, they were very active in the Greek system — we're very disappointed to see them leaving," Vance says.

A few other fraternities are also rumored to be having financial problems, but Vance is optimistic about their recovery.

"The houses we were worried about had a decline in membership over the past few years, poor officer changes and financial problems, but two specific houses had the most improvement in membership during rush. There's no reason why they can't get back on their feet again this year," Vance says.

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The recycling coordinator helps plan and coordinate the campus recycling program, as well as corresponding with other college recycling programs to help design a national model recycling program at the University.



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Each job carries a \$45 per month stipend and is work-study applicable. The organization is looking for people who are hard-working, people-oriented and dedicated to grass roots work on the protection of the environment.

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