

Beta Theta Pi holds charity Beer Run

The Beta Theta Pi fraternity sponsored the second annual Ferguson/Murphy Beer Run Thursday to raise money for charity.

The run was established in Portland by Dennis Ferguson and Edward Murphy about 10 years ago. Ferguson and Murphy are the fathers of Bart Ferguson and Pat Murphy, currently Beta fraternity members.

Originally, the Portland event consisted of a group of friends running to a restaurant, drinking beer and running back, Bart Ferguson said. This became an annual event, and last year Bart Ferguson and Pat Murphy decided to bring the event to Eugene as a fundraiser for their fraternity, he said.

About 500 people participated in the run last year, raising about \$250 for an alcohol center in Portland, Bart Ferguson said. This year the fraternity hopes to raise about \$1,000 by selling T-shirts that advertise the event, he said.

The money will go to Eugene's Childrens Services



Photo by Maria Corvallis

Runners leave Beta Theta Pi fraternity house, 1009 Patterson St., at the start of the second annual Ferguson/Murphy Beer Run. Money raised from T-shirt sales advertising the event will be given to Eugene's Childrens Services Division.

Division.

"It was a lot of fun in Portland, and I know a lot of people like to run down here, and I think it's a great way to make money," Bart Ferguson said.

Thursday's run, which was about three miles long, wound around Autzen stadium and ended back at the house. The run netted about \$850 for the fraternity's philanthropy project, said one fraternity member.

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"We want anyone interested to attend, and to have some knowledge of the Spanish language would be helpful," said David Curland, the director of the Foreign Languages Resource Center.

Local high school Spanish classes were also invited to attend, as well as Meadowlark Bilingual School, an elementary school.

"I think it's dealing with a very important topic...with some of the things that...have to do with the culture and folk customs of the Spanish-speaking farm workers of the Northwest," Curland said.

In addition, because University Spanish students are reading the play as well, they will have a chance to hear and understand the language as it is really spoken, he said.

The idea for the play started

with Roberto, who travels to migrant worker camps and talks to the workers, encouraging them to join the high school equivalency program, Ryan said.

"Basically it's a program for (people) who work...in agricultural areas and they spend three months here in an intensive program and get a high school diploma," Ryan said.

Roberto became interested in producing a play that was oriented toward the migrant worker population and that dealt with the problems of migrant families, Ryan said.

The play began developing last spring and received funding during the summer from grant sources such as the Oregon Committee and the Humanities and McKenzie

River Gathering.

The play, which is a production of "On the Edge," a theatrical improvisation group, has traveled in Oregon, visiting small towns with large migrant populations such as Milton Freewater, Medford, Woodburn and Independence, he said.

"The response all over Oregon has been extremely positive," Christofferson said.

The play begins at 7:30 p.m., and tickets cost \$2.

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