

Oregon Daily Emerald

Tuesday, August 1, 1989

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 91, Number 12

Inside

- Fulbright scholars named, Page 4
- Register-Guard sued, Page 4
- Veterans' Games news, Page 5
- Coach search continues, Page 6

Parr Tower may be closed for code violations

Deputy fire marshal makes rounds

By Alice Wheeler
Emerald Managing Editor

Parr Tower, a University co-op may soon join the ranks of five fraternity houses that have been posted "No Occupancy" for failure to amend various fire code violations.

Steve Boosinger, deputy fire marshal, took over the job of inspecting University buildings, which includes fraternities, sororities and co-ops, in April 1989. After inspecting the fraternities and co-ops, he said that all were in violation of some codes, but some were worse than others.

Boosinger gave houses that were in violation of fire safety codes written warnings. Houses that did not respond and correct problems after repeated warnings were served notices that they were considered unsafe and could not be occupied.

The closed houses include: Phi Gamma Delta (the "Fiji" house), 791 E. 15th Ave.; Lambda Chi Alpha, 818 E. 15th Ave.; Sigma Chi, 1440 E. 19th Ave.; Sigma Alpha Epsilon, 812 E. 14th Ave. and Beta Theta Pi, 1009 Patterson St.

In addition, the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity will be posted but the house has been unoccupied for a few months, he said.

"A couple more will still be posted," Boosinger said on Friday, but he would not reveal which ones.

The Parr Tower house is in violation of several fire safety codes, with problems such as inadequate exits on the third and fourth floor, obstructed corridors, non operational fire alarm and smoke detectors and holes in the ceilings and walls.

Boosinger said he has visited the house four or five times, and although the co-op's attorney hired a contractor who has done some work,

"they haven't done enough."

Parr Tower residents are working to install an \$11,000 fire alarm system, said Monica Morison, a Parr Tower resident. The co-op has the money to buy and install the system, she said. She said she believes the co-op still has five or six days to complete repairs before the fire marshal can officially post the house.

The Delta Tau Delta house had its posting taken down last week after showing some signs of improvement, Boosinger said, adding that an engineer and an architect working on the house have submitted plans for repairs.

The condition of the fraternity houses came as a surprise to Shelly Sutherland, assistant director of student development and fraternity and sororities adviser.

"I got copies of the reports (from the fire marshal) from the fall and they were ok ... nothing really serious," Sutherland said. "I was really surprised at the severity of the reports (this spring) and the lengths of the lists of violations."

Some of the houses that are closed now were marked as "excellent" or "very good" last fall, she said.

The University holds no responsibility for the management and upkeep of the fraternities because the houses are privately owned, Sutherland said. The University helps facilitate the fire marshal's inspections and sets up inspection appointments.

The closures this summer will cause a extra inconvenience and expense for the students who have been living in fraternity houses. However, Sutherland said if some of the houses stay closed through the beginning of fall term, it could cause some serious housing problems for students who expect to live in fraternities and find them closed when they arrive.



Photo by Mark Ylen

The Parr Tower co-op could be closed if its residents fail to bring the building up to fire safety standards.

Hearings to be held behind closed doors

By Paul Queary
Emerald Contributor

Most student conduct code violation hearings will now be closed to the public.

The University has filed a permanent administrative rule change with the Oregon Secretary of State's office which will allow hearing officers to close student conduct hearings in some circumstances. Prior to the change, student conduct hearing procedure was modeled after state administrative conduct hearing guidelines, which call for a public hearing, according to Elaine Green, assistant to the Dean of Students responsible for student conduct.

However, students have a federally protected right to keep their educational records private, which prompted the rule change, according to Green. Since this privacy right is incompatible with an open-hearing procedure, the Student Conduct Committee recommended a rule change.

Under the old rule, a hearing could be closed, but normally only for a disturbance during

the hearing itself, Green said. The rule change was not prompted by any specific incident, but by a general awareness that such a rule would be desirable, Green said.

The new rule calls for a closed hearing if the accused student has not waived any restrictions on disclosure of information from his or her private student records. The entire hearing would be closed unless the prosecution and defense agree otherwise.

In closed hearings only prosecution and defense counsel and supporting staffs, the accused student, and currently testifying witnesses would be allowed to attend. Additional persons could be present only if the prosecution and defense agree to their presence.

Public hearings will continue to be held in cases where the accused student has waived student record disclosure.

The rule change was instigated at the request of counselling psychology professor Elizabeth Holloway, chair of the Student Conduct Committee, who was acting on recommendations from the committee, said Muriel Jackson, vice-president for administration.



Studying from the outside

Brett Fogelstrom, a graduate student in architecture, sketches and diagrams the Knight Library to better understand its form.

Photo by Mark Ylen