

Hawaii Club luau provides taste of native food, dance and music

By Jolie Andrade
Emerald Reporter

Members of the University Hawaii Club will celebrate their culture by sharing food, song and dance with students and the Eugene community at the club's 15th annual luau.

"The culture in Hawaii is so different," said Alice Husted, co-chairwoman of the luau. "We want to keep it going among us and share it with the community. We want to give the community what they've given to us."

People will have the opportunity to taste authentic Hawaiian food, such as lomi lomi salmon, a mixture of diced raw salmon, onions, green onions and tomatoes; and haupia, a gelatin desert made with coconut milk. Guests will also be entertained by traditional Hawaiian music and dance.

The luau, consisting of two shows, will open with an ancient dance performed by men and women, known as the Kahiko. Fourteen other dances, reflecting the Hawaiian culture and others, from Tahiti and New Zealand, will follow, said John Motohiro, Hawaii Club president.

A slide show will also be presented and door prizes will be awarded. Hawaii Club t-shirts, flowers and other products from Hawaii will be sold at the

luau, Motohiro said.

Despite the fact that the luau is on Easter Sunday, Husted said they have had no problem selling tickets for both shows.

"It's a different way to spend Easter," Motohiro said, "and since it's targeted more as a family thing, it's really a show that everyone can enjoy."

"I've been telling people to go to church in the morning and then come to the luau at night," said Jayna Maruyama, luau co-chairwoman.

If people are interested in an Easter brunch they can come to the day show instead, Motohiro said.

The only difference between the day show and the evening show is the amount of food served.

Guests will sample one serving of each dish at the day show, whereas the evening show will offer an all-you-can-eat buffet, Motohiro said.

Because the night show always sells out, and fire safety codes have cut down the number of people who can attend, the club decided to serve lunch instead of just dessert during the day show, Maruyama said.

This is the first year the club is doing this, hoping to attract those who can't attend the evening show, she said.

The doors open at 1 p.m. for the day show and 6 p.m. for the night show and the perform-

ances begin at 2 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Preparation for the luau starts a year in advance with the coordination of committees, dances and other plans, Maruyama said.

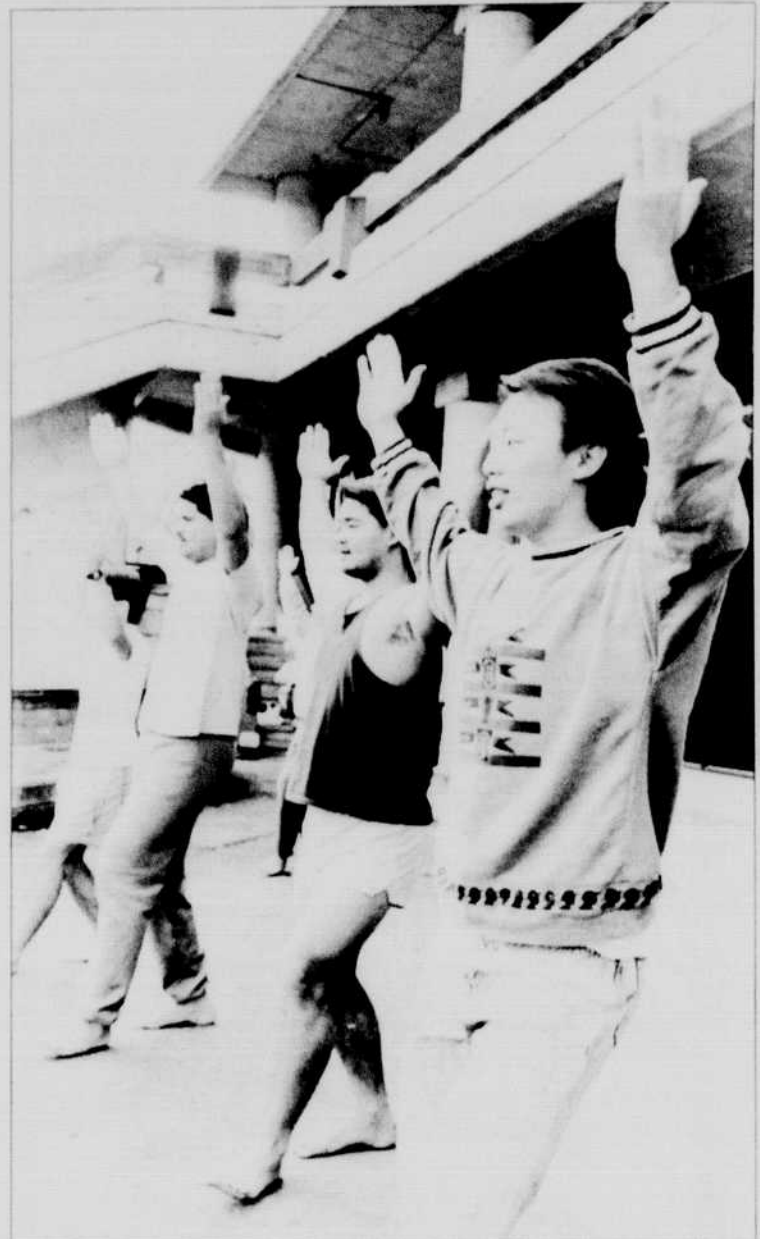
Husted and Maruyama also taught the dances to the 60 people performing in this year's luau, with the help of advisors Carol McIntyre and Lei McCormack and three other students. Musicians include McCormack, Lance Ichimura, and Amber Arakaki, Husted said.

"We're just really fortunate that we have always had talented to people every year," Husted said.

The costumes, which are updated every three years, are hand made by the members and their parents, Maruyama said. Only the Tahitian grass skirts are purchased.

Proceeds from the ticket sales go back into a fund for next year's luau, Motohiro said, adding that in the past they have just made enough to cover the costs of the luau.

Tickets for the luau are on sale at the University bookstore, EMU main desk, and in the lobby near the Fishbowl until Friday. The main desk will be selling tickets until the day of the show. The day show costs \$7 and the evening show is \$12.



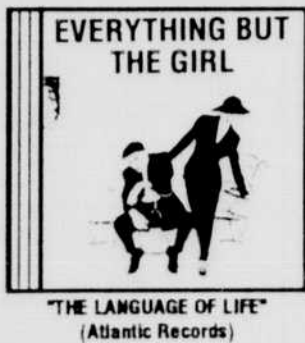
File photo
Members of the University's Hawaii Club practice a dance routine in preparation for their 15th annual luau this Sunday.

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