UNIVERSITY

Sigma Kappa sorority receives support from University greeks

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Reporter

Sigma Kappa, a former University sorority, is back on campus.

So far, the new chapter has received a warm welcome from the greek system.

The reaction from other houses has been "phenomenal," said Lynn Klostermann, Sigma Kappa chapter consultant.

"The support is wonderful and there are no rivalries," Klosterman said. "The other sororities realize that the more (sororities) there are the stronger the greek system will be."

The sorority, which was founded at Colby College in Maine in 1874, has returned to the University after a 10-year absence.

Due to an unstable economy in the late '60s and early '70s, Sigma Kappa could no longer be supported on campus, said Nicole Kiesz, Panhellenic expansion chair.

The Panhellenic Council decided last fall to expand the sorority system, Kiesz said.

"We looked at the numbers of women in the houses," she said. "It was getting to the point where pledge classes were getting to be about 40 people. They could move in but no one else could."

The greek system was not allowing for growth, Kiesz said, although there was interest in expansion.

The University council wrote to all national sororities and three were interviewed with the council deciding to support two sororities: Kappa Delta, which was added last year, and Sigma Kappa to start this term.

Sigma Kappa pledges attended an information meeting and then were interviewed by national rush council members at the start of the term.

The women then attended in-

formal parties and learned the history of the organization during rush. In January, 115 women who pledged the house will be initiated.

Sigma Kappa pledges are currently adjusting to University life and members are busy working within the sorority, said Christy Saito, Panhellenic vice-president.

"Right now the stuff they're doing is within their own organization including choosing officers," Saito said. "But they're part of Panhellenic including electing delegates on Panhellenic."

The original Sigma Kappa house, on 15th Avenue and formerly inhabited by Tau Kappa Epsilon, is undergoing an estimated $250,000 renovation and is expected to be done next fall, said Klostermann.
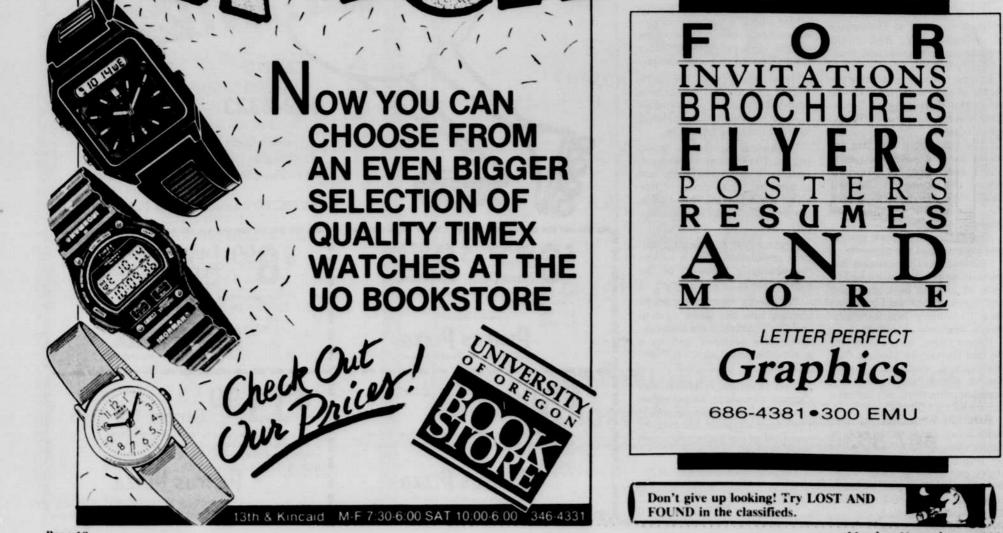
The house is being expanded and will house 50-55 members, although who will live there has yet to be determined.

GREEK

admission caps that some universities have recently enacted.

Nancy Vanderpool, sorority adviser at Oregon State University, said the enrollment cap at OSU kept fraternity and sorority numbers at the same level as last year.

Texas and Arizona both cited their admission caps and high-

er enrollment requirements as a factor in their declining numbers.

The University lifted its enrollment cap that was enacted at the beginning of the 1989-90 school year, and that may also play a part in the increasing number of pledges on the campus.

Also to blame for the general decrease is the negative publicity the greek system has been getting, many colleges say.

With charges currently being pressed against a member of the Phi Delta Theta house for harassment, the University's Interfraternity Council can relate to that problem.

"But, these are individual members within a house, and I think that students realize that these people are not character-

istic of the house," said Lawson.

"All houses are representative of the greek system," said Oberhue. "When an incident with one house comes up in the press, it reflects on the whole system, whether the accused is guilty or not."

As for future growth, greek representatives anticipate the system will continue to appeal to more and more University students. However, there are no plans for additional sororities or fraternities on campus for the next few years.

"The numbers will keep increasing, but not like in the past," predicts Oberhue. "I don't think the University will take on another house for at least four more years."