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ANTHONY FORNEY/Emerald

Jefferson Middle School students in Kappa Alpha Psi's mentor program enjoy Saturday's Ducks game. The program began last year.

Fraternity sponsors program

Members of Kappa Alpha Psi provide stability and support for young African-American males

By Amy Columbo
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Sixteen students from the Jefferson Middle School spent Saturday afternoon with members of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity as the first event of its mentor program this year.

The students attended the Oregon football game, ate dinner and discussed future projects with the fraternity.

Kappa Alpha Psi has sponsored the mentor program since last year as a way to provide stability and support for young African-American males.

The mentor program is one that "opens up a lot of opportunities to a community that is sometimes overlooked by other youth programs," member Trent Griffith said.

"There's not a lot of African-Americans in

Eugene," said alumni fraternity member Jay Jones. "We let them know they have a support group in us."

Fraternity members spoke of filling a void in many students' lives, interacting with them about their goals and their future, and teaching them that they can achieve in all aspects of their lives.

"We channel kids in the right direction, that's all we can really do," graduate student Efreem Mehretab said.

Griffith said a lot of the students' role models are people like Michael Jackson, idols who are untouchable, but he wants the students to be able to have "a role model that they can call." Many of the fraternity members develop personal relationships with the students, as many middle school students have returned to the program.

The middle school students agreed that they enjoyed the football game, the chance to shake hands with some of the players, and the opportunity to be among friends.

Seventh-grader Seth Revoal said it's fun when the fraternity is "hanging out and helping us when we need help, kind of like a big brother thing."

Campus problems will be main focus of Hate Free Week

Forums will include range of viewpoints

By Jim Davis
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Patterns of hatred on campus, such as racial tension, sexism and homosexual bias will be targeted for discussion today at the opening of the second annual Hate Free Week.

"A lot of people don't realize how close to home these problems really are," said Shannon Wall, a Hate Free Week organizer.

"Violence on this campus is not talked about. It's put on the back burner. Hate is not always overt. Sometimes it comes in subtle forms, but it is a reality," Wall said.

Many of these problems will be featured in open forums at the EMU, and organizers say they want to involve a broad range of viewpoints.

"White straight males sometimes feel excluded from campus activities like this," Wall said. "Hate Free Week is an opportunity where everybody can come together and learn from each other."

But the publisher of the conservative journal the *Oregon Commentator*, Owen Brennan Rounds, remains skeptical.

"If this Week brings members of the campus together to deal with each other on an intellectual basis devoid of threats and other intimidation tactics, then every day of the year should be Hate Free," Brennan Rounds said.

"But if this is a mechanism for more politically correct dogma, then it's a waste of everyone's time," he said.

The *Oregon Commentator*, Brennan Rounds believes, is a checks-and-balances system on the University campus. But no one from the *Commentator* was invited to this event, he said.

The organizers have invited members of the Oregon Citizens Alliance for a forum Tuesday, and several other groups have been invited to participate in the event.

A member of the Vietnamese Student Association, Linda Pham, has some reservations about Hate Free Week.

"You can't just invite people to come," Pham said. "You have to be interested in what they have to say."

Pham said she believes that Asian groups tend to be less vocal about their problems, and as a result problems among Asian groups tend to be overlooked.

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Play ball



MARK McTYRE/for the Emerald

Junior Mark Miksis, in the dark cap, defends his teammate, junior Mike James, during a water polo team practice at Esslinger Pool. The Ducks will play against the University of Washington next weekend.

Station K53EA lets viewers pick favorite videos

Channel 53 is new affiliate of Video Jukebox Network

By Jeff Winters
Oregon Daily Emerald

For nine months this year, the airwaves in Eugene were inhabited by fish. With music from the Cowboy Junkies or James Taylor playing in the background, videotapes of aquarium life, mountain streams and rock climbers were the sedate staples of television station K53EA.

The fish format is history. Channel 53 is now an interactive music video station, playing whatever videos are requested, when they are requested.

Last month, K53EA became the latest affiliate of the Video Jukebox Network. Rather than sending out programming selected by

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