

## Maine fraternity thrives despite no-alcohol rule

□ Sigma Chi house overcomes odds to rebuild chapter with new policy

ORONO, Maine (AP) — Gone are the days when the Sigma Chi fraternity house was a dark, empty place with broken windows, holes in graffiti-splattered walls and the stale smell of old beer.

Tyler Batteese, the lone student who lived there with the chapter adviser, drew smirks from partying fraternities as he tried to rebuild the chapter with a key house rule: no booze.

But a funny thing has happened. The brewless chapter house, now renovated, is flourishing.

"The *Animal House* days are over," said Blake Fryer, a senior speech communications major. "We're getting back to what fraternities were meant to be."

The message has not been lost on a University of Maine campus where alcohol continues to be a chief source of entertainment through long northern winters. Amid seven sororities and 13 fraternities, which have an average membership of 30, Sigma Chi has grown to 18 members with a 14-member pledge class this fall.

"We're very enthused and positive," Fryer said. "This is a definite wave of the future. There's no way a fraternity based on alcohol abuse and hazing can survive."

Members adhere to a strict policy of no alcohol in the chapter house, although members are not barred from

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## Artistic Moment



ANTHONY FORNEY/Emerald

Chad Shepard, a freshman fine arts major, works on a drawing project Monday at the EMU.

## Class offers mentor plan

□ Alumni will meet with students for career aid

By Julie Swensen  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students now can learn about career possibilities by talking with University alumni and earn college credit at the same time in a class that debuts next term.

The Alumni Mentor Program offers four classes — for chemistry, English and marketing majors, and a general section for all majors — in

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## Sex act policy questions academic liberty

□ Teachers say policy is form of censorship

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Students complained about sexually graphic material shown in University of Iowa classrooms. Now faculty members are complaining that an order to warn students about steamy subjects is censorship.

The Iowa Board of Regents, which oversees the University of Iowa, imposed a policy last month requiring teachers to tell students when they are about to see "explicit representations of human sexual acts."

The policy stems from complaints over a film shown in a German class in September 1991. The movie, *Taxi zum Klo*, or *Taxi to the Bathroom*, was billed as an erotic comedy and a landmark in gay

filmmaking.

Complaints from students, parents, alumni and legislators flooded the school, forcing university President Hunter Rawlings to issue a public apology.

Administrators told faculty in the College of Liberal Arts to be aware of students' sensibilities and tell them ahead of time about any material that might be objectionable.

Then, last February, art teaching assistant Megan O'Connell showed a local artists' eight-minute video to 160 students at her weekly colloquium. The video contained three scenes, totaling about 15 seconds, of men engaging in oral sex.

That's when the regents ordered the University of Iowa, Iowa State University and the University of Northern Iowa to

establish policies to warn students.

"We don't like it," Rawlings said of the policy. "It gives us ... a certain uniqueness in American higher education that I think none of us savors."

The policy is unsound, awkward and an embarrassment to the school, said Robert O'Neil, founding director of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression at the University of Virginia.

"I don't think there's any question that it reflects a kind of outlook, a climate which is not as sympathetic to academic freedom and free inquiry as Iowa's traditions would suggest," O'Neil said.

Regents' President Marvin Berenstein said the policy is really nothing more than a courtesy to students. The warnings

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## Family chosen to build new house

□ Ross family raises walls on Habitat for Humanity home

By Mike O'Leary  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Randy Ross has lived in Eugene for 20 years and is finally seeing his dream of owning his own home come true.

As the snowflakes fell last week, the Ross family ceremonially raised the first wall of the new home. It was made possible by the work of Habitat for Humanity: a global charitable organization that builds low-income housing.

In the past 17 years, Habitat for Humanity has built 25,000 homes in 41 countries. The local chapter has built four homes in Springfield during the last three years. Habitat homes in the

United States generally cost \$35,000 to build.

The Ross' four-bedroom, 12,000-square-foot home will be built through a community-wide partnership. The family agrees to pay a no-interest loan for the cost of the house, as well as help build the home with the help of dozens of Habitat volunteers.

The Ross family was approved to receive a Habitat home two years ago. But because they didn't want to move their children out of Eugene schools, they passed up two Habitat homes that were built in Springfield in the hopes that a Eugene site might be found. The Ross' home is the first Habitat home to be built in Eugene.

Gerry Keenan, the Habitat for Humanity Area Chapter president, said Habitat has wanted to build a home in Eugene for years, but wasn't able



MIKE O'LEARY for the Emerald

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The Ross family stands in front of their future home