

UNIVERSITY

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity re-opens after eight years

By Jade Chan

For the Oregon Daily Emerald

After eight years of silence, three of those as a colony, Pi Kappa Alpha is active once again on campus.

Sometimes good behavior pays off, but Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity's Gamma Pi chapter at the University had to learn that the hard way when it was forced to close in 1986.

Originally established nationally in 1868 and at the University in 1931, Pi Kappa Alpha's University chapter was shut down due to financial and behavioral difficulties such as officers' embezzlement and a few incidents in which parties got out of

control.

Once it was closed, the chapter was dis-affiliated with the national organization and no longer a part of the campus. Members of the chapter were still part of Pi Kappa Alpha, but they were non-active and considered alumni.

"Basically, we were non-existent," said Joel Bruner, Gamma Pi president.

The fraternity reopened as a colony on campus in 1990, which meant that it was a part of the national organization but had no charter and was therefore not fully recognized. Two national officers selected 29 men to start the colony, but instead of being members, they were merely pledges

in charge of rush, reestablishing the chapter, setting up committees and programs, and establishing laws and by-laws.

"It's hard to get the level of organization and the number of men of a strong fraternity," Bruner said. "After we got men with the commitment to make the fraternity strong, it was only a matter of months before we would be granted a charter."

Once those tasks were completed, membership size reached the average chapter size on campus of 52, and grades were brought up to the all-men's (fraternity) average of 2.75 for the fall term. The colony was inspected December 6, 1993. After three hours of demonstrating what the

colony had done in the last three years and what they plan to do, regional president Tom Knollman, expansion consultant Steve Heck, and six members, three from Linfield and three from Oregon State University, unanimously granted the colony its charter.

Sixteen Oregon State and eight Linfield Pi Kappa Alpha members conducted the initiation ceremony Jan. 28 at Deady Hall in which 43 members were initiated. The actual re-installation of the chapter, also held at Deady Hall, was conducted by the University chapter officers the next day, and a formal banquet at the Downtown Athletic Club followed the ceremony.

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WILSON CHAN/for the Emerald
A member of the Singapore Student Association performs a dance at the Singapore Cultural Night last Saturday in the EMU Ballroom.

Cultural Night resolves myths about Singapore

By Susanne Steffens

Oregon Daily Emerald

"I believe Singapore is in South-East China, isn't it?"

The question came from Bill Jennings, an American from Montana who was performing at Singapore Cultural Night on Saturday in the EMU Ballroom.

The Singapore Student Association had come up with five of the most typical questions which they receive here in the United States.

"We want to show the Americans that we don't just live in straw-huts, but in an extremely modern society," said Singapore Association president, Gillian Oh.

Oh said that not many people know the true facts about Singapore, and she hoped that Saturday's performance would bring more insight about "the garden city."

For the 300 people who sat in the audience, Singapore's history was played out, and presented with costumes, music and dance. People learned that Singapore is an island, situated on the tip of Malaysia, and is the second most developed country in Asia. "University of Oregon is one of the five universities in the States having the largest number of Singaporean students, and it's therefore a great honor to be able to present our cultural night," Oh said.

Bill Jennings said the presentation was valuable to the public, informing them about the very diverse cultures we have at the University.

"My parents don't even know where Singapore is, and with our extensively smaller world, it's important to be aware of the countries and cultures out there," he said.

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