

Drums honor dead, bring Japanese culture to life

■ **EVENT:** Sixth annual drumming festival is designed to promote unity East-West

By Dannie Helm
Freelance Reporter

Eugene's Alton Baker Park was filled with the sights and sounds of Japanese culture on Saturday, as more than 1,200 local residents gathered for the 6th Annual Japanese Obon and Taiko Drumming Festival.

The event is part of the Japanese custom of honoring the dead and welcoming them home. According to tradition, the spirits of the dead arrive on the backs of dragonflies to be with their loved ones during the obon season.

The folk dance festival was begun so children and other members of the community could learn more about Japanese traditions, said Ken Nagao, one of the organizers of the event.

Nagao also said the festival promotes the coming together of East and West, as symbolized by the red salmon and carp on the festival banner.

In a performance area ringed with 250 paper lanterns donated by Kakegawa, Eugene's sister city in Japan, dancers in traditional costumes performed dances associated with the obon season throughout the evening. The dancers, who were of various

ethnic backgrounds, included both children and senior citizens, men and women.

Some of the dances in the performance's intricate first half used props, such as fans, and some represented different motifs from nature, such as the sun rising and setting.

Many obon dances also honor work, and one of the dances honored fishermen. The motions of the dancers mimicked the throwing of nets, the hauling in of the catch and its distribution on shore.

The dances performed in the second half were easy to learn, with simple, repetitive motions; audience participation was encouraged.

During the intermission in the dancing, a quartet of two koto players, a shakuhachi (bamboo flute) player and a taiko drummer played a piece titled "Mt. Fuji," which represents the majesty and sacredness of the mountain.

The children's area had several activities which ranged in price from free to \$2. There was a fish pond, paper Sumo wrestling, and Shashin Foto, where children could get their photo taken as either a geisha or Sumo wrestler by sticking their head through a wooden cutout. Additionally, there were also custom-made paper or cloth hachimaki (headbands) available for purchase.

Claim: Property was quickly returned

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fraternity house with intent to commit theft.

Donovan Dichter, the fraternity system's top official, and Jason Potter were charged with first-degree burglary in connection with a July 21 incident involving a TV and stereo equipment allegedly taken from the Phi Delta Theta fraternity house, at 1472 Kincaid.

Neither Dichter nor Potter responded to repeated messages Monday afternoon and evening. However, Dichter's lawyer, Robert Manders, said it was "not the time to make any sort of statement" regarding the charges.

According to statements in the police report, Dichter and Potter were invited to the fraternity house by a friend on the evening of July 21. As the three men were sitting on the front porch of the house socializing, Potter went inside the fraternity several times, saying he needed to use the bathroom.

Around 2:45 a.m., according to the report, Lance Woodke, a resident of the house, noticed that Dichter and Potter had left. After hearing a loud noise on the north side of the building, Woodke went to investigate and found his stereo receiver, CD player and TV were laying in the alleyway stretching between Alder and Kincaid streets. The report said Woodke then went to his room where he noticed the items had been taken from his wall unit.

Another resident of the house, Geoff Rankin, stated in the report that he had heard a loud noise in the alleyway and looked out of his window, where he observed two men. One was holding a CD player and TV in his hands and the other was holding a receiver.

Rankin then yelled, "Hey, what are you guys doing?" to the



DICHTER



POTTER

two men, who then dropped the items and ran westbound through the alley.

Woodke and Rankin then called the police. Woodke told police that while waiting for an officer to arrive, he saw the same two men riding their bikes southbound on Kincaid,

then turning into the alleyway where the property had been abandoned.

According to police reports, Woodke caught up with the men, whom he identified as Dichter and Potter, at Alder Street and advised them that the police had been called. The two men were escorted back to the Phi Delta Theta house.

Rankin told police that Potter had made comments to him such as "It was a mistake" and "[I] didn't mean it."

Woodke advised officers on the scene that he wished to press burglary charges.

The involved property was retrieved from the alleyway and returned to Woodke.

The police report gave the following account of Potter's and Dichter's statements:

The two men told officers that they had been at local Eugene bars that evening and had been drinking. Dichter was quoted as saying he and Potter had gone through the Phi Delta Theta house because "we were looking

for the best way out of here."

When the officer pointed out to Dichter that he was already outside of the house, and it would have been easier to leave via the front porch, Dichter stated "we left beer here and wanted to take it with us." According to police reports, no one was able to locate the beer that was allegedly brought over to the house.

The officer asked Dichter if he had been in any of the rooms at the house. Dichter stated "I was just trying. I did not steal. I wanted to make it right. I was not in any of the rooms to steal."

The officer mentioned to Dichter that Rankin had identified him as one of the two men carrying Woodke's equipment in the alleyway. Dichter then stated, "I grabbed the equipment to take it back. So when he yelled from the window I left."

Dichter was asked by the officer why he came back to the fraternity house. Dichter told the officer that he and Potter had come back "to make sure everything was made right."

Potter stated "Donovan and me were just screwing around." The officer then asked Potter whose idea it was to take the property. Potter stated it was mutual.

The officer then asked Potter if the incident was some sort of prank or joke. Potter stated, "It was a frat prank; do you understand what I mean?" Potter was then asked by the officer if he had had permission to be in Woodke's room. According to police, Potter replied, "You know I didn't."

Dichter and Potter were then placed under arrest for first-degree burglary. Both subjects were transported and lodged at the Lane County Jail, but later released on bail.

Departure: OPS director has mixed emotions

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New Orleans and move it here."

Drayton said he will have a hard time leaving all of his friends.

Drayton came to the University in December 1990 to head the Office of Public Safety. He has worked to incorporate law enforcement with the campus and has done a good job, said Dan Williams, vice president for administration.

"I really could not have asked for anything more," Williams said.

The University will begin a job search to fill the position sometime next week. But first, Williams said, the University plans to evaluate the Office of Public Safety.

"Anytime you have a change in leadership you have a chance to look at the organization," Williams said.

The University will advertise in higher education publications and will recruit from some other institutions across the country, he said.

The search is expected to take about three months, and an interim director will be named after Drayton leaves, Williams said.

Drayton said he was not actively pursuing a new job, but that some of his colleagues had told him about the opening.

The job had been advertised previously but it had not been filled. When it was opened again, Drayton applied for the position.



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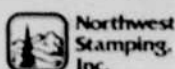
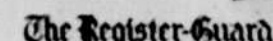
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