

National Jewish fraternity starts chapter at University

■ **GREEKS:** Alpha Epsilon Pi began Sunday and will focus on culture, not religion, advisor says

By Doug Irving
Student Activities Reporter

A new fraternity at the University, based on Jewish culture but open to everyone, is seeking a few good men.

Alpha Epsilon Pi inducted 10 men into its ranks Sunday. This is the first pledge for them at the University.

"One of the hardest things about starting something new is that people don't want to get involved until they see something happen," said Chris Kantrowitz, the advisor and a member of the fraternity.

Alpha Epsilon Pi is a national fraternity that is traditionally Jewish. Almost 90 percent of its national membership is Jewish. However, that should not prevent people from getting involved in it, Kantrowitz said.

"There is no discrimination at all," he said. "I want it to be a diverse fraternity."

Instead of being based on the religious aspects of Judaism, the fraternity will be built around the Jewish culture, he said. In this way it differs from Chi Alpha and

other religious fraternities.

"I just don't want people to feel that the fraternity is limited," he said. "Jewish ideals cross every culture."

Michael Mechanick, who was inducted as the first president of the University's chapter, said he joined for several reasons.

"Apart from Hillel, there wasn't really much Jewish life," Mechanick said. "Nationally, it's the number one fraternity in academics. The thought of being a founding father really appealed to me."

Shelley Sutherland, the greek advisor to the University, said she is looking forward to a new fraternity.

"It shows students are interested in the greek life," Sutherland said.

However, she cautioned that starting any group is not easy, and fraternities are no exception.

"It's a lot of work," she said. "They've got a long way to go."

Kantrowitz agreed and said the fraternity is working to encourage more participation.

"I really think that the house is going to be strong," he said. "We're going to be a big fraternity — we're growing really fast."

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— Michael Mechanick
Campus Chapter President

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The young fraternity is using Kantrowitz's house as a meeting place for now. Meetings are every Sunday night at 9. "We're already lining up the money," Kantrowitz said.

A new fraternity will help the greek system, Sutherland said. Instead of taking members from established fraternities, a new fraternity generally invites a new type of person.

"Statistically, people who join [a new fraternity] are people who want to start something new," she said. "It's going to appeal to different people."

About 80 percent of Alpha Epsilon Pi's national membership would not have oth-

erwise joined a fraternity, Kantrowitz said.

He said he is pleased that many of the founding members are young students. For a beginning fraternity, he said, the need is great for first and second year students who can see the fraternity through its first years.

"Young blood is getting involved," he said. "It's something they want to build."

If this fraternity is successful, he said, a Jewish-based sorority may also come to the University.

The idea for a University chapter came last spring, when the fraternity contacted Kantrowitz about it. After working with Alpha Epsilon Pi through the summer and making phone calls, Kantrowitz was ready to begin this year.

In January, the fraternity will initiate its founding class. After that, they plan to petition the Interfraternity Council for membership. If they are accepted, they will slowly work their way into the greek system.

"I want it to be a fraternity that sets the standard for what a fraternity is," Kantrowitz said. "I want people to say, 'These guys really represent the University of Oregon well.'"

Missing: Search continues today for the two hikers

■ Continued from Page 1

an minor injury, and the two are in a tent waiting to be discovered.

The only sign of the missing students is a vehicle that was parked at the head of the trail they were going to take, the press release said.

Blanchard said if the two stayed on the course they were planning to follow, finding them will be easier because researchers could concentrate on specific areas. To this point,

weather conditions have hampered searching the area surrounding the route the students were to take.

Included in the search parties is the University of Oregon Search and Rescue Group, which is made of students, he said. At 5 p.m. last night, 20 students went up to the wilderness area to help the search efforts though some of them returned last night. He said another 20 will join the effort at about 5 a.m. Wednesday morning.

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MEETINGS

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance Men's Drop-in Group will meet today from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-1134.

EMU Board Budget Committee will meet today from 5 to 6 p.m. in EMU Century Room C. For more information, call 346-3072.

Southeast Asian American Student Association Laotian Panel will meet today from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-4207.

Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Alliance Women's Drop-in Group will meet today from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. For more information, call 346-1134.

Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals will meet tonight at 6:30 in EMU Cedar Room A. For more information, call 342-6150.

Students for DeFazio will meet tonight at 8 in EMU Century Room C. For more information, call 344-7096.

RELIGION

Newman Center will offer a student social and mass tonight at 9 at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St. For more information, call 343-7021.

MISCELLANEOUS

University Women's Club will sponsor a lecture titled "Oregon Coast Prehistory: A Vanishing Legacy" by Madonna Moss today at noon in the Gerlinger Lounge. For more information, call 484-5001.

Career Center will offer a Career Center Services Orientation today from 2 to 2:30 p.m. in Room 244 Hendricks. For more information, call 346-6001.

Educational Opportunities Program will offer a workshop titled "Majors and Careers" by Donna Wong today from 3 to 4 p.m. in the Multicultural Center. For more information, call 346-2174.

Office of Academic Advising and Student Services will offer a workshop titled "Preparing for the MCAT" today at 3:30 in Room 164 Oregon Hall. For more information, call 346-3211.

ASUO Women's Center will offer a workshop titled "Self Defense" today from 5 to 7 p.m. in Room 116 Esslinger. For more information, call 346-4095.

ASUO Women's Center will sponsor a discussion titled "Awakening Mystical Feminism" in the EMU Ben Linder Room. For more information, call 346-4065.

Career Center will accept bids today until 4 p.m. for interviews with the following organizations: BiMart and Frito Lay. Registration is required to participate in the campus interview program. For more information, call 346-6001.

UPS will be in the EMU today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, call 346-6001.