



Misten Daniels, left, and Alyssa Larson lead the dancing at the dance marathon. This year the dance marathon raised money for Sacred Heart Hospital to provide medical equipment for infants and children.

Dancers raise money for sick children

MARATHON: The three-day dance marathon earned more than \$8,000 for children's hospitals.

By Kristin Bailey
Student Activities Reporter

Neither flood nor fatigue could keep 90 participants from dancing for 36 continuous hours Friday night, all of Saturday and Sunday morning in the first annual University Dance Marathon.

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) and Panhellenic Council sponsored the marathon to raise money for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Sacred Heart Hospital, which is a part of the Children's Miracle Network (CMN).

CMN is an international fundraising organization that works toward generating funds and creating awareness programs for children's hospitals.

"Our goal is to raise \$10,000," said Panhellenic President Jennifer Huegli.

As of Saturday night, the goal was close to being met. "We're not done counting yet, but so far we're over the \$8,000 mark," Huegli said. "It's truly amazing."

Eleven Eugene bands, including Cracked Mary and Cousin Larry, volunteered to play throughout the marathon, which took place in the EMU Cedar Rooms and dining area.

Every three hours dancers took a break to eat, have a mas-



Participants of the dance marathon continue to dance even after 36 hours of non-stop dancing to support Children's Miracle Network.

sage and bring up their morale.

"We want to make sure everyone's nutrition is OK, that you're feeling OK," Huegli said.

By Saturday night, Huegli said 10 of the original 100 dancers had left the marathon.

"Some people couldn't make it because of the flooding problems and others got really frustrated about their energy levels," Huegli said. "But everyone else here is gonna keep it up."

Throughout the 36 hours, dancers were surprised with different activities.

Spirit boosters included a New Year's Eve celebration, a performance by the University cheerleaders, a casino night, an Elvis impersonator and speeches by families of children in the NICU. "We want to keep every-

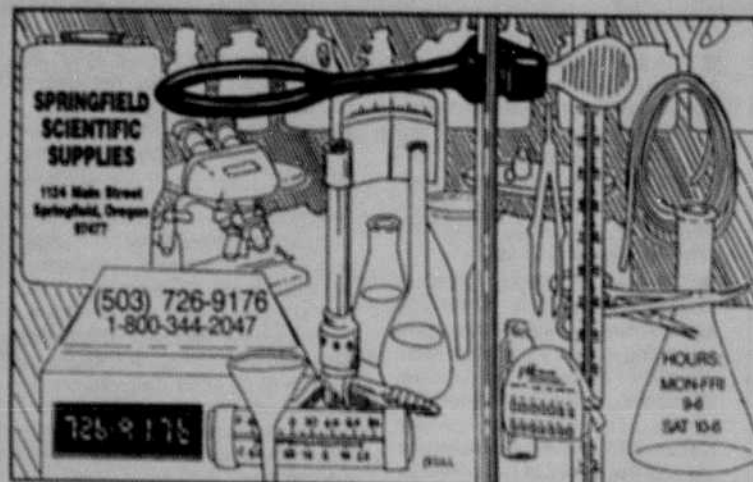
one's morale up," said Huegli.

The Dance Marathon stems from examples set at Indiana University and Pennsylvania State. The University of Oregon is the first West Coast school to be selected to begin this program.

"This is a privilege," Huegli said. "This is usually only something for the East Coast schools."

Huegli said the Dance Marathon will become a yearly tradition for the IFC and Panhellenic Council. About 60 percent of the Dance Marathon participants were members of the Greek system. However, she said she expects that will change in the future.

"We want the word to spread," Huegli said. "Our goal is that the whole community will be involved in the future."



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