

Fraternities, sororities show pride for Greek Week

The week's activities will include athletic events, alcohol awareness and community service

By Carl Yeh
Freelance Editor

They are proud to be greek. And they are going to show it this week.

The Panhellenic and Interfraternity councils, the two bodies that represent the sororities and fraternities on campus, have teamed together for a week-long celebration of the greek system, said Panhellenic President Marisa Ramsdell. The event is known as Greek Week, and the theme this year is "Proud to be greek."

"It's kind of a celebration for us to show our pride, and let the campus and community know what we're involved in," said Ramsdell, a member of Chi Omega sorority.

Greek Week started Monday and lasts until Saturday. The week's events will feature alcohol education, social activities, community

service and athletic events. Greek Week also features a week-long competition between the sororities and fraternities for the greatest participation. Because houses have different numbers of members, participation will be based on a percentage.

The purpose of the competition is to keep things interesting, said Nicci Waddell, co-chair of Greek Week.

"[Greek Week] is a tradition that has gone on since the '70s," said Waddell, a member of Kappa Delta sorority. "We usually have it during the week of University Day, but this year we decided to have it on the third week of school, when people are still excited about school and still wanting to do stuff."

Meanwhile, other schools across the country have already had or will have their Greek Week. "It's a national thing," Ramsdell said.

The first Greek Week event took place on Monday. Fraternity and sorority members were asked to wear their house's letters and sign their names at a table outside the University Bookstore.

Greek Week organizers will pre-

sent an alcohol awareness program at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the EMU Ballroom. The event is free and open to the public. Nationally known speaker Mike Green, a drug and alcohol educator, will talk about the dangers and responsibilities that come with alcohol use.

According to the press release, "Green advocates that students do not have to be serious or habitual drinkers to get in trouble. They need only one drink and the wrong circumstances to lose everything."

Waddell said her committee contacted Green in order to educate the greek system and all students on campus about the dangers of alcohol.

"Most people don't realize the bad effects it can have," Waddell said. "Anybody who has too much to drink can put their health and safety in the hands of people you don't necessarily know."

Waddell noted that each greek party is registered with the Office of Greek Life and that security is always present at functions. There is also a tribunal system in place so

that if something bad happens, there will be consequences, she said.

Another Greek Week event is a program called "Anchor Splash," a talent and variety show hosted by Delta Gamma sorority. Each fraternity and sorority will send a representative to perform in "Anchor Splash" at 6:30 p.m. Friday. Admission costs \$4, and the proceeds will go to charity.

Greek Week comes to a close Saturday with greek participation in OSPIRG's Hunger Cleanup and the Nike Swoosh Challenge. The day will end with a spaghetti feed hosted by Chi Omega sorority from 4 to 7 p.m. Admission costs \$2, and the proceeds will also go to charity.

But Greek Week was not always a big event in the greek system, according to Waddell. "In the last couple of years, Greek Week has kind of gone downhill," she said. "The program kept getting smaller and smaller. We're hoping that we can build it up a little more this year."

Waddell said she hopes Greek Week will show the community the positive effects of the greek

system with its community service projects.

Ramsdell said, "There's always a focus on the negative aspects [of the greek system]. I like how Greek Week focuses on the positive things — community service and educational awareness."

Waddell said fraternity and sorority members have much to be proud of. "I'm proud to be greek because we're a great organization that helps people across the nation," she said. "For me it makes the University less imposing — [my sorority] let me meet people and get involved."

NEWS BRIEFS

Blood drive to be held at Delta Upsilon house

The Blood Mobile will stop at Delta Upsilon fraternity, 1867 Alder St., to collect blood today and tomorrow.

The Lane Memorial Blood Bank will accept blood donations at the Blood Mobile from 2 to 5:30 p.m. today and 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. tomorrow. Anyone is welcome to donate.

Drop-ins are welcome, but the fraternity would prefer that people sign up for a time to donate. Call 345-7425 for more information or to register.

De Fazio will speak at trade union forum

A public forum today will examine the effects of multilateral trade unions on local communi-

ties, the environment and labor.

U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio will deliver the keynote address, "Should Corporations be Nations?" The discussion begins at 7 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room.

The Cultural Forum and VOICES are the event's co-sponsors.

Call the Survival Center at 346-4356 for more information.

Committee to discuss recent visit to Cuba

Members of the Committee on Solidarity with the Central American People will discuss their recent experiences and discoveries in Cuba at 7 p.m. tonight at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St.

Jennifer Webster, a University student and committee member, will discuss her experiences with Cuban sustainable agriculture in

lieu of the U.S. economic blockade of the island nation. Also, University student Jenny Rejeske will discuss how Pope John Paul II's recent visit has affected the resurgence of Catholicism in Cuba.

The event is sponsored by CIS-CAP and is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact the committee office at 485-8633 or Jennifer Webster at 338-8281.

Bachelor auction held at Pi Kappa Alpha

Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity raised \$1,400 for the Big Brothers-Big Sisters Foundation of Eugene at its second annual bachelor auction.

That donation more than doubled last year's total. The fraternity plans to continue the bachelor auction as a philanthropic event.

Big Brother-Big Sister is the fraternity's international philanthropy.

Science center seeks teaching assistants

The Willamette Science and Technology Center is currently recruiting volunteers to serve as teaching assistants for its Summer Science Program.

The center's summer camps run June 22 through August 14; morning and afternoon shifts are 9:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and 12:15 to 3:30 p.m., respectively.

Volunteers will assist students ages 6 to 12 years old and aid teachers in classroom tasks. Mandatory training is provided and a three-class minimum commitment is required by volunteers. For additional information, contact WISTEC at 682-3619.

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