

Students get costumed for ball

The Ballroom Dance Club sponsored a Masquerade Ball on Halloween night

By Peter Breden
Oregon Daily Emerald

Napoleon Bonaparte and his Josephine arrived at Gerlinger 220 Halloween night, dividing the crowd with their classic costumes. They came for the Oregon Ballroom Dance Club's Masquerade Ball.

"Ballroom dancing has made a big comeback across the nation," said Dee Granger, who dressed as Josephine. She said she prefers to dance West Coast swing.

Another couple stood arm-in-arm but out of costume.

"We came from work," community member Barbara Walker said.

Barbara and Jim Walker have been learning to dance through the Oregon Ballroom Dance Club. The club teaches a dance lesson at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays, focusing on a different dance each week. From Vienna waltz to rumba, from foxtrot to the hustle, students can learn a variety of steps.

Admission is \$3 for students and \$4 for general public. The dancing goes from 8:30 until 11:30 p.m. every Friday.

"This is good because you dance to the same record 65 times," Jim Walker said.

On the dance floor, a pair of tin-foil butterfly wings flash to an upbeat merengue number. The wings are mounted on the



Nick Medley/Emerald

Students compete in a swing contest at the Masquerade Ball held in Gerlinger Hall Friday.

back of Brian Wise, special events coordinator for Oregon Ballroom.

"We tend toward cheesiness," Wise said.

Many people who come don't know any of the dances, he said.

"We have a strong commitment to teaching dance," Wise said. "There are all levels and skills."

The club provides specially appointed dance ambassadors who patrol the lessons, available to help people with dance steps.

The club offers a weekly chance to swing into the weekend without drinking, said Michelle Dreher, club co-president.

"There was nothing really to do on campus that was non-alcoholic," Dreher said of the club's

beginning.

In its fifth year, attendance has grown.

"Numbers have been up this year, dramatically up," Dreher said. "There's still a fairly loyal following."

Ballroom dance's popularity has had a noticeable effect on the number of students taking University dance classes.

"The classes fill up on a regular basis," Dreher said. "It used to be that way for just [beginner-level courses]."

The wider exposure helps the club diversify its teaching, Dreher said.

The club advertises, "No Partner Necessary. No Experience Necessary," but tries not to play matchmaker, Wise said.

"We're a friendly bunch," he said. "It's not a meat market."

Crime act

Continued from Page 1

of confidentiality, when to print names and when not to and what kinds of crimes to even list need to be discussed, he said.

Another problem OPS may run into is the relationship between other parts of the University and their violation codes, Hicks said. Student conduct, housing and the athletic departments must now report their crimes to OPS.

When one part of the University reports a crime, it will take some planning to not overlap reports with OPS, said Elaine Green, associate dean of student life and who deals with the student conduct code.

"We will have to make sure we don't double report a crime," she said. "We already have a working relationship, but now it will have to be more frequent."

Another part of the provision expands the list of crime data reported every year to include manslaughter and arson. The provision will also require that these statistics expand to off-campus areas. In the act, off-campus areas include public streets adjacent to school facilities — even at distant area facilities. At the University, this would include 18th Street and in the 13th Avenue area, Hicks said.

OPS already prints a list of statistics that include the types of crimes committed and the programs available for those hurt in those crimes.

"It's just a matter of adding a couple more columns that include on and off-campus areas," he said.

But there will be and always have been gray areas, Hicks said. The details of when to include a statistic and when not to can be very difficult and sometimes can construe the results, he said.

For example, when a transient was murdered just west of the north soccer field in 1997, it was reported in the OPS statistics. However, if it had occurred 50 feet away, it wouldn't have.

"When someone sees a zero in a column, it doesn't necessarily mean that kind of crime didn't happen," he said. "There were just reasons that we couldn't report it."

"These statistics aren't there for the purpose of seeing how safe we are, but to provide information for students to make better decisions on how to be safer."

Every year, these statistics must be reported to the U.S. Department of Education. If the statistics are found to be construed or misrepresented, the Secretary of Education will impose a fine on the institution.

Hicks said he doesn't know how long it will take OPS and the University to make these changes, but he said they will begin to implement changes after talking to University legal advisors for further clarification of the act.

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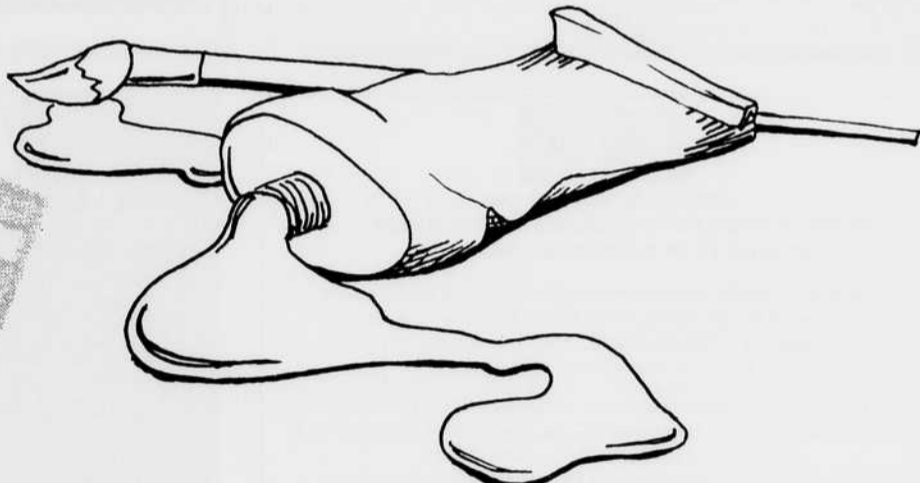
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