

Beta Theta Pi house renovation nearing completion

■ The 75-year-old structure's restoration project increases the safety and comfort of its residents

By Edward Yuen
Oregon Daily Emerald

Students living in the 1000 block of Patterson Street may find a new building in the neighborhood this year. But this "new" building is really more than 75 years old.

It is the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house, which has recently been renovated.

Workers started remodeling last December and are scheduled to complete the project by the end of this month. The construction will restore the fraternity house to its early 1920s appearance and incorporate modern technology into the building.

"We have a strong national chapter, but the house had deteriorated," said Ben Yoder, a junior psychology major who lives in the house.

Because of the deterioration of the house, some fraternity alumni donated money for the renovations, which will cost about \$1.2 million. In addition to donations, rent collected from the residents will be used to cover a portion of the construction cost.

Despite its classical facade, there are modern technologies inside the building. The house is equipped with a security system and fire sprinklers, and residents can have ethernet access in their rooms.

The party room in the basement is equipped with a ventilation system that circulates air every 15 minutes. All these amenities were not available to the residents of the house 76 years ago, Yoder said.

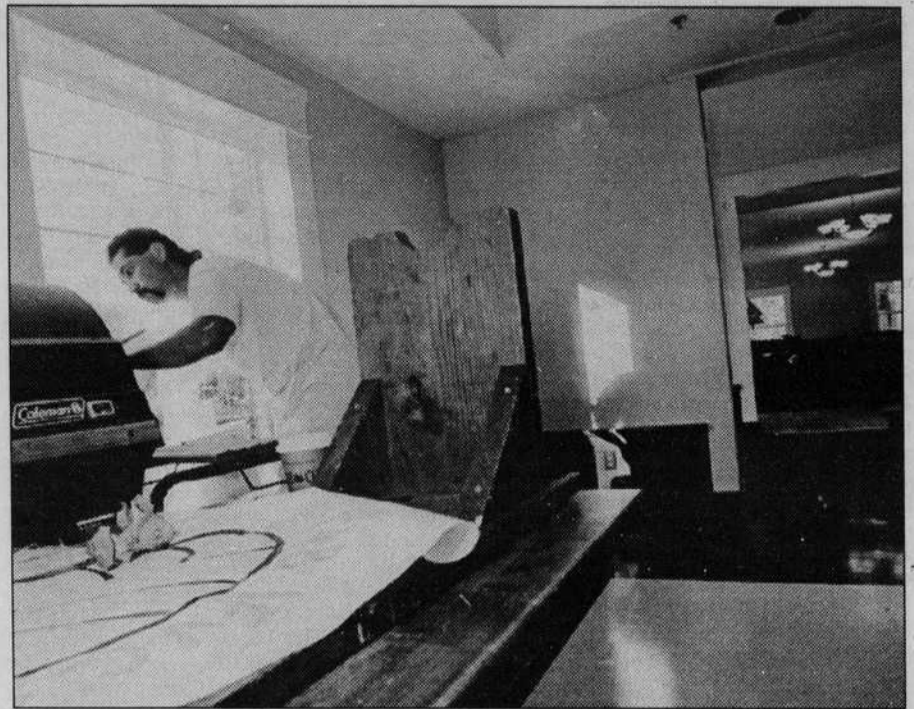
Residents of the fraternity welcome the renovation although the construction has been taking place for more than nine months.

"The renovation makes the house smaller, but it improves the facility extremely," said Jake Shafer, a junior political science major.

He also said the renovation would change the somewhat dilapidated image of the house as well as the general image that the greek system presented to the public.

Right now, there are 35 students living in the house, and the chapter is expecting more new members to move in after rush.

"It's a great house," said sophomore Alika Chung, who has been a resident of the fraternity house for two years. "And it's gonna be more comfortable to live in."



Jeffrey Stockton Emerald
Darrell's Painting employee Samuel Hanna gives a finishing touch to a window frame in the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house across from the University Inn on Patterson Street. The house is under renovation.

Students aggravated by mailboxes stuffed with credit card junk mail

■ Two separate laws require the University to release addresses to companies as part of the public record

By Jeremy Lang
Oregon Daily Emerald

Mana Haeri, a sophomore journalism major, has received multiple mailings at her home from credit card companies specifically addressed: "Dear University of Oregon student."

Credit card companies have the ability to look up the names, home addresses and phone numbers of students and faculty in the University's Student Directory — and they're getting it for free.

While this may be OK with students looking for a variety of credit cards, some students are sick of

the constant mailings.

"If we chose to have a credit card, that is our responsibility," Haeri said. "There are plenty of tables in the EMU and by the bookstore if I really want a card. Extra mailings just cause more confusion and temptation."

University General Counsel Melinda Grier said two separate laws make students easy targets for companies wanting to send preapproved pieces of plastic.

She said the first law, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, states student records are private except for directory information. This means that grades and transcripts are protected, but directory information, including home and University phone numbers and addresses, is accessible to the public.

Under the Oregon Public

Records Law, directory information at any public university is public information. When a company requests a list of names, this law states that universities must release the information.

As a result, students' names can be given to credit card companies at any time without their knowledge.

University Registrar Herbert Chereck said a credit card company has never asked the University for a directory list.

"Most of them are probably just picking up a copy of the student directory and creating a mailing list on their own," he said.

Grier said the University does charge a slight fee to companies asking for student information to cover preparation costs such as printing, mailing or preparing an e-mail list.

She also said students get an opportunity to protect themselves from unwanted solicitation.

"Every student had the option to have their directory information suppressed when they filled out their registration forms," Grier said.

She added that after a student's information is suppressed, the University will not even confirm enrollment.

But Chereck said suppressing directory information can cause problems for students once they graduate.

"People needing to confirm a student's enrollment, such as a potential employer, will not have access either," he said.

Grier feels the University is doing what it is required to by law.

"We do not make a profit nor do we make any distinctions between

companies' motives or whether they are commercial or non-commercial," she said. "We never discriminate one business over another. We give out the information because we are required to by law."

While Haeri agrees the University is not at fault, she thinks it could help alert students to the situation.

"With all the forms I had to fill out freshman year, I don't remember one that would have kept my information private. I wish that part of registration was more apparent and the consequences were stated more clearly," she said.

Students who wish to have their information suppressed should call the registrar at 346-3243. However, once suppressed, it cannot be made public again until the end of the school year.

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