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Tim Kupsick Photographer

Dems bash Bush

The University College Democrats delivered speeches in support of presidential candidate John Kerry and in opposition to President Bush and handed out pro-Kerry paraphernalia at their first "Bush Bash" on Tuesday in the EMU Amphitheater.

From 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., students won prizes by throwing

bean bags through holes cut in cardboard photographs of Bush administration officials, thereby "closing the mouth of the administration," College Democrats spokesman Chris Halverson said. Rebecca Shively (pictured above) takes part in the activities. College Democrats handed out Kerry bumper stickers, buttons, stickers and posters.

Halverson said College

Democrats members are beginning to channel the "pure negativism" against Bush into support for Kerry.

Halverson said the group plans to hold another such event in the fall, and will try to get Kerry himself to attend.

"Judging by how this one went, I think we almost have to continue this," Halverson said.

— Jared Paben

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TURNAROUND

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improved, especially for our younger members."

Since Beta Theta Pi's brush with closure, the fraternity has experienced a "complete 180," Scheinman said, adding that Occhipinti changed the focus of the house to "academics and leadership."

But policy compliance wasn't the only change Occhipinti set into motion. Occhipinti — who himself has a 4.14 cumulative GPA, earning him an ASUO Leadership Award — dedicated

himself to improving the fraternity's academic performance. He established mandatory "study tables," or supervised study sessions, for younger members, offered greater incentives for members to get good grades, and encouraged older members to tutor and mentor younger members. Occhipinti himself tutors members in writing and test-taking skills. By winter term 2004, the house's average GPA had jumped from roughly 2.7 to 3.12.

The house also went above and beyond in exceeding both their community service and philanthropy requirements, earning Occhipinti an ASUO

Greek Leadership Award for Excellence in Community Service.

"Some people strive to meet the bar," Scheinman said. "(Occhipinti) strives to set the bar."

Scheinman said without Occhipinti's leadership, Beta Theta Pi would no longer exist at the University.

"Eight months ago we were what the University did not want," he said. "Now we are a model fraternity."

Contact the people/culture/faith reporter at moriahbalingit@dailyemerald.com.

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