Fraternity to return to campus

By MARIA AVERION
Lantern staff writer

After 12 years of absence from campus, the local fraternity chapter of Alpha Kappa Lambda will be re-established.

The chapter, which used to occupy a house on East 14th Avenue, was closed in 1975 because the national chapter felt that the members were too interested in the social aspects of the fraternity, said Keith Gilchrist, executive director for the National Chapter.

Brent Howard, an OSU law student who volunteered to help form the new fraternity, said, "The decision to return to OSU was based on the (students) interest in the Greek system."

The formation plans have been in process for four weeks and 35 men have already signed up and are attending the organizational meetings.

Kurt Traugott, a sophomore from Minneapolis, Minn. and temporary president of the fraternity, said the organization is shooting for 60 members.

The representative from the national chapter, Greg Wannemuehler, appointed the temporary officers. When the group receives a charter from the national chapter, after all the necessary requirements are fulfilled, the members can elect their own officers.

In order to receive a charter, the potential Alpha Kappa Lambda chapter must have a core of 25 members. The group expects to receive a charter by the end of Spring Quarter, Traugott said.

The new fraternity hopes to have a house by the end of Spring Quarter and participate in formal rush in the fall.
New frats look for members

By Karen Brown
Lantern staff writer

OSU men interested in fraternity life can add two more houses to the list of those available to join. Phi Kappa Sigma and Alpha Kappa Lambda have both recently opened their doors to new members.

Bob McCarthy, chairman of the public relations committee for Phi Kappa Sigma, said the fraternity received their new charter Jan. 6.

The fraternity has been on campus two years as a colony while waiting for permission to charter.

"Once our national office felt we could reach our membership goals, then we could apply for a charter," McCarthy said.

The 24-member social fraternity, now at 1988 Iuka Ave., got its start at Ohio State a couple years ago when six guys saw an ad in the paper from Phi Kappa Sigma nationals.

"We thought it sounded interesting, so we joined. That got the ball rolling," McCarthy said.

Phi Kappa Sigma was chartered on the OSU campus from 1924 to 1984. But, low membership levels forced the fraternity to close.

Members of the OSU chapter are enthusiastic about the future of the fraternity and achieving the chapter's goals.

"Our biggest long-term goal right now is to get new members. Our short-term goal is to become a member of the Interfraternity Council," McCarthy said.

Ed Grandpre, OSU coordinator of Greek Affairs, explained this procedure.

For any chapter to join the IFC they have to apply for membership from the executive board. If the executive board approves them, then they appear before the presidents of all the local fraternities. This group has the final decision on whether to accept or decline a new or re-charter, Grandpre said.

Becoming a member of IFC has its perks. Members are entitled to compete athletically and scholastically with other fraternities and can participate in formal rush activities, Grandpre said.

Despite all of the benefits of an IFC membership, another recently reorganized fraternity, Alpha Kappa Lambda, puts it a little lower on their list of priorities.

John Orr, a sophomore from Beaver Creek and house manager for Alpha Kappa Lambda, said raising the membership level is their number one goal.

"We are still looking to build membership. We hope to gain about 80 members over the next few years," Orr said.

Alpha Kappa Lambda's preliminary charter date has been set for early May. After that, they might consider an IFC membership more seriously.

Orr is proud of his fraternity because it is what he calls a non-secret organization. That is, anything you ask members regarding the fraternity will be responded with a completely honest and open answer.

Alpha Kappa Lambda has a non-hazing statute written into their by-laws. Members are allowed in chapter meetings from the time they are accepted, Orr said.

According to Orr, Alpha Kappa Lambda, like Phi Kappa Sigma, was once chartered at Ohio State. The fraternity was started in 1914 at Berkeley. A chapter was chartered at Ohio State in 1950 and continued through 1977 until low membership levels forced them to close their doors.

Alpha Kappa Lambda re-colonized at Ohio State a year and a half ago. Currently, they have 25 active members but do not have an official house on campus, Orr said.
Rub-a-dub-dub, four Greeks in a hot tub

By Karin Gross
Lantern staff writer

If you saw a hot tub on the east lawn of the Ohio Union Wednesday, don’t be concerned that your tuition dollars were being spent on frivolous luxuries.

In an event that began at 4 p.m. Wednesday, members of Alpha Kappa Lambda fraternity and Phi Mu sorority began 72 hours of sitting in a hot tub for their national philanthropies: the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and The Children’s Miracle Network Telethon.

Through individual and corporate pledges, the participants have raised $1,900 and have set a goal of $5,000 by the time they complete the Hot-Tub-A-Thon on Mar. 7, said Kyle Saunders, executive vice president of Alpha Kappa Lambda.

The hot tub, which was donated by Poseidon Pool Co., will be occupied at all times by two fraternity and two sorority members, who will be rotating in one hour shifts. Two fraternity members will be present at the hot tub for service and support for the people in the tub, Saunders said.

“If you’re walking down High Street at 2 a.m., you’ll see four unfortunate people in the hot tub,” said Kevin Noon, Inter-Fraternity Council representative for Alpha Kappa Lambda.

“All the participants volunteer to work,” Saunders said. “These guys realize it’s for a good cause. A speaker from Cystic Fibrosis came to us about the disease and really inspired the guys to help.”

A television, videocassette recorder, stereo and refrigerator will help occupy the hot tubbers’ time during the 72 hours, Saunders said.

Virginia Beecher, Hot-Tub-A-Thon chairperson for Phi Mu, said volunteers are not worried about their safety after dark because the police will be at the hot tub site and a shuttle will take participants home after their shifts.

In addition to campus police, Columbus police and USG Crime Watch will stop by the hot tub at regular intervals throughout the night, Saunders said.

Community members like Ron Zeller, president of the University Community Business Association; Dave Mucci, Ohio Union coordinator; and Chris Logsdon, local entertainer, will also sit in the hot tub, Beecher said.