

Canoe Fete 54 Year Tradition at U of O

Brilliantly colored floats will mark another program in a 54-year-old tradition as students, parents, and visitors to the University travel "Through the Looking Glass" during the annual Junior Weekend Canoe Fete May 6, at the University.

One of the richest University traditions, the Canoe Fete along the Millrace is the only collegiate water float parade of its kind in the United States.

The idea of the festival was first conceived in 1911, but the first annual "Spring Carnival" was cancelled because of rain. "Carnival to be Classy," the first annual Inter-scholastic Aquatic Meet featuring canoe and swimming races and diving competition, was presented in 1912.

An audience of nearly 2,000 watched the parade in 1915, when the name was changed to Canoe Fete and competition between living organizations was developed. The early competition was co-educational, but in 1921 separate divisions were formed for men and women. The use of colored lighting and spotlights was also introduced, and in 1922 bleachers were first used.

The first floats were guided by poles until the river became too deep and swift. Later swimmers maneuvered the floats. Today the floats are built on barrels and pulled from the shore.

A low bridge across the race presented another hazard for a period of years with only a five-foot clearance. That was removed and last year a float featuring a gigantic Indian towered 40 feet above the water.

Bing Crosby endorsed the 1935 fete and contributed a token from Hollywood to the coed who was chairman of the winning float. It was entitled "Down by the Old Mill Stream."

Because of flood water and highway relocation, the Canoe Fete was halted from 1941 to 1955. During that time a float parade in downtown Eugene was substituted. The festival was again cancelled in 1964 due to work being done on the physical plant and the Millrace. It was

revived again last year when "Of Men and Gods" was presented.

While the original idea of the Canoe Fete has been maintained, many changes and additions have taken place in its development. Today three or four living organizations work together to construct each float. A Junior Canoe Fete has been established where freshmen build miniature floats for display.

In 1932, a cost limit was set at \$50, but there is no such limit now, and the cost of one float may be as high as \$150. During

the course of the construction of one Canoe Fete, 180 barrels, 420,000 napkins, 6,000 square feet of chicken wire, and hundreds of gallons of paint were used.

Much emphasis is placed on animation as competing live organizations vie for the coveted prize for the best float. Special lighting effects and original background music add to the unique festive events. At dusk fireworks signal the start of the display, which is led by the Queen's float built by the winning organization of the previous year.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. program will go on sale at the Student Union main desk April 25. Prices

are \$1.50 for adults, \$1 for students, and 50 cents for children under 12.

Moms' Weekend Busy

Open houses, a tradition luncheon, and a water parade are only a few activities that are scheduled for University mothers when they attend the 39th annual Mothers' Weekend at the University, May 6, 7, 8.

Dads are also invited to attend the festive events which are part of the activities of Junior Week.

The colorful Canoe Fete Friday night on the Millrace will be the first weekend event. Student living organizations will compete for prizes with elaborate floats they have built.

On Saturday, mothers will meet for their annual breakfast business meeting. Later they will attend the campus luncheon on the old campus when students will be tapped for University honoraries.

In the afternoon there will be a special open house for the new Student Health Service and an informal reception-tea in the Museum of Art. Most living organizations will hold open houses Saturday afternoon and mothers will be their guests for dinner in the evening.

Another traditional event, the All-Campus Sing, is set for Saturday night. Mothers will hear performances by participating student living organizations. Winners of the Canoe Fete, recipients of scholastic and activity trophies, and winners of campus contests will be announced during the program. "The Road Not

Taken" is the theme of the All-Campus Sing.

Sunday is Mothers' Day. Mothers are invited to attend church with their sons and daughters and have dinner with them in the afternoon.

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COLOR BY P. H. LUN

Queen to Be Chosen Today

Voting for the Spring Prom Queen will be held today from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Polls will be located several places on campus.

IM Schedule

Softball

3:50—North field, McAllister vs. Douglas
South field, Clark vs. Dymont
Upper field, Gamma vs. Hawaiians

4:55—North field, Counselors vs. Robbins
South field, Chi Phi vs. Campbell
Upper field, Delta Chi vs. Pi Kappa Alpha

Golf

Young vs. Theta Chi

Tennis

4:00—Young vs. Indians

Swimming

Preliminaries for the intramural swimming competition will be held at 6:45 p.m. Wednesday in Leighton Pool. Events are the 200-yard medley and freestyle relays, 200-yard freestyle, 100-yard individual medley, butterfly, freestyle, backstroke and breaststroke, and the 50-yard freestyle.

The six best times in each event will qualify for the IM finals on April 27.

Campus Briefs

Announcements for Campus Briefs must be turned in by 3:30 p.m. the day before publication. Because of space limitations no announcements will be run more than twice.

Phi Chi Theta will meet at 6:30 p.m. today in the Orides room of Gerlinger Hall. New members will be pledged.

Campus chapel will be held at 9:30 p.m. today at Wesley Foundation, 1236 Kincaid. The Rev. Robert Kingsbury will lead the worship service.

Skull and Dagger membership petitions will be accepted through Friday on the third floor of the SU, where petitions are still available.

Voting for Junior Weekend Queen will be held from 9 to 5 today.

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