

Parent's Weekend offers varied events

By Land du Pont
Of the Emerald

The University will play host to nearly 800 parents and entertain them with events ranging from ballroom dancing to a track meet during Parents' Weekend.

The semi-annual event, organized by the Student University Relations Committee, is scheduled for May 14-16.

Parent exposure to the University environment is the program's main goal, according to Wendy Popkin, a SURC member.

"It (Parents' Weekend) is real important PR. It's fun, but mainly it's to let parents see what's here," she says.

"The University needs good ties to parents," says Bob Bowlin, dean of students. "Parents need to see and hear the University first-hand."

Parents' Weekend offers a full, three-day schedule.

On May 14, classes are open to parents. "It's important for them to know what is being taught," Popkin says. "If they know, they usually walk away liking it."

The traditional Canoe Fete climax of Greek Week, organized by the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils, is scheduled for the afternoon of May 14. A Renaissance Faire with food booths, strolling musicians and mime performances runs all day.

May 15 events include a series of lectures by University professors on subjects ranging from sports medicine to sex. An awards luncheon and the Twilight track meet end the day.

A May 16 fashion show and

brunch at the Eugene Hilton tops off Parents' Weekend.

SURC is making an effort to keep parents occupied for the whole weekend.

"Students usually don't know what to do with parents when they come — you can only go out to dinner so many times," Popkin says.

Parents' Weekend has a long history at the University.

"It used to be enormously big," Bowlin explains. "It was not unusual to have 5,000 parents visit. People who never saw that ten years ago aren't aware of the rich tradition the University has."

The tradition crumbled during the 1970s but has staged a comeback in recent years. Parents have come from all over the state and as far away as Hawaii to visit their children, says Ricky Lee Smithrud, a SURC member.

"Students are the link between the University and parents," Bowlin explains. "The key to a good program is to have students invite their parents to come."

In addition to brochures mailed to all parents, SURC is spending extra money on radio publicity in hopes of reaching students who live off campus.

Most Parent's Weekend events are included in the registration fee, but several have additional admission prices. Registration for the weekend events range from \$8 to \$12 per person.

For more information on Parents' Weekend, contact University Relations, Room 111, Susan Campbell Hall, or call 686-5555.

Parade, festival to celebrate childhood

"We're trying to stretch the definition of art," says Tami Pinkas, coordinator of Eugene's "Imagination Celebration 1982," which began Tuesday and culminates with a children's parade and a host of other activities Saturday.

The cultural festival focuses on "children and art and the child in all of us," Pinkas said. The celebration will be centered on school programs during the week with noon-hour events each day at the mall in downtown Eugene.

But Saturday is when the celebration kicks into high gear. The "Fantastic Fantasies" parade begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Skinners Butte parking lot and will feature puppeteers and children in masks and costumes, including

small dragons.

Once the parade reaches the mall, children will join in Maypole dances, while everyone will be invited to participate in other activities, such as a community mural painting, chalk drawing on sidewalks, and poetry reading on a donated LTD bus. Participants will also get a chance to watch opera, puppets, and pantomime, as well as listen to poetry and music.

"This is an attempt to bring together all of the exciting events that happen in schools and bring them downtown into more public places," Pinkas said.

Programs for the Saturday activities can be picked up Saturday morning at the central information booth on the mall.

Volunteer positions offered

Students would be able to "improve their earning power" by volunteering for the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, according to Fred Miller, coordinator of the coalition.

NCAP needs people to make an eight-week commitment for at least two hours a week. Currently no credit or pay is available, but Miller hopes they can get work study funds for

next year.

Students would be able to get experience in grant writing, research, editing, writing for NCAP news, and fundraising. They can also learn how government agencies work, which is a valuable skill, says Miller.

"We run into people who do not know much about interacting with people outside their discipline," he says. "They are

hesitant in relating to people outside their discipline." He says NCAP can give experience in many different areas.

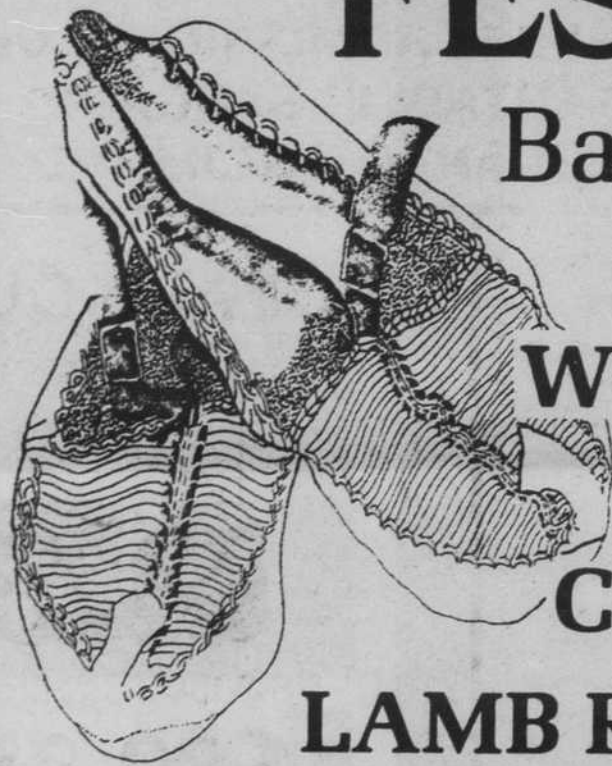
NCAP started as a grass roots organization and during its five-year existence has dealt with issues like roadside spraying, forestry spraying and urban uses of pesticides, says Miller.

More information can be obtained by contacting Nina Groutage at 344-5044.

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