

Preparations underway for annual Eugene Celebration

Events scheduled include a parade, an art show, bike races, musical entertainment, street performances and wine tasting

By Sean Nelson
Of the Emerald
University students wishing to put behind them the rigors of registration and the

bureaucracy of Oregon Hall can find relief with the help of the Eugene Celebration.

The Eugene Celebration is in its fifth year, and this year's

events are scheduled from Sept. 16 through Oct. 18. Most of the big events, however, are scheduled for three days beginning Sept. 25th and running through the 27th, according to Ann Krenek of the Eugene-Springfield Conference and Visitors Bureau.

The celebration is located in the area between Fifth and 10th avenues on Willamette Street and on Park Avenue, Krenek said. There is no entry fee for admission to the celebration itself, she added. Fees will be charged for some individual events and competitions, Krenek said.

Over 30 separate events are scheduled for the celebration, Krenek said.

They include five main stages with entertainment: The Michelob Fifth Avenue Jazz Festival at Fifth Avenue and Oak Street, the Fountain Stage at Broadway and Willamette streets, the TCI Hult Center Plaza Stage between the Hilton Hotel and the Hult Center, the Henry Weinhard's Eighth Avenue Stage near Eighth Avenue and Willamette Street, and the WOW Hall Stage.

Groups appearing Friday evening at 6:30 will be: the Military Brass Quintet on the Eighth Avenue Stage, Willie Dee and Shakubuku on the Fifth Avenue Jazz Stage, and the Carl Woideck Quartet on the Hult Center Stage, according to Patricia Cusick of the Cultural Arts Information Center.



File Photo
A lone contestant in a tricycle race pedals to the cheers of a large crowd at the Eugene Celebration. The tricycle race is one among many events scheduled for the annual celebration that began Sept. 16 and continues through Oct. 18.

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tivity blossomed.

In 1966, Fern Ridge was visited by an estimated one million people, and in June 1967, 225,000 people alone descended upon its shore.

Over the years, solutions to the problem of increased recreational use have ranged from the expensive to the mundane. In 1968, a group calling itself, "The Future of Fern Ridge Committee," arrived at some solutions intended to resolve the conflict. These included increasing the Eugene Millrace flow from the Willamette River and then diverting it by pipe to the Amazon Slough, and building additional reservoirs on streams running into Fern Ridge to augment the summer capacity of Fern Ridge.

"The problem is that there are simply more needs for the water than there is water in the reservoir during certain times of the year," the chairman of the group said at the time.

But probably the most bizarre idea came from the Eugene Water and Electric Board. With plans to build a nuclear plant in the area, EWEB offered the use of a 1,500- to 2,000-acre cooling pond as the means to take some of the pressure off Fern Ridge.

According to a then-EWEB spokesman, the 80-degree cooling pond would have been "completely safe from radioactive contamination." Water would have come from reservoirs upstream and diverted through pipes. After recrea-

tional users had had their share, the water would have been sent downstream for crop irrigation. And in the process, Fern Ridge would remain full the entire year.

But to date none of solutions have bore any fruit. And talk still rests upon many of the same concerns.

"The concept is that they are trying to work some way that they can extend the season by filling it a little bit earlier and taking less water out of it for irrigation," Chapman said.

The controversy is not likely to quietly disappear in the near future either.

"I've seen some figures that indicate Fern Ridge gets more boating use than any other lake in the state," Chapman said.

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