TBS films 'Animal House' showcase on campus

A TBS Superstation production crew attracted curious students while filming footage for portions of an upcoming weekend special

By A. Sho Ikeda

A production crew was on campus Aug. 12 to shoot footage for "Big PlayStation Saturday," a football postgame movie showcase.

The TBS Superstation-produced show will feature the movie "National Lampoon's Animal House," with segments featuring University locations used in the film

A flurry of activity swirled all around campus as crew members quickly set up and dismantled cameras, tripods and electronic equipment.

Anna Colwell, one of the hosts, said she had been to several Pacific-10 Conference schools to film segments for the show, which she said will be aired on Saturdays after college football games on TBS Superstation.

Colwell added that the show has a

variety of sponsors, including Sony PlayStation. It will feature movies and trivia, along with interviews with students from Pac-10 and Big 12 Conference universities. Colwell said she and fellow co-host Michele Merkin had already been to UCLA, Arizona State and University of Arizona before coming to the University of Oregon.

Crew members from Eugene and Portland - which often had to pause filming while noisy vehicles passed - filmed Merkin as she stood in front of campus buildings like Johnson Hall and asked trivia questions about "Animal House."

As the crew whisked about the University on foot and on golf carts, they occasionally drew a small gathering of curious University students. Some students were asked by the crew to stick around to be interviewed by the show's hosts.

Brian Watson, who recently earned a master's in education, said he was enticed by the offers of free University merchandise. Students being interviewed were asked to don



"Big PlayStation Saturday" co-host Anna Colwell interviews senior English major Jennifer Bok and Brian Watson, a graduate with a Master's in Education, about the infamous college comedy flick "Animal House."

T-shirts and hats before they got in front of the camera. Students were then interview by Colwell, who asked them to answer trivia questions and to sing "Mighty Oregon," the University's fight song.

"It was pretty crazy," said Watson,

"What do you mean?" responds

"I mean hanging around with a

"No," Boone counters. "After I grad-

Donald "Boon" Schoenstein, her

bunch of animals getting drunk every weekend," she says.

who said he waited two or three hours before he was allowed to go in front of the camera. "They offered me a Tshirt and free food and drinks; it's the life of an extra, I guess.

The "Big PlayStation Saturday" showcase of "Animal House" is currently in post-production and is due to air on a Saturday before or after a Ducks football game in September, according to TBS Superstation spokespersons.

Contact the reporter at shoikeda@dailyemerald.com.

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uate, I'm gonna get drunk every night."
"Animal House" is a land where the only thing that matters is having a good time. It's a place where the last laugh is always the brothers'. And that's really how it should be.

Schmidt

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boozehound boyfriend.

"Animal House" is a peek into a life we all should embrace because, after all, who doesn't want to get smashed in a toga and sleep with the dean's sensuous wife?

This disillusion of mine may be a bit hard to swallow. Perhaps I'm looking too far into a satirical movie that depicts some of the grossest, most immoral activities captured on screen by 1978. Possibly, in fact, the movie represents nothing of fraternity life in 1962 — or ever. I don't care.

Call me crazy, because I can defend myself. Perhaps nothing of what I've written thus far has been even slightly compelling, but the eloquent words of Eric "Otter" Stratton most certainly are:

"Ladies and gentlemen," he says, "I'll be brief. The issue here is not whether we broke a few rules or took a few liberties with our female party guests - we did. But you can't hold a whole fraternity responsible for the actions of a few sick, perverted individuals

"For if you do, then shouldn't we blame the whole fraternity system? And if the whole fraternity system is guilty, then isn't this an indictment of our educational institutions in general? I put it to you ... isn't this an indictment of our entire American society?

"Well, you can do what you want to us, but we're not going to sit here and listen to you badmouth the United States of America!"

It's this kind of thinking, of course, that has brought us some of the greatest leaders in the world today. Take a look at Fortune 500 executives - about 80 percent are Greek, according to www.greek101.com. The same can be said for U.S. congressmen and congresswomen, and for those who have sat on the U.S. Supreme Court since 1910

Still want more evidence?

"Otter" became a gynecologist in Beverly Hills, "Hoover" became a lawyer and "Bluto" became a U.S. Senator.

So there you have it.
"With liberty and fraternity for all. Amen.

Contact the editor at editor@dailyemerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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previous record for largest toga party.

The parade, which begins at noon, will feature special re-creations of floats featured in a scene of "Animal House" filmed in Cottage Grove.

The event was originally envisioned by the Cottage Grove Historic Society and has since become a community effort, with various companies and nonprofit organizations pitching in.

There have been rumors that actors from the film will make an appearance, but according to Universal Studios, nothing is certain until the week of the event. Screenwriter Chris Miller, who penned the film along with Harold Ramis and Douglas Kenney, is scheduled to make an appearance. Various extras from the film will also be talking about their experiences making the film.

As the event's main promoter, Universal is giving it a national ad campaign to coincide with the new DVD. The re-release of the film, entitled the "Double Secret Probation Edition," is scheduled for an August 26 release.

New bonus material includes the theatrical trailer, a "Where are they now?" update, new footage and commentary from director John Landis.

Tickets for the toga party and film showing are available at the event's Web site, www.animalhousecelebration.com. Toga party tickets are \$15, with a limited number of "toga kits" also available. Film tickets are \$5. The event opens with a breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and is scheduled to run until 10:30 p.m..

Ryan Nyburg is a freelance reporter

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