

Wholesale temptation at a Chocolate Affair

Candies. Cakes. Cookies. Fudge. Brownies. Tartes. Truffles. Souffles. Chocolate.

Like a dream from the dark side of the dietary force, Lake Oswego's Mercantile Village hosted the first local Chocolate Affair last weekend. The mall was jammed with scores of hungry visitors, hundreds of pounds of chocolate and trillions of calories. Confectioners and cooks from throughout the metropolitan area gathered to display their chocolate chicanery, and all for a good cause.

Part of the money collected at the day-long festivity went to the Oregon School of Arts and Crafts, 8245 S.W. Barnes Rd. in Portland. OSAC is the oldest crafts school in the country and was founded by the Arts and Crafts Society of Portland in 1906.

The Chocolate Affair is one of many fund-raisers held by OSAC every year, including a Christmas sale and a market for hand-made, hand-designed clothing each spring.

However, this is the first Chocolate Affair. It was the brainchild of Rojean Evans, public relations specialist for the Mercantile Village. "I was watching the growing interest in chocolate across the country," she said. "In this business, you become aware of trends, and chocolate is definitely hot."

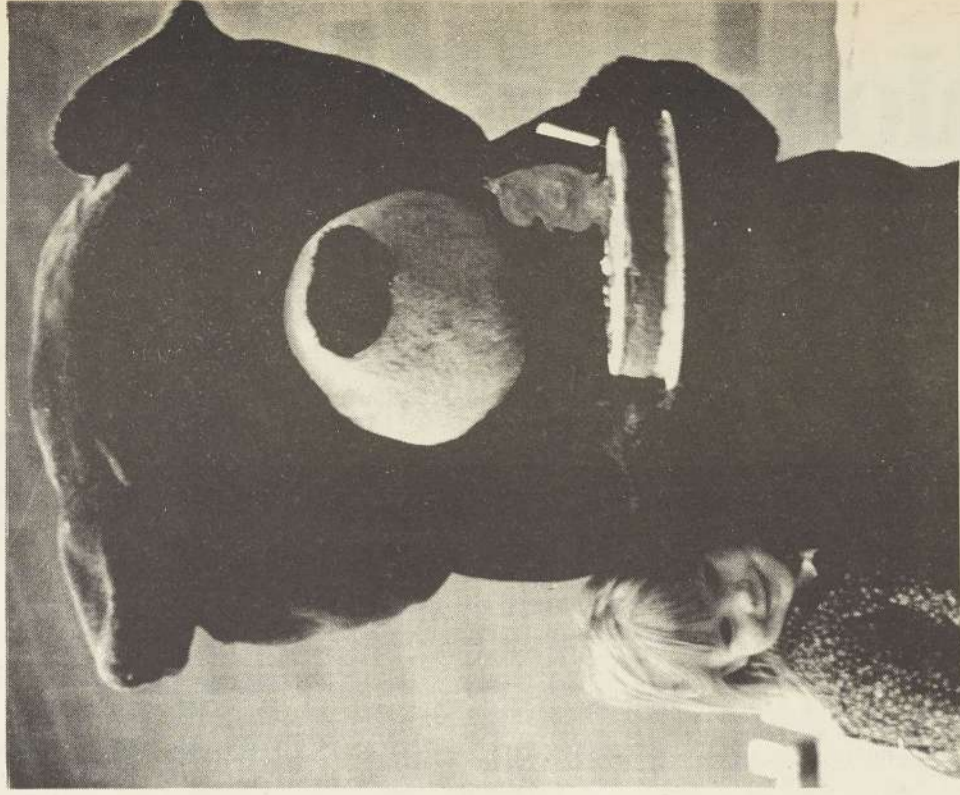
Mel Lee, coordinator of the event and board member of OSAC, said the goal of the Affair was to raise at least \$2,000. However, from the size of the turnout she was expecting to top that amount handsomely. If the Affair was a success, and it appeared to be, then it would become an annual event, Lee said.

The chocolate craze sweeping the nation, best expressed in the over-used cliché,



KATHERINE FISCHER (LEFT) and Alison Cruz of Portland's famous Rose's Restaurant display their namesake, molded in chocolate.

"chocoloholic," was in full swing Saturday. On one side of the mall, wild-eyed, short-of-breath addicts toured the booths, sampling sweets of every kind and purchasing those that struck their fancy. On the other side, a panel of judges (including Barbara Durbin, editor of *Food Day* magazine, Kathleen Taggart, Ron Carlson of



J.P. BEAR (Bea Philerook) and her friend, Amanda.

