

ANIMAL HOUSE REDUX

TOGA! TOGA! TOGA!

LIFT OFF



JOHN BAUGUESS

LANDING



JOHN BAUGUESS

Cottage Grove was home to an unconventional parade in November 1977, as Universal Pictures wound down its five-week filming of *Animal House*, much of which was shot on and around the UO campus in Eugene. UO classrooms stood in for the movie's Faber College, and the Sigma Nu fraternity house on 11th Avenue, since replaced by office buildings, became the temporary frat house for

actor John Belushi and his brothers.

The parade day's mad glory will be celebrated this Saturday, Aug. 30, in downtown Cottage Grove. Tourists and locals are invited to take part in the Animal House Look-a-Like and Toga contests in the morning; a parade with floats and the Get-A-Life Marching Band at high noon; reserve seat showings of the movie mid-afternoon; and a Toga Party and musical

entertainment that afternoon and night. For details, visit www.animalhousecelebration.com/

Shooting for *Animal House* took place Oct. 24 through Nov. 30, 1977. The studio hired more than 4,000 extras from the area for two days work, although some extras also wangled stints on crew and stretched out the work. Besides college students, especially fraternity or sorority types, ordinary residents of Cottage Grove took part in the movie's raucous parade sequences.

Local photographer John Bauguess was on hand to capture the excitement when the locals were told to run for their lives as a berserk deathmobile from the parade roared up the sidewalk after them. He remembers that Cottage Grove's downtown was so perfect that the movie people hung overhead parade banners but didn't need to change main street storefronts and signs to reflect the ambience of small-town 1962.

Bauguess also had a memorable encounter with John Belushi. "He'd had a bad day with stunts," Bauguess said. "He'd jumped off the platform onto the cushioned pad several times, and he had been kicked in the lip accidentally by an extra in another scene. Shooting was done for the day, and people had left the set. Belushi was sitting by himself in a chair. I was across the street from him, with my camera, and as I started to cross the street he yelled, 'Lighten up' to me. I took my camera and left."

On Saturday, about 15 of Bauguess's photographs will be on display in a storefront window. Like the photographs shown here, these pictures have never been published. *Oregon* magazine (now defunct) had asked him to take pictures, but when he called the staff he was told, "We got some already." Bauguess said he was so mad he hit a wall and broke his hand. Ouch!

Extra Maida Belove was present for the food fight scene in the EMU Fishbowl in November 1977, where she and others were told to go to Cottage Grove the next day for the parade. She skimmed through the script and saw that Indians were to be in the parade.

"I decided I wanted to be in the parade," Belove said, "so I went to a costume shop in Creswell the next morning. I thought I would just drop by the set in my Indian costume and be available. But when director John Landis and assistant director Cliff Coleman spied me in costume, they asked, 'Maida, what are you doing? It's East Indian, not American Indian,'" she said. She laughed.

Belove spent that first day in Cottage

Grove signing autographs, wearing a light brown, fringed dress; moccasins; a headband; darker makeup and braided hair. She was out there the next day, too, "standing around in regular 1964 clothes," Belove said. "Landis told me I was too recognizable as a Delta girl, so I wore a different costume every day. I tried to get a speaking part every day," she said.

Although she had a non-speaking part, Belove still enjoys having been in the very first shot of the movie. "When Flounder (Stephen Furst) and Pinto (Tom Hulce) go in the fraternity house for the first time, I run up to Flounder and take his hat off his head," she said. "Later Flounder gave me his beanie, autographed with 'I hope to co-star with you again soon.'" Like others who went *Animal House*-crazy that fall, Belove went to the movie's premiere in L.A. "Landis recognized me and had me stand up as a Eugene person," she said.

EW

EXTRA MAIDA BELOVE IN A '60S OUTFIT FROM GOODWILL



JIM STIAK

BLUTO (JOHN BELUSHI).



UNIVERSAL PICTURES

ANIMAL HOUSE COTTAGE GROVE EVENTS SCHEDULE

- 7 AM - 10:30 AM: Breakfast Coiner Park, \$4.
- 10:30 AM: A.H. Look-a-Like and Toga Contest, Community Center
- HIGH NOON: Parade
- 2 PM AND 5 PM: Movie showing
- 2 PM: Power Pep Band
- 2:30 PM: Toga Party begins
- 3 PM: Patty McCulla & Dave Clark Band
- 5 PM: Blue Light Special
- 6:30 PM: The Blues Brothers
- 8 PM: Otis Day & the Knights
- 10 PM: The Kingsmen ("Louie Louie")