

1964

Cat Tracks

Bates Outing Club

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scarab.bates.edu/cattracks>

Recommended Citation

Bates Outing Club, "Cat Tracks" (1964). *Cat Tracks Newsletter*. 17.
<http://scarab.bates.edu/cattracks/17>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Bates Outing Club at SCARAB. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cat Tracks Newsletter by an authorized administrator of SCARAB. For more information, please contact batesscarab@bates.edu.



Cat Tracks

of the Bates Outing Club

1964

Galluping

This article is a small and rather inconclusive attempt to find out what non-council members think of the Outing Club, what their conceptions of it are, and what, if any, suggestions they could put forth for its possible improvement. My survey ended with two people, Skip Vollans and Scott Alexander, both of the class of '64.

Skip's first comment was that he thought the Outing Club ought to go out more. He didn't elaborate too much. He also said that what he would really like is certain facilities for those of us (myself included) who lack the necessary whatever-you-want-to-call-it needed to send you hurtling downhill on two glorified tooth-picks. He suggested the possibility of some area being found and reserved for sliding.

Scott said that his one main gripe is the timing of carnival. He said that the only thing he felt like doing immediately after exams was getting out of the Bates atmosphere for a couple days breather before the new semester started.

He said that he couldn't really say too much else because he was not very familiar with the workings of the O. C. This to me indirectly pointed out a problem which has been discussed at many meetings and has yet to be solved, the problem of communication.

This piece will provide nothing except a few morsels for thought among anyone interested in doing so. If you are prodded on to any earth-shaking ideas, see your nearest registered and approved O. C. member.

CARNIVAL

This year's edition of Winter Carnival, although handicapped by unfavorable weather conditions, turned out to be, in the opinion of many veteran carnival goers, one of the best. It took shape under the steady and, of necessity, imperturbable direction of Carol Williams, class of '62, and Scott Wilkins, '64. Miss Coralie Shaw of New Bedford, Mass. was crowned queen of Carnival on Andrews Lake on Thursday evening. The program also included an ice show and the arrival of a runner from Augusta bearing a torch. The rest of the night was dedicated to square dancing and a little "twisting".

Although a ski trip to Sugarloaf had to be called off on Friday, there was still Mt. Abrams which provided fair skiing and a bit of off-campus entertainment. Friday evening a talent show in the Little Theatre gave the audience an idea of the aplomb and poise, as well as talent, which is present at Bates.

Saturday afternoon Oscar Brand held sway in the Alumni Gymnasium, and Saturday evening, "Blue Snow", the semi-formal dance was held on the same premises.

As a matter of fact, the theme of the Carnival was taken from the legends of Paul Bunyan and his adventures in the time of the Blue Snow, and a huge thirty foot snow sculpture of the mighty woodsman dominated the scene.

Sunday afternoon, Carnival came to a close with folksinger Jackie Washington back for a repeat performance.

As I said at the outset, although there were a few difficulties encountered, they were overcome by the drive of the directors, along with the help of people too numerous to name here.

Hats off and a pat on the back to all of them.

Now for the Other Side

This year, a small article appeared in the New York Times saying that our own Bates had the earliest Winter Carnival of any of the New England schools. This bit of publicity was good for Bates, but what was the real import of that information?

Carnival falls in the three day semester "break" between the end of exams and the beginning of the new semester. Of course the carnival directors and their committees have been

working in the preceding months for this time, but as in any large project involving a great many details, there are always many loose ends to be tied together at the last minute. And this last minute is during the period of greatest pressure for everyone, exams.

Also, after exams, one gets the feeling that the walls are closing in, and the best thing to do is get out before you're crushed. That may sound a little melodramatic, but I know that many people do feel that way.

Another objection to the time is the characteristic weather of Lewiston, and of Maine, at this time of year. Right now (the day after the end of carnival) outside, we have about four inches of a combination of glare ice and snow. Skiing conditions all over Maine were poor, and a planned trip to Sugarloaf had to be called off. Two years ago it poured for everyday of carnival.

What's to be done about it? Well, there is one fairly obvious solution. That is, to move carnival to two weeks after the start of the second semester. That way, Bates may not have the earliest carnival, but it will certainly have a better carnival.

First, the pressure is off, at least for a while. People, not only council members, but everyone on campus, will have more time and inclination to involve themselves in the preparations for carnival as well as attending it. Things, such as snow sculpturing, which have fallen off in recent years (only two dorms did them this year) will start receiving more interest.

Also, the probability of better weather conditions is greater. The annual hockey game won't have to be called off because of poor ice, and a whole day won't be left blank because the only skiers who could go on Sugarloaf would be experts.

I am not, be it understood, advocating a weekend without classes. Carnival can be (and is at other schools) integrated in the normal schedule with events on Friday evening, Saturday and Sunday. This would be doing better by the carnival directors, the council, and the students. It would give those that have worked very hard on carnival a chance to enjoy what they have done.

But whatever the solution, something must be done. If nothing happens, it has been predicted that carnival will be

dead in at least five years. And with it will go the last big thing still alive on this campus.

The New Frontier

In an effort to expand its service to the campus, the Bates Outing Club this year has attempted to explore new areas in the Lewiston-Auburn area for recreation and enjoyment. Tom Brown and Al Pethick volunteered to look into the possibilities.

They visited local bowling alleys, rollerskating rinks, the ski slope in Auburn, and the swimming facilities at the Auburn Y. M. C. A. The outcome of these investigations was projected plans for trips sponsored by the O. C. to these places including swimming parties. These should help to lighten especially the somewhat dismal winter months at Bates by giving the students more of a chance to get off campus when they really begin to feel closed in.

Hickories

The Hickories this year is under the direction of Johnny Farr and Cindy Vining. It has been an active year with the promise of more to come. Last November they sponsored a fashion show for ski wear showing the latest things from such places as Ski Inn and Filene's.

They also showed a ski movie, Deep Powder and Steep Rock which was narrated by lecturer-humorist Hans Gmoser. The movie depicted scenes of skiing and mountain climbing in Canada.

Plans for the future include more ski movies and the annual Hickories dance sometime in February.