

Schedule of Events

Sunday, March 3

Challenge Assembly

Jackson Plaza 7 p.m.

Monday - Friday, March 4-8

Daily Practices

Various locations 12:20, 4 & 7 p.m.

Friday, March 8

Barbeque

Jackson Plaza 5 to 7 p.m.

Senior Skits

Smith Auditorium 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 9

Dress Rehearsal

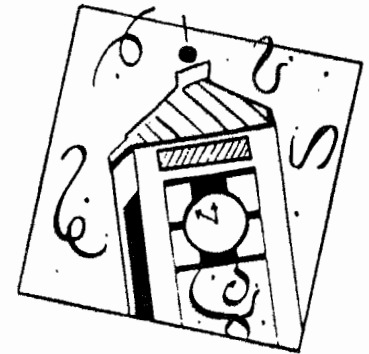
Cone Fieldhouse 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Glee Night

Cone Fieldhouse 7 p.m.

Monday, March 11

Blue Monday



1991 Freshman Glee

Serenade

*"The moments to cherish,
The times we share."*

Saturday, March 9, 1991



The overall and
class Glee
managers
cordially invite
you to participate
in this 83rd year
of Freshman
Glee!!



Purpose

Each spring, a challenge goes out from Willamette's freshman class to the rest of the student body. This is the official beginning of a week of activities that culminate on Saturday night with class competition featuring original songs and marching formations. Each class is judged on its performance, the points are tallied, and "Blue Monday" the losing class wades the length of the Mill Stream.

Each class is responsible for composing a song that expresses some aspect of the Glee theme chosen for that year. Themes are decided on a rotation basis and are chosen from Alma Mater, Serenade, Fight Song and Novelty. The class is then responsible for learning its song and creating marching formations that help express that song.

Practices are limited to set times during the week prior to the Saturday night performance, to insure that no class gains an unfair advantage.

On Saturday night, the classes gather in Sparks Center to present songs and formations before guest judges. Each class is judged on the words and music of its song, formations and overall presentation. The class receiving the most points is awarded the Glee Banner, and the losing class is sent to the Mill Stream on "Blue Monday" (to get more marching practice).

"Blue Monday" is the day on which bets are paid off. During the week of practices preceding Glee, members bet on the outcome of the Saturday night competition.

Bets range from wearing odd clothes to wearing signs proclaiming political or social preferences. There have been several streakers in past years, and although tarring and feathering have not been recent bets, shampoos with syrup or raw eggs in Cone Fieldhouse have been.



Glee History

The first Freshman Glee was held in 1909, when three members of the entering class of 1908 challenged the upper classes to a contest of "wit and musical talent."

The freshmen, Jimmie Oaks, "Brick" Harrison and R. V. Ellis, thought an inter-class competition of original college songs would be a way to raise class spirit and interest in Willamette. According to the 1912 edition of the Wallulah, "Freshman Glee is an event belonging distinctly to Willamette. No other college in the country has a similar contest."

Glee was originally held in the chapel of Waller Hall. The performance then consisted of each class gathering in front of the assembly and performing its song. In 1911 Glee was moved from Waller to the First Methodist Church, and the next year the classes began marching in unison from their seats to the stage prior to singing their song. In 1913 the event had become so popular that it had to move again, this time to the Salem Armory.

In 1932, Glee was brought back to campus and held in the gymnasium, now the Playhouse. About that time the song presentation

became more complicated as marching formations were added. In 1975 Glee was moved to its present home in the newly completed Sparks Center.

"Blue Monday" was added after Glee moved into the "old gym" in 1923. The high class spirit of the 1930s led to wagers between class presidents as to which class would emerge victorious in Glee. These group bets were quickly transformed into the individual betting that is employed today.

The song composition also changed somewhat in the late 1920s when four rotating themes were initiated. The themes of Alma Mater, Serenade, Fight Song and Novelty were chosen. In the 1930s this was refined even more, and a subtheme or motto was added.

In the late 1960s Glee came very close to dying, along with so many other college traditions. A general revolt against traditions of the "older generation" caused many students to discard college traditions, from fraternities and sororities to homecoming and honor roles. It is a testimony to the strength and popularity of Glee that it survived. It did not emerge untouched, however. The traditional skirts and slacks were discarded in favor of jeans and matching t-shirts. The four-theme rotation was also discarded and attendance and participation dropped dramatically.

In the years since then, Glee has regained its stature as a campus institution, and attendance and participation match that of its heyday in the 1950s.

