

Outrigger Canoe Racing, '77

Jeffrey Kissel, Chairman

The 1977 canoe racing season is under way. Judging by the quality and quantity of paddlers already on the roster, there can be no question that we are in the best position ever to capture the season's most coveted awards.

If everything continues to go as planned, Head Coach Tommy Conner and his staff will be supervising a full complement of twenty crews in each of the summer regattas. This will put the OCC in the best possible position to capture those much-needed winning points. In addition, there are some changes in equipment and paddling techniques in store this year. We have always been a leader in "paddling technology", and Coach Conner promises to see to it that everything is done to present the best view of our rear *manu* to all of the competition.

Ever since the close of the 1976 season, Tommy has been working on the changes in style, training and equipment which I am certain will not only improve our performance, but also make a valuable contribution to the entire sport of Hawaiian canoe racing.

Your Canoe Racing Committee is made up of experienced and enthusiastic members, all of whom are dedicated to serving the needs of the program. With a program including more than one hundred fifty paddlers, their job is enormous.

Nevertheless, you'll see equipment transported to regatta sites on race days, tents go up, canoes get rigged and races run, almost automatically because of the efforts of the Canoe Racing Committee members.

Club management plays a critical role in the success of the program and it seems appropriate to recognize its efforts now rather than with a simple thank-you at the close of the season. Wayne Faulkner and his staff are always working hard to make sure that our water activities are conducted in a safe and successful manner. Many of you remember how "used" the equipment looked at the end of last season compared to its "new" condition now. The restoration of the canoes is due almost entirely to Wayne's skill and dedication. It is almost impossible to find outside help to take the time to put out the special effort which Wayne gives to making each of our canoes a perfect racing or training machine.

Inside the Club, Norm Riede and his staff handle the many logistical details necessary for a successful program. Our success this year depends upon continued cooperation, paddlers, committee, staff, and management. I am very grateful to the Board of Directors and my fellow committee members for the opportunity to serve the Outrigger Canoe Club this year. I am certain that I can count on the support of both the paddlers and paddling enthusiasts for a championship season. Come and join us for every event.