

Twenty-five couples finish marathon

By CONNIE BURKE
He slides his kicker boots back and forth, wiggles his hips to the music, and pulls out a red kerchief from the back pocket of his blue jeans. He wipes sweat from his face and neck. His partner stretches her arms and yawns. Then she puts her arms back around his neck and the two drag their feet back and forth to complete their ninth hour of dancing.

with only 15 minute coke breaks every hour and a half.
Twenty-five couples did that Saturday to earn money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The marathon began at noon with 27 couples at the Lakeview Club. The one couple dancing the longest that turns in the most money May 1 will win a color television and a stereo. The organization earning the most money will win a beer party.

Omega Phi Alpha and Alpha Phi Omega, service organizations, sponsored the Benefit Dance Marathon. Rosemary Gately, co-chairman of the dance, said that pledges amounted to \$5,500, but she expects less money to be turned in. Last year the dance proceeds were \$2,300, she said.

After five hours of dancing, some couples were holding hands and skipping around the dance floor, and others were spinning their partners around in circles. But some dancers laid their heads on each other's shoulders and walked to the music.

"Most of the couples who entered the dance marathon are independent couples," said Julie Ward, a member of OPA. "They don't represent any organization."

Most OPA and APO members worked as spotters to check if the dancers kept dancing, cashiers, announcers, or handed out refreshments during the breaks.

Paul Emola, the owner of the Lakeview Club let them use the building and furnished some of the soft drinks.

KORA-KTAM provided music for the dancers until 9 p.m. and then Roy Robbins and The Availables played the rest of the evening.

During the day a bubblegum contest was held. A 9-inch bubble took

first place. The "gumpeter," a plastic pronged ruler, was used to measure bubble sizes.

As long as the marathon dancer was standing and moving his feet he was considered dancing. Some dancers blew bubblegum bubbles in their partner's face or combed each other's hair to break the monotony of the contest.

Groups interlocked arms, holding each other up, and danced in circles. Another group that danced the Cotton Eyed Joe later formed a long train which weaved in and out of the other dancers.

Most of the male marathon dancers danced in boots the whole time.

Asked why he wore boots rather than tennis shoes, one dancer said that was just used to wearing his boots.

During the breaks some of the dancers chose not to sit down.

"I'm afraid that if I sit down I'll be too comfortable and I won't be able to get back up," one marathon dancer said.

But some took the opportunity to rest.

"Oh... My poor back don't feel good," one dancer said and moaned. A friend passed by and asked him he was having fun. The dancer answered, "I'm sitting here drinking beer, sweating like an ape and ask me if I'm having fun?"



Battalion photo by Larry Ch...

Ricky Lennon and Glynna Wilson (couple 11) won the jitterbug contest held at the Benefit Marathon Dance on Saturday. OPA and APO, service organizations, sponsored the dance at the Lakeview Club. Couples danced from noon until midnight to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

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