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The Daily Boos

-Spooky Edition!

IT'S ONLY
7
DAYS UNTIL
Halloween

The Legend of the Daily Boatman

DJ Benjamin

The yearly Homecoming Cardboard Boat Race is a well-known facet of campus life at Michigan Tech. While not as well known as Carnival snow statues, every student hears about the races at some point in their time at Tech. The official history lists the earliest recorded MTU Cardboard Regatta in 2005, though it was not truly the first. A series of unofficial earlier races in 1976 through 1978 ended in tragedy, scuttling any boat plans for over two decades.

The races were unsanctioned and random Friday night activities between friends and fraternities. Exactly how many people or boats competed is lost to time, but the competition was slowly developing to be more organized. By the 1978 race, which took place on October 13th, there was some sort of buoy to float out to and turn around at, though the buoy was supposedly significantly farther than the modern race has it.

That fateful night, one group of boats set out for the buoy, including one that had cut out the Daily Bull's famous Bullhead from cardboard and featured it as a prominent figurehead. One boat sank as soon as it was fully in the water, and at least one more made it around the buoy and all the way back. But the Bull Boat, for whatever reason, was slow in its progress through the water, and by the time it had made it to the turn-around point everyone else was just about back to shore. During the turn,



tragedy struck when the boat capsized, dumping its occupants into the water with no other craft nearby to assist. With no life jackets, several people clung to the cardboard to make their way to shore. But after a headcount on the shore, they realized one of their crewmates wasn't with them, and most of what had remained of the boat had sunk. Searches commenced, but to no avail. The lost cardboard crewmate was never found, and another cardboard boat didn't touch the water for another 27 years.

Since that tragic night, however, authorities and newspapers have received multiple reports of a strange craft floating on the Portage canal on chilly fall evenings. The craft is reported to be small, with edged, boxlike proportions. Its sides are said to be torn and ripped, and strips of what appears to be duct tape hang off and trail in the water behind it.

Continued on Back...

Continued From Front...

The whole craft glows a faint green, initially thought to be some product of the copper mining pollution, along with the sole occupant of the boat. Early reports describe it to be a bloated figure seemingly marked by rot and decay, while later reports say it is a gaunt figure, with skin barely clinging to the bones. The most recent reports make no mention of flesh at all, just a skeletal frame paddling the craft along the water. However, all reports agree that instead of a human skull, the large, flat, glowing image of a bull's head sits atop its neck.

Legend says the Daily Boatman can only be seen at nights in the fall, particularly when the waters are still and an overcast sky blocks out the moon and stars. Its faint glow is made more visible by the boatman shutting out all lights as it passes by. In the total darkness, the only thing one can see is the ghastly form of the boat and its pilot sailing through the water. However, one should never lock eyes with the boatman lest they be cursed to take its place, searching endlessly for another unfortunate soul before their spirit may find rest.

So remember, dear reader: take care on walks by the canal on these chilly, still, overcast fall evenings. You never know what you might see if you look out across the water, or, worse, what might see you.

Catch the Daily Bull Spookathon LIVE on WMTU Sunday, Oct.29th at 10-12pm

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