



NUTS, BOLTS, & WHEELS: 100+ YEARS OF BUGGY

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Hunt Library
First Floor Gallery
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The University Libraries is pleased to present *Nuts, Bolts, & Wheels: 100+ Years of Buggy*. The exhibition in the new first-floor gallery of Hunt Library offers a look back at one of Carnegie Mellon's longest standing traditions. Since 1920, the Interfraternity Motor Sweepstakes—which would come to be known colloquially as Buggy—has occurred nearly every year, stopping only for World War II and COVID-19. The exhibit features multiple buggies and introduces visitors to the Buggy culture through personal recollections, photographs, video, and artifacts donated by alumni. This exhibition celebrates all of the students—Chairmen, Pushers, Drivers, Mechanics, Flaggers, Baggers, and Sweepers—who have participated in Buggy over the last century.

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CREDIT FOR POSTER IMAGE (ON BACK)
Delta Tau Delta (DTD), 1975.

CREDIT FOR COVER IMAGE
Top of Hill 2, 1990.

All images are courtesy of the Carnegie Mellon University Archives.

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Buggy is one of Carnegie Mellon University's longest traditions. The students and alumni who have participated throughout the years, documented so much of its history, and celebrated across generations created a community that is rare on modern university campuses.

But the Sweepstakes demonstrated—and continues to demonstrate—a profoundly unique aspect of CMU's community. Buggy is a demonstration of our collective commitment to both art and science. It's a demonstration of our desire to create applied knowledge to solve problems that exist outside the walls of the university. This is what makes CMU great: our ability to be interdisciplinary, to seek non-traditional solutions to problems, and to empower our students to challenge themselves outside of the classroom.

That spirit has made Spring Carnival—where the Sweepstakes happen—as important to CMU's culture today as it was one hundred years ago. And that spirit has been strong enough to endure hardships, pandemics, and world wars.

Buggy is our celebration of a collaboration between the arts, the sciences, the humanities, and athletics. This is our celebration of a collaboration between students, faculty, staff, alumni, and the larger world. This is where we celebrate working together toward a common goal.

Nuts, Bolts, & Wheels: 100+ Years of Buggy is a celebration of those students—past, present, and future.

CREDIT FOR IMAGE (RIGHT PAGE)
Fringe's Baby Leroy, 1970.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EXHIBIT BY VISITING
THE DIGITAL COMPANION TO THIS EXHIBITION:

library.cmu.edu/exhibits/buggy100



YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD THE COMPANION BOOK:

cmu.is/Buggy100



What is Buggy?

The first Sweepstakes began during Campus Week on April 21, 1920. Ten fraternities participated in "The greatest, wildest, jazziest, most blood-curdling, hair-raising, breath-stopping, shirt-tearing event in Tech annals." By the second year, nearly two-thousand people gathered to watch the eighteen teams participate in what would become the annual competition that an announcement in *The Tartan* humorously described as a "soul-tearing, death-defying Interfraternity Push Mobile Sweepstakes."

Since then, the race has undergone many changes—new routes, new design rules, varying numbers of participants—but at its core it has remained the same. Teams of passionate students, pushing a teammate in a vehicle they've built themselves around campus.

Technology & Design

Design is one of the most important aspects of the Sweepstakes. Teams spend countless hours crafting and testing their buggy in order to find the optimal combination of frame weight, wheel speed, and low wind resistance.

Maybe nothing exemplifies this fusion of design and technology more than the evolution of the buggy frame from the "rolling crates" in the twenties to the modern lightweight framed buggies of today. The change began when Bill Dilks introduced airplane silk covering in 1933, which ushered in the era of light, aerodynamic buggies. That, in turn, would be replaced by aluminum, fiberglass, and carbon fiber.

Adaptation, Innovation, & Evolution

One of the most interesting aspects of the Sweepstakes is that it's always changing. Teams are always looking for ways to build a better buggy, which has led to a radical transformation of the look and feel. From the introduction of the three-wheeled buggy with more aerodynamic covering to the introduction of safety features such as brakes, each year teams have worked to bring the latest innovations to the race.

And Buggy—which began as a fraternity-only event—has evolved as well. The first women's teams raced in the seventies. SPIRIT raced for the first time in the eighties. And now, independent student organizations from across campus have joined the Sweepstakes.

BOUNDLES



Delta Upsilon's Fish, 1921



Kappa Sigma's design winner, 1950



Women's Race, 1983



AFROTc's Stratofortress, 1990



Delts