

# the outrigger lives

By MAZEPPA COSTA  
Advertiser Special Writer

The outrigger — a symbol of Polynesia, surging surf and endless summer. Is it a relic of the past, or only a posed picture for travel posters?

"No!" shout members of the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (HCRA) who stoutly maintain that appreciation of the outrigger thrives in Hawaii.

And they have the strength of eight racing teams on Oahu and hundreds of supporters to witness their enthusiasm.

TO THE LOCAL outrigger buff, paddling is the scene and summer is the time.

Before final school exams are underway, canoe club coaches begin auditioning paddlers — girls and boys, men and women. Competition for team positions is keen.

By June the teams are training in almost daily ritual. In addition to sheltered offshore waters, the Ala Wai is a favored course. Several Honolulu clubs work there regularly.

BUT COLORFUL weekend regattas are the focal points of the season. These events are held at various beaches around the Island. Although each is officially sponsored by a member-group, they tend to be an everyman activity.

Participating are highly organized crews, coaches, officials. Supporting them are families and friends. Enjoying the whole thing are scores of fans who combine the races with a Sunday beach picnic.

Typical of Polynesian

pastime, the regattas have competitive fun, plenty of food, an abundance of flowers and — of course — comfortable, languorous waiting.

SIX REGATTAS are scheduled for this summer. Two already have been held.

Today, on the Fourth of July, the Outrigger Canoe Club will hold the MacFarlane Regatta at Waikiki. This will be followed on July 11 by Hui Nalu's Laupiko Regatta, also at Waikiki.

THE OAHU Championship is slated for July 25 at Keehi, and the season culminates with the state championship on Aug. 7. The championships are sponsored by HCRA.

Other participating clubs are Healani, Hui Nalu, Kailua, Kai Oni, Lanikai, Leeward Kai, Outrigger and Waikiki Surf.

The public is invited to all races.



Edith Van Gieson, standing, is one of the leaders of Leeward Kai Club.

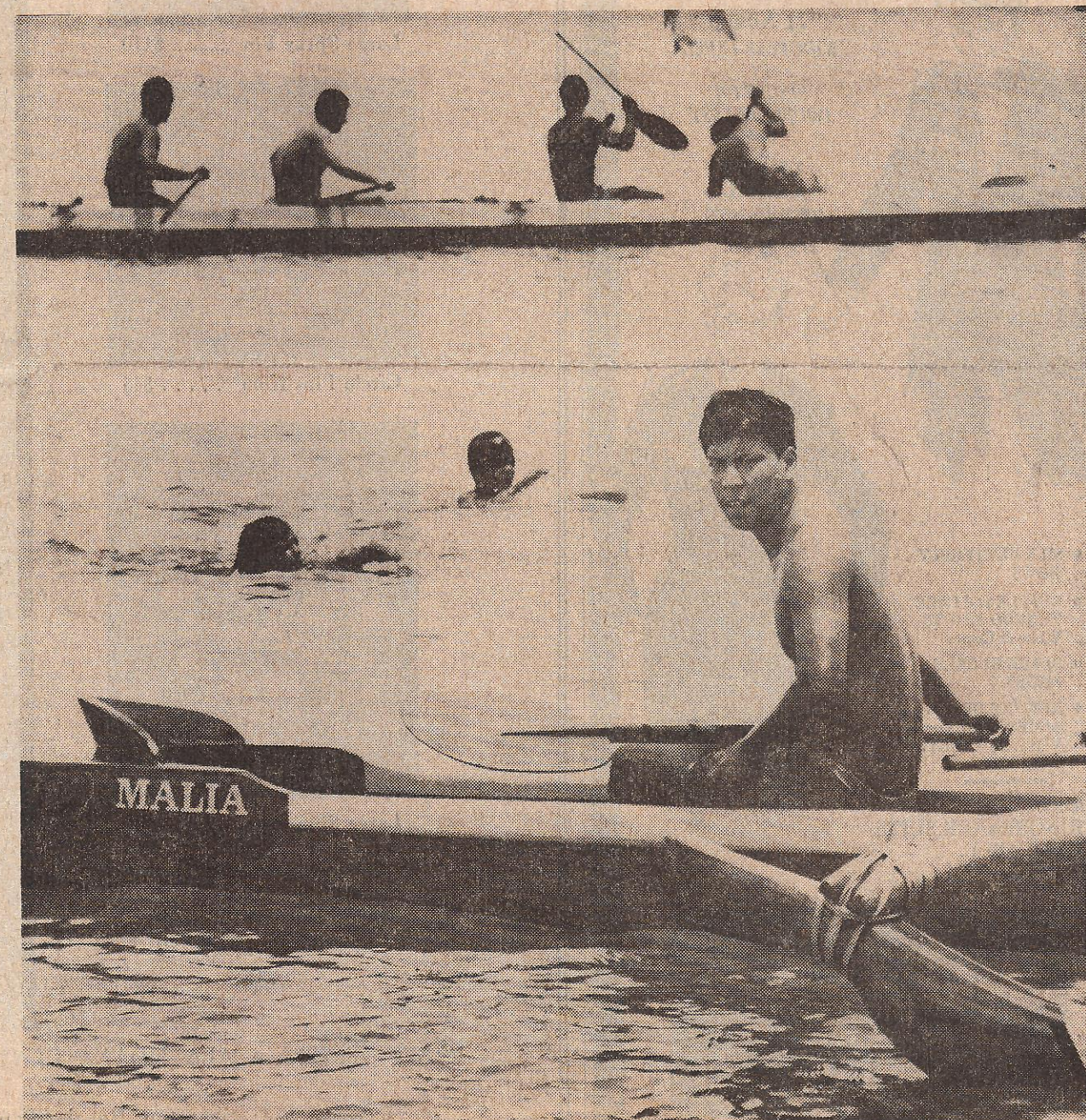


Spectators waiting for races lined the shore at the Pokai Bay Regatta.



Healani Club president Clem Paiaina waves the club banner to help his crew steer a steady course.

Photos by Mazeppa Costa



David Kalohe is a crew member of Waikiki Surf Club.