

Oregon Daily EMERALD

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LORETTA MEYER, Business Manager

Alums, the Campus Is Yours

Welcome Alums. The campus is yours for the Weekend.

Our fondest hope would be that you find your alma mater just as you remembered it. But you won't. There have been changes on the campus, but the biggest change is probably in your now objective eyes.

Oregon is growing larger, with its new buildings, walks, landmarks. Even the familiar spots you knew may be unrecognizable with their green ivy faces.

The faculty will seem different to you—a little greyer, wiser, and more human. Your friends, too—a little balder, more settled, and polished. All will appear altered.

But don't fall into the common error of

thinking the students are any less spirited or matured than you were. We still cram for finals, cut classes, and worry about grades. The only difference is that things are "basic," rather than the "cat's pajamas."

The student spirit you remember is still here, the only part of the campus not subject to change. We welcome you to look at us objectively, if you must; but to join with us subjectively.

Have fun at Homecoming. Brag, shake hands, and wish you were back in school. For this weekend the sophomore dream comes true. At last you, as alums, can attend school without attending classes! (S.J.G.)

Let's Show 'Em the Spirit's Still Here

The 1956 Homecoming celebration reaches its high point in a few hours when the Oregon Ducks take the field against Washington State's Cougars.

Spirit on the campus had reached an all-time low when Oregon played Stanford in the last home game two weeks ago, but that's all water under the bridge now. The good-sized group of rooters that followed the team to Berkeley last weekend yelled their lungs out, and the Ducks responded with a stunning 28-6 upset win over California.

There isn't much point in urging you to follow last week's example, because spirit is a spontaneous thing and must come of its own accord. Oregon has always had plenty

of spirit at Homecoming, and everybody goes to the Homecoming game, so there should be no cheering problems.

Likewise, there should be no team problems. The fumbling disease finally worked out of their systems, the Webfoots are playing good, hard football. Comparative team and individual statistics give Oregon a big edge over the boys from Pullman, but it should be a thrilling game, for Washington State leads the nation in passing, and if rain isn't falling it's a certainty that footballs will be.

So clear your throat, grab a box of cough drops and head for the game. Let's try to out-yell the alumni. (J.W.)

Homecomings Provide Oregon Traditions

By CORNELIA FOGLE
Emerald News Editor

Homecoming weekend is back with us once more. No one knows where the original idea came from, but the fact remains—it's here and very definitely a "live" tradition.

The first effort to attract grads back to the campus was in 1914, when an Alumni Day was held, but even before that time alums came back for the big game between Oregon and Oregon Agricultural College. (OAC now goes by the less-countrified name of Oregon State College.)

Few special arrangements were made that year. The underclass mix was postponed and held on Saturday evening following the 29-3 football victory over Whitman. A combined party and reception was held for the guests.

The next year the much-heralded OAC, fresh from a triumph over the mighty Michigan Aggies, went down to defeat 9-0 at the hands of "out-doped, out-experienced, out-weighted" Oregon team. In following years the date of the biggest football game of the season was set for the Homecoming.

As the special weekend gained in popularity, new features were added. Pajama rallies, alumni luncheons, and an annual Homecoming dance soon became a part of the weekend festivities. Some years a special Sunday

vesper service was held.

During the "Roaring Twenties" students did their best to put the weekend over in a big way. Jazz parade-rallies were held through the downtown area as well as the campus, huge bonfires were built, and a variety show was inaugurated.

Upset victories called for spontaneous serpentine across campus on Monday mornings following the games, and in 1920, an impromptu dance was held—but students were given cuts for missing their classes.

Noise Parade Deafening

Men guarded the "O" and the bonfire to prevent dirty work, and in 1921 a large gong was suspended near the bonfire in anticipation of an alarm.

The noise parade that year featured fireworks, which were distributed to paraders as they wound through downtown Eugene, circular saws, empty boilers which were beaten with irons and sledge hammers, gongs, bells, triangles, and a boiler with directed steam which shrieked the death cry of a departing beaver.

The bonfire burned with yellow and green flames, thanks to a special formula, for the 1925 celebration. Participants in the "Pajamarino" noise parade wore pajamas tinted in lemon yellow and emerald green, and they carried torches which gave off Oregon's colors in flame.

Pajama parades were the thing in the early thirties, but in 1933, the dean of women said "no" to men who wanted to wear them. They wore them anyway. "Journalism jams" were sponsored by the journalism honoraries following the rally, and all students were welcome to come.

Homecoming 1937 was an eventful weekend. Oregon State students burned the letters OSC in Hayward Field and set off the bonfire. Oregon students retaliated by daubing buildings at Oregon State with paint.

Eugene townspeople didn't slumber during that noise parade, either, for screaming sirens, bells, miniature bombs, air guns and riveting machines added to the general hubbub. About 20,000 people watched or participated in the parade. Paul Whiteman played at the dance.

Oregon State Invades

But Oregon lost the game. Bright and early Monday morning, carloads of Oregon State rooters rode into town to celebrate their victory. Oregon classes were dismissed to repel the invaders, and full scale warfare began. Streets were blockaded, and OSC cars were stopped and occupants were removed. They were then mill-raced, paraded through town, and taken to Skinner's Butte to paint the "O." A downtown cafe had to lock its doors in order to keep Oregon students from dragging OSC students out.

'Now When I Was a Boy ...'



The Skeptic Tank

Columnist Presents Alums 'Homecoming Card' Verse

By BRIAN BOOTH
Emerald Columnist

"Ah, Homecoming," Eugene O'Neill once said, little knowing that he was immortalizing the phrase. For the same two words were echoed in an infinite number of sighs the past week as Oregon students forgot about studies and labored into the night building signs and floats.

Today the same students are ready to reap the rewards of their work as they await the



deluge of alumni. House presidents are anticipating the flocks of grads who will be jamming their old living organizations after the game eager to donate to building funds. ("No sir it just doesn't seem possible that the place is 225 years old this fall.")

The Alumni Office and the 1,550 committees who have worked on Homecoming have reportedly pulled out all stops to make this weekend one of the best on record at Oregon.

In fact we've heard that they've even gone so far as to bribe Washington State to lose by 20 points although Cougar coach Jim Sutherland, has denied it. We'll have to wait and see.

And thirsty undergraduates are clustering like leeches around alums who have been known to "buy a round for the boys."

All in all it looks like a great weekend is unfolding for both alumni and students. So joining the welcome-back mood here is our hasty version of a "Homecoming card" message for Oregon's returning alums.

H is for the hooch you used to take.
O is the varsity letter you never could make.
M is for the Millrace you used to canoe in.
E is for the exams you used to get blue in.
C is for all the classes you used to cut.
O is for the odd dates with which you used to get stuck.
M is for the money; you were always in debt.
I is the ninth letter in the alphabet.
N is for the names you can't quite remember.
G is cause it's great to have you back this November.

Hallmark and other greeting card companies seemed to have overlooked the vast sentimental opportunities that are inherent in Homecoming Weekends although cards for every other occasion from Mother's Day to Chinese New Year's are available. So don't run down to the nearest drug store to buy your favorite alum a Homecoming card. They are only sold on the moon.