

opinion

We're just psyched over homecoming

Break out the poodleskirts, shake the dust off those angora sweaters, wash out the chinos, buff the white bucks and take those letter sweaters out of mothballs. No, it's not a 1950s flashback, it's homecoming.

Homecoming?

Yes... homecoming at the University and up at the Emerald we're ready with our "Brikk-ah brakk-ah, firecracker, sis boom bahs."

The last time the University held a full-blown homecoming celebration was in the late 1960s. However, the alumni association, in conjunction with the University have resuscitated this previously deflated tradition.

Called "The Duck Experience '83," homecoming is scheduled for the first week in November. The brochure sent to alumni says it all: "We're sure you'll find nostalgia, tradition, and some things new. It all adds up to an excellent way to return to campus and relive your duck experience..."

Students might be advised to look out for a gaggle of middle-aged alumni in beanie-copter caps charging about campus on panty raids, or racing off to paint the "O" on Skinner's Butte, or stuffing an odd Volkswagen or two while they swallow goldfish.

Now that's the "duck experience."

But seriously, we hope it doesn't rain the day of the homecoming parade.

The parade, scheduled for dusk on Friday, Nov. 4, will start on campus and wend its way to downtown Eugene, ending at the intersection of Broadway and Willamette Street. The parade is a "town and gown" affair. "Town and gown" is one of those euphemisms for the combined efforts of the University and the city of Eugene.

We're pumped... and we're psyched for the pep rally after the homecoming parade. Head coach Rich Brooks and his staff will be there leading the cheers: "Beat UCLA... beat UCLA."

But technology has supplanted the traditional pep rally bonfire with a laser light show. Somehow it won't be the same as burning effigies of the UCLA Bruins in arching yellow flames raking the night sky.

In an effort to eliminate any sexism in homecoming — these are modern times — the homecoming committee has changed the traditional election of a homecoming king and queen. Instead, a committee of three faculty, three students and three community members will select four "Student Ambassadors," two boys and two girls... er... two men and two women.

Actually, we strongly favor the idea of reviving homecoming and all the activities attendant on the week. We've been a little tongue-in-cheek, but fully recognize the beneficial side of the homecoming week.

Homecoming is good for the University for a number of reasons. Those returning alumni clustering on campus will doubtless recall their days of education here, and the quality of education available at the University.

The alumni will look back, as people do, with remembrance more of the intensity of their lives when at the University than of the hours and hours of study. They'll wearily go home after the week-long activities reminded of the top-notch caliber of this University.

Let's not forget the financial considerations. Loyal alumni are probably the single most important resource group for the University. They are possibly the largest group contributing money to the University.

Homecoming is a means to involve the alumni in the University process, the University process as presently practiced. While they are here during homecoming week they will see firsthand both the strengths and weaknesses of the University. They will certainly want to bolster the strengths and eliminate the weaknesses of the University.

Homecoming is good for the city of Eugene for much the same reasons it benefits the University. Eugene benefits image-wise and dollar-wise. Hotels, motels and restaurants will do increased business with the influx of alumni.

Even though homecoming conjures up amusing images of rabid collegiates piling up inside a telephone booth or hula-hooping to the cha-cha-cha, the whole idea of reinstituting an annual homecoming week is one we wholeheartedly favor.

"Bola bola bola — rah rah rah."



'HEY, I'M SELLIN' A DREAM HERE! GEORGE WASHINGTON, OLD GLORY, THE CONSTITUTION, THE BILL OF RIGHTS, SEA-TO-SHININ'-SEA—WHAT'S NOT HAVIN' ENOUGH TO EAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?'

letters

1,000 days

We've now had a thousand days of Reagan as president. It's time to take a look back at the record and ponder all those wise and wonderful things that have occurred under his stewardship which are supposed to make us proud of life in America.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, after four years Reagan's deficit of \$825 billion will have exceeded the combined deficits of every president from Jimmy Carter back to George Washington.

At the end of 1983's second quarter, over 10.6 million individuals were officially unemployed, 3.1 million more than when Reagan first took office. The August unemployment rate was 9.5 percent, as it was in 1982. There has only been one year in the entire post-war period prior to 1982 in which the unemployment rate has risen over 8 percent.

Despite a continuing period of the highest unemployment since the Depression, employment and training programs have been cut a total of 60 percent during Reagan's presidency. CETA, the nation's major job creation and training program, has been eliminated entirely.

More than 6 million Americans have dropped below the poverty line since Reagan took office.

New guidelines for the FBI, issued in March of 1983, allow the FBI to infiltrate organizations during "inquiries" based on unsubstantiated allegations rather than on standards required for criminal investigation and to collect "publicly available information" on individuals or groups who are not even the subjects of an investigation.

I could go on and on, but it would take up a few issues of the Emerald to detail all of the equally repressive measures that have been devised during the tenure of our sweet and affable "Great Communicator."

One thing is certain. When November 1984 comes around I most definitely will NOT be better off than I was four years ago. I doubt any of you will be either.

David Isenberg

A miracle?

Regarding the editorial "Frohnmayer Opinion" in the Oct. 20 Emerald, and the issue itself aside, it appears that the writer does not know that Antelope and Rajneeshpuram are two different places.

The attorney general's opinion concerns the recently incorporated city of Rajneeshpuram, which is situated on the John Day River some 18 miles southeast of the little town of Antelope, which was founded in 1871.

There has been no "transformation of Antelope into Rajneeshpuram." Not even the Bhagwan could bring off a miracle of such magnitude.

Charles Duncan
professor emeritus, journalism

An acid wit

Turf, that's what it comes down to. At first I thought it was all the injuries, but that's a different ache, not so infuriating. Nor was it the customary uncertainty about Who, pray, is gonna quarterback today? What it was was the turf, the slimey, treacherous, hamstringing artificial turf.

Jorgensen's receivers were always two steps behind the pattern, spinning wheels on that composition of pond algae and green weasel sperm. Duffy and the cornerbacks couldn't blitz or dog the passer, no acceleration off that worn-out wonder of plastic shag. And that's the ache. It ain't the losing, it's the slipping. It's the falling down that makes the end of that game so desultory, not the falling behind.

Under Casanova's cultivation our team raised roses out of the grit and grime and real grass of old Hayward Field. If it was slick and muddy it was still our mud, churned up by our muscles, not

something manufactured by Monsanto or whoever. Besides, ducks play better in the mud, the natural turf of webfeet. Why give up our natural edge for the sake of easy maintenance? That's like painting our wrestling mat black trimmed in orange because it's easier to keep clean than yellow and green.

The University is making money off these kids playing out there; it's only fair to give them something decent to play on six inches of rich topsoil right over the top of that manufactured mistake, seeded with Oregon timothy, and fescue, and high-rent hybrids, with turf, turf, turf.

Ken Kesey
Pleasant Hill

Informed

In recent years, students have proven themselves to be reliable and informed participants when included in the University's decision-making process. Whether it is the allocation of incidental fees, the administration of the EMU, coordination of legislative affairs and University relations, serving on student/faculty committees, or sitting in the University Senate and Assembly, students have responsibly fulfilled their duties.

Yet, despite the conscientious efforts of student representatives, there is a movement afoot to severely curtail student involvement in the "new, improved" University Senate. A minority of faculty members would like to cut the number of student seats in the Senate by more than half. This is despite the University's 15,000 students traditionally being allowed representation amounting to one-third of the Senate's membership.

The matter faces votes in both the Senate and Assembly in upcoming weeks. I urge concerned faculty to protect student representation, and maintain the traditional balance in the University Senate by defeating this proposal.

Marc Spence
senior, political science

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Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Comment" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Comment" columns must be limited to 500 words and typed.

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