

'Town and Gown' combine for 'week-long party'

By Michele Matassa
Of the Emerald

For many community residents, mention of "Homecoming week" brings to mind memories of pseudo-terrorism and chaos throughout the city.

To them, it's the week that students wage all-out "war" on the community. Seniors strip and tie-up freshmen to leave them running naked in the street. Wild paraders jump off their floats and stuff hay in parked cars.

This "warfare" may provide good reason for community residents and businesses to isolate themselves from campus, but not

this coming homecoming.

To alleviate this isolation, organizers of the 1983 University Homecoming are making their move — into the community.

Officials say this is the "first time ever" that Eugene-Springfield residents are actively involved in planning activities for University Homecoming.

Since March, Eugene and Springfield merchants and residents have been jumping on the bandwagon driven by those organizing Homecoming week: Phil Super, director of University alumni, Mary Hudzikiewicz, University director of community relations and Sam Baker, director of athletic

promotions.

Super hopes to improve the University's public image by reaching out for community involvement and support.

"Homecoming's been like a closed affair; you had to be somehow associated with the University. Our attitude is 'No, we're changing it around. Use Homecoming week to become associated and become a Duck for a week,'" he says.

The "Town and Gown Light Parade" on Friday is one way of fostering cooperation between campus and the community, Super says. Each parade float is being constructed by a pair of organizations, one

from the community (town) and one from the University (gown).

But Super says University/community relations aren't "the reason we're doing it overtly. Our main reason is just to have a good time, have a good party."

It looks like the community is hosting more than one good party.

The Valley River Inn, the Hult Center for the Performing Arts, the Red Lion Motor Inn and the Eugene Hilton are all pitching in to sponsor the week's events — most free of charge.

Community involvement has been a success, Super says.

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