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Homecoming revived once again

By Kelly Kortekaas
Special Issues Editor

Since the '70s there have been many attempts to revive the traditional, festive atmosphere of Homecoming. A brochure from the 1970 Homecoming Committee illustrated changes in student attitudes toward societal problems and the basic disinterest in fanciful traditions.

However, the committee still attempted to bring spirit into the '70s — "Alumni and students alike, will find 'Homecoming 1970' filled with the same old spirit in a new light," the brochure read. And this attempt to shed "new light" on Homecoming tradition since has been the focus of subsequent homecoming planning groups.

News headlines ranged from "Little scheduled for Homecoming weekend" (ODE Nov. 10, 1971) to "Put on your frosh beanies, homecoming's resur-

rected" (ODE Oct. 19, 1979). Traditions shifted from bonfires to pep rallies (same thing without the fire); and from Homecoming queens to student ambassadors. Along with bonfires, city ordinances also took the life out of the annual noise parade, leaving a hole that partially has been filled with other parade attempts, particularly the "Town and Gown" parades of 1983 and '84. They were meant to be evening "light parades," according to University Community Services Director Mary Hudzikiewicz; however, because of Eugene's typically cold, rainy fall nights, the parades drowned.

Hudzikiewicz said that a winning football team definitely helps when trying to rebuild school spirit. She added that with the excitement for the Ducks' season this year, Homecoming events, such as the pep rally scheduled for Friday night, are bound to be hits.

This year's Homecoming festivities include a Masquerade

Ball, open to both students (over 21) and alumni. The dance features the big band sound of the Starlighters, and begins with dance lessons for those not familiar with the waltz and the swing. Hudzikiewicz said several of the events are designed to bring alumni, students, and members of the community together.

If students have a good time at Homecoming while they are in school, said Hudzikiewicz, chances are better that they will want to come back as alumni and share in the same good time they enjoyed as students.

Another event aimed at bringing the community, alumni and students together is Spirit Day on Thursday, Oct. 29. Duck fans are urged to wear green and gold to show their spirit for Homecoming.

So come on Ducks! Show that school spirit — wear green and yellow, and just for old time's sake, say hello on the "Hello Walk" in front of the EMU. What can it hurt?

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KESEY AUTOGRAPHING BOOK THIS SATURDAY AT AUTZEN STADIUM.

Ken Kesey, internationally known local author, will be signing copies of his new book "Demon Box" at the Homecoming Game this Saturday.

Copies of "Demon Box" are available at the UO Bookstore for \$7.95 minus your student, faculty, and staff 11% discount. Books sold at the game will not be eligible for this discount.

The exact time
of the book signing
will be announced
at the game.

