

Homecoming USA

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from rival fans armed with buckets of paint.

"You usually get volunteers — a few hundred or a thousand pretty much all night," says Jim Higgins, opinion editor of the student newspaper, the *Daily Collegian*. According to Higgins, the Penn State tradition is known as "Guard the Lion Vigil."

Further south in Gainesville, Florida, students and alumni pack Porter Stadium and yell their lungs out watching marching bands, films, fireworks and a laser light show during "Gator Growl."

"It's a big deal," says Penny DiPalma, advertising secretary of the *Independent Florida Alligator*.

Indeed it is. This year Florida faced Temple University in the annual homecoming football game. The score?

"Oh, we whupped 'em. It was 50 something to not much," DiPalma said.

Elsewhere around the country, some schools alter traditional homecoming events a shade.

For example, this year at the University of California at Santa Barbara, the football tailgate party on Nov. 7 will serve host to a 35-foot-tall Spuds McKenzie.

Which isn't surprising, especially considering UCSB's homecoming last year when a parade took a slightly different route.

"We had a 'Not Ready for the

Rose Bowl Parade' with a bunch of fraternities and dorm residents going crazy," said Pat Whalen, sports editor of the school's *Daily Nexus*.

To add a little variety, many colleges add special events or attach a theme to homecoming week. At Idaho, a Casino Night unfolded at this year's homecoming.

"They had a Las Vegas night at the student union building where people donated money, and they played 21 to try to earn prizes," said Paul AlLee, editor of the *Daily Argonaut*. The theme, however, had nothing to do with Las Vegas or even Nevada. According to AlLee, the theme was Oktoberfest.

At the University of Arizona, the theme for the scheduled Nov. 4-8 homecoming is "the pride of the West," editor-in-chief of the *Arizona Daily Wildcat*, Alisa Slaughter said, adding that events this year include a "country-swing-dance-type barbeque and fiesta" and "a show with the gunfighters of old Tucson."

Some 1,000 miles north of Tucson, along the right shoulder of the Montana Rockies, homecoming "is a pretty active situation" at Carroll College, said Russ Garrow, the school's student body treasurer. With an enrollment of about 1,300, Carroll produces more of an intimate homecoming.

Each class plans an activity during homecoming week, Gar-

row said. "A dating game was put on by the senior class. You could win a date with somebody, that kind of thing," he said of this year's homecoming.

According to Garrow, unlike some schools in the late '60s and '70s where homecoming was downplayed or even abandoned, Carroll College always has kept up the tradition.

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