

University Day resurrects unity

By Brian Sandy
and Doug Untalan

"In any student-body activity or enterprise, no factor is so essential in bringing about the ultimate success of an understanding as the spirit of harmony. The University ... has fostered this spirit in the past and ought not let it be slack in the time to come."

Commentary

"Discard all that is obnoxious and unproductive of the true spirit of union, and perfect that which is creative of highest powers of harmonious development ... Try to make this institution the greatest, grandest, and noblest place of your life. Fall in line with the harmonious spirit of noble enthusiasm, and make every undertaking approach success as near as possible." (*Oregon Weekly*, April 9, 1906).

What indeed has happened to the "Oregon Spirit?" The answer: in a word, apathy. This "who cares?" attitude pervades every aspect of modern University life. What then, if anything, can be done to cure such malignant indifference? Again, an answer: Reinstate that which has historically inspired and maintained a healthy level of so readily apparent in the above excerpt.

University Day 1990 will occur, despite what you may have heard. May 17 will witness the resurrection of this long-lost University tradition. In its hey-

day at the turn of the century, University Day was the catalyst for student identification with each other and their alma mater.

It was a tradition wherein faculty, staff and students alike collaboratively beautified their community, the campus of the University: sidewalks were carefully built, plumbing was painstakingly installed, foundations were meticulously laid. However, the lasting benefits were not so much in the content of the day as they were in the process — the gathering together of students of diverse backgrounds and interests to work toward a common end.

The extraordinary diversity at the University, while usually a boon, often translates itself into an "in-group/out-group" phenomena, wherein petty group differences are accentuated, and venal politics are the norm. Symptomatic of such current problems are the comments of Incidental Fee Committee members Armando Morales and Paul Nehm (*ODE*, April 12).

Nehm said University Day would benefit the "... University first and the students second." This adversarial perspective, students in one corner, administration in the other, ironically pinpoints our exact reasons for re-establishing this tradition. In fact, this event benefits everyone.

There is no dichotomy between "University" and "students," and the continued belief that there is will only serve to further fragmentize our cam-

pus. The opinion "the event is an administration matter" is only partially correct. Indeed, various administrators have acknowledged this half-truth and have donated their support and volunteer hours to augment student efforts. Consequently, 1990 will witness the re-establishment of University Day.

The day's events are set to commence at noon, with a tree planting ceremony in front of Fenton Hall. At 1 p.m., participants will paint lampposts; pressure-wash steps, sidewalks, benches and walls; clean fountains; distribute barkdust and plant flowers, among other things. Work will end around 5:30 p.m., with a complimentary ice cream social, followed by a free concert featuring The Blubinos.

Brian Sandy and Doug Untalan are co-directors of the University Day Coalition

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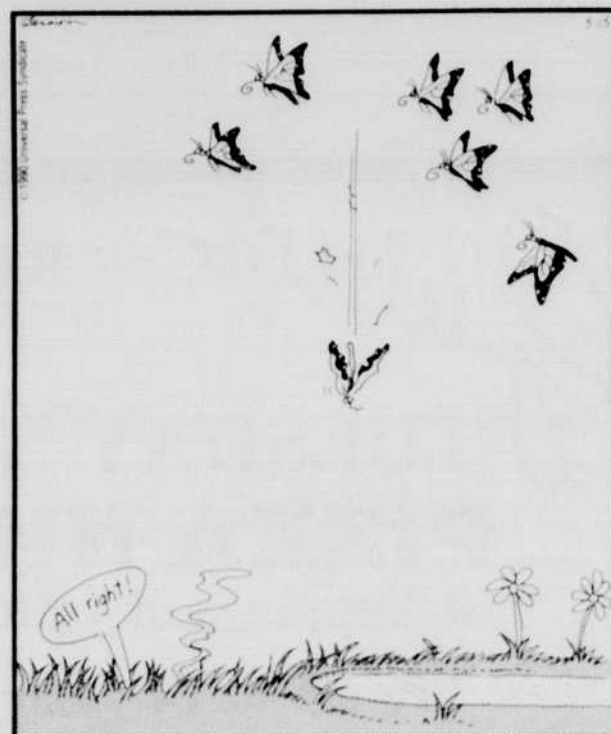
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THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



As the flock of monarchs, in a silent burst of black and gold, rose from the puddle's edge, a sudden "crack" knifed through the still morning air. The spider's shotgun had found its mark.