

Students trying to revive Homecoming on campus

By April Brinkman
Emerald Contributor

A student committee is trying to revive Homecoming at the University despite a late start and lukewarm enthusiasm shown by students.

"This is our baby year," said Karmen Fore, vice president of the Student Alumni Association. "We are trying to lay a foundation for the future so that Homecoming will be a major event on campus again."

In recent years, Homecoming has been marked merely with a few bunches of balloons placed around campus the Friday before the game, Fore said. This year, the steering committee hopes to involve as many students as possible in a week of activities scheduled Oct. 29 through Nov. 4, including a lawn decorating contest, a noise parade and a comedy night.

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For students, the highlight of Homecoming Week may be a performance by comedians Jake Johannsen and Arnold Mukai on Nov. 2. Fore and Horswell said. Johannsen has appeared on the Johnny Carson and David Letterman shows and on HBO's "Comedy Relief." Mukai has won many local comedy awards in Seattle.

Students are encouraged to wear green and gold on Spirit Day, also Nov. 2.

The residence halls and greek houses will adorn their front lawns and courtyards with Homecoming theme decorations for a lawn display contest to be held Oct. 29. Prizes will be awarded to the best displays from both groups.

And on Nov. 3, a noise parade featuring members of the Alumni Band will march from the EMU courtyard to Autzen Stadium before the kickoff of the Ducks' game against UCLA.

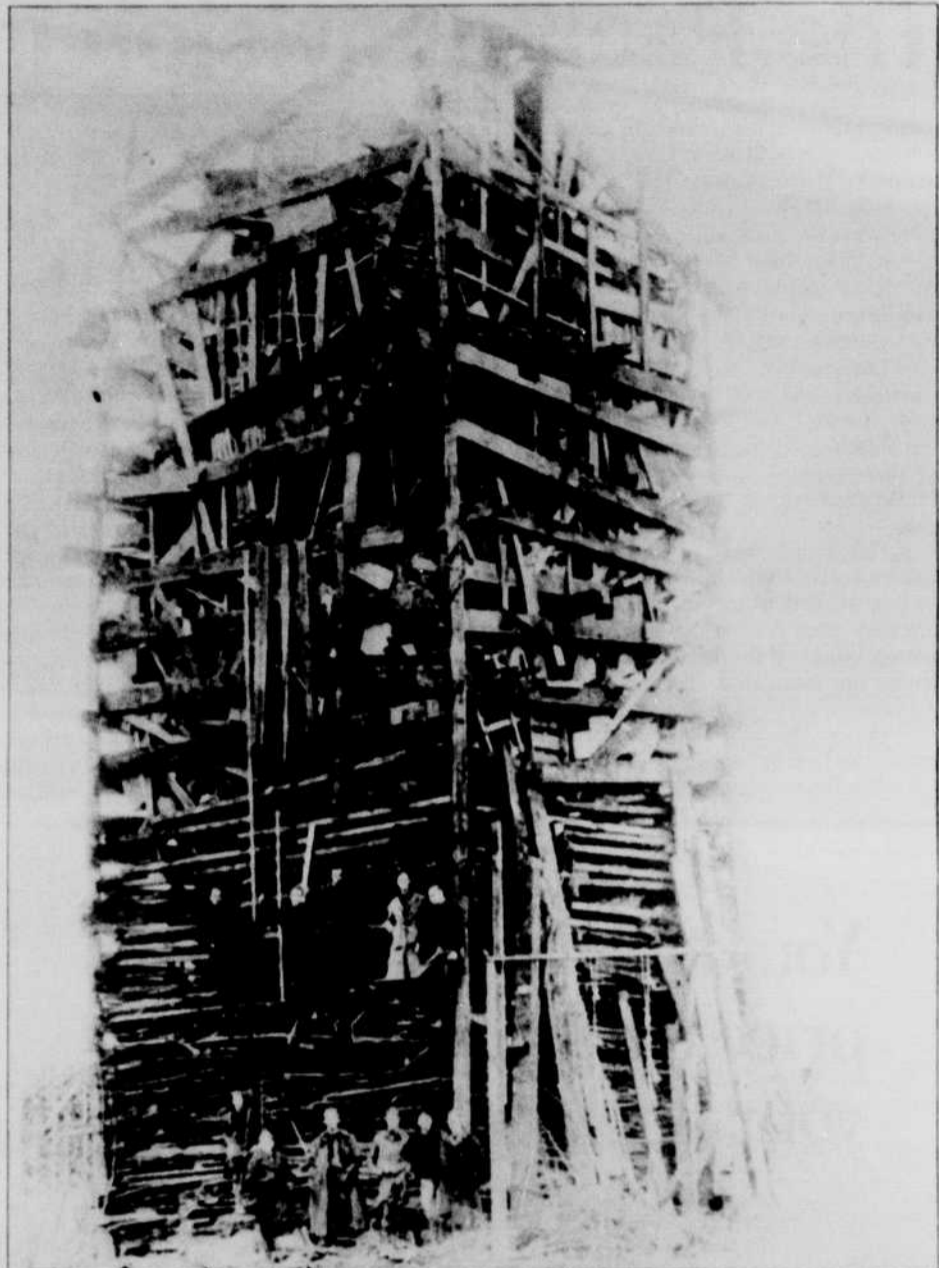
Other activities for alumni and students over 21 will also be featured throughout the week, including a Homecoming Dance the night of Nov. 2.

To add to the festivities, Parents Weekend coincides with Homecoming this year. All parents are invited to attend a brunch in the EMU Ballroom on Nov. 3, which will feature a State of the University address from President Myles Brand.

The student steering committee, coordinated by Fore and Richard Horswell, also of the Student Alumni Association, currently includes representatives from residence halls and the greek system.

Horswell says he and Fore tried to get as many student groups as possible involved in the steering committee, but he said most organizations have shown little interest, perhaps because the Student Alumni Association itself got a late start planning the event.

The Association is still trying to get on its feet following a reorganization in winter 1989 when it lost its independent status as the Student University Relations Council and came under the leadership of the Alumni Association, Fore said.



Courtesy photo
Things have changed since the Homecoming of 1917, when the class of 1921 built a four-story bonfire that burned for three days on the site where the Knight Library now stands.

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