

Get ready for wild Homecoming

Get ready students; the always wild and unpredictable Homecoming Weekend kicks off tonight with the "Crush the Cougars" bonfire and barbecue in the Autzen Stadium parking lot.

Of course all you returning students know how out of control and really wacky this night usually gets. It will be years until anyone who was present forgets last year's bonfire before Oregon's game against California. Ten thousand screaming students ripping up more than 1,000 stuffed teddy bears. Whew!

Friday night's festivities are set to begin at 8 p.m. and more than 500 cougar pinatas will be set up around Autzen Stadium for students to pound. Better get there early before someone else gets the candy corn and Pez dispensers.

For those of you who don't have a sweet tooth — don't fear. There is plenty of fun set up for you as well. There will be three Mercury Cougars in the west end of the parking lot, and for \$1, you get three swings of a baseball bat at the car.

The highlight of the evening will come around 11 p.m. when the voting will be done for Homecoming King and Queen.

Saturday morning there will be plenty of activities prior to the Oregon-Washington State game, but that will be nothing compared to what happens at halftime.

The Pacific-10 Conference has granted Oregon a special exemption to extend halftime to a full



STEVE MIMS

hour so the "Duck Homecoming" parade can take place. Every class has already made their floats for the procession from Autzen Stadium to Hayward Field. Fire trucks will also transport students by class from the game to the parade.

The main event of the parade will be the coronation of the Homecoming King and Queen. Once the selection is done, the parade will return back to Autzen Stadium where the well-rested Ducks and Cougars will play the second half of their game.

Once the game is over, the Homecoming Dance will begin at McArthur Court. The featured performers are International Anthem, The Crawdads of Pure Love and a bunch of other bands that can't find a gig anywhere outside of Eugene, singing their own versions of "Whoomp, There It Is."

There will be plenty of room reserved at the front of the stage for those of you who feel the need to do the "hippie dance," which is made up of people in tie-dyed shirts spinning in circles in their bare feet.

For all those who haven't figured

it out, the above events obviously will not occur, in fact, I don't think anything different occurs for the Homecoming game.

This is my fifth year at Oregon, and I have never heard anyone take special notice or even mention that a game is the Homecoming game. By the way, does basketball, tennis, volleyball or any other sport have a Homecoming game, or is this weekend of inactivity set up for football alone?

I don't even know what is supposed to happen on a Homecoming Weekend, or what happens at other colleges. What is Homecoming supposed to mean or represent? All I know is that T-shirts commemorating this weekend are on sale, but they don't clear this matter up at all.

The one special event set up for this weekend is the "Homecoming Pep Rally" at the EMU Courtyard, featuring head coach Rich Brooks, broadcaster Jerry Allen and some others. I sure hope this is better than the pep rally last year with Allen and basketball coach Jerry Green. You all remember that rally when Green tried to stir up the dozen or so fans who showed up.

I know I'll be there, if for no other reason than to see if Brooks can clear up what this Homecoming thing is supposed to mean.

Steve Mims is the sports editor of the Emerald.

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