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Robert Frost Jones, M.D. • Kraig Warren Jacobson, M.D.

Celebration: Rivalry surrounded Oregon's 'O'

Continued from Page 1A

prevented the noise parade. And then there was the 'O'. In 1908, a 40-foot high 'O' was placed on top of Skinner Butte. For years, this was the focus of University and Oregon State attacks. Richard said, each year Beaver supporters would paint the wooden 'O' orange; Duck fans would quickly restore it to yellow.

In 1952 and 1953, however, someone used dynamite to blow up parts of the base of the great O. Houses down the Butte from the 'O' were damaged by tiny pieces of concrete.

In 1957, the 'O' was stolen by Oregon State. Although they eventually returned it, Richard said Oregon deemed it "contaminated" and burned it. They then created a metal O, which was also cut down and stolen. After its return, however, it was not destroyed and still remains on Skinner Butte.

Traditionally, freshman males would scrub the University seal in front of the student union. Back then it was "illegal" to stand, walk, or sit on the seal. In the 1960s, students purposefully sat on the seal to protest the tradition.

And, unlike today, men and women never sat together at any sporting event.

"Men sat with the men, women sat with the women," Richard said. "I guess they had to control their hormones."

Both schools also had a tradition of vandalizing each other's fields. According to Richard, burning the turf with lye was popular. With the dawn of artificial turf, this tradition was also reduced to history.

Because it concerned two Oregon teams, the Civil War often drew people from all over the state. Before the roads became efficient, trains carried people from Portland, Corvallis, Albany,

and other small towns to Eugene to watch the game.

"A train went from Corvallis straight to Eugene," said Richard. "From the depot, the people would parade to the game. After the game, they would just parade back to the depot."

On game day, the streets of Eugene would be packed with students and fans.

"The streets would be blocked off," Richard said. "Everybody joined in the fun."

Linking the Civil War game with Homecoming ended when the University realized it could draw large crowds to the Civil War game and moved Homecoming to a less popular game in the 1960s.

But times have changed and so have Civil War traditions.

"Today, your group is much more mixed," he said. "The spirit is just as strong, just as lively, but they don't represent the same amount of the population."

Charity: Fraternities come together during Civil War

Continued from Page 1A

begins the run in Corvallis and hands off the ball in Junction City. From there, the University chapter runs the remaining 25 miles to Autzen Stadium.

The ball begins its trip south Saturday morning, and is scheduled to arrive just prior to kick-off.

The run is a relay, with each participating member running about a mile, Ryan said.

The goal is to raise \$7,000 this year. Combined, the fraternities have raised about \$5,500.

"Hopefully between today and tomorrow we can get another \$1,500," Ryan said.

The American Cancer Society uses the money for cancer research, patient education and services, said Cherie Kistner, a representative of the American Cancer Society.

"The money stays in the local office," she said. "It is not used nationally."

The University chapter came up with the idea three years ago after one of the members lost a parent to cancer. Since then, it has become a tradition between the schools.

"It's fun; it gets people out there; it gets our name and OSU together in a friendly way," Ryan said.

Although it is called the "Game Ball Run," the ball used is not the real game ball. Instead, it is a commemorative ball that is given to the American Cancer Society after the run.

"It's a good way for the public to see another side of the fraternity system," said Brent Cheldelin, philanthropy chairman for the Oregon State chapter.

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