



Five students pose in front of a duck figure built for Homecoming 1940.

Three freshmen receive refreshment from fellow students while painting the 'O' on Skimmers Butte.



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The Homecoming Court was usually crowned at the Friday night dance. The coronations stopped in the early 1970s.

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SAA does its job adequately. "They are our ambassadors on campus," he said. "They are the ones who reach the students."

SAA-sponsored events this weekend include a Family Fun Night on Saturday for Parents' Weekend and a Pep Rally today near the EMU. The SAA also persuaded the ASUO and Cultural Forum to schedule the ASUO Street Fair, Student Activities Fair and Oregon Grind this week.

SAA President Patrick Tandingan said the events planned may not equal the festivities of 35 years ago, but they still offer students plenty of options.

"Our main objective is to get students on this campus to get a sense of spirit of this University," he said. "We're trying to put on events that students can take part in, so they can feel a connection to the school."

To its credit, the SAA may be fighting a losing battle. Many students couldn't care less about school spirit or getting involved.

Graduate students, for example, often come to campus with academics on their mind, and not much else.

"School should be about learning, not having fun," said 27-year-old grad student James Pearson.

Also obstructing the SAA effort is a widespread awareness problem. Many students, including ASUO President Bill Miner, couldn't list this weekend's events.

"I have no idea what's going on," he said. "All I know is we're having a great football game."

City Councilor Bobby Lee, who served as ASUO President in 1992-93, said the ambivalence isn't surprising. In the late '60s and early '70s, students' priorities changed as the United States went through civil unrest, including protests surrounding the Vietnam War.

"Student government became real politicized," Lee said. "Homecoming back then was seen as trivial."

Lee said he saw a jump in student in-

volvement after the Rose Bowl in 1995, but apathy still reigns. Lee, currently a graduate student, said students are so disenchanted, in fact, that a return to more festive Homecomings should be questioned.

"It's difficult to push something down students' throats," he said. "They're more worried about getting their college degree and graduating than committing to campus organizations and services."

The best solution, Lee said, is moving cautiously by slowly adding programs and gauging students' reactions.

Tandingan agrees, noting that the SAA has talked about changing Homecoming since last year.

"Bringing back the involvement of the University as a whole would be a great idea," he said. "The trick would be finding a group of students who could pull it off."

Most people agree that the SAA can't do the job alone. Rodriguez said the organization was never officially designated as the sole organizer of the weekend.

"It would be our hope that the students would step up and program for themselves," he said. "We hope that the ASUO would do something, that Greek Life would do something, that the dorms would do something."

Tandingan wants to form a committee with the ASUO and other organizations to discuss new ideas and to pool resources.

Miner and Vice President Ben Unger both say they'd be willing to help in the effort, but they understand the difficulties involved.

"It's important we offer these types of things," Miner said, "but it will be a matter of how it gets presented."

Ultimately, the question of whether the University community can support a Homecoming like the one in 1962 can only be answered by trial and error, Unger said.

"I don't even know if that's what our campus wants," Unger said, "but we're willing to give it a try."

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