

PERSPECTIVES

Alumni weekend

Homecoming weekend is, and hasn't been, an event for students

Homecoming football game, Oct. 23, 2023
Not much has changed on this campus in the 25 years since I graduated.

I've gotten older, wiser and wrinkled, but the University is largely the same. There is still no parking within walking distance, still crime and poor housing options in the West University neighborhood, and the football team is still trying to play itself into the upper half of the conference.

As I stand with a few hundred other former University students near Autzen Stadium before this rainy homecoming football game, I realize one change here that seems to come with age: an interest in homecoming.

As a student in 1998, homecoming weekend was a non-event. It may as well have been a week of Thursday night Must See TV. I had no idea what events were going on, where they were or how I was sup-

posed to get involved.

Or maybe it was just that I didn't care.

Either way, homecoming was not important in my life or the lives of most students I knew. Instead, it was, if anything, an event for alumni still closely connected to the University and for contributors.

At the time, part of me was wondering if that was the way it should be.

In the early '60s there was a bonfire and jazz musician Duke Ellington played on campus. Homecoming was big — for students.

Some local officials said students' apathy to homecoming and other University events started in the late 1960s and early 1970s and may have been spurred during the Vietnam War. In fact, a 1967 Emerald editorial proclaimed, "Abolish homecoming."

Whatever the cause, students were more or less non-existent at the homecoming festivities when I was here. Today, that all makes sense.

Students were, and still are, mostly apathetic to University involvement. But for the alumni it is often the opposite.

We have been away from the school for years and the University is new again. Some of us haven't seen our college friends since we left school, so it's a time for us to reminisce and visit the foot of the Pioneer man where we passed out one night, the breezeway that was new when we were here or the changes in the 13th Avenue area.

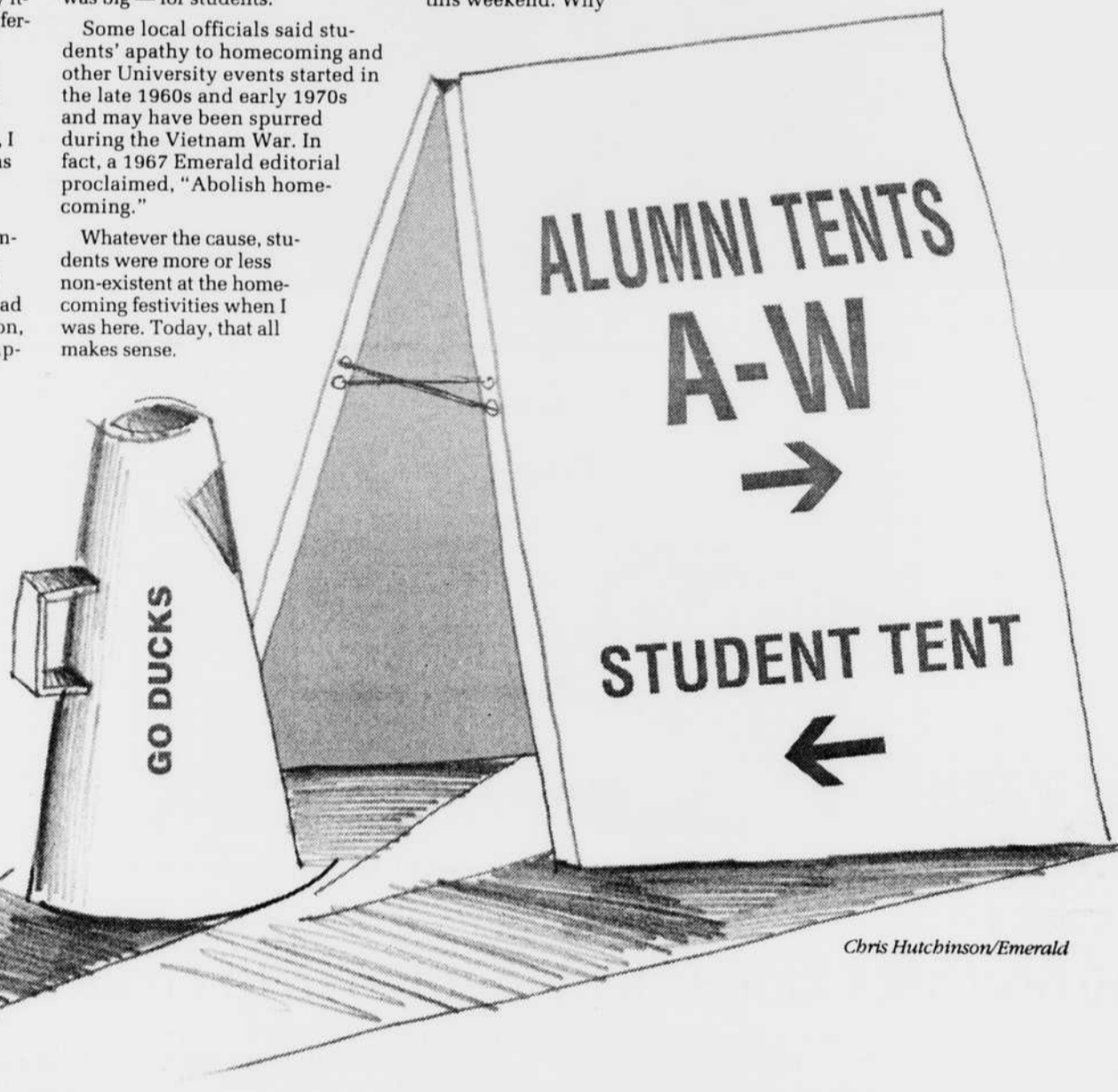
There's nothing new for students this weekend. Why

should they care?

This is a weekend for us, the alumni and the donors, and has been for some time.

The Alumni Association tent is starting to empty and the stadium is beginning to fill up. It's funny how things change, when in reality they are actually the same.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.



Chris Hutchinson/Emerald

Letters to the Editor

No on measure 64

The debate over how to manage Oregon's forests has reached a critical point with ballot measure 64. In short, measure 64 is an act that would prohibit clear cutting and pesticide use in all of Oregon's forests. I am not necessarily trying to endorse a yes or no vote, rather I would like to point out a very

real and serious problem.

I would personally be very pleased if clear cutting in the world's forests was a thing of the past. It is undeniable that sustainable forest management must be part of our future, and perhaps this measure is a solid first step in that direction. Unfortunately, harvesting trees is a necessary part of our lives, and even those people who detest

clear cutting the most depend on wood products on a daily basis.

Given our current situation, the effectiveness of passing measure 64 will be nullified for the following reason: The state estimates that if measure 64 passes Oregon's logging output will be reduced by around 60 percent. However, our demand for paper and other wood

products will remain unchanged. If the state's figures correct it will mean that the lack of timber coming from Oregon must be made up elsewhere.

Unsustainable forestry practices will continue in other states and other countries that do not prohibit clear cutting. The hypocrisy of our consumption is self-evident. We cannot continue

to consume forest products at our current rate and implement sustainable forestry practices at the same time. If we don't bring our use of forest products under control, laws to selfishly protect our forests will only endanger forests in other parts of the world.

Eric Colbeck

Thumbs



THUMBS UP
To being held accountable
The United Nations is threatening to take away the United States' vote if its \$197 million bill is not paid.

To animal freedom
Twenty-four rhesus monkeys broke out of a cage at Tulane University, the world's largest primate research center, and two are still at-large. So, if the animals are found, does that mean the researchers will have to punish the escapees, and thus spank their monkeys?



THUMBS DOWN
To bureaucratic B.S.
The U.S. spending bill the Senate approved on Wednesday is 4,000 pages, 16 inches tall and 40 pounds. The bill got one representative's vote on the "faith" of its contents.

To reported HIV cases on the rise
The Eugene HIV Alliance has seen a 277 percent rise in the number clients in the last three months.

CORRECTION

The Oct. 19 story, "HIV Alliance sees increase in clients," should have said the organization gets an average of nine new clients per quarter with a July-September increase of 277 percent. The Emerald regrets this error.