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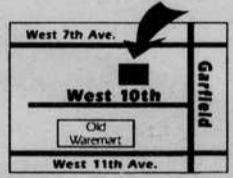
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Homecoming Ball revives tradition

■ Students hold the second annual Homecoming Ball, hoping to renew the age-old tradition at the University

By Devon Karr
For the Emerald

Smooth dance tunes capture the mood and float to the dance floor, where the silver reflections of the disco ball and colored lights glow over a dancing crowd. A competitive casino-like atmosphere calls from the adjacent room as a scrumptious dessert buffet awaits hungry dancers.

The Second Annual Homecoming Ball will be held Friday, Oct. 20, at 8:30 p.m. in the EMU Ballroom. This year's theme, "Twilight on the Delta", is a Mardi Gras dance, and is put on by students for fellow students, faculty and alumni. The Homecoming Ball is a tradition that has just recently been revived at the University. Prior to last year's Homecoming Ball it had been 30 years since the University held a formal event such as this. Senior Bryan Orthel, co-chair of the Homecoming Ball Committee, hopes that Duck pride can help keep the tradition of the Homecoming Ball alive.

"Homecoming isn't seen as a big thing but Duck pride is a big part of the University of Oregon," said Orthel.

Last year, all of the 600 available tickets for the Homecoming Ball, "Masquerade of Monte Carlo," were sold. The committee hopes to once again reach its goal of 600 people in attendance. Orthel said the real success of last year was that it was a fun evening combined with a jolly atmosphere.

"It was a combination of being

dressed up and having a good time," Orthel said. "The dance floor was packed the entire night; I was impressed."

Senior Lauren Sivley attended the "Masquerade of Monte Carlo" last year and also said that the atmosphere was inviting.

"Even though it was a formal dance it was a relaxed atmosphere and everyone was there to have a good time," Sivley said. "People were excited to be there."

The committee is trying hard to recreate the same exciting atmosphere in "Twilight on the Delta." The same elements, including a casino, dancing and a dessert buffet, will be part of this year's ball. A prize auction will follow the ball. The prizes — including Portland Trailblazer tickets, two \$500 Marmot gift certificates and tickets to University basketball games — can be bought with mock casino winnings.

But perhaps the biggest prize of all is the restoration of a fun homecoming tradition. Before last year's event, the last Homecoming Ball was held in 1974 at the old Oregon Armory. There was also a homecoming street dance in 1987, which was held on the east lawn of the EMU. The absence of a Homecoming Ball may have been due to changes in our culture.

"I don't know why things fell off; maybe political and social climates changed and it wasn't the most important thing in the 70s, and it fell by the wayside," Orthel said. "Students are now interested in reclaiming traditions that are falling off."

The tradition was re-established last year by Greg Byrd and Norine

Turn to **Homecoming**, page 17B

Homecoming with no home of its own

■ The origin of the traditional football game and festivities may remain a mystery forever


By Eugene Chen
for the Emerald

The University has enjoyed nearly 90 years of homecoming tradition where University alumni and undergraduates congregate at

the annual football game to celebrate the past, present and future of the University. But where did the idea of combining collegiate homecoming and football originate? The question that remains a debate among universities and historians concerns who can claim the title of the "Home of Homecoming."

Turn to **Traditions**, page 18B

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