

Parade to kick off weekend

By DINA DEFABO
Collegian Staff Writer

The U.S. Navy Cracker Jack Drill Team, a hot air balloonist, the Nittany Lion and the Blue Band will march through the streets today as University students — past and present — celebrate 126 years of midterms, football and tailgates in Happy Valley.

Kicking off a weekend full of reminiscing and traditional festivities, this year's homecoming parade promises to be a lot of nostalgic fun, said Jenny Fouse, parade chairwoman.

"We wanted to pull Homecoming back to a more nostalgic and historical event and also pull more alumni into it," she said. "We hope that the theme 'Penn State: A Tradition' will make Homecoming more enjoyable for the alumni who come back as well as the students who are here now.

"We have some great ideas for floats and it should be a great parade," Fouse said.

Although fraternities and sororities usually participate in Homecoming, Fouse said the festivities are open to all University groups and organizations.

"Any group or organization who wants to and can afford it is welcome to participate in Homecoming," she said. "Usually a fraternity and

sorority pair up and split the cost, however, Black Caucus is doing Homecoming for the first time this year."

The parade will begin at 5:45 p.m. this afternoon at Parking Lot 80 and will proceed down Bigler Road. The parade will turn right onto Pollock Road, turn left onto Shortlidge Road and then turn right onto College Avenue. The parade will finish at Rec Hall.

Despite a problem in getting some float materials and the early date of Homecoming this year, parade plans are running smoothly, Fouse said.

"Things are going really well and we're pretty excited to have the Cracker Jack Drill Team up," Fouse said. "Despite the fact that Homecoming is so early this year, the fraternities and sororities have been really good in getting their money and sketches in on time."

University alumnus George Page, launch director for the NASA Space Shuttle, will serve as grand marshal of this year's parade.

Until about three weeks ago, Page's appearance in the parade was tentative. But because of a delay in today's scheduled Space Shuttle launch, Page will be able to participate in the festivities.

The parade will feature the U.S. Navy Cracker Jack Drill Team from Memphis, Tenn., and the Penn State Jugglers.

The Penn State cheerleaders, the Blue Band and team captains from various sports teams will also appear in the parade.

In an effort to get the community involved in the Homecoming festivities, the parade will feature a local resident and his hot air balloon, and antique machinery owned by residents from central Pennsylvania.

"We hope to get a bigger community turnout than in past years," Fouse said. "We've tried to get the community involved in the parade by having the balloonist, the antique machinery and balloons."

Mark Bigatel, a State College realtor, and the Nittany Lion will ride a partially inflated hot air balloon attached to a trailer in the parade.

This year, 1,000 helium balloons will be distributed to children along the parade route.

Competition and judging chairwoman Jodi Gentzler said that although floats will be judged on color, originality, construction and attractiveness, the largest percentage of an entrant's score will be based on how well the set of competition guidelines are followed.

Although 24 teams have entered the overall Homecoming competition and 16 groups have entered the Crazy Band competition, Fouse said only five teams will have floats in the parade.



Traditions

Above, students and alumni conduct an all-night vigil at the Nittany Lion Shrine last year, while, at left, students march in the Crazy Band division of the Homecoming parade.



Seniors are Homecoming veterans

By PHIL EVANS
Collegian Staff Writer

They were here as University Park experienced the euphoria of a nationally-ranked team on its way toward an undefeated season and an invitation to the Sugar Bowl, but they also felt the despair as football fans asked if the "Penn State Way" was a thing of the past.

Now, these students are seniors and Homecoming '81 marks their last chance as students to participate in the special events that mark the annual Homecoming game.

Homecoming 1978 — Israel and Egypt announce a peace treaty . . . John Paul II begins his papacy . . . Chuck Fusino leads the Lions over Syracuse.

Today's seniors were freshmen that year and watched the festivities as they learned the pitfalls of dormitory life. Many have since established strong feelings about Homecoming as they have experienced it during the previous three years.

"Penn State Homecoming for those in dormitories isn't that much different than any other weekend except that they close the frats for the alumni," Brian Vensel (10th-accounting) said.

Vensel also said the dormitories don't participate in

the Homecoming activities enough to add variety to the events.

Marlene Petter (11th-general arts and sciences) said: "Dorm floors aren't organized enough, it takes too much time and money, and they're just not tight enough." Petter is experiencing her first Homecoming as a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority.

More school spirit should be generated to result in a better turnout at the vigil at the Lion and at the bonfire on Friday night, Petter said.

Contrary to Vensel's opinion, Diane Marroccoli (10th-marketing) said that everyone is involved in the activities.

Marroccoli, a member of Alpha Chi Omega sorority, said the parade is for everyone and that a lot of independents come back for the festivities.

Mike Molvik (13th-mechanical engineering) said: "It's true that fraternities and sororities do most of the work. However, it's something to come back to afterward."

Homecoming 1979 — Ronald Reagan and John Connally gain the support of the Pennsylvania Republican party in their bids to win the Republican presidential nomination . . . Matt Suhey rushes for 225 yards and Booker Moore for 103 yards to lead the Nittany Lions to a 24 to 3 win over the cadets of Army.

The fact that this year's Homecoming would be their last as students also has affected many seniors.

"I won't be a student the next time I come back and it won't be the same knowing I'll have to go back to a job on Monday," said Andy Clark (10th-accounting).

There are also a lot of scenes unique to Happy Valley that seniors said that they would miss after their graduation.

"I probably will miss the carefree attitude. There's not that many problems here and that's good, in the future it won't be that easy," Marroccoli said.

"I'll miss the tailgates; going to the game, watching the whole game and not remembering any of it," Tim Long (12th-mining) said. "At times the people in the stands are really interesting."

Homecoming 1980 — Booker Moore rushes for 100 yards and leads a 24 to 7 win over Syracuse.

Many seniors said they will miss the youthful atmosphere of State College as compared with other cities.

Despite the fact that Homecoming brings out many differing thoughts in graduating seniors, their overall feeling about it remains unchanged.

"Everyone's into the game on Saturday," Vensel said. "People who during the week weren't into it come out of their shell. It's the people that make it big."

Traditions change:

Some fade away, others remain

By DONNA WARYANKA
Collegian Staff Writer

Can you picture Beaver Stadium filled with fanatic fans all dressed in bright pink and black colors?

When the University was first established the original school colors were pink and black. Around 1890, the Athletic Association voted to change the school colors to today's navy blue and white, because students became disgusted when the pink color always faded to white in the sun.

The changing of the original school colors is just one example of the many hidden tales about the University's various traditions. The University has gone through many changes over the years, including its traditions such as freshman rules and regulations, the Homecoming Queen, bonfires and many others, some of which have been completely discontinued and others that have just been altered with the changing times.

The University's history is filled with many traditions, many of which are still being practiced and others that have just faded away with time.

The hazing of underclassmen is one tradition that has been discontinued. This tradition was practiced by juniors and seniors on unlucky freshman victims.

Sometimes a hazing ritual included blinding unfortunate victims and stripping them of their clothes. Then the participants were seated on the floor and made to feed each other a bucket full of molasses. By the time they had finished,

both of them would be covered with the sticky syrup. To top it off, the upperclassman would finish by covering them with feathers.

Homecoming is a tradition that has survived throughout the years since its start in 1914. Homecoming has its own unique traditions, some of which have just been altered over the years and others that have been discontinued completely.

Homecoming will be celebrated at the University this weekend as the alumni return, and the annual parade, bonfire, candlelight ceremony and vigil at the Nittany Lion Shrine take place once again.

The bonfire, held outside Beaver Stadium the night before the Homecoming game, is an old, familiar tradition. It had its beginnings on the corner of College Avenue and Allen Street, but because the fires damaged property and initiated explosions, they were stopped for several years.

Each year during Homecoming a vigil takes place at the Nittany Lion Shrine. It began many years ago when opposing teams began to paint the lion with their school colors on the night prior to a game. After this happened a few times, fraternities made their pledges stand guard over the shrine. As the watch became more popular, many other students participated in the vigil.

One of the Homecoming traditions that no longer exists is the crowning of a Homecoming Queen. This practice ended in 1972 in response to a student petition that said the contest was sexist and derogatory.

When the University began as a college in 1855, there were many rules and regulations that freshmen had to abide by. In 1850, "frosh" were expected to wear green dinks (beanies) and black ties. They had to doff their dinks when they passed the Old Willow on the Mall, or when an upperclassman gave the command, "Button Frosh."

Freshman males were forbidden to talk or associate with women that were within a three-mile radius of Old Main. However, the men were permitted and encouraged to say "Hello" to each other.

In the 1950 Student Code Book freshmen were told, for the first time in the school's history, that they were not required to carry matches for upperclassmen, nor did they have to wear black socks or have their coats buttoned at all times. Of all these many requirements the last to die was the custom of wearing the dink, which did so in the 1960s.

The adoption of the Nittany Lion as the University's athletic symbol was an idea of H.D. "Joe" Mason, class of '07. At a baseball game against Princeton, Mason decided not to be outdone by sophomore tour guides boasting of their emblem, the Princeton Tiger.

Mason said, "Well, up at Penn State we have Mt. Nittany right on our campus, where rules the Nittany Mountain Lion, who has never been beaten in a fair fight. So, Princeton Tiger, look out!"

The team defeated Princeton and Mason persevered with his idea. The Nittany Lion was adopted by the students almost immediately, but it was not approved by

the University Board of Trustees until 1942. The class of '40 then presented its gift of the sculptured Nittany Lion, which now stands outside Rec Hall.

The fight songs that are sung at games have been a tradition at the University since their origin. "Fight On State" was written in 1915 by Joe Sanders, and "The Nittany Lion" was written in 1914 by J.A. Lelchen.

The Alma Mater was written by Fred Lewis Pattee in 1901, although the students have never bothered to learn the words to the Alma Mater; they are notorious for making up their own creative lyrics when the song is played at games.

Another tradition that still remains standing today is the Obelisk, located near Willard on the mall. The Obelisk contains 261 different Pennsylvania commercial building stones. The monument was conceived in 1898 by Thomas C. Hopkins, assistant professor of economic geology, and was built to study weathering conditions of the stones.

The legend of the Obelisk is that if a virgin walks past it, it will fall down.

A favorite tradition shared among students and alumni is tailgating. Full-blown tailgating did not actually begin until 1960 when the present Beaver Stadium was built. The old football stadium was located near the present Kern Building, so parking space was limited — making it almost impossible for communal parking and tailgating to be successful. Once the new stadium opened, it didn't take long for the popularity of tailgating to increase.

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