

## Alumni return to their alma mater

By SCOTT FRITSCHÉ  
Collegian Staff Writer

Fall weekends bring color, falling leaves, crisp air, football games and Halloween. They also bring Winnebagoes and vans full of alumni of all ages anticipating Penn State football and reunions with friends, and looking for an all-around feeling of nostalgia.

One has to wonder why these people come back after years away from the old alma mater to take part in football festivities and alumni celebrations.

"We come back to be with our friends and get together a tailgate party for the football games," said Susan Papaioannou, class of '71, from New York City. "We've been coming for the last four years from New York to go to the bars and to visit the places that we used to go."

Some people arrive in town for a variety of reasons other than football. Some come to visit the town, campus and old hangouts that were a favorite when they went to school.

"I wish I were back," said Daisy Rieter of Philipsburg, class of '57. "We have 13 alumni in our family and have been returning for the last 23 years. I have a few nephews that go to this school and when we come over to State College for a tailgate, we always get together."

"I just really love the town of State College," she said. "The town is so genuinely Bohemian and the campus so great, it's really like coming home."

There must be a world of difference in

both the campus and the town of State College since alumni went to school here. The attitudes and aspirations of students today must be far different from the outlooks and goals of students who were in the graduating class of some of these alumni.

The depression in the late '20s prohibited many young people from receiving any type of higher education. State College is far from large cities like Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and it was this distance that kept the college and agricultural community from being hit too hard by the depression.

"Well, it's a lot smaller, of course," said C.L. Erickson, class of '35. "In those days, we used to dress up for classes and a necktie was worn almost all the time because we were proud to be going to school. Kids today are so much more casual about class. Back when I was going here, kids didn't sleep together or anything like that."

Rieter said: "There was more spirit, it seems. We had a huge cheering section for the football games. All of our friends would go out and cheer the team on. I don't think today's students are making tight friends the way we used to."

"During our freshman year, we had to be in the dorms at night at 9:15," she said. "It was being forced to be together in the dorms that kindled these friendships. One day a year, we were allowed to entertain a male guest for a two-hour 'open house.' Dorms sure were strict."

The '60s were a time of confusion for



many students. They had to deal with the war, Nixon, drugs and peer pressure to be as active politically and socially as possible.

"It seems that kids today don't have any social awareness," said George Papaioannou of New York City, class of '69. "I think that students today are strictly after that 30-grand a year job. The apathy around college campuses today is terrible. I don't think that kids today have anything to rally around."

Larry Kay of Port Matilda, class of '71, said: "There was a mixture of people in their '20s, '30s and '40s who used to go and drink together in the bars. Now, I guess, people in their '30s and '40s, like us, can afford to go to nicer bars."

When one stops to think, the caravan of cars, vans and Winnebagoes doesn't really

cause an annoyance to those who are still in school, and they don't really tie-up traffic that much. The drivers and occupants of those recreational vehicles were here before most of us were even thinking of college.

There have been a lot of changes since these alumni went to school — some good and some bad. Students who think that dorm life is strict, social awareness is high and college life as a whole isn't too casual should talk to an alumnus from years ago and they will find out, that in most cases, going to school in these times is much easier.

The majority of the alumni that come into State College for football and nostalgia are successful representatives of the working world who show, indeed, that college does work.

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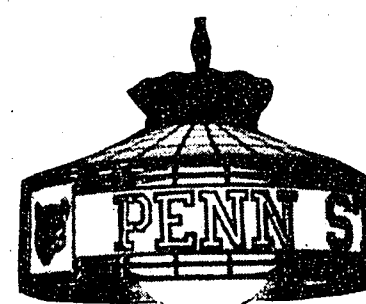
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