Homecoming: A University of Tennessee Tradition

Marcy Jean Walrond

University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Follow this and additional works at: https://trace.tennessee.edu/utkchanhonoproj

Recommended Citation

This is brought to you for free and open access by the University of Tennessee Honors Program at Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Tennessee Honors Thesis Projects by an authorized administrator of Trace: Tennessee Research and Creative Exchange. For more information, please contact trace@utk.edu.
UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
SENIOR PROJECT - APPROVAL

Name: Marcy Walrod

College: Business Administration  Department: Accounting

Faculty Mentor: Bobby Crookmore

PROJECT TITLE: Homecoming: A University of Tennessee Tradition

I have reviewed this completed senior honors thesis with this student and certify that it is a project commensurate with honors level undergraduate research in this field.

Signed: Bobby Crookmore, Faculty Mentor

Date: 8/15/01

Comments (Optional):
Homecoming:
A University of Tennessee Tradition
Homecoming:
A University of Tennessee Tradition

Completed By:

Marcy Walrond
Senior Honors Student
The University of Tennessee

May 4, 2001

Faculty Mentor:

Betsey Creekmore
Associate Vice President for Space and Facilities
The University of Tennessee
Abstract

One of the strongest traditions at the University of Tennessee is Homecoming. For over 80 years students, alumni, and the Knoxville community have enjoyed events, competitions, and celebrations surrounding the UT Homecoming football game. Since its inception in 1916, Homecoming has evolved into a series of weeklong events that reach out to much more than former UT students. It now offers a great deal to the community and especially to current UT students.

The events offered to students have changed greatly with time. The character of many of the events reflects the attitude and sentiment of the students at the time in which the events were implemented. By looking at some of the programs and competitions offered to the students through the years, it is evident that they were shaped by what was going on in the world around them. Other events, however, have remained undaunted for years as simple expressions of Volunteer spirit. A combination of new and traditional events has made up each Homecoming celebration through the decades and makes it enjoyable for all.
Introduction

Since the founding of the University of Tennessee in 1794, many students have come and gone. As students at the University, collegians have the opportunity to take many things from their time at the University. Students gain not only an education, but also years of memorable experiences unique to their college years.

These fond memories of college are what keep alumni reminiscent of college days once they graduate. Therefore, it is natural that nostalgic graduates seek to come back to their alma mater often to reflect on their time as students.

The great number of graduates who called the University of Tennessee home during their college days are all able to come back for one special day out of the year that is designated as homecoming. This is a time when the graduates are honored and treated as family.

Additionally, homecoming is a time of celebration for current students. Homecoming at the University of Tennessee offers fun and exciting events to students that will serve to create unforgettable experiences. Therefore, homecoming serves dual purposes; to offer events to students that will help them create fond memories of the University, and to offer events to alumni that will help them remember the memories they made while at the University.

What follows is an account of what kind of events have been offered to alumni and students over the years. Though the celebration began solely for the alumni, as the homecoming tradition became stronger, many more activities were offered to students. It is evident that no matter if you view homecoming from the perspective of an alumni or a student, the tradition has definitely stood the test of time.
Homecoming 1916

Starting in the 19th century, University of Tennessee alumni were invited to return to UT during commencement weekend as an annual homecoming. Alumni would then meet with one another and visit the campus to see how the school had changed. However, the alumni association decided in 1916 to stage a homecoming program in conjunction with the Vanderbilt football game (O’Steen 78). In the past, the alumni were only able to see the graduating seniors when they visited. By having homecoming coincide with a football game, there were many more entertainment opportunities available, and the alumni were able to interact with students of all classes and not just graduating seniors (“Homecoming Formerly” 4).

The alumni office mailed more than 3,000 invitations to invite alumni to come back to their alma mater for the November 11, 1916 football game. Approximately 300 alumni returned and were greeted by a reception committee at the depot when they arrived. A large pep rally was staged the night before the game to build spirit. Downtown business owners joined in the spirit by decorating their windows and selling orange and white bows (O’Steen 78). The festive atmosphere of Gay Street served as a backdrop to the homecoming parade. The band led the University battalion as they marched down Gay Street among the cheers of Knoxvillians and former Tennessee students (“Homecoming A Success” 4).

Classes were suspended on Saturday, as President Ayres declared the day a holiday. However, professors remained in their classrooms so that alumni could visit with them. Beginning at noon, the association held a luncheon and meeting for the alumni. At 2:30 Saturday afternoon the alumni witnessed the Volunteers upset the Vanderbilt team
ten to six at what was then known as Wait field. After the game, students, alumni, and faculty were entertained by vaudeville shows in the Bijou theatre. This was not the end of the celebration, however. The city streets were the stage for yet another parade, as Tennessee fans held a shirttail parade late Saturday night in celebration of the team’s victory. President Ayres declared Monday another holiday so that the merriment could continue (O’Steen 78).

The first homecoming program was deemed to be quite a success. All events ran smoothly and one Orange and White reporter concluded, “Saturday was undoubtedly the greatest day in the history of the university” (“Homecoming A Success” 4).

**Homecoming 1917-1924**

Despite the success of the 1916 homecoming, World War I soon intervened. Due to the war, there were no homecoming activities in 1917 or 1918 (O’Steen 80). The accomplishment of the 1916 homecoming was evidently not strong enough to keep the event anchored as a tradition. In 1919 the alumni association did not stage a formal homecoming program. Alumni were merely invited that year to come back and sit in the stands together and cheer on the Volunteers (“Urgent Invitation” 5). In 1921 alumni were invited back again during commencement weekend as they had been in the previous century (App. A). Unfortunately, no homecoming activities were planned for 1922-1924.

**Homecoming Late 1920’s**

It was not until 1925 that an annual football homecoming was firmly rooted in Tennessee as a tradition. The alumni association took it upon themselves to stage
homecoming activities even more glorious than those held in 1916. The festivities made headline news across town ("UT Ready" 1) (App. B).

By 1925 invitations were sent out to 7,000 alumni. As in 1916, the alumni were again greeted at the train station. This time they were given hats with their year of graduation printed on them ("Homecoming on Saturday" 7). This was to be a special homecoming, as governors from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama were in town to make an appearance for the celebration ("Home Coming Parade" 1).

In 1925 the homecoming festivities were intermingled with a new tradition called Barnwarmin' ("Annual UT Barnwarmin’" 1). Barnwarmin' was an event inaugurated by the Agricultural Club in 1921 to recognize the new Agricultural Building. It was named for a tradition in which people of a community would help a man raise his barn during the day and would all gather together again in the barn at night to have entertainment. Each year the Ag Club held a parade Friday afternoon and a large dance on Friday night in Alumni gymnasium. The dance had delicious refreshments, festive fall-like decorations, and several different rooms in which to dance. At each dance a coed was crowned Barnwarmin' queen by a vote of all who attended ("UT Will Welcome" 1) (App. C,D). The addition of Barnwarmin’ to the homecoming program made homecoming an even more festive event.

Barnwarmin’ was not the only addition to homecoming in 1925. The parade was made bigger and better by having parade members travel from campus to downtown and back to the Hill. It lasted an hour and a half and also included 100 decorated automobiles and the band (O’Steen 94). After the parade was a pep meeting in which governor Austin Peay and prominent alumni gave speeches. The alumni were treated to a box lunch and
then watched Tennessee play on Shields-Watkins field. Again a vaudeville show was held for all to watch ("Homecoming On Saturday" 7).

The 1926 homecoming was a special one for Tennessee, as it was a celebration of the Hill’s one-hundredth birthday. The University (which had formerly been East Tennessee College) moved in 1826 from downtown to what came to be known as College Hill (Klein 138).

The celebration included the same homecoming festivities of the past. The parade was increased to include students and alumni dressed as 1826 faculty, as well as floats prepared by civic clubs and fraternities. The downtown was decorated once again in orange and white, this time with Tennessee banners and pennants. The 1,000 alumni in attendance feasted at a pre-game barbecue. They reportedly finished off, “fifteen carcasses, forty gallons of salad, three thousand hot rolls, and eighty gallons of coffee” (Klein 139).

Throughout the twenties, homecoming continued to be solidified as a strong tradition. In 1927 approximately 3,000 graduates returned to their alma mater. They were entertained by a recital of a Grand Opera singer. Also, various alumni and class dinners were offered throughout the weekend. The band was documented forming a “T” on the field while wearing orange and white capes ("Three Days" 1).

The first cake race began during the homecoming festivities of 1928. Fraternity pledges lined up on campus to race for approximately one mile. The student who crossed the finish line first was allowed to choose whichever cake he wanted out of 24 beautiful cakes that had been donated by women and businesses in the Knoxville area (App. E).
The next student to finish then chose his favorite cake, and so on down the line ("Alma Mater" 1).

Another exciting event that occurred during the 1928 homecoming festivities was the adoption of the alma mater that is still connected with the University of Tennessee. Mrs. John L. Meek entered a song in a contest that was held to find a suitable alma mater for the University. During the alumni dinner over homecoming weekend, her entry was adopted. Though Mrs. Meek was not an alumna from Tennessee, many of her family members graduated from UT ("Alma Mater" 1).

Additionally, in 1928 many area churches added "University Day" to the homecoming weekend. Many returning alumni would visit churches on Sunday morning, and then have informal gatherings with their respective departments, fraternities, colleges, et cetera in the afternoon and evening before traveling home ("Alma Mater" 1).

In the last homecoming of the 1920's, a student pep rally was held the Friday night before the game. The UT band and four cheerleaders led the event. The next day, the parade was foregone. The Barnwarmin' parade was still being held the day before the homecoming game, so students did not feel the need to have two parades in one weekend. In lieu of the parade, the graduates were serenaded during that time ("Homecoming To Start" 1).

**Homecoming 1930’s**

The era of the 1930’s continued the strong homecoming tradition. By 1930, 5,000 alumni were in attendance to see the new buildings on campus and take part in the homecoming revelry. The All Students Club sponsored several activities. In this year the decorating of fraternity houses also took off. Sigma Phi Epsilon’s house, which was
decorated with signs and streamers, took first place ("Frat Decoration" 4) (App. F). The Dix method of homecoming reunions went into effect in 1930. Under this method, gatherings would be held for graduates of four classes at a time. For instance, in one year the classes of 1910, 11, 12, and 13 would all be invited back to celebrate together ("Welcome Home" 1).

In 1932 fireworks lit the sky in celebration of the homecoming game. Tickets for the game that year started at $1.10 for a seat in the wooden bleachers ("Grads Arrive" 1). By 1933 a graduate’s request for an alumni dance was granted. Alumni now had the option to attend the vaudeville shows on Saturday night or to attend a dance and have the chance to socialize with other graduates ("Grads Swarm" 1).

Several other events made an appearance in the 1930’s. With the expansion of the University, building dedications were held on homecoming weekends so returning alumni could take part. Bonfires began as another outlet for students and alumni alike to display spirit before the game ("Homecoming, Game" 1). During the games, students began using card stunts to entertain other fans. The Beaver club promoted the tricks in 1935 and designated card section in the stands, in which students were asked to wear light colors as a backdrop ("Greek Groups" 5). The students would then hold up cards of varying colors, which would display an image to those on the opposing side ("Homecoming Weekend" 1) (App. G).

In 1936, there was a resurgence of the Barnwarmin’ parade. This parade had been absent for many years since the homecoming parade had returned. The theme for the parade was a “Century of Progress in Agriculture.” A yoke of oxen led the parade, and many floats made by fraternities and agricultural clubs followed ("Barnwarmin’ Will
Have” 1). Also beginning in 1936, more group dinners and informal gatherings on
Sunday were encouraged. Some examples of activities were trips to Smokey Mountain
National Park and to Norris Dam (“Grads Gather” 1).

Homecoming in 1939 was a large affair. Not only were all the traditional
homecoming festivities planned, but both NBC and CBS radio were on hand to broadcast
the big game (“Game Will” 1). This was a source of pride for all in Knoxville.

Homecoming 1940’s

When homecoming of 1940 dawned on UT, swing music was popular and played
at the dances, and the homecoming weekend was becoming increasingly full for
graduates and students alike (“Homecoming Weekend Full” 1). However, the
homecoming tradition was momentarily put on hold in 1943. Again a World War caused
an interruption. Among the reasons cited for not having homecoming activities in 1943
were, “travel restrictions, gasoline and tire conservation, distraction from war work, and
other factors” (“U-T Homecoming” 2). At this point, nearly 6,500 alumni were in the
service. Therefore, it was not feasible to invite alumni back, since such a great portion
would not be able to return (“U-T Homecoming” 2).

Despite the setback in 1943, homecoming pressed on through the forties. Luckily,
homecoming has not been interrupted since. Many of the traditional events stood in tact.
However, by the late forties there was no longer a parade of floats for homecoming, and
sorority and fraternity members were not interested in bringing the floats back
(“Homecoming History” 1).
Homecoming 1950’s

The 1950’s brought a breath of fresh air into homecoming festivities, most notably with the coronation of a homecoming queen. The Vol Pep Club sponsored this activity. Any student organization was allowed to sponsor a candidate for queen. The nominees were judged on personality and beauty (“Homecoming To Include” 1).

The 1950 Homecoming Queen was Miss Betty Walker (App. H). Governor Gordon Browning was to crown the queen after she emerged onto the field from a replica of a large football. However, rain spoiled this festive plan. Therefore, Miss Walker was crowned after she walked onto the field with her attendants. She received a cup from the Vol Pep Club later that night at the homecoming dance (“Homecoming To Include” 1).

In 1951 the selection of queen changed slightly. The panel of judges narrowed down the candidates to eight finalists (App. I). The qualifications for queen were based on 25 percent scholarship, 25 percent activities, and 50 percent beauty (Woodward 2).

The election of a homecoming queen did not occur in 1954. During the week of homecoming it had become customary to crown the Barnwarmin’ Queen Friday night, Homecoming Queen on Saturday, and Miss Tennessee on Saturday as well. Therefore, the All Students Council felt that crowning a homecoming queen was taking away from Miss Tennessee and took this event away for the year. However, the Orange and White crusaded to bring the homecoming queen election back, and so it was reinstated in 1955 (Woodward 2).

Also instituted in 1950 were the Torch Parade and Torch Ceremony. Former Tennessee Torchbearers were invited to return to their alma mater to participate in these events. The alumni president began the ceremony and passed a lit torch to the former
Torchbearers, who in turn lit the torches of students in attendance. The band then led the students and alumni around campus to their destination of a bonfire ("Torch Ceremony" 1).

The tradition of the freshman footrace also began in the decade of the 1950’s. This event occurred at halftime of the football game. In this event, approximately 100 barefoot freshmen would line up at one goalpost with their numbered shoes at the other end of the field. They raced toward their shoes at the sound of a gun. The first freshman to make it back to the starting line with his shoes on won. The prizes for the lucky freshman ranged from a trophy to a kiss from the homecoming queen ("Parade, Freshman" 1).

In the early 1950’s Nahheeyayli dances were a popular event for post-game entertainment ("Homecoming To Draw" 1). The dances were sponsored by the Nahheeyayli board, which was formed in 1924. The name is Cherokee for “dance of the season.” The group was made up of members of various student organizations who worked together to offset the cost of sponsoring large attractions. Individually, the organizations could not afford to bring any notable performers to campus. However, if they all worked cooperatively, the group was able to bring top dance bands to campus for all to enjoy ("Kingston Trio" 1).

In 1955 the student organization Adawayhi was formed. Merging the Vol Pep Club and the Beaver Club created this organization. The Beaver Club originated in 1924 with the purpose of welcoming the opposing teams coming in to face the Volunteers, and the Vol Pep Club was designed to increase Volunteer spirit ("Greek Groups" 5). A homecoming committee and chairman were named to develop the homecoming activities
offered to students, and groups were also encouraged to use creative themes when preparing floats or other decorations ("Tennessee- Florida" 1).

**Homecoming 1960's**

Throughout the 1950's the inclusion of floats in the homecoming parade wavered. In the years in which floats were not made, houses and lawns were decorated. By the 1960's floats returned to the homecoming lineup (App. J, K). While themes such as 1961's "The Maroons Get No Land Grants Today" were used for the overall university homecoming, groups kept individual themes for their respective decorations. This made for unique displays of creativity all around campus ("Pep Rallies" 2).

In 1961 homecoming became disassociated with Barnwarmin'. Performing the Barnwarmin' dance on the Friday before homecoming had been a tradition since 1925. However, concerts began to be offered to students instead of the numerous dances of the past, so students were not left with a lack of entertainment ("Pep Rallies" 2). Entertainers who came to UT during the sixties included The Hootenannies, The Kingston Trio, The Four Preps, and The Four Freshman (Harris 1).

In 1966 the selection of homecoming queen was no longer determined from a system of judging. Rather, the queen was determined by a vote of the student body (Maloney 11). In 1967 organizations began campaigning for their choice for queen. Numerous advertisements ran in the *Daily Beacon* stating the attributes of candidates and why they should be chosen above the rest. One such advertisement read, "Vicki Gromer is a delightful composite—she works like a trooper, plays like a puppy and laughs like a happy child... you can criticize her but you can't discourage her" (Bradley 4). Some of
the advertisements were as large as one half of a page, complete with pictures and lists of activities in which the nominee had participated.

**Homecoming 1970’s**

Homecoming underwent many changes in the 1970’s. The spirit of protest that was felt on campus and throughout the nation was also evidenced in the changes that occurred to UT’s homecoming program. The homecoming committee wanted to get away from the excess “hoopla” that was involved with the activities. Many on campus felt that too much money was spent on the competitions and decorations, and that the event was merely for the Greek organizations (Jones 10).

On the university level, the general feeling of antielitism of the late 60’s and early 70’s was played out in the election of homecoming queen. Male *Daily Beacon* columnist and graduate student Vince Staten declared that he was running for homecoming queen in 1970. When Vince announced that he was running he stated, “If the students want to elect a boy, a sponge, or a tube of toothpaste homecoming queen, they should be able to” (Staten “Vince Staten” 1). Normally a member of a sorority was chosen queen, and Vince felt that he would serve as a great alternative candidate and also arouse interest in homecoming from people who were not normally involved. Once Staten’s intentions were known, he gained a great amount of support. A former SGA President started an “SGA Has-Beens for Vince” committee. Additionally, student groups such as Hess Hall residence association, Delta Pi Epsilon business fraternity, and the Graduate Student Association declared that they would back Staten in his campaign (Davis 2).

Vince claimed to be sponsored by the Apathy Party and Vince’s Liberation Front. Members of the Apathy Party supposedly did not care if Vince won or lost the election.
Therefore, he considered all students who did not vote members of his party. Vince had run in the Student Government elections the semester before under the Apathy Party, but later dropped out (Staten “Much Ado,” 1).

Staten campaigned mostly through his column in the Daily Beacon. The picture that ran along with his column portrayed him with a paper bag over his head (App. L.3). This became a trademark of his throughout the election, and several of his supporters started wearing paper bags over their heads when walking around campus. The Apathy Party had campaign stickers with a picture of a limp hand on them (App. L.2). Vince used campaign slogans such as, “Vince…Who?, Homecoming…What?,,” and, “I have something none of the other candidates have” (App. L.1). Additionally, he considered himself the “Uncandidate,” which was taken from 7-Up’s slogan of the “Uncola” (Davis 2).

Ten female contestants were chosen as finalists for queen after a screening process. Believing his chances of making it through the screening were low, Vince decided to run as a write-in candidate. When the vote was tallied, Vince ran away with an impressive 2,511 votes out of the 4,157 that were cast. Therefore, he received approximately 60 percent of the vote, which was a considerable amount more than any of the ten female candidates. The next runner up received only 311 votes (Davis 2).

Vince, however, was never crowned homecoming queen. The Homecoming Advisory Board stated that Vince was not an officially recognized candidate because he did not meet all of the requirements, which stipulated that the queen must be a senior woman with at least a 2.5 grade point average, and must be sponsored by a recognized
campus organization. Therefore, the Board refused to recognize him as the homecoming queen (Bowditch and Walsch 1).

In order for the vote count to be released, Vince took his case to the Student Tribunal. Additionally, supporters of Staten took a case to the Tribunal citing that they had been disenfranchised because they were never aware that Vince was not an official candidate. The Tribunal agreed with the supporters in a 3-2 vote that students had been disenfranchised and led to believe Vince was a legitimate candidate. However the Tribunal also voted 4-1 that the election be declared “rejected and invalid.” This was a play on the 1970 homecoming theme, “Rejected, But Still Valid,” which addressed the homecoming committee’s belief that even though many attacked the homecoming activities, the tradition was still worthwhile (Bowditch and Walsch 1).

The Homecoming Advisory Board had the option of holding another contest, but decided not to have a queen in 1970. Consequently, the Board decided not to continue with the tradition of the queen in the future. Therefore, in 1971, the Daily Beacon ran a contest for the worst problem or ugliest object on campus in lieu of a contest for homecoming queen (App. M). Students had a choice between the smokestack, campus parking, housing rentals, high prices on Cumberland, and the 3rd Creek Sewage Plant. The campus parking was voted the biggest problem, with the Sewage Plant taking second. The Board of Trustees came in third place as a write-in vote (Holt 1).

The tradition of a homecoming queen was not the only thing to go in the 1970’s. The spirit of protest also affected the parade. In 1970 the traditional parade and floats were replaced by yard displays and a “Super Rally” march around campus (App. N).
Students felt that the floats cost too much money, and that the rally was a less expensive alternative ("Homecoming Tradition" 3).

Music and entertainment was a focal point of homecoming in the 1970’s. An addition to the homecoming lineup was the carnival. In 1971 student organizations began setting up booths for entertainment. The booths had games and other forms of amusement for all students to come and enjoy. Music was played many times, and additionally, art sales were available in the area ("Homecoming Gains" 1). Concerts and comedy acts were included in the homecoming program. Throughout the seventies students had the chance to enjoy such acts as Chuck Berry, Bette Midler, Linda Ronstadt, Lily Tomlin, and Steve Martin (Bradley 1).

The banner competition, window painting display, soapbox derby, and eating contest all continued as strong events in the 1970’s. The floats soon came back as well. The club that sponsored these events changed its name in 1975 from Nahheeyayli to All Campbell Events (ACE). The ACE committee sponsored seven events by the late seventies, of which a student organization could enter a maximum of five. The competitions offered by 1977 were float entry, mini-float entry, lawn display, banner competition, window display, soapbox derby, and an eating contest. After all events were completed, points were totaled from each event, and an overall winner was awarded during homecoming ("Homecoming Theme" 5).

With the banner competition, groups would spend hours painting a banner that kept with a spirited theme. The banners were then hung from the outside of the stadium for judging and for all spectators of the game to see (App. O). Window painting occurred throughout the week of homecoming. Participating groups would decorate windows
along Cumberland Avenue and around campus to portray UT spirit. The soapbox derby was a race that took place on campus. Organizations would build a non-motorized derby car that met certain size and weight restrictions. The cars would be judged based on their appearance and then students would race the cars downhill (App. P). A combination of the race time and appearance were taken into account to determine the winners. The eating contest consisted of a selected member from an organization eating as much as possible in a short amount of time. The member who ate the most in a designated time period won the contest ("Homecoming Begins" 3) (App. Q).

The amount of homecoming events continued to grow in the 1970’s as additional programs for black alumni and students were added. In 1976 the Black Cultural Center sponsored an event that recognized the 34 black football players with a banquet and dance. This and other programs were successful and continued to grow. Also, specific colleges and alumni groups continued to hold events and tours for graduates returning on homecoming weekend ("Homecoming Festivities" 1).

**Homecoming 1980’s**

The events offered to students in the 1980’s did not vary much from those offered in the 1970’s. The ACE committee continued to try to offer events that were fun but not too expensive. By doing this they hoped to cater to the non-Greek organizations on campus that would like to participate in homecoming activities, but did not have a large budget for homecoming. ACE added the spontaneous event of Anything Goes to the lineup. This event consisted of members of organizations showing up to a designated location and then playing various games and relays. Examples of relays used were pie
throwing (App. R.1), bobbing for apples (App. R.2), and egg tosses. Points were totaled after each game to determine the winners for the event ("Homecoming Events" 1).

Another notable change to homecoming was the reinstitution of a homecoming queen in 1982. The All Campus Events committee voted to bring back this tradition. They also voted on requirements the candidates must fulfill. The requirements were that the candidate must be female, be a junior or senior, have a minimum 2.5 grade point average, and be a full-time student. This time ACE wanted to ensure all students were aware of the guidelines for each candidate, so they printed ads in the paper with the requirements (Burke 2) (App. S).

The crowning of the 1982 Homecoming Queen was hoped to bring about more spirited feelings with the revival of the new tradition. However, the lengthy halftime show performed by the opposing team’s band cut the crowning ceremony short. Therefore, the ceremony was not able to take on the formality and prestige that the All Campus Events committee had hoped (Burke 1).

The shortened presentation of the 1982 Homecoming Queen foreshadowed the impending end of the contest altogether. The last Homecoming Queen was awarded in 1985. The honor went to Shannon Whittington, who was also the first African-American to win the title (App. T). Unfortunately, only approximately 1,000 votes were cast for the queen. Because of the lack of interest and participation, the ACE committee decided not to continue the competition in the future (Gallagher1).

**Homecoming 1990’s**

In the 1990’s the ACE committee added a new competition, Smokey’s Howl, to the events that were offered in the 80’s. Smokey’s Howl was designed to display spirit
through a cheer and step competition in which students perform a two-minute routine (App. U). Smokey’s Howl preliminaries have traditionally been held in the courtyard of the presidential complex during the week of homecoming, with finals taking place during the pep rally on Friday afternoon. This event became increasingly popular throughout the 90’s.

A three-on-three basketball tournament also began in the 1990’s. This was yet another fun, inexpensive event made available to students. While the winners of the tournament were recognized along with the winners of other homecoming events, all organizations competing earned the same set amount of participation points toward the overall homecoming trophy. Therefore, no matter if a group won first place in the tournament or came in last, as long as they tried, they were awarded the same.

1994 was a special year at the University of Tennessee, as the school celebrated its 200th anniversary. To commemorate the event, ACE committee desired to make the homecoming parade especially spirited. Several alumni groups and notable UT grads were included in the parade (Adams 1).

The ACE committee revived the homecoming pep rally in 1999. Dubbed the “Smokey’s Howl” pep rally, fans were escorted to Tom Black track after the annual parade (App. V). The UT band, cheerleaders, speakers, and Smokey’s Howl finalists entertained the fans. The 2000 pep rally was planned to occur in Neyland Stadium. Rain, however, forced the celebration to occur in Thompson-Boling Arena. Country recording artist Blackhawk also entertained in 2000.
Homecoming at Present

Moving along into the 21st century, homecoming continues as a strong tradition. The ACE committee continues to decide which competitions will be offered to students, and regulates those events. As it stands today, any student organization is able to participate in homecoming events. To enter in one competition the cost is $20, or it costs each group $80 to enter the overall competition. As from the 1970's on, no group is allowed to enter more than five events. To be considered for the overall Madge Harrison homecoming trophy, a group must enter in the float, banner, and Smokey's Howl competitions. The competitions offered are float entry (small or large), banner (small or large), anything goes, Smokey's Howl, soapbox derby, window display, eating contest, and lawn and lobby display (App. X). Groups may also participate in the 3-on-3 basketball tournament for participation points, and not have this count as one of their five events.

The Alumni Office at the University of Tennessee continues to coordinate and offer exciting programs for all former students. These events include gatherings for alumni of specific colleges, dances, races, concerts, and picnics (App. W). Generally, one staff member of the alumni office coordinates the alumni activities. Therefore, the events may differ slightly from year to year, depending on who organizes the events for the year.

With the wide variety of programs that have been offered through the years, as well as the ups and downs homecoming has experienced, it is an event that has proven to stand the test of time. And for all who have attended the University of Tennessee, homecoming is sure to be an event that is remembered fondly from former school days, as well as an event to look forward to regularly in upcoming years.
Appendix A
1921 Homecoming Invitation

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HOME COMING
June 5, 6, 7 and 8, 1921

The Alumni Association of the University of Tennessee cordially invites all graduates and former students of the University to participate in a great home-coming, Commencement Week, 1921.

The new Liberal Arts Building, crowning the hill, and the new Agricultural Building on the farm, will be dedicated. A great conference on education for efficient citizenship will interest you. A host of the old boys and girls are coming back.

Come back to the hill and renew old friendships. Come and aid your Alma Mater with your enthusiasm, your counsel, your confidence, as manifested by your presence.
Appendix B

1925 Homecoming Headline

U.T. READY FOR ALUMNI

THE GUY WITH
The Smoked Glance

SCOTCH LIMERICK
There was a young man from St. Boys,
Who went sailing on the sea by a sort.
When asked if it was fun, he said so,
But thought it was a hobby, not a sort.

Armistice Day
Observe by Student Body

Respect is paid to those who died in World War, Impressive Patriotic Program.

Annual U. T. Barn Warmin' Program Opens by Parade

Armistice Day.

The stage is set for the University's annual Barn Warmin' Program, which will be held at the Farm on Friday night, November 15. There will be music, dances for the young and old,

就医 全体 T. R. Wallace, president of the Alumni Association, and asked an
increase in the program.

The program, the program, the program! It will be the general custom attended to the

Home Coming Parade Will Be

A special event.

Alumni, Faculty, and Students will form parade on Main Street at Broadway.

Older Alumni of U. T. Plans To Return Saturday

E. H. DeWitt, 57 Years Old,
Age, Remembered When Indians Lived On "YUCA."
HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN
Appendix D
1935 Barnwarmin' Queen Nominees

One of These Beauties Will Be Barnwarmin’ Queen

YVIAN GIES
NANCY SEARLS
MARION CALDWELL
Margaret Tomsivitch
MARGARET RUSNIAN
FLORENCE HSUSSEY
Appendix E
1932 Cake Race Winner

He Takes the Cake

EMERSON BENNET

O. & W. PHOTO BY BILLY GLENN
Appendix F
1930 House Decoration Winner

Above is the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity House, winner of the Home-coming prize offered by the Alumni Association for the most appropriately and uniquely decorated house.
Appendix G
Student Card Section in 1939
Appendix H
Campus Queens in 1950

CAMPUS ROYALTY

First Row: left to right
MISS JOAN ALLEN
Goddess of Greeks
MISS BARBARA HUFF
Band Sponsor
MISS JANIE MILLER
Military Queen

Second row: left to right
MISS BETTY VALKER
Barnwarmin' Queen
MISS BETTY WALKER
Homecoming Queen and Lambda Chi Alpha Darling
MISS KATHY WEEKS
Queen of Business Administration

*1950 Homecoming Queen bottom, center
Appendix I
1960 Homecoming Court
NEITHER WIND, RAIN, SLEET, OR HAIL shall halt the Homecoming Parade tomorrow. The Alpha Chi Omegas are shown putting the finishing touches on their float.
—Staff photo by Bill Haddox
Appendix K
1964 Parade Float

[Image of a parade float with signs and a banner saying "MAROON WASHOUT"]
Appendix L

Vince Staten Items

L.1. Cartoon ran the day of the 1970 election

L.2. Campaign Sticker for Staten

L.3. Picture of Vince with paper bag
Homecoming Ballot

(Please mark your ballot and deposit it in a ballot box located in Rafters Lobby, Presidential Complex Courtyard, Agriculture Campus, Humanities Plaza between 8:30 and 4:00 TODAY)

FIND LEAST DESIRABLE OR THE ONE THAT SHOWS THE BIGGEST PROBLEM ON CAMPUS

(1) THE SMOKESTACK
(2) CAMPUS PARKING
(3) HOUSING RENTALS
(4) HIGH PRICES
(5) 3rd CREEK

MARK THE ONE OBJECT YOU

ON CUMBERLAND

SEWAGE PLANT

RESULTS WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN TOMORROW'S BEACON.
Appendix N
1973 Super Rally
Coming down the starting ramp, the Pi Kappa Phi/ADPi car, (right), takes on Pi Gamma Delta in the Homecoming Soap Box Derby race. The race ended moments later when both cars crashed.
Appendix R
1980's Anything Goes

R.1. 1981 Pie Throwing Contest

R.2. 1985 Apple Bobbing Contest
Appendix S
1982 Queen Guidelines

The All Campus Events Committee will be accepting nominations for the 1982 Homecoming Queen. Requirements are:

1. Nominations may be made only by registered university organizations.

2. Only one nomination per organization.

3. Election open to female students, married or single, who are full-time students, and not on academic or disciplinary probation.

4. All candidates must be of junior or senior class standing, with a cumulative g.p.a. of 2.50 or better. If a candidate is a first quarter transfer student, she must have a 2.50 average from the previous institution.

A resume and photograph along with a statement of nomination by the sponsoring organization should be turned into the All Campus Events Committee, 305 University Center. For more information, call 974-5455.

DEADLINE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 5:00 P.M.
Appendix T
Last Homecoming Queen—1985
THOM CAMPBELL  • The Daily Beacon

Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and Zeta Tau Alpha sorority work together on a skit for Smokey's Howl.
Appendix V
1999 Homecoming Parade

V.1. Classic Car Carrying UT Vice Chancellor

V.2. Float Displaying Theme of “Smokey’s Safari”
**Appendix W**

**2000 Alumni Program**

---

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

- **Black Alumni Networking/Meeting Seminar**
  - 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
  - University Center Room 211
  - No Charge
  - Registration materials will be mailed separately

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

- **Air Force ROTC Reception**
  - 6:30 p.m.
  - Welcome/Welcome, Open House, Dine-Out, andoughing
  - Registration materials will be sent by the department

- **Black Alumni Registration**
  - 2 p.m.-7 p.m.
  - Hyatt Regency Lobby

- **Homecoming Parade**
  - 9:30 a.m.
  - Street on Lakeizzle Drive

- **College of Social Work Symposium & Reception**
  - 3 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
  - Carol Thomas, University Center
  - Registration materials will be sent by the college

- **Big Orange "TV" Dance**
  - 8:30 p.m.
  - Hyatt Regency Lobby
  - No Charge

- **College of Architecture & Design 50th Anniversary Celebration**
  - Lectures, reception & banquet
  - 4 p.m.
  - Registration materials will be sent by the college

---

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

- **Campus Tours**
  - 11 a.m.
  - McClung Museum
  - No Charge

- **Ag Day**
  - 12 noon
  - UT Ag Round
  - Registration materials will be sent by the college

- **College of Engineering Picnic**
  - 12 noon (or 4 hours before kickoff)
  - Fort Hills Lawn
  - Cost: $5 per person

- **Picnic in the Park**
  - Academic Showcase, "Splitting," and "Unity Test" for Black Alumni
  - 12 noon (or 4 hours before kickoff)
  - Circle Park
  - Cost: $5 per person

- **College of Law Reunion**
  - 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
  - University Club Lounge
  - Registration materials will be sent by the college

- **Black Alumni Reunion**
  - 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
  - Hyatt Regency Reception Room
  - No Charge

- **Phi Mu Alpha Reunion**
  - 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
  - Hyatt Regency Reunion Room
  - Cost: $5 per person

- **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

- **College of Business Accounting Day**
  - Registration materials will be sent by the college
  - No Charge

- **Phi Mu Alpha Reunion**
  - 9 p.m.-11 p.m.
  - Hyatt Regency Lobby
  - No Charge

- **10th Years of Sorority Life Celebration**
  - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
  - Fort Hill College Dining Hall
  - No Charge
## Monday

- **6:00 p.m.** 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament—HPER Bldg.
- **9:00 p.m.** “Anything Goes” Relay Games—campus (TBA)

## Tuesday

- **3:30 p.m.** Soap Box Derby—Volunteer Blvd. in front of Stokely Arena
- **7:00 p.m.** Smokey’s Howl Student Cheer Competition—Presidential Courtyard

## Wednesday

- **8:00 p.m.** “Anything Goes” Relay Games—campus TBA

## Thursday

- **4:00 p.m.** Eating Contest and “Anything Goes” Relay Games—University Center Back Plaza

## Friday

**Homecoming Parade and Smokey’s Howl**

- **6:30 p.m.** Parade—Volunteer Blvd. at Torchbearer
- **7:30 p.m. or following parade**
  - Smokey’s Howl Pep Rally—Neyland Stadium
  - **(Event will end at 9:30)**

Admission: Please bring 2 canned goods to donate to local charities. Free parking!

## Saturday

- Halftime of Football Game—Trophy Presentation
- **8:00 p.m.** BCPC presents Homecoming Step Show—World’s Fair Park Amphitheater (with the comedy stylings of Chocolate)
Works Cited


“Greek Groups Name Themes For Displays.” Orange and White 14 Nov. 1958: 5.


“Homecoming to Draw 15,000.” Orange and White 5 Nov. 1953: 1.


“Homecoming Weekend Full; Parade, 2 Dances, Kentucky Game.” Orange and White 22 Nov. 1940: 1.


