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Changes Made to the 1971 Homecoming

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DAYTON, Ohio, July 1, 1971 — A place to dance, a library dedication and the high cost of living have served to change, somewhat, the complexion of Homecoming, 1971, at the University of Dayton. The 46-year-old event, a festival produced by alumni and students, will be held on Saturday, September 25, the earliest date in the history of the program.

The 1971 event, originally scheduled for October 30, was moved to September 25 when that was the only fall Saturday night the Wampler Ballarena could accommodate students for their annual Homecoming Dance. Wampler's is the only place large enough for the 3500-4000 students who attend the annual affair.

The new date also enabled the University to fit the dedication of its new $4,700,000 library into the Homecoming. For that reason and the cost of living, the 20-year-old traditional parade will not proceed through the downtown section for the first time since 1950. The University conducted its 100th anniversary celebration parade that year in conjunction with other traditional homecoming ceremonies. Student fraternities, sororities and clubs have found the cost of preparing floats prohibitive over the past two years while local truck and car dealers have been reluctant to loan their vehicles for the annual parade because of increased insurance rates and other financial considerations.

Lack of a place for the student dance almost reduced the event to an alumni one-day gathering. The student homecoming committee, headed by Mike Bernal of Dayton, had originally suggested a basketball homecoming on February 12 to the committees of the National Board and Greater Dayton Chapter Board of the University's Alumni Association, but objections were raised to this because of tradition and the fear that inclement weather might hold down the participation of out-of-town alumni. Other football dates were explored, but only the Miami of Ohio game on September 25 filled the need for the students. Since the parade was not going to be held and the library dedication was scheduled for that afternoon, the three committees worked out details of the early homecoming.

At one point in the three-months-long discussions it was suggested that the alumni hold their homecoming in the fall and the students develop a program for
the winter. It was pointed out, however, by Student Government President, Mike D'Arcy and Bernal, that homecoming is not homecoming without the alumni. They felt, too, that there was enough student sentiment to continue a joint program.

"There is too much misunderstanding between alumni and students," said D'Arcy. "This program gives us a strong tie with alumni. We want to continue that affiliation and use it as a bridge for other alumni/student programs."

The alumni committee, headed by Richard King of the Greater Dayton Chapter, and the student committee, chaired by Bernal, are working separately on the two parts of the homecoming celebration. However, one event this year will be a joint venture. The usual premier performed, directed and produced by students will be a cooperative effort with alumnus Rick Kleckner serving as director of the event and other alumni and students participating in the show. The performance will be a nostalgic revue of the past four decades with skits, dancing, singing and comedy the main features.

Besides, the alumni and student government participation the University's Union Activities Organization, composed of students, and Miss Ellie Kurtz, Program director of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Union, are helping to plan the event.

The other change is the time of the game. The Miami contest originally was scheduled for 8 p.m. The committees asked for an earlier starting time. It was not possible to have an afternoon game because the library dedication program will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The UD athletic department and Miami officials agreed to a 7:30 p.m. starting time so that annual alumni reunion parties and the dinner could precede the game and the alumni and student dances could start around 9:30 p.m. permitting about three hours of dancing.

Student planning also includes a fashion show, the Homecoming Queen contest, an on-campus parade, decoration of the football stadium, halftime ceremonies and other events during the preceding week. The Expo '71, a successful event last homecoming, will be held and will be an exhibit of University academic achievements in recent years.

The alumni will have their Memorial Mass at 10 a.m. with Archbishop Paul Leibold, a UD alumnus, celebrating, will conduct registration from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Kennedy Union, participate in the library dedication and open house from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., conduct reunion parties from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., hold the annual dinner from 5 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., present the Distinguished Alumnus Award at the dinner, attend the football game and the dance in the UD fieldhouse.