

Law school graduates told jobs not waiting

by Diane Winocur
Of the Emerald

Beneath a basketball net full with white and purple flowers and the warmest skies Eugene has seen this season, the University's Law School commencement Saturday seemed to celebrate the end of one struggle while underlining the beginning of another.

The first sign that summer is fast approaching, the golden festivities were clouded with the message that the 160 scholars may not quickly find jobs.

Derrick Bell, dean of the school, welcomed the gaily dressed audience and graduates to the 2 p.m. commencement and introduced the program, held at the south portico of the Law School.

Both the humorous side of life in Law School and the serious difficulties ahead were discussed by student speakers Robyn Thorson and Duane Bosworth. Introduced as having been unanimously voted president of the Student Bar Association, Thorson began her remarks with a retort to the grandiose introduction: "I'm also looking for a job."

According to the Law School

Four secure board posts

Only a few ballots were cast in University Bookstore Board of Directors elections last week but the 176 votes cast were enough to elect Michael Larson, a second year law student, to the student-at-large position and David Gold, another law student, to the graduate student position.

Dale Penegor, a sophomore in political science, and Andy Storment, a sophomore in business administration, were elected to the two sophomore positions, and Fred Wilhelm, a graduate school research administrator, was re-elected to the classified staff position.

Muriel Jackson, assistant for administration to Pres. Paul Olum, was re-elected to the faculty position.

Vote totals among candidates running unopposed were: Jackson, 95; Wilhelm, 107; Penegor, 71; and Storment, 55.

Totals in the graduate student post race were: Gold, 61; Holly McLean, 43; Craig Edwards, 37; and Mark Tanzer, 15. Totals in the student-at-large position



Photo by David Corey

Most of the graduates at the law school commencement put away thoughts of job hunting and bar exams Saturday afternoon.

placement center, the job market for lawyers nation wide this year is "very tight."

But the gray clouds of a tight job market seemed to drift from sight as the degrees were conferred.

Names were read from computer cards as the crowd

cheered and yellow and green hoods were slipped over the heads of Oregon's newest Doctors of Jurisprudence.

But the biggest tests apparently didn't end with last week's finals. Still ahead of the graduates, is the Oregon Bar

Exam, July 28 and 29, and then, most graduates will spend six months looking for a job.

Class representatives Reba Weiss and Patrick McGovern then announced two student-nominated awards. For "compassion for others and the ability to give," muscular dystrophy victim Paul Clement, who attended his graduation in a wheelchair, received both the Michael J. Johnston Memorial Award and a standing ovation.

The Anna E. Wood award, noting the growing numbers of women in law, was presented to Jeanne Kinkaid and Robin Casey. Thirty-seven percent of this year's class are women, as compared to the first and only woman in the class of 1896.

The keynote speaker for the afternoon was Ann Fagan Ginger, an author, practicing attorney, and visiting professor of law at the University of Puget Sound.

"I don't think many of you are going to find positions in the law," she said bluntly.

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