

Graduation '90



Courtesy Photo

Graduating seniors of later decades, such as these students in the 1970s, relaxed for the event and seemed to enjoy the ceremony a bit more than their predecessors.

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practice of collecting those fees is a now a thing of the past, it is more difficult for graduating classes to organize their efforts in the form of a gift, Richard said.

One of the few things that has remained the same over time is the practice of not handing out the actual diploma at graduation. Students have always had to wait for their final grades to be turned in before they could receive their diploma.

During the very first commencement in 1878, those five graduating students were handed a rolled-up piece of paper that told them they would not get anything until they paid a "diploma fee" of \$20. That may not sound like a lot of money today, but at the time it was the equivalent of

one term's tuition.

Up until the end of World War I, the diplomas students received were huge documents printed up on sheepskin.

One distinctive feature of early graduation ceremonies was the reading of a class poem. Until the turn of the century, one student was chosen each year to write a poem that was read at commencement.

Graduating classes quickly outgrew the third floor of Villard Hall, and the ceremony was moved to McArthur Court in the early 1900s. Commencement exercises were held there until 1968, the year of the move to Autzen Stadium. It was also the beginning of a decline in the number of students actually taking part

in commencement.

It wasn't until the late 1970s that the number of people going through the ceremony picked up again.

Like every class before them, this year's graduates will hear speeches from people offering advice, encouragement and words of wisdom.

The speech given by Judge Deady to the class of 1879 may be as relevant today as it was then. On that occasion, he told the students who had assembled not to lose sight of the real meaning of life. His speech was titled "To Be or To Have." Deady let them know which of those two things he thought was most important.

— Daralyn Trappe

QUACKULATIONS

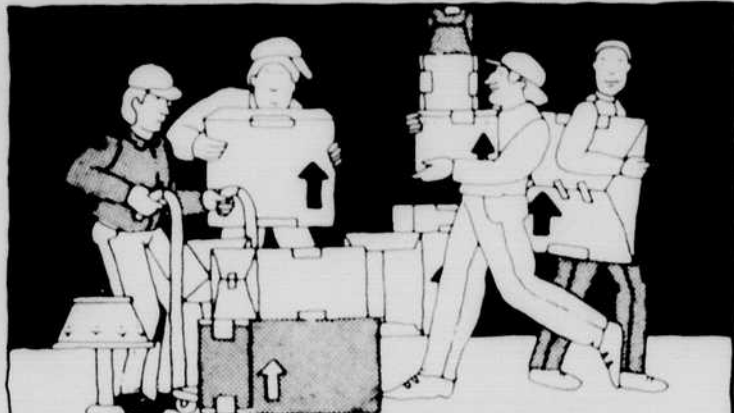
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