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The salesmen look like giant cockroaches, but at these prices, who cares! Prices good until defeated by humans.

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**PUBLISHES: Monday,
September 23, 1996**

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Summer law interns aid non-profit organizations

■ **INTERNSHIPS:** The Oregon Law Student Public Interest Fund sponsored the students' work as public interest law clerks

By Kristin Bailey
Associate Editor

Believe it or not, not everyone spent their summer poolside or at the beach. Seven University law students spent their summer months gaining practical experience in public interest law.

The Oregon Law Student Public Interest Fund sponsored the students' stints as public interest law clerks in non-profit organizations throughout Oregon and around the nation.

"Our main mission is to raise funds to put students in public law positions," OLSPIF Director Stephanie Kurteff said. "It's easy to fall into the trap of going to big-name recruiters willing to pay big money. This is a great way for students to serve communities and gain practical experience. It's easy to forget about public interest law."

In order to make sure law students don't forget about legal work that is not firm-oriented, OLSPIF dances, bike-a-thons and auctions raised about \$15,000. That money was put aside to pay for stipends for the summer position stipends.

"Many non-profit groups aren't able to pay students, so this fund increases options for students interested in public interest positions," Kurteff said. "We try to raise student consciousness a little and help by providing a stipend over the summer. It's also a service to the community by providing positions in a non-profit organization that otherwise couldn't pay."

The students who participat-

“It was fabulous. It gave me the career opportunity possibilities in the same organization. And working in environmental law was great practical experience because that's what I want to do in the future.”

— Suzanne McCormick

ed in the summer program had to find their own job placements and plan their own projects. Upon their selection, OLSPIF allocated the stipend.

Suzanne McCormick worked on an environmental law project in Georgetown, South Carolina. She said her work in the preservation of South Carolina's natural resources and environment provided excellent experience.

"It was fabulous," she said. "It gave me the career opportunity possibilities in the same organization. And working in environmental law was great practical experience because that's what I want to do in the future."

The seven students had to go through an application process during spring term in order to be selected for the summer stipends. The application process is open to anyone in the law school, Kurteff said.

Names were removed from the essays and applications were submitted in order to keep the selection process fair, Kurteff said.

"We wanted the selection to be based on the project," she said. "This is a small law school, and we're trying to stay away from the political side of what can happen in this kind of environment."

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