

Graduates celebrate at Send-Off

Graduates get one last memory before they leave the University

By Erin Snelgrove
Oregon Daily Emerald

Angela Justice, a senior sociology major, is not sure where her life is about to take her. What she does know is that she is about to join the real world.

Attending the Senior Send-Off on Thursday, a party recognizing the accomplishments of graduating students, Justice and others listened to music, grabbed a hot dog and vied for prizes — all in an attempt to create one more lasting memory of college life. The event, held in the EMU Amphitheater, was co-hosted by the University Alumni Association and the Student Association.

"I'm so excited to be graduating," Justice said. "I've waited so long for it to happen, and now it's finally here. Now I have to think about getting a job."

Justice isn't the only graduating senior concerned about her future. Stephen Cook, journalism major, said he hopes to land a job in the television news field in California. He decided to attend the Senior Send-Off on a whim.

"This is a nice send-off," Cook said. "I'm going to miss this place. If I could go back and be a freshman again, I would."

Danny Slifman, a fine arts major, said he looks forward to leaving the University. Although he had many good times in school, he's ready to start a new phase of his life.



Seniors Elizabeth Taft and Monica Lisa enjoy their lunch in the company of the University mascot.

"I'm glad to be gone," Slifman said. "I've served my time and I have no regrets, but I'm ready to move on."

Seniors who attended the festivity got the opportunity to eat hot dogs and drink soda. They listened to the music of Soul Function, a University jazz/soul group, and they received a free gift bag. Known as a "quack pack," the bag included a job-hunting guide book, a picture frame and coupons.

"The quack pack was mostly filled with information about the Alumni Association, which wasn't really great," said Michele Lukowski, a visual design major. "I did like the music though."

Kathy Bedbury, associate executive director of the (University) Alumni Association, said Senior Send-Off has been celebrated at the University for six consecutive years. The goal of the party is to give seniors a warm send-off, while also providing additional information about the University's alumni associations.

"I want students to know that the University Alumni Association offers a lifelong connection to the University," Bedbury said. "I want them to realize we will keep them informed about the University after they graduate."

Dan Rodriguez, executive director of the Alumni Association, said the Senior Send-Off is a fun event, intended for everyone to enjoy.

Bedbury said the group will continue working on the goals next week.

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Diversity

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ty because students of color do not feel comfortable at the University — even faculty of color, especially when faculty talk about multicultural issues.

"There is a fear of speaking

out," he said. "If you speak out, you can't get tenure. You don't get on committees where decisions are made."

The Zero Tolerance work group has been broken into three major parts. The each part will examine

a separate issue, including establishing a bias response team, refining the conduct code and examining existing programs.

All of the group members said they will continue working on the goals next week.

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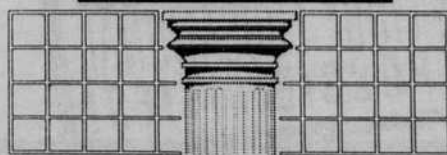
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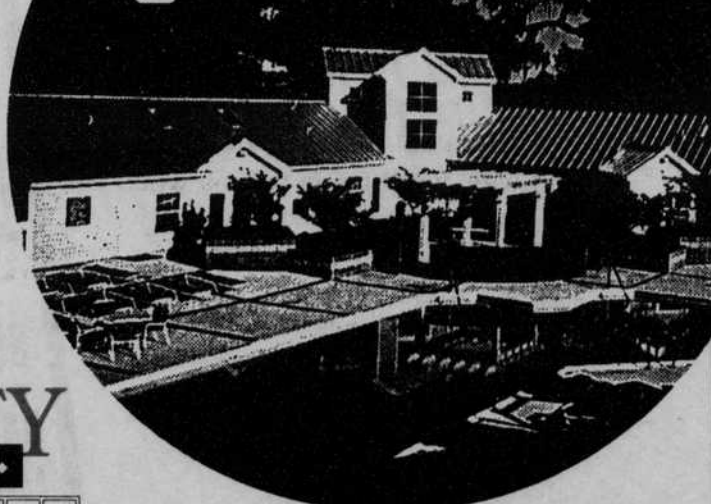
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