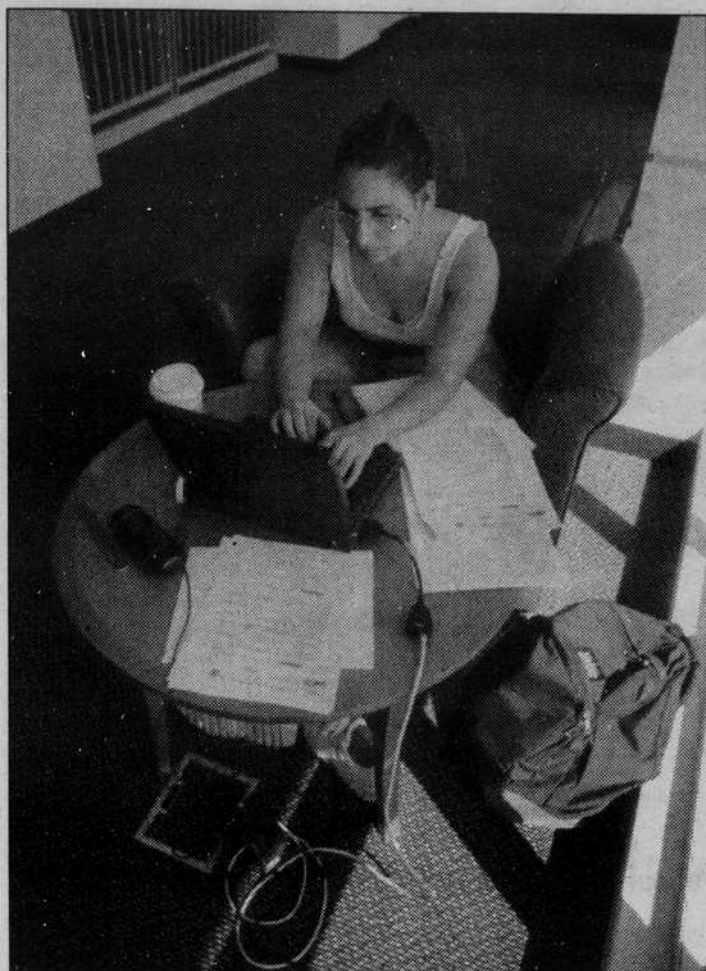




Summer Faad, a third-year law student, already has her laptop securely in stow.

Laptop shortage affects law students

Heavy demand has left Apple with little supply for the University

By Sara Jarrett
Oregon Daily Emerald

Notebook computers are a requisite for attending the University's law school — each classroom is equipped with ethernet access. Therefore, everyone should be hooked into the system.

But does it do any good if the computer distributors are unable to keep up with the demand?

Students at the School of Law have a choice between the "IBM Think Pad 390 and the Apple Power Book G3/333," Michael Rebar, manager of technology at the University book store said, depending on what brand they are most comfortable using.

Apple, however, has been unable to supply enough to keep up with the heavy demand.

"They're not available through any channel in the nation right now," Rebar said.

Orientation began Monday and classes start today, though the shipment of Apple notebooks isn't expected to arrive for another three days, Rebar predicted.

This is upsetting to students

who prefer Apple computers because the first week of school is devoted to "receiving training on how to install the software and trouble shoot," Rebar said. "It's an excellent training program."

It's excellent if you have the equipment to work with, that is.

This is also the first year in which the requisite for laptop computers has affected every class. In the past, the school couldn't make such a requirement to upperclassmen who enrolled in the program before the policy was made, so the requirement had subsequently been given to incoming students only, Ben Greer, assistant to the director of admissions at the School of Law, explained. Now, for the first time, all students must have a portable computer.

The new building also makes the policy easier to enforce because students "can actually plug-in to every classroom," Greer said.

Because more people are choosing IBMs this year than last, the back order of Apple computers has not affected as many students as might be thought. Only a few have called Greer to voice their concerns.

"There's just nothing we can do about it, though," Greer said. "We don't have the resources to provide computers for them."

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