

UWO CONVOCATION

Bermudas, runners leave 'em laughing

Under the pomp and the pageantry came a bit of comic relief, and 700 diplomas.

By Ira Band

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When you're about to sit through two hours of watching 700 graduates in Alumni Hall individually receive their university degrees, you appreciate a bit of comic relief.

As the first graduate called to receive his bachelor of education degree at the University of Western Ontario's convocation Saturday, Jeremy Alexander Abraham provided just that break from the usual ceremonious pomp.

As Abraham ascended the stairs to the stage, quiet snickering gave way to roars of laughter. Underneath his obligatory black

CEREMONIES THIS WEEK

- Today:** Students graduating from the faculties of business administration and social science honors programs.
- Tuesday:** Huron College students and students in social sciences.
- Wednesday:** Students in arts, physical education, engineering science and music.
- Thursday:** Science and Brescia College graduates.
- Friday:** Students from the program in journalism for native people and those from the faculty of graduate studies and law. About 4,500 students will receive degrees and diplomas in this month's ceremonies.

robes, he had a pair of baggy light-orange bermuda shorts and well-worn running shoes. He also was sockless. Even the assembled chancellors and dignitaries allowed themselves a smile.

Well, one last college prank. They no doubt breathed a sigh of relief when the remainder of the graduates showed a bit more decorum. This was, after all, serious business.

But many of the students could afford to feel light-hearted. Professor Douglas Westgate said this is the best year in more than a decade for graduates hoping to find a job in the teaching field.

"So many of the teachers hired during the boom of the 1950s are finally retiring, making way for the new graduates," Westgate said there has been an "avalanche of interest in our graduates from

school boards, mainly in the outskirts of Toronto."

SECOND CAREER: Most of Saturday's graduates already held a degree. For many, their new degree in education represents the beginning of a second career.

Edward Arthur Schroeter graduated from Carleton University's journalism program several years ago. After working for five years in the field, he sought a change in lifestyle.

"I was a teaching assistant while at Carleton. So going into education isn't a complete change for me."

Schroeter hopes to get a teaching job in London. Last week he was awarded a national one-act playwriting award from Ottawa Little Theatre and the National Arts Council for his play Indian Heart.

Convocation ceremonies continue today through Friday.