

They try for independence but find it difficult to attain

Editor's Note: A recent U.S. Census Bureau study shows that more and more women are striking out on their own. But the changes reflected in the census report have passed some women by. This last of three Associated Press articles looks at single women still living at home.

A chill breeze blew through the open window. Ann reached automatically for the sweater at the foot of her bed. Her mother always leaves it there.

"Really, I wouldn't know how to take care of myself if I didn't live at home," says Ann, a 23-year-old medical student who, like almost half the 8.6 million single women in this country, still lives with her family. "It would be very hard for me to cook, shop and clean for myself. I've always had somebody who looked after me."

Carla, a chain-smoking, 34-year-old school administrator, lives with her parents on New York's Long Island. Says Carla:

"I'm a much more developed woman than others with their freedom and fantastic apartments because they don't have two people to come home to who love and care for them."

But Laura DiDio, 22, a TV news assistant who lives in New York City's Queens, says: "If I got a raise tomorrow, I'd be out. I want the independence, the freedom. I want the phone to ring at 3 a.m. without worrying about disturbing somebody."

Ann, Carla and Laura are three women of the more than four million women between 18 and 34 who the U.S. Census Bureau says lived at home with parents or relatives as of last year.

Some, like Ann, seem resigned to the arrangement for the time being. They say they want to leave eventually, but aren't doing much about it. Others, like Carla, have probably reached a point of no return — in their early 30s — they will never leave. Many seem embarrassed or even ashamed they are still at home.

"Society attaches a stigma to living at home," Ann said. "Just about everybody I know can't understand why I still do."

But most women at home are like Laura. In their late teens or early 20s, they can't wait to get out on their own but often find themselves trapped by economics — their jobs don't pay enough.

Judy Long, a 23-year-old graduate student at the University of Oregon, has been living away from home since she graduated from high school in Eugene. Her parents still reside here.

Judy told an *Emerald* reporter

that she lives away from home "out of convenience."

"You can do what you want to do when you want to do it," she added. Though many women leave home for financial independence, Long's parents still support her.

Long explained she had no difficulty adjusting to living alone and said she would possibly move home again — on a temporary basis.

Women weren't always so anxious to leave home. Before World War II, most women stayed at home until they got married. Attitudes began to change after the war, but it wasn't until the 1960s that there was no stigma and less parental resistance to a single woman moving out. The 60s brought women's liberation, the push for social and job equality and the swinging singles scene.

Perhaps because of the changes of the last 15 years, it is surprising to learn that about half the single women in the country still live at home.

At the request of the Associated Press, the U.S. Census Bureau, which recently released a major study of American women, used its computers to break down the total number of single women living at home by age group. The results showed that 89 per cent of them are in the 18 to 24 age group and indicated that all but 10 or 11 per cent of the women at home now will move out before their mid-20s. The figures for men, by the way, are virtually the same.

But even when they do leave home, most single women do not live alone. Most end up living with female roommates or with boyfriends. But an increasing number are leaving home and living by themselves, says Jessie Bernard, a sociologist and scholar-in-residence this year with the Civil Rights Commission. Between 1960 and 1970, the number of single women under 35 who decided to live entirely by themselves more than doubled, from 401,000 to 859,000.

While single women are at home they often see the swinging social scene passing them by. Some want it that way and never really intend to leave home. Most, especially those in their late teens and early 20s, say they want to get out of the rooms in which they spent their childhoods.

Despite progress in job opportunities for women, many young women find only low-paying jobs which don't permit them to leave home without a drastic lifestyle change, especially if they live near a large city and its high rents.

"Of course, I could get a fur-

nished room," said Laura DiDio. "But it's not worth giving up all the advantages of living at home."

The Census Bureau study showed that the number of women in the labor force nearly doubled between 1950 and 1974, while the number of men increased only by one-fourth. But the median earnings for women in 1974 were \$6,772 compared to \$11,835 for men.

It also showed that there are five times as many men in managerial positions as women. Over half the working women in the country were in low-paying clerical, operative or service positions (Continued on Page 6)

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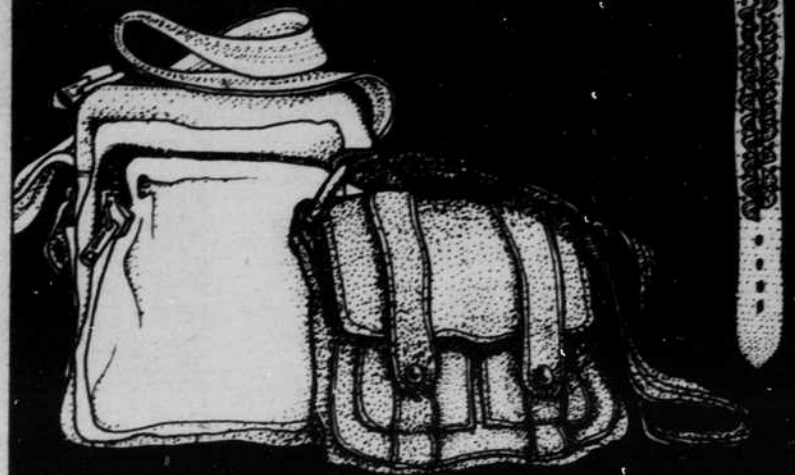
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U of O Women's Softball Home Game Schedule

(played at Amazon Park E. 24th, behind S. Eugene H.S.)

MAY 5 vs OCE JV and Varsity 3:30p.m.
MAY 9 vs Eugene's McCulloch Chain Saws (tentative 8:00p.m.)
MAY 11 vs PSU JV and Varsity 3:30p.m.
MAY 13-16 Women's College World's Series - Omaha, Neb.
MAY 18 vs OSU JV and Varsity 3:30p.m.
May 21-22 NCWSA Invitational-Portland (JV and Varsity)

Team Members: Connie Anderson, Shawna Baxter, Joanne Belloni, Sally Bickie, Jean Dunham, Jackie Glover, Sylvia Green, Cindy Hutton, Jennifer Isley, Julie Malos, Katy Moore, Hanna Munson, Peggy Rees, Melanie Schafer, Debi Segura, Melinda Shoulders, Amy Sierzega, Allyson Smith, Mindy Stinson, Carol Tisson, Tracey Vukovich, Connie Wiesner, Laurie Wood, Valerie Wood, Lynette Zuercher
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C. Faculty available to supervise independent study programs.
D. More faculty for more electives: how about "Governmental Accounting"?

3. Consideration for Graduate Students
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C. Funded faculty research in the summer.
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