



Photo by Mark Pynes

Commuter marriage just doesn't cut it for Mary Hartman, journalism professor, who will leave a promising career to rejoin her husband, Barrie, in Boulder, Colo.

Women juggle job, marriage

By Deborah Janes
Of the Emerald

Journalism Prof. Mary Hartman has more than just the right name to play the lead part in the soap opera "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman," if it ever returns to the tube.

Her current — and dramatic — situation would make a perfect episode in the defunct late-night show.

Having climbed to a high rung on her career ladder, Hartman had to decide last summer whether to follow her husband to Florida, where he pursued a new job, or keep her children in local schools and continue with her career in Eugene.

After filling a notebook with the pros and cons, Hartman elected to stay. Gloria Steinman would be proud of her.

But wait Gloria, there's more.

After spending the year apart from her husband, Mary has decided to join Barrie, a former managing editor of the Eugene Register-Guard, in Boulder, Colo.

"I guess I'm just an old-fashioned girl at heart. I got tired of saying goodbye in the airport. That was my \$27,000 a year decision (her income level)," she says.

Hartman has joined the growing forces of women "sitting on the fence between yesteryear and today," who attempt to balance the equally important roles of wife and career woman.

And many of these women are opting for "commuter marriages" over passively following their husbands during their career transitions, according to some sociology professors.

"It's a very serious phenomenon among professional couples," says Joan Acker, a University sociology professor and director of the Center for the Study of Women in

Society. But the commuter marriage trend hits mainly women in high status, high income professions, such as managerial jobs, lawyers and professors, she says.

"Over 50 percent of successful woman in the country are single, divorced or have never married," Acker says. "On the other hand, 95 percent of successful men are married."

"Women realize now they can survive without their spouse," says Mimi Johnson, a sociology professor and outgoing chair of the Women's Studies Committee.

The Hartmans disagree.

"At times this past year we didn't think the marriage would last because of the stress of being separated," says Barrie, now executive editor of the Boulder Daily Camera. "My decision to leave was not very popular with the family."

"I still get feelings of doubt and anger," Mary says. Her feelings may be due in part to the intense effort it took to rise to the prestigious position she holds at the University.

Until seven years ago, Hartman thought "my job was at home, raising the kids (ages 16 and 18)." But when a position opened with Oregon Scholastic Press, she jumped on it, anxious to utilize her journalism degree and contribute to the family coffer.

Her dedication to the organization has helped her become director of OSP, as well as an assistant to the dean in the journalism school.

When Hartman travels to the Colorado Rockies, only a loving husband will await her, not a job. However, that does not worry Barrie. "She's an extremely marketable person. She will find a job here that she will enjoy," Barrie says.

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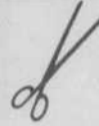
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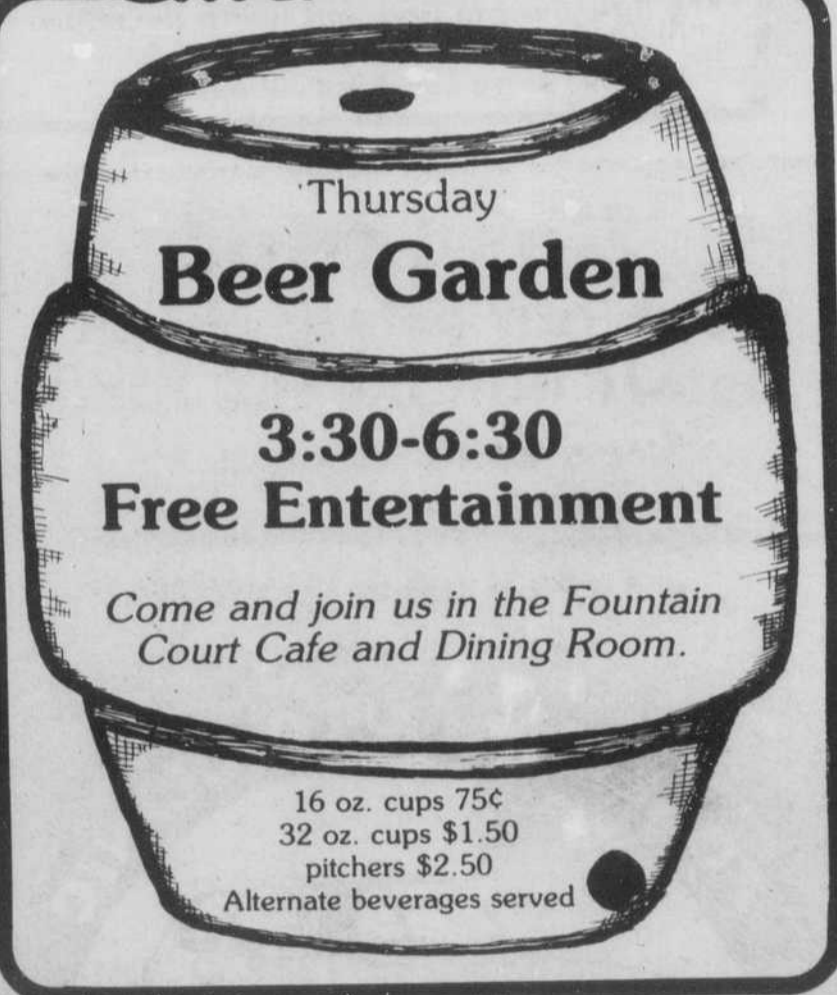


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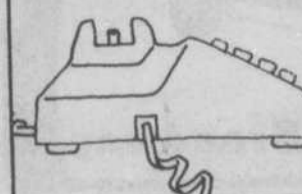
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