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New study gives unmarried, educated women a brighter outlook

By **Tonnie Dakin**
Of the Emerald

Contrary to societal stereotypes, women who go to college and pursue a career do not have less of a chance of marrying, says a new study released by Jeanne Moorman, a researcher in the marriage and family statistics branch of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Moorman launched the study partially in response to a study by sociologist Neil Bennet that appeared in Newsweek magazine, she said. Bennet's study said if a college-educated woman was unmarried at age 30, she stood little chance of ever marrying.

"I felt the numbers were just too low for college-educated women," said Moorman, whose statistics show that women in that situation actually have a 66 percent chance of marriage.

Although Moorman used different data to collect her information, "if the trend were occurring, either method should have worked," she said.

For many years, it was normal for a man to have a career, an education and a marriage, but women were expected to stay home and manage the family, Moorman explained. Today, however, women are attending college at the same rate as men, she said.

"There's really no reason why women can't do both... and I disagree with the

rationale that women, by going to college, are choosing not to marry," Moorman said.

"I think for years and years that has not been true... the dichotomy between education and marriage has been gone for awhile," said Miriam Johnson, acting director of the University's Center for the Study of Women in Society and associate sociology professor.

"From the women that I have seen, the majority are in a relationship and have a career, so I see things changing from 30 years ago when there were more traditional relationships," said Catherine Corotis, an intern counselor at the Student Health Center.

Although women are marrying at an older age, statistics show that the divorce rate is lower for couples who marry later in life, Moorman said. The reason for the postponement is because women are attempting to balance a career, an education and relationships, she said.

"When you have conflicting goals, you can't do everything," she said. "And you don't need to do things in the 'right' order."

Cohabitation instead of marriage may be popular for students in college because the financial situation is easier, Johnson suggested.

"It doesn't mean that they take marriage less seriously. In fact, I think they take it more seriously, if anything," she said. "They look at living with someone not as a trial marriage, but as a stage in courtship."

"There's been a relaxing in the norms of relationships," Moorman said.

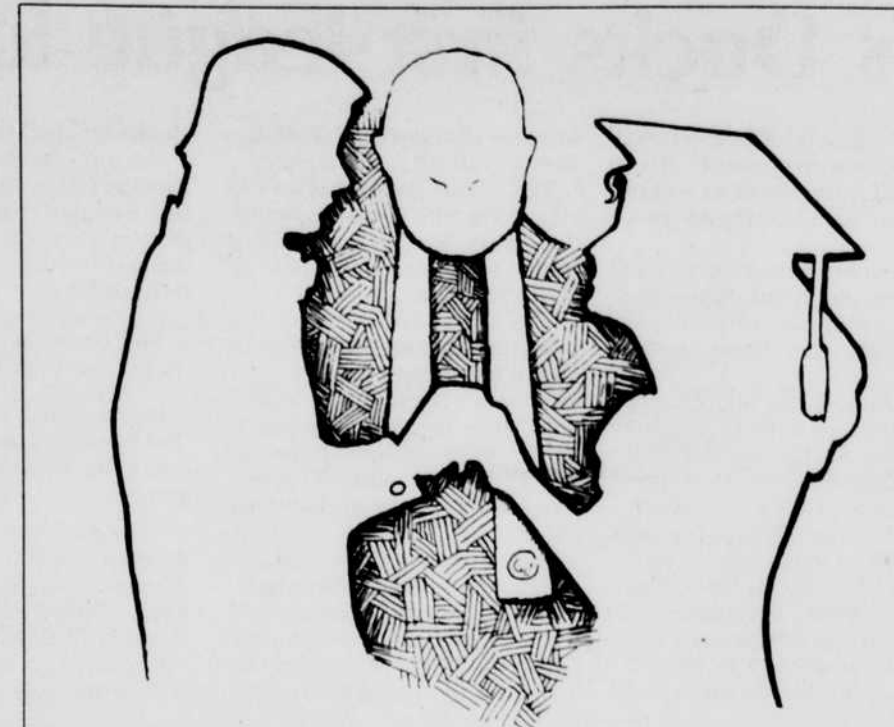
Many college-educated women now may be postponing marriage, which may eventually lead to choosing not to marry at all, Johnson said. Studies that say women do not have a good chance of marrying after college may be assuming that all women will marry a man who is older or makes more money, she said.

"Depending on who you think is in the marriage pool, the numbers kind of change," Johnson said.

Moorman agrees that women are postponing marriage, rather than forfeiting it, for education and a career. "They are pursuing their goals, and that takes time," Moorman said.

"Women now really want more in a relationship, with intimacy and equality," Corotis said. "I think some women might prefer to be alone rather than in a relationship that isn't what they want."

The stereotype that an unmarried woman is a spinster and an unmarried man is a bachelor is slowly changing,



Graphic by Lorraine Rath

too, Johnson said.

"I think that society still sees men as initiators of marriage, and we imply that women have to wait to be chosen," she said.

In fact, "despite what they say about the ball and chain," many studies show that men like to marry more, as seen by the higher remarriage rate for men, Johnson said.

Skiers escape distractions, crowds on local cross-country trails

By **Phil Levinson**
Of the Emerald

Beginning around Thanksgiving break and lasting well into spring, many students are struck by ski fever.

While downhill skiing is popular, many beginners opt for cross-country skiing because it is relatively easy to learn and does not require much equipment or preparation. University student and cross-country skier Yale Veber says, "Many people choose cross-country skiing to find the hidden joys of

nature."

Veber adds that there are usually fewer people and distractions to contend with on the cross-country trails compared to the more popular downhill slopes.

Dale Berg of Berg's Ski Shop says the basic equipment necessary for the sport can be rented for less than \$20. This includes skis, boots, poles and gators, or waterproof leggings.

Avid cross-country skiers, people who Berg says "have skied at least three to five times," can choose to purchase this basic equipment for about \$150.

Most local skiers opt to go to either Odell or Hoodoo ski resorts to cross-country ski, Berg says.

When there is a lot of snow, Berg says any road or trail could be used, but he advises beginners to "go to a resort because there are more people and help available." He says one could encounter severe hills or other problems on an unknown trail.

In addition, Berg advises beginning cross-country skiers to make a list of important items and things to bring while skiing. Warm and comfortable clothing is especially important.

Berg also says it is good to go skiing for the first time with an experienced skier who can help and give advice.

Other cross-country trails used by area skiers include Sun River, which is frequented by students for weekend excursions and dormitory ski trips.

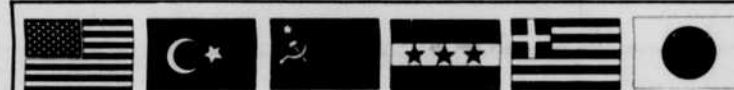
Veber does most of his cross-country skiing at Mt. Bachelor, where he says "the groomed trails are pretty much ideal as long as there is fresh snow." He also says that skiing at Crater Lake "can be spectacular and breath-taking especially around the lake's rim."

When skiing for the first time, expect to be a little bit out of control. Cross-country skiing tends to be a little bit easier than downhill, but for first-time skiers the experience can be awkward and humbling, possibly resulting in quite a few falls.



Photo by Michael Wilhelm

Although easier than down-hill, cross-country skiing has its own special hazards to be mastered.



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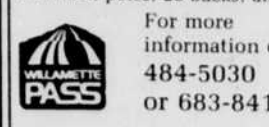
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