



Love, life and friends are found in co-op

When my University experience began with disco dancing, I knew the next few years would be unique, bizarre and unforgettable.

There I was in a room full of 20 people I had known for a week who were dancing to *Saturday Night Fever* with all the rhythm and moves of John Travolta himself. And the beauty of it was, no one had planned this party. It was the first insta-disco party I'd ever been to.

But we were not strangers; each one of us lived in the Lorax, a student cooperative house on Alder Street, in the fall of 1994. I had transferred to the U of O after a year at Western Washington University to be a journalism major at a school where people didn't laugh when you mumbled your major under your breath. Instead, people asked, "Have you written that 100 page paper yet?"

I entered both the Lorax and the journalism school somewhat

blindly. The Lorax, a castle in its majesty with a walkway of sunflowers leading to the entrance, was more aesthetically appealing

1997 GRAD



Angie Suchy

than any mold-ridden apartments within a two-mile radius. Sorority living was out of the question, and I had done my time in a dorm room twice as big as the cubbyholes

here. And the Lorax boasted its strict vegetarian cuisine, making it all the more appealing.

So on a sunny day in September, 25 other students and I moved into the Lorax. And poof! We were a community. One morning I found myself standing next to a guy in his boxers in the community bathroom, as we shared the community toothpaste. Later that day someone repeatedly opened the door while I

was using the community phone room. The community showers, complete with community shampoo, were just as awkward at first, too. Don't worry, there are separate stalls with doors — the tricky part is that critical moment when you have to slip your towel off and step into the shower. Only once did I go to take a shower in the wee hours of the morning and forget to knock. Luckily, I was more embarrassed than my housemate.

There were also community food bins, soap, toilet paper and food, not necessarily in that order. It was cheap to live in the Lorax; housing, utilities, food and other community items were all covered in one lump sum. Unfortunately, sometimes fellow co-ops didn't distinguish between what were community items. One day I went to hop on my bike, and it was missing because someone had decided that bikes were all for community use. After

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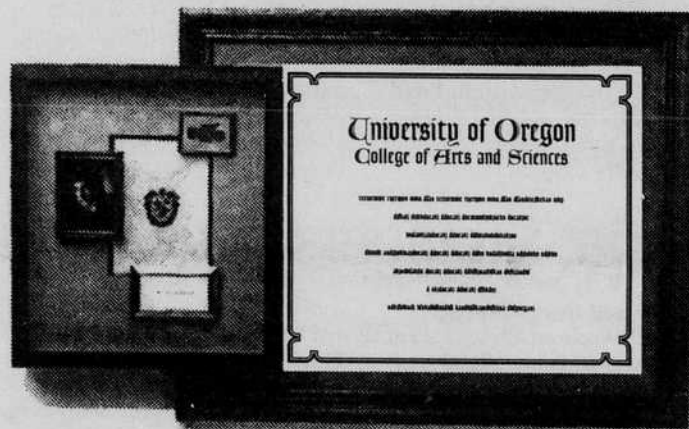
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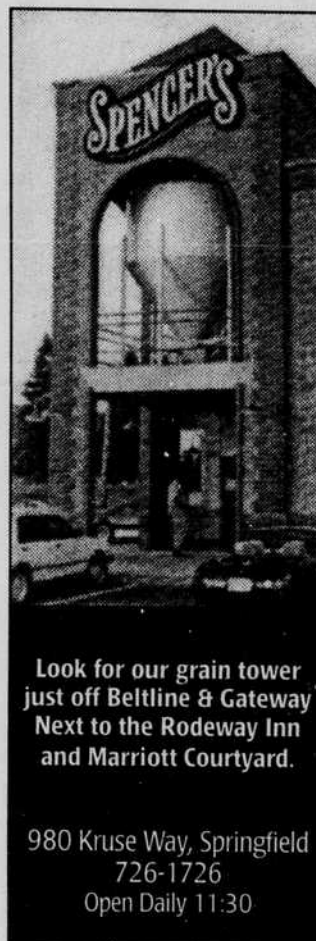


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