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# Pulse Relax

On Thursday  
"Crying Waiting  
Hoping" for  
more Beatles?  
Pulse grants your  
"Wish"

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## Roommate needs to give sloppy girl 'rude awakening' with complaints

Dear Nat:

I am a female sharing an apartment with another girl, and she is a complete slob! I often leave the apartment for entire weekends, and I'm forced to return to a living room of scattered clothing, a sink full of dirty dishes and a grimy bathroom. I usually end up cleaning it myself, and I've just about had it! How do I deal?

— Squeaky Clean Roommate

Dear Roommate:

By now I'm sure you've mastered gracefully leaping over piles of clothing while holding your nose, but I think it's time to take more aggressive action. Maybe what your roommate needs is a rude awakening. Have a few friends over who are willing to loudly complain about the hideous smells and sights in your apartment. Hearing an honest opinion from the public could help your roommate realize how disgusting and unattractive her habits are, and she might feel too ashamed to leave a mess behind again.

If she remains clueless, try a more direct approach. Tell her you do not enjoy putting up with such filth and that it's not your job to deal with her leftover weekend junk. And if a mess in any corner of your home bothers and distracts you, explain that limiting the mess to her half of the pad is not enough. Request that she clean up her act entirely!

And who's saying you have to stay there? You deserve a comfortable living environment, so if it comes down to it, pack your bags. Put an ad in the paper: Female roommate wanted; cleanliness required.

Dear Nat:

I'm a junior male college student, and my parents still call me three times a week wanting to know everything about my life. I've tried to distance myself, but they won't let go. I still care about them, but how can I get them off my back?

— Calling It Quits

Dear Calling It Quits:

Poor Mom and Dad! They must still get weepy staring at an empty chair at the dinner table and walking past your vacant bedroom — spaces that were occupied until just two years ago. Three interrogating phone calls a week is a little extreme, so naturally you became irritated and frustrated.

"Distancing yourself" probably led to a change of attitude in your parents' eyes — a new view of a rude and possibly troubled son. I think your distancing strategy has caused your parents to worry about you, and now they're prone to check up on you more! The next time a call comes in from the 'rents, say you'd love to talk, but you've got a hectic week full of exciting activities. Sound happy to hear from them, but end the call quickly. That way, they'll picture you having a great time at college and feel less of a concern or need to bother you. Then, set up a regular once a week time when you can call them — say, every Sunday. By being the one to make the call, you'll feel prepared and in the mood to talk, and one time a week is much less demanding than three.

E-mail can be a wonderful thing when it comes to communication with parents. It won't suddenly ring at an inopportune time and can be responded to at your leisure. I recommend giving a story swap with the folks via computer a whirl.

So answer the phone with a calm voice and a quick get-away, take the upper hand in making calls and give e-mail a shot. Your parents will still miss you, but they'll be worry-free, and you'll all be happier and ready to talk when it comes time.

Contact the Pulse columnist  
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necessarily represent those of the Emerald. Send questions  
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Natasha  
Chilingerian  
Ask Nat

## Taste of fine wine

Those who appreciate wine can experience Oregon's wine country by tasting what local wineries have to offer

Ryan Bornheimer  
Senior Pulse Reporter

During the past few years, Oregon vineyards have emerged as one of the dominant producers of wine in the industry — and wine tasting events are probably the best way to develop a discerning taste for this complex culture. What follows is an insider's guide for discriminating palates in Eugene. Even if your idea of a fine wine is found in a box at the local 7-Eleven, this may be a good place to start.

Wine retailer Sheldon Glassberg says Eugene offers many opportunities for both the experienced and the novice wine taster. Glassberg's store, Sheldon's Fine Wines, located at the Gateway Market at 822 Beltline Road, offers wine tasting events every Saturday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The selection varies depending on what parts of the world are offering the best vintages at any given time.

Evidence of the industry's growth is in the numbers. According to the Oregon Tourism Commission, the number of wineries in the state has leapt from 78 to 195 since 1991.

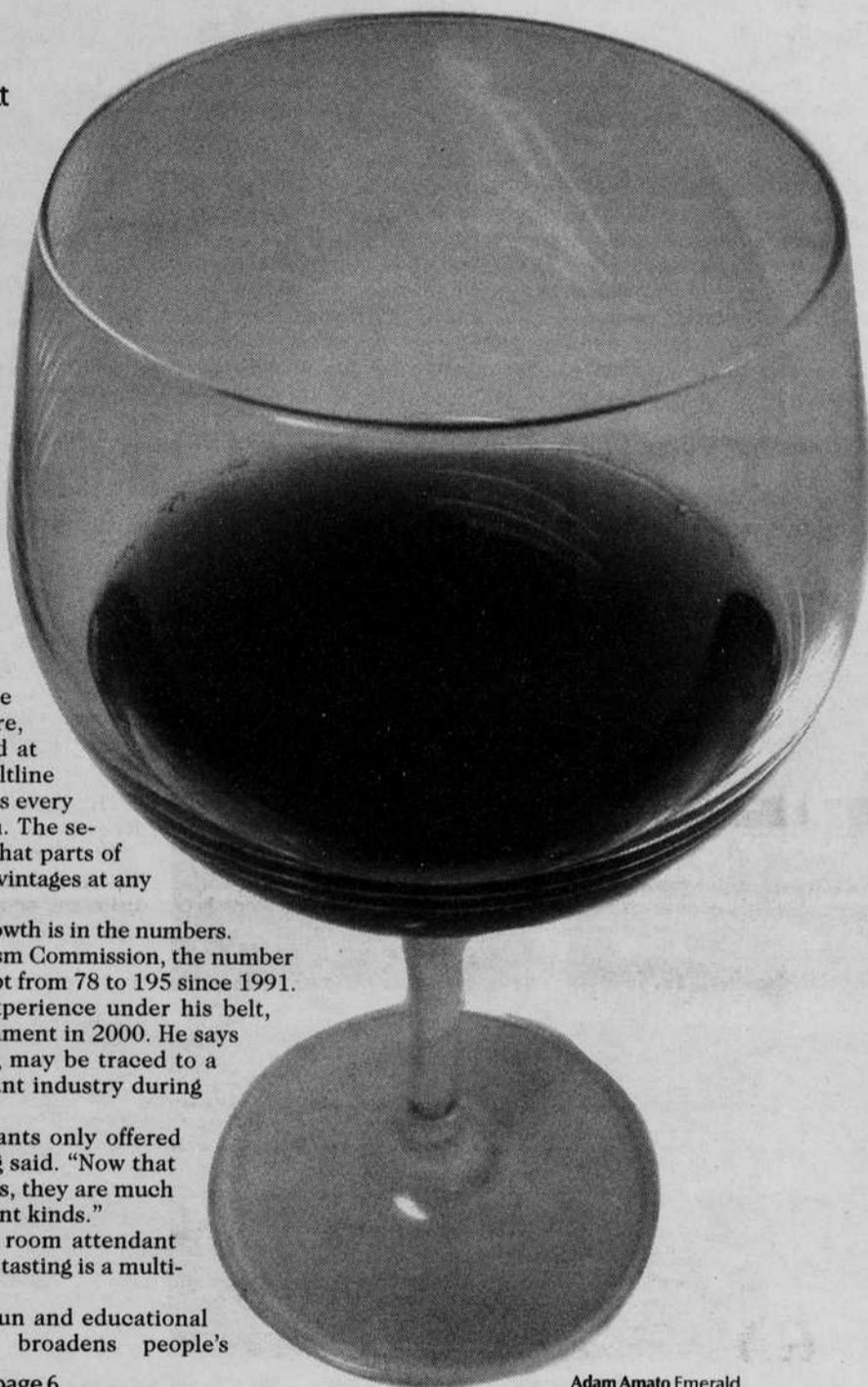
With nearly 25 years of experience under his belt, Glassberg opened his establishment in 2000. He says the increase in wine drinking may be traced to a simple change in the restaurant industry during the past few decades.

"Twenty years ago, restaurants only offered wine by the bottle," Glassberg said. "Now that people can get wine by the glass, they are much more likely to try many different kinds."

King Estate Winery tasting room attendant Donelle Pettit agrees that wine tasting is a multifaceted diversion.

"Wine tasting should be a fun and educational experience that hopefully broadens people's

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Adam Amato Emerald

## 'Lord of the Rings' books cast spell

The trilogy is hard to put down and contains beautiful language and a vast number of details

### Reporter's notebook

Georgia Billingsley II  
Freelance Reporter

For the readers of J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, the books are very much like the One Ring. Tolkien has a way of casting a spell upon readers.

The novels — after years of reigning on best seller lists, and with movies based on them in theaters ("The Two Towers" topped the box office) — intrigue and lure innocent bookstore visitors into approaching them. Then, with their beautiful covers and decorative box-set packaging, they beckon to be picked up and more closely examined. At this instant of physical contact, all hope of escape is lost.

As the Ring must be worn, so "The Fellowship of the Ring," "The Two Towers" and "The Return of the King" must be read and seen. And the longer they are held, the harder it is to put them down. The trilogy and the Ring are very similar, except, of course, for that whole "evil and destructive" side of the Ring.

One of the many reasons Tolkien's works are so irresistible is his power to describe the characters,



Courtesy photo

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