

FRESHMEN

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tions anymore.

"There was a girl in my social studies class last year, she asked if the 13 original colonies ever got out of British control," she says with disgust.

Meeting the roommate

French and her mother plod up the gray, concrete stairwell in McClain Hall until they reach the fourth floor. They enter the hallway and walk to the fourth door on the right. French slips the key in, turns it and pushes the door open.

"Oh," they say.

The second bed, earlier empty and cold, is covered in bags of clothes and toiletries. A blue Adidas bag sits on the middle of the bed. French has heard her roommate is athletic and had been a cheerleader in high school. Next to the bag is a purple plastic basket full of lotions, hair products and cleaners.

A television sits on the desk. But no roommate.

They enter the dark room, sit down, and talk.

Soon, two girls come down the hallway chatting. Girls have been coming and going for days, moving in and exploring the complex. But, suddenly, one of the girls sticks her

head around the corner.

"She's here!" the girl yells, grinning. It is Michele Taylor, the roommate.

Taylor enters the room and gives French a hug, introducing herself. She meets French's mom, extending a hand, and then introduces her friend Tiphani Handy, who lives on the third floor. They sit down on the bed and exchange pleasantries, talking about their trips and the process of moving in. Taylor jokes that her boyfriend was "nowhere to be found" when she moved her belongings upstairs.

"Those are cute shoes!" Taylor bursts out.

"They'll kill your feet, though," French responds.

"Life as a girl," Taylor says.

They both grin and nod.

Taylor is an 18-year-old from Gresham. She graduated from Sam Barlow High School last year and decided to attend the University to study music.

"It's so exciting," she says. "I watched my sister go through college. I think a lot of people come here and it's overwhelming. It's not scary, it's exciting."

Like French, Taylor plans to find a job at the University — any job. Also, she is thrilled about her classes, and hopes they will be more "sophisticated" than they were in high school.

Unlike her roommate, Taylor

knows people at the University. Her boyfriend, Aaron Longo, also attends the University. Her best friend lives downstairs, and she has friends to go out with on weekends. Last weekend they took her to her first Duck game.

"I had fun, except that I got burnt and we lost," she says.

Familiar faces

The weekend before classes started, French says she began feeling homesick.

Saturday night she was in her room, bored, when she says she received a phone call. It was her friend Joe Eriksen from Beaverton, asking if she wanted to hang out.

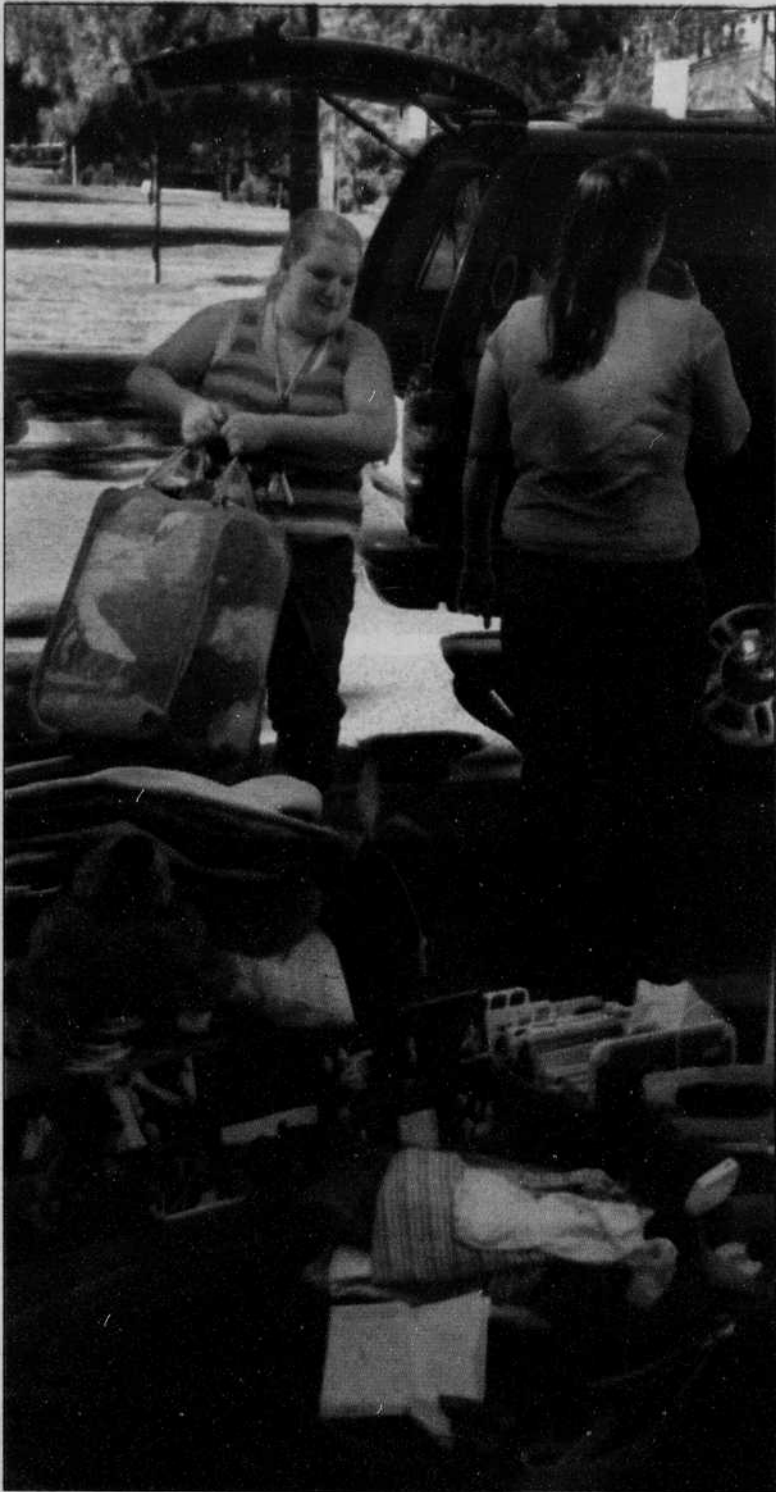
French recalls confusion, but she ended up saying she did.

"Good, we're all downstairs," French remembers Eriksen saying.

French says she was surprised.

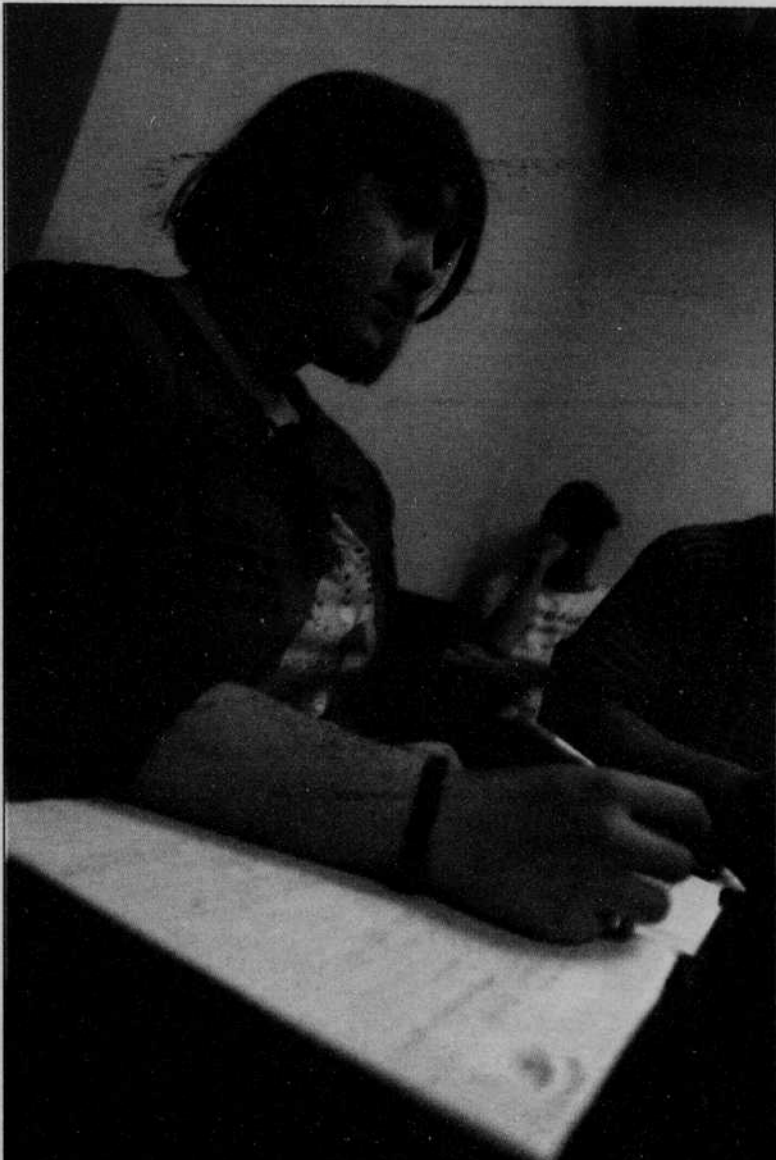
"I went downstairs, and it's everybody that's ever been to Aloha High School. ... I didn't even know they were coming here," French says. "I knew he was hanging out with a couple of people from Aloha. I stepped out the door and there were eight people down there."

Contact the people/culture/
faith reporter
at jaredpaben@dailyemerald.com.



Lauren Wimer Photographer

Michele Taylor, an 18-year-old freshman from Gresham, stacks her belongings while her friend, Tiphani Handy, goes to get another load to take to McClain Hall.



Lauren Wimer Photographer

Jennifer French remains bored in her pre-calculus class and passes the time doodling. She is also enrolled in three chemistry classes during her first term.

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HOUSING QUIZ

- | Yes | No | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Are you at least 21 years old? |
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