

The not-so-empty nest

Some students have found themselves back home after graduation while they search for rent-paying jobs

By Christina Diss • Freelance Reporter

When Lori Fulton moved back home after her first year of college, her parents enforced her high school curfew of midnight and watched her every move.

"It was hell," Fulton, 24, said. "I was expected to simply go to work and then come straight home."

After graduation when she moved to her home in Burns, she said she had an overwhelming feeling of failure.

"Coming from a small town, everyone knew I had moved back home after school," she said. "It was as if the whole town thought I didn't succeed in college because I was back home."

Like other college students, Fulton's economic factors left her no choice but to move home. Even though hiring new graduates is up 11.2 percent from last year according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, many graduates are still having difficulty finding a steady source of income.

Senior comparative literature and journalism major Lisa Freeman, 22, said she has failed to find a job or internship in the entertainment and event management fields in the Northwest. After graduation this spring, she plans to move back home with her family in Vancouver, Wash.

"I don't have a problem moving back home because it is purely for economical

reasons, and I really don't have any major problems with my family," Freeman said.

Freeman said her parents were not surprised she was moving home because they know how difficult the job market has been in her field.

"I don't have to pay any type of rent as long as I am searching for a job," she said.

Freeman said she does not dread moving back home because she is confident her parents will no longer place the rules and restrictions on her that she had in high school.

"As long as I am letting them know when I am going out, my parents allow me to do pretty much anything," she said.

Elizabeth Holloway, 23, moved home to Lake Oswego after graduating this winter with a degree in architecture from the University.

Though Holloway briefly thought about graduate school or joining the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, "Finding a job was my first priority," she said.

Holloway did not intensely search for a job while still in school because she was busy finishing her degree. She planned on moving back home for a few months while in college so she could search for a job.

Holloway has yet to find a job, which will inevitably prolong her stay at home, she said.

"As a woman in a mainly male-dominated profession, I feel like some firms are more

reluctant to hire me than my male peers who have had little difficulty finding a job," she said.

Though Holloway is hopeful of moving out after saving some money from her first few paychecks, she has enjoyed her time back at home.

"I really missed my mom's cooking," she said. "I make dinner and do laundry so I feel like I am helping out somehow."

Holloway said the worst part of living at home is being bored.

"I am not really able to have my friends or boyfriend over late at night because of my parent's schedule," she said.

Holloway's mother somewhat expected her daughter to move home after graduation.

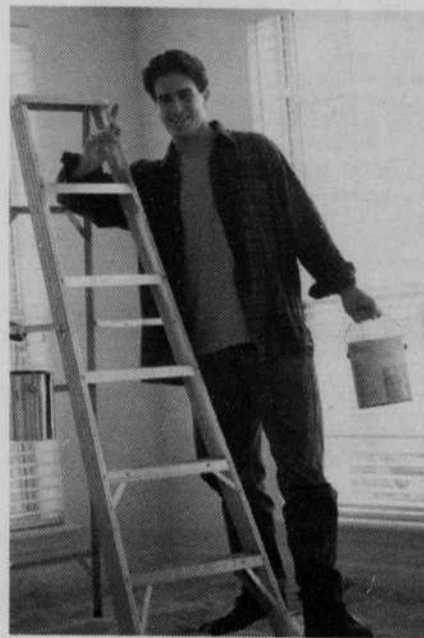
"I thought she would move home temporarily until she was able to find a job and save up some money," Ann Holloway said.

Ann Holloway has enjoyed having her daughter back at home.

"Though I loved being an empty nester because it was quieter and simpler, it has been nice to have Elizabeth help out with things around the house," she said. "As long as she continues to help around the house and look for a job, I am more than willing to let my daughter live here without paying rent."

Christina Diss is a freelance reporter for the Emerald.

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Neighborhoods of nearby

Students have different personalities, thankfully, so do neighborhoods

By Sarah Kai Acker • Freelance Reporter

The University is nestled amid several types of neighborhoods, so finding an area in Eugene compatible with personal tastes and needs could be easier than finding a compatible roommate. The following is a brief tour of the area.

Downtown

Downtown is choice for urbanites accustomed to more expensive housing and parking. The neighborhood boasts dozens of bars and restaurants, as well as playing host to a bustling twice-weekly modern-day agora where folks can purchase tie-dyed underwear, exchange gardening tips, taste the many local flavors and support Eugene-based cottage industries. Saturday Market and Farmer's Market are held nearby throughout the summer season.

Most of the housing is in apartment buildings annexed with a small patio or balcony.

"I love living downtown," education major Jennifer Liggett said. "I can walk

almost anywhere — especially the bars. And I prefer living around professionals instead of other students."

Luckey's, Joe's Bar and Grill, The Jungle and The Horsehead are just a few of the many bars and restaurants located downtown. Most bars have themed nights, which include hip-hop, '80s metal, jazz and jam.

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Jennifer Liggett
Education major

The Eugene bus station, public library and central post office are located downtown, along with art galleries, music venues, clothing boutiques and grocery stores. For people who thrive on the pulse of

the city, downtown is a good place to call home.

Whiteaker

Whiteaker residents reap the rewards of fairly cheap rent and a diverse neighborhood. A stroll through the neighborhood reveals community gardens, intricate tree houses, backyards crammed with solar panels, murals and vibrant colors.

Whiteaker also has ethnic restaurants galore, most notably a variety of Mexican options and a Thai restaurant. Sam Bond's Garage and the Tiny Tavern are cornerstones of the Eugene music scene, and the Red Barn provides a thorough selection and moderate pricing for a smaller natural foods store.

The Willamette River borders this neighborhood from the north, providing a tranquil respite for the city-weary.

"The Whiteaker is more culturally diverse than other Eugene neighborhoods," Spanish major Jonathan Bilenki said.

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