

In face of first-year denial, it turns out some change is good

I can't remember a time when I didn't know I'd be college-bound after my senior year of high school. While I wanted to attend college, my internal attitude about post-secondary education — the idea that college was a requirement, not a privilege — led me to make the assumption that college would be an extension of high school, another step I had to take before beginning my real life. Relatives and friends assured me of the life changing experiences I'd have, but I quietly blew off their enthusiasm. I was going to college to take courses and get a degree. I didn't sign up for any life changes.

Year one. Fifteen hundred miles from home, I was given but one housing choice: the residence halls. As an only child, I struggled with dorm life, which I believed was a collective effort between the University and my parents to force me to live in a specially tailored hell with the most irritating, idiotic, drunken 19-year-olds that could be found. Luckily my roommate and I shared similar feelings about our neighbors and together we managed to avoid every required dorm function. She transferred after the first term. I made no friends in the hall and as a result, I started the next fall in a deceptively nice-looking quad complex on the south side.

My second year, my grades reflected major troubles, and I changed my

path. Sharing cramped facilities forced me to connect with my quadmates and by chance, one of them became my main squeeze: the man I will probably marry one day. College was getting more interactive than I'd expected. That summer, I got a local job instead of going back to my hometown. My partner and I moved from the quads into a real apartment. I'd begun to take charge of my real life.

My third year, I changed my major again. Then my senior year I took on a second job, looking to involve myself in work more closely related to my future career. We got a cat: a cuddly little ball of responsibility. I sold a car I'd owned for seven years — a car that meant more to me than I thought any object could. I got a

small and discretely placed tattoo in memorial. I was accepted to a graduate school closer to my home.

As I graduate, I'm thankful for the opportunity and support my parents and grandparents have given me in this endeavor. They encouraged me through success, disappointment and difficult choices. My boyfriend's family also needs thanks — they opened their home and hearts to me because my family is so far away. Anticipating graduate school and a new home, I'm excited to become involved in course work, research and the community. I will move on, and I will keep living.




ADRIENNE NELSON
404 NOT FOUND

Congratulations Grads! Come celebrate with us



- Full liquor bar
- Pool table
- Video games
- Orders to go
- Big screen TVs with satellites
- Full menu till close



349-0707
115 Commons, Eugene
11am-2:30am

DAILY EMERALD | Monday, June 6, 2005

Slothower: Missing Eugene landmarks — in moderation

Continued from page 19B

personally, the past four years have been about as real as I could handle. In days I'll move 1,200 miles to Durango, Colo., a gorgeous mountain paradise filled with attractive, well-educated young people like myself. There I will continue to see what I can do with language and information while paying off an absurd amount

of student debt.

I'll miss Mac Court, Espresso Roma, college parties and foosball. I'll miss Eugene's burnt-out hippies and dreamers.

In high school, a wise teacher delivered a solid but clichéd piece of advice for college: "Everything in moderation." To this, I would add, "including moderation."

Keep on rockin' in the free world.

Lane County's *Hottest* Gentlemen's Club!

Newly Remodeled!



Home of the
\$4.50
Steak Platter


Receive a free
stage dance on
your birthday!



THE Brick House
136 4th. St. Springfield
Gentlemen's Club

GREAT FOOD, NIGHT LIFE & POOL TABLES.
EVEN YOUR PARENTS WILL LIKE IT.

*tuck in
for your graduation.*



COMFORT CUISINE

TAKING RESERVATIONS
FOR GRADUATION CELEBRATIONS

LUNCH M-F 11AM-3 PM
DINNER M-SAT. 5 PM-10 PM
LATE NIGHT MENU 10 PM-LATE

959 PEARL STREET • DOWNTOWN EUGENE
541.393.0158

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER.

Student Groups! Advertise in the Emerald call 346-4343 or place your ad online at www.dailyemerald.com