

Forget the academics

# Learning the practical side of love

By Eric Bottjer  
Of the Emerald

Brian Nelson-Munson says loving is easy.

"Almost everything we do in one way or another revolves around love," says the Methodist pastor who has been involved in campus ministry for the past five years.

After counseling at the Wesley Center since last June, Nelson-Munson started teaching "Love: A Practical Course" at the center this spring.

"This is a class for people who are less interested in an academic study of love and more interested in a how-to exploration on how to be a more loving person. I'm not out to do an intellectual study on the concept of love," Nelson-Munson says.

The purpose of the class is to help people develop their ability to love, he says. Nelson-Munson says he encourages active participation from his students. "It quickly becomes an issue where we are working with each other and giving each other feedback."

Nelson-Munson says the key in developing loving relationships is being able to love yourself. "One of the major obstacles in developing our ability to love is the difficulty we have loving ourselves. If you can't love yourself, you're going to have a hard time loving someone else," he says.

At each class session, Nelson-Munson has each student share three unique, loving things about themselves. He says this helps the students increase their self-love.

The only cost of this non-credit course, Nelson-Munson says, is "that people have to risk themselves in loving relationships."

The hour-long class meets Wednesdays at 5 p.m. during spring term and is open

to anyone who wishes to attend.

Although there is no midterm or final, students have a "love project," in which they must choose someone, preferably outside of class, with whom to learn how to develop a loving relationship. "It can be a romantic relationship, and on the other hand, it can be a relationship with someone you have a difficult time getting along with," Nelson-Munson says.

Nelson-Munson advises his students to concentrate on the practical aspects of caring for a person. "You have to ask yourself what are their needs, likes and dislikes," he says. The subjects of his students' love projects remain anonymous to Nelson-Munson.

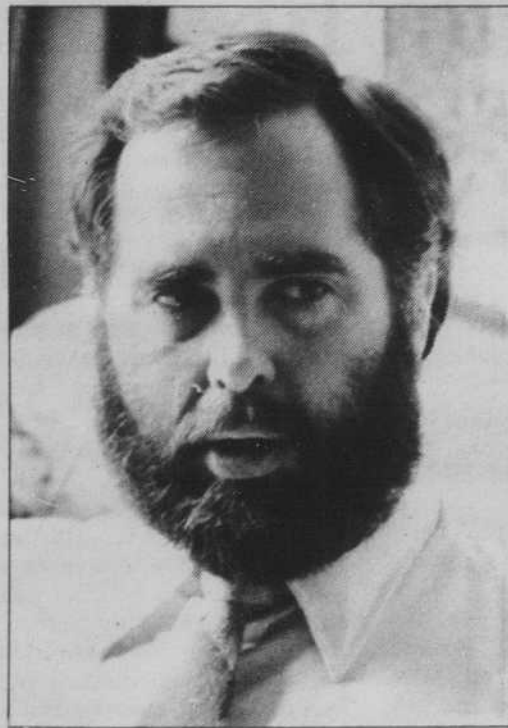
To start each session, Nelson-Munson has his students discuss the progress of their love projects and talk about their loving experiences of the week with one another. He also has his students read from and discuss Leo Buscaglia's best-selling book titled "Love."

Nelson-Munson's students agree about why they joined the class. "We're all just trying to understand more about love," says Shane Penney, 29. "I joined the class because I lacked an awareness of what love is," he says.

Laura Bartholomew, 20, says the discussion format of the class helps students express their love. "Everybody is willing to admit love is important, but no one is willing to discuss it. Love is something you have to learn about like everything else," she says.

Nelson-Munson says a couple of his students have requested that the course be offered for credit next year, but that would require approval from a University department or school.

"I may pursue that with one of the departments over the summer," he says.



Brian Nelson-Munson

"But I'm not sure this is the type of class that would fit as an academic study."

Because there was such a positive response to the course, Nelson-Munson says next year he intends to go into greater detail dividing the course into a three-term series.

"I plan to teach students about three different types of love: loving ourselves, loving God or a higher power, and loving others," he says.

Although Nelson-Munson is a pastor, he emphasizes that teaching is his sole purpose during the course. "I do my preaching on Sunday," he says with a smile.

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## departments update

### Scholarships

The University's business school received \$5,000 from the Western Association of Food Chains, Inc. for scholarships to students interested in a career in the food industry.

Cyril Green, president of Fred Meyer, Inc., presented a check for the gift on behalf of the WAFC board of directors to James Reinmuth, University business school dean.

"The support which has been provided over the past two years by the WAFC has given important assistance to students involved in continuing their programs of study in the College of Business Administration," Reinmuth says.

The grant is expected to provide five \$1,000 scholarships during the 1985-86 school year.

### Law School awards

Former law Professors Ken-

neth O'Connell and Lois Inman Baker will receive Meritorious Service Awards for 1985 during the school's commencement Sunday at the Hult Center.

O'Connell, law professor from 1935-1958 and Oregon Supreme Court chief justice from 1970-76 has served the state as chair of the Statute Revision Council, vice chair of the Constitutional Revision Commission, member of the Governor's Commission on Judicial Reform and chair of Oregon's Rhodes Scholarship Committee.

Derrick Bell, Law School dean, says O'Connell was especially interested in the law and its effect on people during his tenure as professor at the Law School.

Baker, former law librarian, served at the school from 1936-1968.

Baker was responsible for building the foundation upon which the current Law Library collection stands, allowing it to

be the premiere law library in Oregon, Bell says.

### Computer gift

The University business school will receive a gift of \$260,000 worth of microcomputers from the Hewlett-Packard Co., according to an announcement Monday by University and company officials.

The new computers will make the business school one of the most computerized business programs in the Northwest, says

James Reinmuth, University business school dean.

The 75 portable and six desktop, state-of-the-art computers will support faculty research as well as the college's executive management programs, says Jerry Fisher, director of public affairs for Hewlett-Packard in Corvallis.

The equipment, including printers, plotters and software, is expected to be received and installed beginning in May.

Compiled by Kirsten Bolin

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