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Long lost love

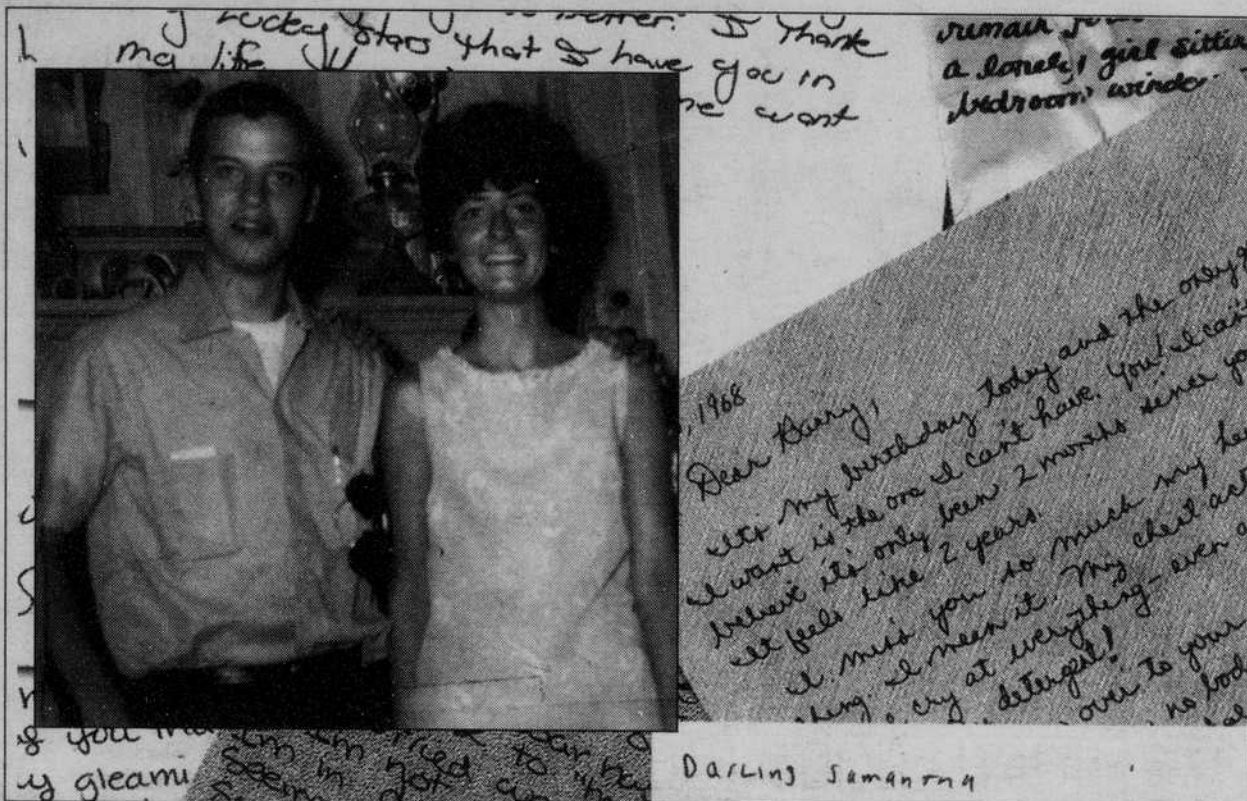


photo courtesy Marge Vinton, photo illustration Emerald

Steve Hesse, a Vietnam veteran, and Marge Vinton, a UO employee, reunited after more than 35 years apart.

Love's second chance

UO employee Marge Vinton reunites with her long lost love, a Vietnam veteran whom she met through letter correspondence

Jennifer Bear
Campus/Federal Politics Reporter

For many people, Valentine's Day signifies nothing more than a commercialized attempt to push people into buying cards, candy, flowers and jewelry. It's more about spending money than honoring love, and the sullied sentimental significance of the holiday has left many people asking the question: Where has all the romance gone?

For Marge Vinton, student records specialist in the Office of the Registrar, the answer is Connecticut. Steve Hesse, the man she fell in love with more than 35 years ago has unexpectedly come back into her life — and today, they are celebrating their first Valentine's Day together. "Even though all that time has passed, it's like we never missed a beat,"

Vinton said.

The beginning of Vinton and Hesse's love story goes all the way back to the tumultuous 1960s, when Vinton was 19 years old and decided on a whim to join the ranks of other American girls across the country and write to a soldier in Vietnam.

Hesse was in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at Ton Son Nhut Air Base, just outside of Saigon. He was working in the mailroom and handled incoming mail and goods sent to soldiers in that part of Vietnam. When the mailroom was flooded with letters addressed to "any soldier" from girls back in the United States, he chose Vinton's letter for himself.

"I remember receiving her picture one day and wondering why such a beautiful young woman was taking the time from her life to write to me," Hesse said.

Vinton and Hesse grew closer through their long correspondence, and they wrote to each other every day that he was away. Even though they had

never met in person, Vinton and Hesse fell deeply in love.

"I was attracted to her because her letters were very sensitive and caring," Hesse said. "She had a way of inspiring me and placing me on a pedestal."

After returning from the war, Hesse stole what little time he could to stay with Vinton, who then lived in California. But soon, he had to return home to Connecticut and see his family before reporting to his next assignment in Delaware.

Vinton and Hesse wrote to each other for a little while after he left her in California, but life got in the way for both of them, and after a few years their stream of letters slowed to a trickle.

Vinton never forgot Hesse, and after many years she was able to find him through phone calls and the help of the Internet. But she was afraid to reach out — her fear was that Hesse had moved on with his life.

In fact, Hesse was married and had two sons. However, his 27-year

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PFC recalls two groups for budgets

The Oregon Daily Emerald and Career Center will have hearings on Monday; PFC approved the budgets of four recalled groups Thursday

Brook Reinhard
News Editor

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee recalled two student groups' budgets at its Thursday meeting. The PFC will hear the Oregon Daily Emerald's and Career Center's budgets at 5 p.m. Monday. However, PFC did not vote to discuss recalls before it began discussing and voting on them.

"I just realized we didn't vote to bring up recalls yet," PFC chairwoman Kate Shull said while the committee discussed the process after the votes. Members discussed the recall decision in detail because PFC had not previously formulated any guidelines in its bylaws that dictated how recalls could take place.

Also at Thursday's meeting, the committee heard recalls for

Turn to **PFC**, page 6

Wyden pushes use of Title IX as guideline

Title IX prohibits gender-based discrimination; Wyden pushes its use as a guide for hiring and scholarships

Andrew Black
Environment/Science/Technology

College science and college sports have a lot in common: They are number games, require good chemistry and can be broken down into averages, rates and percentages.

But while more than 110,000 women compete in intercollegiate sports, some lawmakers feel women aren't getting equal playing time in science classrooms and laboratories across the nation.

This week, University computer and information science Professor Jan Cuny met with staff members of U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., to discuss how to give women who are pursuing careers in science the same opportunities as those who play sports.

According to a letter signed by Cuny and more than 200 of the nation's top science, math and engineering educators, women are "grossly underrepresented" in the fields of math, science and engineering. Specifically, the letter said, women make up only 23 percent of physical scientists and 10 percent

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Center supports medical marijuana use

The Compassion Center offers cultivation classes, confidential consultations to patients

Aaron Shakra
Pulse Reporter

Nearly four years after the implementation of the Oregon Medical Marijuana Act, there are still few support services for OMMA patients in Eugene.

But the Compassion Center, a nonprofit corporation that opened in Eugene two years ago, is striving to create a "model organization" for the support of medical marijuana users that the rest of the state could follow.

The center offers many services to its members, including classes on cultivation of the plant, confidential consultation and assistance for patients registering with Oregon Health Services. An

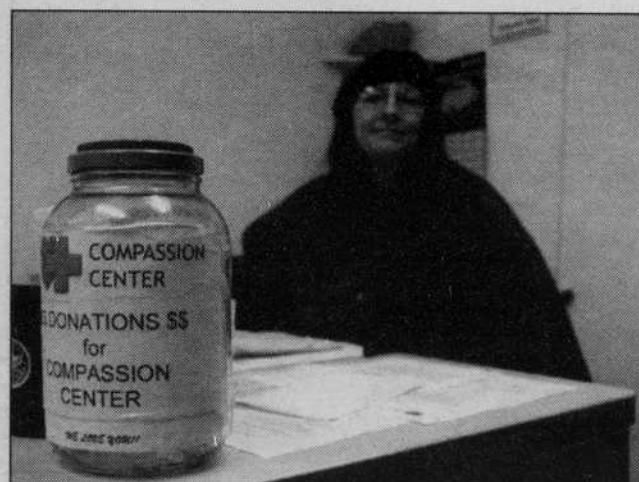
"introduction" night that provides a basic understanding of the OMMA takes place from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. the first Thursday of every month.

Teaching patients how to grow marijuana is especially important, because while Oregon allows possession and use of the drug for medical marijuana card-holders, it's still a crime to buy the substance.

The clinic, located at 1055 Bertelsen Road in Eugene, opened in December 2000. It is funded by donations, clinic revenue and membership dues. The center is also applying for non-profit status with the IRS, which will allow people to make tax-exempt donations.

Compassion Center President Todd Dalotto, who co-founded the organization, said he's pleased with the progress of the center during the last two years.

Turn to **Marijuana**, page 5



Steve McCauley for the Emerald

Corrine (who would not give her last name) is the receptionist at the Compassion Center, which opened in Eugene two years ago.

WEATHER

Today: High 52, Low 35, morning drizzle, light rain

Saturday: High 52, Low 42, rain at times, light winds

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday

The movement to slow athletic growth is well under way — and it all started at the University

Tuesday

NYU Professor Judith Helfand brings to campus "Blue Vinyl," a toxic comedy for the whole family