

Pulse Editor:
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Pulse Relax

On Thursday
It's queer, it's here:
The UO Cultural
Forum's Queer
Film Festival



Tuesday, February 18, 2003

Stingy boyfriend needs to prioritize, let soulmate fly to personal growth

Dear Nat: My boyfriend is so stingy! We always split the bill at dinner, even on special occasions, and he never buys gifts for me. Yet he spoils himself rotten! (CDs, DVDs, clothes, books, you name it.) I'm at my wit's end. Help!

— **Stuck with a Cheapskate**

Dear Stuck: Do you like cheap men? No. Is this man cheap? Yes. Can you change him?

You can try until you're blue in the face. Have an extra generous friend explain to him that treating a girlfriend as if she is less important than a stack of DVDs is not cool. Then sit him down for your own testimony. Tell him how low you feel knowing you're in competition with his luxurious collectibles. No results? Refer to the questions listed above. Then, remember that love has a return policy: Spoil yourself for a change and exchange your boyfriend for a new model, satisfaction guaranteed.

Dear Nat: My girlfriend of a year is planning to study abroad in Spain for all of next year (our junior year). I'm really freaked. I think she's my soulmate, and the distance might kill our relationship! What can I do to keep her?

— **Long Distance Jitters**

Dear Long Distance: First of all, I think your girlfriend has a pretty cool academic plan and very ambitious career goals. She's not in school to become a "Mrs." In other words, walking off a plane into a foreign country is much higher on her to-do list than walking down the aisle in a poufy white dress, which is how it should be!

So why is there so much emphasis on commitment and future in your brain? Freaking out could lead you to a year of moping in your bedroom over tear-stained photos of your girl, while she's traipsing around Spain having the time of her life. Is that what you want? I didn't think so. When her plane departs, have your own time of your life in good old Oregon. Go out with friends. Begin new hobbies. Take full advantage of the extra time on your hands.

I suggest the two of you agree on a dating policy while she's gone, be it a green light to date others casually or a vow to remain exclusive. But regardless of your choice, if someone better comes along for either of you, so be it. During the college years, twists and turns are always around the corner. But remember, if your love for each other is meant to be, nothing, not even time and miles, can tear it apart.

Dear Nat: I recently had what I thought would be a date with this cute guy. When we arrived at the restaurant, he took out his Bible and began preaching that I needed to be saved! I'm Christian, just not as fanatical as he is. I was so offended. I see this guy all the time in school — how do I deal with him?

— **So-called Sinner**

Dear Sinner: How about bringing a Feng Shui book to class and preaching to him about rearranging his house?

Just kidding. But really, your beliefs are yours and his are his. Pressuring someone to change should not be part of the formula for any kind of relationship. I find his actions very rude and intrusive. So what if you have class with this guy? No one's saying you have to be buddy-buddy with him. Be nice, polite and civil. Respect his point of view and, hopefully, he will learn to respect yours.



Natasha Chilingirian
Ask Nat

Words of wisdom

Poet Maya Angelou comes to McArthur Court Feb. 23 to read poetry and discuss issues such as literacy, race and gender

Ryan Bornheimer
Senior Pulse Reporter

The unmistakable voice. The powerful words. One line of verse uttered from her legendary lips and people listen.

This is Maya Angelou. The renowned poet, author and speaker will appear at McArthur Court at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23.

Angelou will read poetry and discuss issues of race, gender and literacy following a performance by the UO Gospel Ensemble. She will also recite works by famed poet Langston Hughes.

This event, produced by the UO Cultural Forum, marks Angelou's first appearance in Eugene in five years. Angelou spoke at the Hult Center in 1998, but her upcoming performance will be a first for the University.

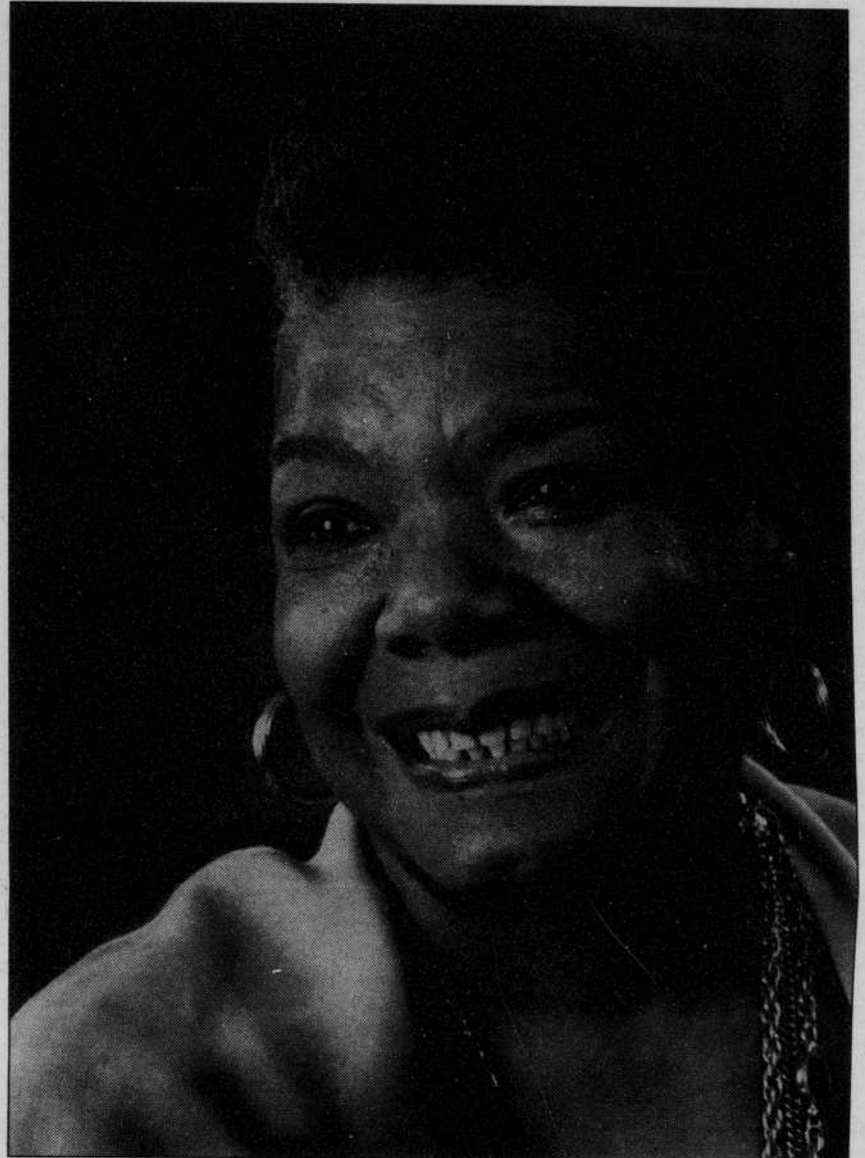
Cultural Forum Performing Arts Coordinator Windy Borman said the event gives students a unique opportunity to see this internationally celebrated artist and promises to be a thought-provoking evening for everyone.

"Her style of speaking is very accessible to poets and non-poets," Borman said.

English Professor Karen Ford, who is currently teaching an African American poetry course, said the appearance is a chance to see a truly riveting reader.

"She recites poems — hers and other poets' work — from memory, recites them movingly and dramatically," Ford said. "I've always appreciated her attention to making other poets visible even during her own readings."

Angelou published her first autobi-



Courtesy

ography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," in 1970 and became the first black author to hold a record for the longest run on the New York Times Paperback Nonfiction Bestseller list.

The book recounted Angelou's ex-

periences growing up in Arkansas and included reflections on her experiences with racism as well as the trauma of being raped at age eight by her

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Film exposes toxicity of synthetics



Danielle Hickey Emerald

Judith Helfand spoke Friday afternoon in Hendricks Hall about the effects past fertility drugs have had on women's bodies.

Judith Helfand's documentary 'Blue Vinyl' entices consumers and businesses to stop using toxic products such as PVC

Helen Schumacher
Pulse Reporter

Filmmaker Judith Helfand screened her documentary "Blue Vinyl" at the University last weekend as part of the "My House Is Your House" campaign, a consumer organizing and community education effort to increase awareness of vinyl's toxic implications.

The film portrays Helfand's quest to learn more about the vinyl siding her parents were putting on their home. After she was diagnosed with cervical cancer at 25 — a malady she said was caused by DES, a drug given to her mother while pregnant — Helfand became skeptical of any substance containing synthetic chemicals.

Helfand discovered the polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, used in vinyl siding has a toxic life cycle. PVC releases the carcinogen dioxin into the air during manufacturing and burning processes. People who work at the manufacturing plants or live near them are often exposed to unsafe dioxin levels.

Directed by Helfand and Daniel B. Gold, "Blue Vinyl" is the winner of several film festival awards including the Excellence in Cinematography in a documentary at the Sundance Film Festival in 2002. HBO also aired the film.

University assistant professor at the Center for Ecology

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Contact the columnist at natashachilingirian@dailyemerald.com. Her views do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald. Send questions to advice@dailyemerald.com.