

## HOLIDAY BRIEFS

**Free relationship checkups available this week**

The College of Education is offering free relationship counseling from noon to 8 p.m. on Feb. 12, 13 and 14 at the Center for Family Therapy, located at 720 E. 13th Ave., Suite 304.

The private sessions last up to one hour and are intended to help couples discuss strengths and areas for growth, according to promotional materials for the event.

The Center for Family Therapy is staffed with graduate interns from the College of Education's Marriage and Family Therapy program.

To schedule an appointment, call the Center for Family Therapy at 346-3296. Walk-ins are welcome.

**Romantic comedies now showing in EMU**

The International Resource Center is presenting a winter movie series entitled "Romantic Comedies." The series began on Jan. 9, and movies will be shown every Friday at 7 p.m. through March 12. This week's movie, "Chunhyang," is a rendition of a folk tale of two lovers separated by class, and it will be shown in Korean.

The movies are shown in languages including Danish, German, Mandarin and Hebrew. All showings are free, and popcorn is included. The IRC is located above the post



Tim Kupsick Freelance Photographer

International Student Association intern Remi Nagata, left, and public relations officer Georgia Mu hang a sign on the EMU on Monday advertising an ISA dance.

office in the EMU.

**Valentine's dance to be held on campus**

The International Student Association is hosting a Valentine's Day dance on Feb. 13 from 9 p.m. to midnight at Riley Hall. The music selection will range from dance hits to more "romantic" slow tunes. A University identification is required for this free event.

— Jennifer Sudick

## NEUMAN

continued from page 10B

expect it?

The problem is all pressure. You can try and fight Valentine's Day by swearing off the gifts, but on the 14th, even the strongest break down and buy a valentine. However, I have hope for the future that with the aid of this soapbox we might shake this holiday once and for all. You may laugh, but it has happened before (remember Columbus Day?) and it can happen again.

Today, I am declaring our independence from Valentine's Day and the newly documented psychological disorder Post-Romantic Stress Disorder (or PRSD).

For those of you who haven't heard, PRSD is a tragic disease characterized by palm-sweating nervousness, mass consumption of chocolates, flashes of red and pink in the peripheral vision, and the compulsion to make dinner reservations. What I am getting at is that we have rights.

First and foremost, we have the right to ignore Hallmark. Any company that sells you dancing snowmen one month and useless kissing bear figurines the next must have an ulterior motive (I'm betting they also own the company that makes those

cardboard boxes you shove into your attic filled with seasonal crap). A card, no matter how nice of a card, is still a poor excuse for true sentiment.

We have the right to avoid pink. Some people love pink; it looks good on them, it's stylish and it makes them look tan. I don't care. Pink should not be worn on Valentine's Day — it's garish and simple-minded. You're not in second grade anymore. It's time to put away those cutesy outfits. The same goes for those orange-and-black witch socks you pull out on Halloween, but that's a different column.

We have the right to eat normal-priced food on Valentine's Day. Just because you waited three hours for a \$15 dinner plate at Beppe & Gianni's Trattoria does not mean that you had a good time. Price does not always equal romance.

And finally, we have the right to feel loved without vesting a certain day with phony romantic overtones — come this Valentine's Day, if you have a valentine, just let them know that they are loved and maybe get them a box of those chalky heart candies.

Nuff said.

Steven Neuman is a freelance reporter for the Emerald. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

## SHAKRA

continued from page 10B

division that has gotten the human race into this predicament we're in, with our dropping bombs and spying, with pornography, prostitution and rape still commonplace. Our society's concept of "love" too frequently revolves around the objectification of another. This is unhealthy; it promotes a disconnect and allows for dominance over another because after all, we don't love them. What we pay attention to determines what we ignore. All the more extreme with love. We love this but not that. This dominance is not love; it's a fashion.

Still, lonely on Valentine's Day is a tough place to be. Having been there before, probably having a thought literally along the lines of, "A Valentine's Day without someone to cover with kisses?" I can say it's

difficult. However, this problem begins to dissolve when we start to love all beings, living and non-living, unconditionally. In the past, I have fallen under the spell of many of the previous notions of love I just mentioned. Therefore, it is actually quite difficult to be able to say "I love unconditionally." But this is what I'm trying for.

Let's sow our seeds for peace on this Valentine's Day, and keep remembering the simple things. If we can eat, breathe and sleep comfortably, this is more than large portions of the world have. So let's stop focusing on the definition and the labels, and start cultivating a care and respect for our bodies and minds, and a mindfulness for all life in our actions.

Contact the Pulse editor at aaronshakra@dailymerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

International Student Association

presents....

February 13th, Friday

# Valentine's Dance

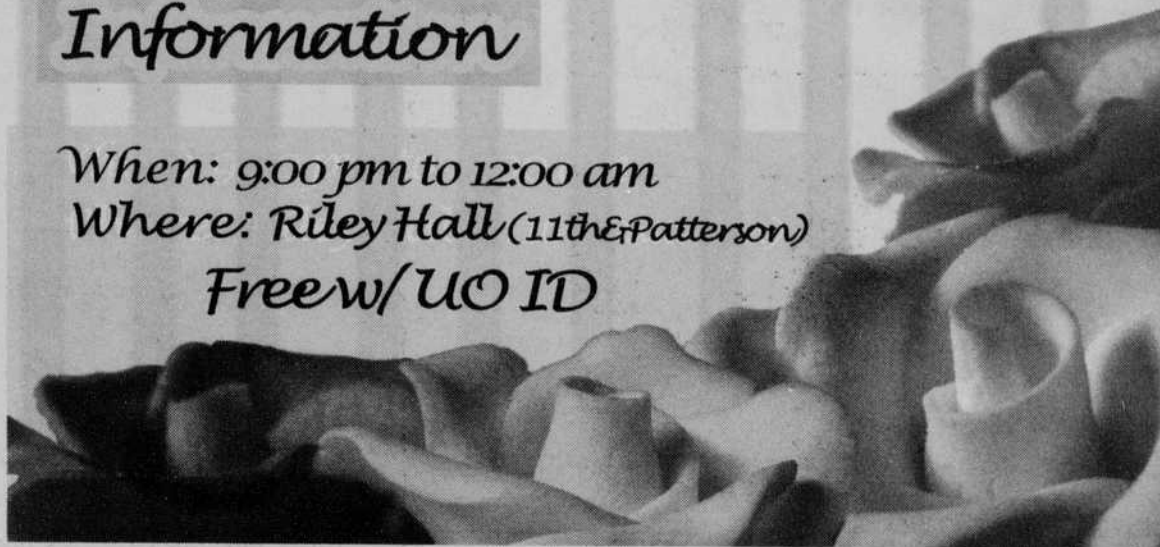
no date? who said you needed one?

## Information

When: 9:00 pm to 12:00 am

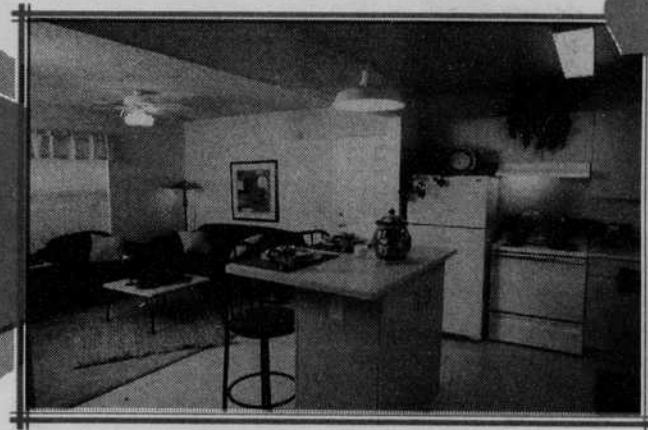
Where: Riley Hall (11th & Patterson)

Free w/ UO ID



Happy Valentine's Day!

THINK AHEAD...  
now leasing for '04-'05



1, 2, & 4 bedrooms  
Fully furnished

- Prices starting at \$335
- Individual leases
- Washer and dryer in every apt.
- Computer Lab
- Fully equipped kitchens
- Bus ride to campus
- Ample resident parking
- Monitored alarm system
- Roommate matching service
- Gameroom with fitness center
- Resort-like swimming pool
- Basketball & Volleyball courts

Come check us out!

www.universitycommons.com • Open MON-FRI 9 - 6 • SAT 10 - 4

We've got sports

24/7

at www.dailymerald.com