

TUMOR

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Heider stayed at a \$32-per-night motel for a week until she ran out of money. On the last day, she called her friend Angie Gass and told her she was going to have to start sleeping in her car and asked if she could move in with her.

Her friend was hesitant; afraid, just like Heider, that their friendship would dissolve behind a new "business" arrangement of splitting rent and utilities, Heider said.

For three nights Heider slept curled up in the back seat of her four-door sedan. Finally, Heider's friend let her move in — aware she had no other options — under the assumption that they were going to take it one day at a time.

Heider was relieved but apprehensive. She had a place to stay, but by moving into a tiny bedroom in her friend's house, she was giving up her privacy and felt like she was imposing on her friend.

"It seemed strange not to come over, eat ice cream and popcorn, visit and go home," Heider said. "I did all of that, and I stayed."

At the time, neither woman knew Heider was going to be staying awhile.

Moving to Eugene

In September 2003, the two women left the University's satellite campus in Bend and moved to Eugene to attend school at the University's main campus.

Her first evening here, in mid-September, Heider expected to sleep in her car because her apartment was not yet ready. She waited in her car in the University School of Music parking lot for darkness to descend when a woman left the school and walked across the parking lot.

Heider ushered her over and they

talked. The woman, shocked that Heider planned to sleep in her car, invited her to stay at her house for the night.

Heider accepted. Heider said she and the woman, School of Music Undergraduate Specialist Laurie Goren, are friends to this day.

The next day Heider, a practiced flutist of 35 years, went to the football game at Autzen Stadium to try out with the Oregon Marching Band. That's when she first met Todd Zimelman, director of the marching band.

"I remember meeting her for the first time and she was very, very sweet and very excited to be in the marching band program," Zimelman said. "She's really persevered through her physical limitations that she's having. She did have trouble marching and playing our difficult shows, but she always came to practice and she never gave up."

Heider played her flute so well that Zimelman invited her to attend the band's 14-day "boot camp." Since then, she has been a member of the marching band, which has played a meaningful role in her life.

Caring for a caregiver

Lately, Heider often finds herself getting up at 6 a.m., eating a bagel with Nutella on it and drinking a cup of strong coffee. She then turns on KEZI news and watches the weather and the headlines before taking a shower. She rushes out of the house, with her hair still wet, and goes to her temporary job taking care of an 81-year-old patient.

Heider is a caregiver.

"My job is to do the things that are difficult for her to do that I can do," Heider said. "I have a disability too, so I can't lift anything too heavy. I try to keep it a little low-key because of her condition, but you have to have that humor, and the smiling is really important. It's

therapeutic for me too."

Sometimes, the caregiver needs care of her own.

Because of her condition, Heider often wears bifocal glasses over bifocal contacts, but still suffers from blurry vision. Because she can't see well, she often trips over things around the house or runs into walls.

But there is a more serious side to Heider's condition.

Heider forgets things — often only basic routines, such as brushing her teeth or combing her hair, but sometimes important appointments. Heider's roommate helps her remember those things.

Heider doesn't always speak well, either. Sometimes she can't think of a word or phrase, or her speech or writing will come out in a garbled mess.

"I have this disability and (my roommate) knows how to work with it," Heider said. "(She) is one of these special people, and she's even more so because she took me in and she kind of knew what she was going to be dealing with."

Heider's roommate treats Heider like everyone else, not like a sick person, Heider said. If she doesn't have time to proof Heider's papers, she won't. If she doesn't have time to help her with something, she'll tell her so. But sometimes, her roommate will still come into Heider's room after she has gone to sleep, just to make sure she's all right.

Heider appreciates all of those things.

"I don't think just anybody could live like this," Heider said. "She proclaims that she's not a patient person, that she wants to do something and get it done. But she is patient, living with me."

Contact the people/culture/
faith reporter
at jaredpaben@dailyemerald.com.

CRIME WATCH

Thefts and recoveries

The Department of Public Safety received 12 found property reports, one report of a bike theft at Hamilton Complex, one report of a bike impound at Deschutes Hall and six reports of larceny: one at Klamath Hall, one at the Baker Downtown Center, one at the Knight Library, one at McKenzie Hall, one at the Knight Law Center and one off-campus.

Disorderly conduct

DPS received four reports of disorderly conduct, two reports of skateboard stunting, one report of an arrest, one report of criminal trespassing, four

reports of a suspicious condition, four reports of a suspicious subject and six reports of vandalism.

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2:27 p.m.: DPS received a report of harassing phone messages left for various professors.

Alcohol and drugs

DPS received one report of a drug law violation, four reports of liquor law violations, two reports of public drinking, one report of a minor in possession of alcohol, one report of furnishing alcohol to minors, one report of the odor of marijuana and two reports of possession of less than 1 ounce of marijuana.

Miscellaneous

DPS received seven emergency call reports, one miscellaneous report, one report of an odor of natural gas at Klamath Hall and three alarm reports. DPS also received one report of a vehicle break-in at Klamath Hall, one request for a car boot removal, two reports of car boots put on vehicles at H.P. Barnhart Hall and seven tow requests: one from the Friendly Hall parking lot, one from the visitor's parking lot, two from the Prince Lucien Campbell Hall parking lot, one from Gerlinger Hall, one from the Pacific Hall parking lot and one from the Emerald Street parking lot.

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