

Students of the Indian Subcontinent PRESENTS **UTSAV** 2005

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Juniors Alexis Saria and Paul Grillo enjoy a sunny Tuesday near the Millrace.

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Ignite some passion

Simple tricks and easy fun are often enough to bring lackluster love back to life

BY LAUREN WILSON
 DAILY EMERALD FREELANCE REPORTER

Tired of spending the weekends lying around, doing the same old thing? Even the greatest, most compatible relationships can use a little "resparking" once in a while.

Doing something completely new can help bring couples together. Go for a walk, a bike ride or a hike. If it's dark, try stargazing. It gives couples the opportunity to enjoy comfortable silence together.

"Relationships are a game of compromise," said Kelly Feeney, a 21-year-old student, who recently went ice-skating with her boyfriend. "He went because he knew I really wanted to, which really shows compromise."

Student Jeff Meakins, 22, and his girlfriend enjoy trying new sports together, such as tennis, golf and snowboarding. He is currently teaching her how to snowboard.

"She's never done it before, but she's learning for me," he said.

"A couple that plays together,



KATE HORTON | FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER
 Lane Community College juniors Ben McKechnie and Trish Brazil make dinner at Brazil's house Jan. 31.

stays together," author Melina Gerosa Bellows writes in her book "The Fun Book for Couples: 102 Ways to Celebrate Love." It suggests ways for couples to enjoy their relationships through a variety of activities, from simple gestures to romantic evenings.

Student Jessi Morgan, 20, and her

boyfriend go to Alton Baker Park to feed ducks. Morgan said the two like to have fun and don't worry about acting serious or emotional.

"Acting like kids is what we do best," she said.

Planning a weekend getaway is a great way to spark a relationship and provides quality alone time. The mountains and the coast are both accessible from Eugene. At the beach, try flying a kite, building a sand castle or renting a tandem bicycle. In the mountains, snowshoe, build a snowman or visit the hot springs.

Feeney and her boyfriend go to Portland for the day just to shop.

For a new twist on a date night, try planning an evening in. Put your comfortable clothes on, order take-out and snuggle up in front of a good movie.

"We cook for each other, which makes it really fun," Morgan said.

Skipping the restaurant scene allows couples to be at home and comfortable, and it is easier on the budget. Whipping up something creative or fancy can provide some laughs.

"Fun does not need to be extravagant," Bellows said.

Feeney said she appreciates random acts of kindness no matter how

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Oregon Daily Emerald

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