

Student Operated Co-Op Store Offers Rebate, Variety of Goods

From baby powder to "Rosemary's Baby" and from school mugs to giant mug shots of student "idols"—the University Co-operative Store has a bigger and more varied line of merchandise this year to serve the University community and the city of Eugene.

Owned and run by University students, the Co-op is housed in a two-story building on the corner of 13th and Kincaid. It is open six days a week.

The Co-op has made two major policy changes in the last year.

The Co-op is now buying back paperbacks costing over \$1.95. Formerly they only bought hardbound texts.

And in April, the Co-op was placed under the Conduct Code.

Persons caught shoplifting had been referred before to the city district attorney's office. Shoplifting in Oregon is a felony.

Because store officials and many people in the University community felt the penalty was too severe and because the Co-op is a part of University life, the Conduct Committee voted to place the Co-op under the code in April.

35 Caught

Keith Nastiuk, assistant manager of the store, said since Feb. 1, 35 shoplifters have been caught. Most of the offenders who went to student court were given probationary discipline for various amounts of time.

"There seems to have been no appreciable difference in the amount of shoplifters since the new system has been instituted," Nastiuk said.

He said a loss of over \$25,000 was incurred from shoplifting last year.

The Co-op provides services such as check cashing, package wrapping, a notary public (which is free), and typewriter rentals.

In addition, it gives six scholarships every year to foreign students and prizes to the annual library contest.

Store Divided

The store is divided into two areas. Art supplies, household items, notions, magazines, records, gift items and a wide variety of other everyday merchandise are sold on the bottom floor.

"We are always updating our merchandise and have just brought in a new line of gift items to keep in step with what the students want to buy," Nastiuk said.

The upper floor is devoted to textbooks which are ordered for classes and trade books. Construction during summer expanded the textbook area to reduce congestion during the first weeks of school.

Textbooks grossed the store \$1.4 million last year. And they have 15,000 titles in trade and reference books, making them the largest seller of trade books in the state.

"With an intellectual commu-

nity like Eugene, the bookstore becomes a service to the whole city," Nastiuk said.

He said many townspeople have the misconception that the bookstore can be patronized only by University students and faculty.

However, the Co-op is a privately owned, competitive store which has no University control. It is one of the few student bookstores in the nation which owns both the building and the land it is on.

A board of directors composed of five students and two faculty members govern the store.

Any student can become "part owner" of the Co-op by paying a 50 cent membership fee. The fee entitles the student to turn in their Co-op receipts at the end of the academ-

ic year and receive a rebate. The amount of the rebate depends upon how well sales have gone for the year.

The amount for the past 10 years has been 10 per cent of the total dollar value of receipts turned in.

Nastiuk had some suggestions for students on how to better utilize the store.

He encourages students to wait until they are enrolled in a class before they get the textbooks.

He also hopes that students will use the check clearing tables to clear checks and decrease delay at the cash registers.

Two new employees have been hired, one person to circulate on each floor and answer questions.



Photo by Lew Melson

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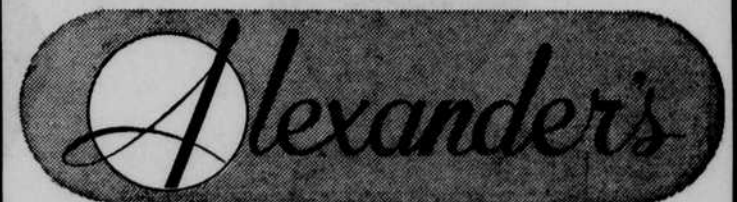
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