

Commission gives two human rights awards

By PETER MEAD
Of the Emerald

"To me, everything in life is human rights...to respect the human person. I don't know what people mean when they say 'human rights.'"

Whether she understands that phrase or not, University housing department employee Hilda Young lives it.

Eugene's Human Rights Commission recently named Young and the Gray Panthers as winners of the Ruth Hopkins Award. They were chosen as the individual and the organization making outstanding efforts to further human rights in Eugene in 1975.

The city chose the winners for their activities in human rights, also considering the number of people recommending them for the award.

Ron Wyden of the Gray Panthers said the group is "particularly concerned with corporate power" that diminishes the rights and privileges of individuals.

"We're interested in passing tough consumer legislation," Wyden said, "to help both the old and the young on fixed incomes to get their money's worth within the marketplace." Young was honored for her labors to uphold equal pay for equal work at the University, and for her "multi-cultural" approach to community organizations.

"We all get caught in the trap of not respecting another person sometimes," she said. More than simple respect, she says, it is a "a very deep respectful feeling for various colors and cultures" that ties a group of people into a community.

That attitude has leavened the Laurel Hill Valley Neighbors, east Eugene, of which Young is a member. Though the group encompasses college professors, blue collar

workers, the elderly and the unemployed, it has pulled together, she says.

"It's really exciting to work with them and find each person adds in a special way that makes up the uniqueness of the neighborhood," Young said.

Many from Laurel Hill recommended Young for the



Drawing by JoAnn Fahlgren

award. Many of the University housing department's women custodial workers also called or wrote to the city to recommend Young.

In fall 1974, after a two-year battle with the University, more than 40 women working for the housing department as housekeepers were awarded the higher pay classification of "custodial worker." The state settled the case out of court, giving the women and a few men the higher classification and two years of back pay at the higher rate.

The state is holding the money in a special account, however, until the Supreme Court rules on the constitutionality of a provision in the Fair Labor Standards Act under which the state was induced to pay.

"We'd struggle, and she'd give us advice," said Betty Wilson, one of the housekeepers whom Young said led in the effort. "We do, as a whole, feel she was instrumental," Wilson said.

"I've been keeping up with the literature in the area," Young said. "Part of it is in knowing where they should put the most pressure to get the grievance rectified. Many agencies will give lip service to equal pay for equal work, but not come through."

During the struggle, Young was the director of Bean dormitory complex on campus. Though she still receives the same salary, she is now an assistant to the housing director, working on a survey of dormitory residents' attitudes on their living conditions.

"Basically, my job before was working with people," she said. Her new job isolates her, she said.

"There's no way to say that this is a penalty position for me," Young said, "although they know and I know it is."

"There's no question that when you take a committed stand, there's a price to pay," she said. "The neat thing is that when you get caught up in things like that, you get to experience more grace from God."

Trojan expected to increase output

RAINIER, Ore. (AP) — The Trojan nuclear power plant is expected to operate at 75 per cent of its power generating capacity late next week, Portland General Electric Co. officials said Wednesday.

An electrical wiring error automatically shut down the nuclear reactor last Sunday as the plant was going to 75 per cent power, said Don Broehl, PGE's manager of nuclear projects. He said the plant was at

about 60 per cent of power when an incorrectly wired circuit caused the reactor to shut down. The plant has been tested as satisfactory at 50 per cent of capacity.

Plant Supt. Chuck Goodwin said that so far there have been fewer interruptions during testing to correct problems at Trojan than at other plants he is aware of. Goodwin helped supervise startup of a nuclear plant in Southern California in 1967.

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