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Matchmaker pairs Eugene's lonelies

\$150 a mate, or money back

By JOCK HATFIELD
Of the Emerald

Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match. She sits among red Victorian chairs, green ferns and portraits of Christ, matching little cards and small photographs.

The fat with the fat. The ugly with the ugly. The short with the short. Voila, marital bliss. For 19 years Grace Henderson has been Eugene's matchmaker, playing gin rummy with personalities.

Henderson had originally intended to open an unemployment office. But she soon found that Eugene residents had work and what they needed was a personal life. They wanted a home complete with all the extras: spouse, paper towels and pattering feet, but they had no place to buy it. They needed a social entrepreneur, a paid matchmaker.

"Security, family, that's what they want," says Henderson, who now operates out of a large old home at 1117 W. 11th Ave.

"They don't want to run

around like chickens with their heads cut off."

For a \$150 money-back guarantee, Henderson brings together the lonelies.

Talkative and a little nervous at 64, Henderson will recite the names and problems of her 1,000 clients on request. Odors of rose water, grandmother, and dust envelop her as she shuffles spasmodically through her stock — 1,000 children to be married off.

"This woman here isn't much to look at, but Lord knows her heart is as big as the moon," says Henderson, showing forward a woman's photograph. "Isn't she a dear?"

"Here's an old man, he's toothless."

Henderson can find something salable in almost every client: a hobby, a face, money. But there are those she gives up as a lost cause — for example, fat women. She refuses to accept a fat woman unless she has a fat man in stock.

"Jiminy crickets," she explains, "men won't take them when they're fat."

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Matchmaker Grace Henderson peeks out at passersby from her home and office at 1117 W. 11th St. For 19 years she has brought lonely people together for a fee — but with a money-back guarantee. All sorts of people seek the service, Henderson says, and she now has a thousand clients from all over the country. She also believes everyone should be married and is always on the lookout for new customers.

Photo by Erich Boekelheide

Survey respondents rank Skylight high, Fishbowl low

By CAROLYN BEAVER
Of the Emerald

Responses on the EMU survey issued last week varied from "I quite like the place" to "the architect who designed the new addition should be shot for incompetence," according to a report from the EMU Administrative Office.

EMU Director Adell McMillan said the survey was an opinion poll only, not a scientific survey. McMillan expected only 400 to 500 responses and was pleasantly surprised to find 1,060 people had answered.

"We were impressed with the thoughtfulness of the responses," she said.

The survey was split into five sections: respondent status, EMU services used in the past year, commercial services used in the last year, ratings for various EMU services and suggestions and comments.

Cafeteria users ranked first in EMU-operated services with 82.8 percent reporting use in the last year. The Fishbowl was a close second with 81.5 percent followed by the Skylight with 75.5 percent usage.

Of the three commercial services listed, the Post Office came in first. Eighty-six per-

cent patronized the Post Office, 61.7 percent indulged at Baskin-Robbins and only 8.7 percent visited Hair Today.

The Skylight rated highest among the four EMU food service operations but the comments section didn't reflect the 48 percent above average quality vote. Suggestions for the Skylight included a desire for longer operating hours, better lighting and a way to discourage students from using the facility during the noon hour.

EMU Board Chairer Dusty Rhodes said although the Skylight is the most popular place in the EMU, "people should not be studying there during food service hours." The Board plans to distribute signs asking people not to do so. Also, said Rhodes, "people should share tables and booths. Often there's only one person in a four to six person booth."

As for the poor lighting, McMillan said last year a student committee devised ways to cut energy consumption, and Skylight "fluorescent lighting was removed as an energy saver. The request for more lighting goes in direct opposition" to that plan.

Even though there is "not enough study area in the building, the Union was not essentially built as a place to study," said

McMillan. Plans to accommodate more students are in the discussion stage now, she said.

McMillan said, "We're looking into what it would cost to open the cafeteria dining room in the evening." She said it's a good place to study because music is not piped in and the lighting is very good. "We've just gotten into the habit of closing because there's no food service in the evening," she continued.

EMU staffers categorized and sent the comments to individual decision makers. Food service comments were sent to James Covington, food service director and Kari Leitz, EMU foods service committee member.

Respondents voted the Fishbowl the least acceptable eating area, both in quality and prices. Covington agreed, and said almost "anything (complaint) about the Fishbowl is valid."

"Most of the things," complained about, "have been tried before. They haven't provided services for enough people and financially it's been a disaster," said Covington.

One suggestion Covington and the food service committees may act on is establish-

ing a coffee shop-type atmosphere in the Skylight. This might mean the Skylight would open earlier and serve pastries and a blended coffee.

Covington said "practically all (the complaints) are legitimate. We just try to provide the best services we can for the majority of students at the best price we can."

McMillan said the surveys will be a valuable "resource in decision making. We'll have a better feeling for the things people are concerned about."

Overall, McMillan said she was surprised at the student's conservatism. Many people asked for more rules and regulations concerning the EMU. One person asked for more control over the type of activities.

"Today I was peacefully eating my lunch when a giant egg came running by screaming and blowing an ear-piercing whistle. She was being pursued no less by a giant sperm. Honest! They come right by my table! Had this occurred at any other eating establishment I'm sure the culprits would have been prevented from continuing their demonstration, however, about an hour later I was studying and the same thing occurred again. Are there no rules on this campus?"