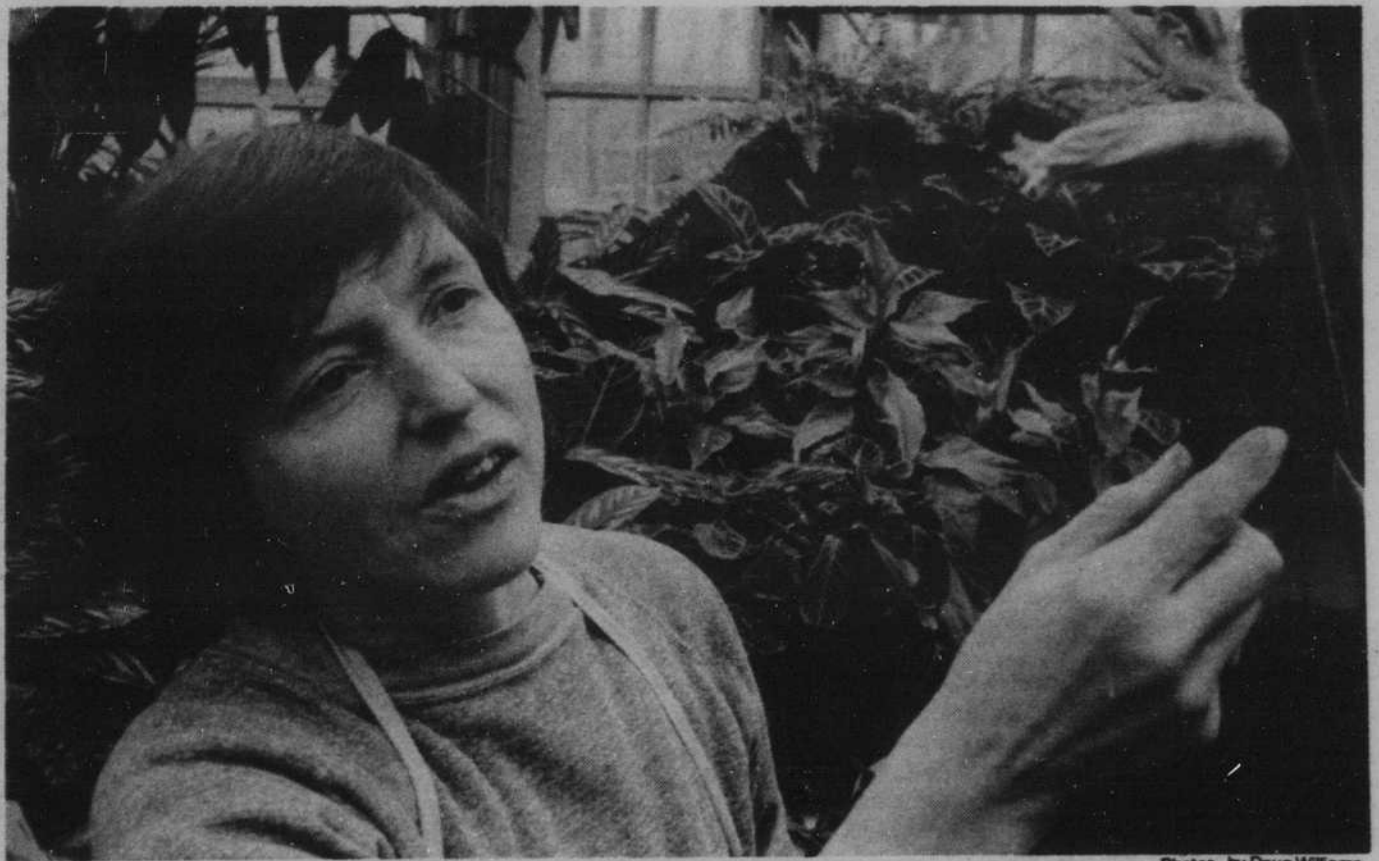


# Plants in profusion



Evelyn Hess supervises her plants with loving care.

Photos by Doug Williams

By ROBERT SCHEYER  
Of the Emerald

In the underbrush of winter's gloom and University activity lies a hidden sanctuary of floral beauty. Two University greenhouses, one on the fourth floor of Science I and the other in back of the ceramics-sculpture buildings across the Millrace, supply biology students and staff with stunning examples of plant families.

Biology students tour the greenhouses to learn about plant evolution, reproduction and classification. Faculty members use the large plant assortment to study genetics, habitat and to give demonstrations.

Evelyn Hess, plant supervisor, takes care of about 200 different plant species in the greenhouses.

"The professors give me vary-

ing degrees of instructions (for plant growth), but I do most of the upkeep myself," Hess says.

Hess graduated from the University in landscape architecture and developed her plant-mothering abilities by working in commercial greenhouses and by "acres of reading."

She talks to the plants but says, "It is more important that I listen to them. Plants can tell you a lot about their feelings."

The hot one-third of the 3,000 square feet Millrace greenhouse is devoted to raising tall tobacco plants, different strains of corn, a dwarf banana tree and bushy tree ferns. Unusual plants in the southern section include an elephant's foot plant, an African milkbush, a mistletoe fig tree, living stones, split rocks and a leafy cactus.

She keeps the middle section of the greenhouse at a moderate temperature (70 degrees day, 60 degrees night) for such plants as a small lemon tree, a flattened out monkey-puzzle tree, a variety of fragrant orchids, a tropical Hawaiian Ti plant, a twisting snake plant and a whistling acacia.

The cool northern section contains a strain of millet under study for grain production. Large hollow red tubes called pitcher plants are insectivorous (insect eating) and are being studied for the clever way mosquitoes lay their eggs at the bottom of the tube. A variety of ferns grow in the north section, the most noteworthy being a climbing fern found from Japan to Northern Australia.

A quarantine room separates diseased and bug-infested plants

from healthier vegetation in the Science I greenhouse.

The main section contains members of the aloe plant family, which are known for their skin-healing powers.

"I've used the sap from this (aloe) plant to cure skin burns on my children," Hess says and adds, "I don't know where witchcraft takes over."

Other plants in the fourth floor greenhouse include a bird-of-paradise plant, a cussonia from Africa, a mango bush, a butcher's broom plant, a leafless afebra and a parlor maple. The fern family is represented by the unusual water fern which resembles clover and a large stag horn fern that branches into separate forks.

A mist-machine circulates warm droplets of water through

the greenhouse's jungle room. More species of ferns ranging from the fuzzy-leaved purrosia to the furry-rooted rabbit's foot fern thrive in the humid environment.

A moss-like plant called a selaginella grows uninhibited in the wet atmosphere.

A small cactus room remains bare until cactus plants can be brought over from the Millrace greenhouse.

"The number one mistake most people make in plant care is watering the plants," Hess says. "Try to water (plants) thoroughly so a little comes out the bottom of the pot, then you will get good air circulation in the soil."

Plants in general defy description, but to those interested in viewing these works of nature an appointment can be arranged with Hess at 686-4550.



## IFC plans no rise for '79-'80 budget

Despite declining enrollment, rising costs and new programs, the Incidental Fee Committee plans to cut program funding and aim for no increase in the entire 1979-80 IFC budget.

Five members voted to keep the budget at its present level, with members Scott Bassett and Dusty Rhodes dissenting, at the IFC's first goal budget hearing Monday in the EMU.

The group accepted goals of the Music Steering Committee, recreational folk dance, University Theater and Women in Transition. IFC members also voted to clarify that the purpose of goal hearings is to become familiar with the 78 programs requesting funding and to evaluate

They decided their approval of goals would not constitute any funding obligation until the final cash hearings in April. There will be no cash hearings for programs whose goals are voted down.

Students currently pay \$32.50 per year in incidental fees to cover Oregon Daily Emerald

EMU, athletic department and ASUO program costs. IFC chair Janet Eggleston estimated that a no-increase budget would require a \$100,000 cut in program allocation.

Rhodes said the zero goal is unrealistic, calling it a "cheap political shot." Bassett said he voted against the motion because he wanted to "declare war on the EMU budget increases."

But Eggleston said because the EMU and AD had not yet submitted budgets, the members would have to carefully examine all ASUO program goals.

Three of the five stated goals of the recreational folk dance were not approved, and the IFC suggested funding alternatives for the group. IFC member Kevin Chambers said he would not approve that program's goals, calling it a "personal interest group that could exist as a grass-roots organization without IFC funding."

IFC hearings continue at 4 p.m. today in the EMU.



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