

Celebrates 10th anniversary

# Women's Press changes with the years

"Mother, what is a Feminist?"  
"A Feminist, my daughter,  
Is any woman now who cares  
To think about her own affairs  
As men don't think she  
oughter."

— Alice Duer Miller, 1915

By **LESLIE FARRIS**  
Of the Emerald

Women's Press is celebrating its 10th anniversary this weekend, making the Eugene publication the second-oldest feminist newspaper in the country.

The oldest, which is in Washington, D.C., is just three months older.

Women's Press was first published in Eugene in December, 1970. The collectively-owned newspaper now prints about 1,500 copies every two months. Most of the 45-cent copies circulate in Eugene, but some reach national and international subscribers.

Eight to 10 volunteer staff members work out of a tiny office at Grower's Market. Anyone can write for the newspaper, although one staff member says she has yet to receive an article from a man.

"We have a priority on articles written by women, but it's not a policy," says member Adrienne Lauby. "It's an open collective, which means people can come and go as they choose."

She says current staff members are veterans of about three years. Because their work for the paper is volunteer, staffers usually have additional jobs.

The members say the paper's content has changed a lot with the decade's passage.

Much of the material in 1970 was about how to relate better to men. The issues discussed reflected the concerns of a largely heterosexual staff — demands for safe birth control, abortion rights and housework sharing.

The paper's constant change is reflected in a recent letter from a woman who said she would subscribe "if you feel you have room for straight women in your readership."

Whether lesbian or straight, members of Women's Press say they and their paper will be more women-oriented in the 1980's.

"We think that women are ignored in the basic news media," Lauby says. "There must be a great need for women who want to be heard and other women who want to read it."

Lauby says publishing a woman's ideas and true feelings, however unpolished, can be more important than adhering to an abstract notion of objective, professional journalism. This philosophy largely is responsible for the paper's success, she says.

"Sometimes we print somebody's opinion that comes just from the heart and not from some expert position," Lauby says. "When people read that, I think they sometimes get validation. They say 'I think that way, I feel that way.'"

Another reason for the paper's success is a steady supply of writers. The paper lets people write what they care about, something few established newspapers allow, Lauby says.

"There're so many writers

and people-thinkers who don't have a voice, and they're frustrated."

However, the Press will not publish stories offending poor people or minorities.

"We try to take people's problems very seriously," Lauby says. "If we talk about poor people we don't treat it as a cute feature story with a colored picture."

When the Eugene Register-Guard sends a reporter who's making a good wage to a poor person's home, Lauby says, the reporter is bound to treat it as "just another hard-luck story that can be cured through the American justice system." The Press' approach is "We've thought about this, here's some ideas about what can be done, and here's some people who ought to be responsible but aren't."


"We very much want people to get together and try to improve themselves and their situation. That includes gay people, minorities and poor people."

"We want to change women's lives — and by extension, the lives of us all — and that is the first priority."


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**RICK** I got your note. Sorry I couldn't make it last Friday. How about this Friday after 5. **L.** 1-20

**ALPHA CHIS NEWEST MEMBERS:** Sorry this personal is so late, but it's not because you aren't great. I hope your week was tons of fun, because you all are number one! Monday through Friday, your spirits were high, asking questions and wondering why. Thanks for making my last initiation a very high class celebration! Much love, **CINDA** 1851:1-20

**KAPPA SIGS**  
The Alpha Chi's are ready to go Hawaiian at the party tomorrow night. Get keyed for a great time!! Be there - aloha. Love, **THE ALPHA CHI'S** 1-20

**TO MY SECRET PALS** I couldn't have done it without you. always brightening up my day. It's special people like you who make me want to say Delta Gamma Love, **FERGY** 1-20

**SITT** Here's your first-time ver birthday personal. have a fun time tomorrow and keep your good advice coming. **E** 1-20

**MISSY** Have a great birthday, you deserve it, from "too good of a friend" **DAVID** P.S. Palm Springs is calling! 1-20

**WOMEN'S TRACK TEAM** You're all great! Show 'em how great this weekend. Do well and you'll be rewarded. **A FAN** 1-20

**JULIE HILSENTEGER** Good luck Saturday. I love you, so smile and we'll make it work. Your #1 fan and lover, **JAY** 1-20

**D.G. CYD CIMMIYOTTI** Tonight's the big night, so get psyched! If you survive, the anchor will be yours by morning!! Love, **YOUR BIG SIS** 1-20

**DG STACIE NEWSON** You think it's been easy but tonight's the big night!! Get ready for an interesting evening. Love, **YOUR BIG SIS** 1-20

**DG LISA KEIZER** Tonight's the night, baby! I'm so excited that favorite little sis is going to be a member tonight -- if you live through it! Congratulations! The anchor is yours! Love, **PEGGY** 1-20

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