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# YWCA approaches 91st year hoping to overcome anonymity

By Diana Elliott  
Of the Emerald

While 90 years may seem like enough time to create a public image, YWCA director Pat Melson says publicity is her biggest problem.

"People don't really know who we are or what we do," Melson says. "Most of our phone calls are from people looking for the YMCA. They're surprised to learn that the YWCA even exists," she says.

Even so, for the past several weeks, the staff of four at the campus YWCA has been busy planning and organizing a celebration — its 90th anniversary.

More than 500 guests are expected to attend the March 16 celebration at Gerlinger Lounge. Former and present members of the YWCA will attend as well as members of the community who have supported the YWCA throughout the years.

"Mostly it will be a lot of reminiscing," Melson says.

But there is another purpose for the reception. "We will also be handing out applications for several scholarships," she says. The scholarships are open to all University women and will be announced in the spring.

While most people assume the YWCA is similar to the YMCA, Melson says the YWCA is oriented more towards service than activities.

"We try to deal with the mind, body and spirit but we also have to deal with the amount of space and facilities we have," Melson says. "So we focus on educational programs and community service."

The YWCA provides services to women, minorities and disabled people through its pro-

grams, she says.

The Exceptional Friendship Program, initiated in 1969, matches University students with disabled people in the community. The program is offered as a class through the University.

What makes this "friendship" program unique is that the disabled people are of all ages, Melson says.

"Sometimes those children grow up and they still need friends," she says.

"The main thrust of the YWCA is to deal with issues that (organizations) don't normally deal with," Melson says. "We take national issues and figure out how we can localize them for this community."

For example, the Racial Justice Conference, held each February, is sponsored by the YWCA in conjunction with the Women's Symposium. This year the conference was titled, "Unlearning Racism."

Through the University Outreach program, the YWCA works directly with the community. But that isn't their first focus, Melson says.

"We're a campus YWCA, which is different from a community YWCA," she says. "That means that our first focus is on the students; then we work with the community."

She says this YWCA has a double role because there is no community YWCA in Eugene. "We try to serve both purposes, and sometimes that's hard."

In the future, Melson would like to expand and offer more programs and services to meet the needs of everyone, but for now her primary goal is "to have people know where we are."

## UO Bookstore

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## Where do those books come from?

By Melissa Martin  
Of the Emerald

While students might be sweating about reading all their textbooks before finals, professors have to sweat to decide which books to make students read.

History Prof. Jeff Needell says he kept a bibliography of books he read as a student and uses that now as a professor. He also draws on advice from his peers, he says.

History is just one department on campus where books have a high turnover rate, says Chris Standish, University bookstore textbook manager. Psychology is another.

"Those are a couple of areas we would like to work toward large section adoptions because it works out better for everyone," Standish says.

If a department with 10 different beginning level sections would use the same textbook for all classes, everyone would save money, he says.

"Unit costs can be substantially reduced if you have a large number of copies sold," agrees John Hiffman of Reston Publishing Co. in Enumclaw, Wash.

But Standish says an attempt to persuade professors to use a certain text would be infringing on academic freedom.

"We can't influence their decisions per se, but the longer they stay with the same book consecutively, the better it is for students," he says.

And cost is a concern for everyone — the publisher, the bookstore, the professors and the students.

Although the University gets a discount on books, Standish says students don't benefit that much because of rising transportation and shelving costs.

"I think everybody has the student in mind," Hiffman says. "I don't think anybody's out there to make an enormous profit."

And when professors use their own textbooks when a better book exists, he calls it a matter of ego, not finance.

"Unless a person has 3,000 students in his class, he's not gaining anything substantial," Hiffman says.

"There might be a little bit of a conflict of interest because they are creating a market for something they'll get royalties on, but I think it's justified because it's one of their roles," Standish says.

Scott Bentley, a GTF in the English department, says cost is not the most important factor considered in his department. But he says they keep the price range between \$12 and \$20.

"By choosing the textbook we are setting the pedagogical objectives for the whole department," says Bentley, who is one of five GTFs along with composition director John Gage selecting textbooks for the writing department.

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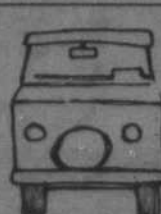
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