

Smith Family expansion improves space, quality

By Scott Simonson
Emerald Contributor

To owner Misa Smith, the Smith Family Bookstore can seem like a big personal library.

"As with all libraries, even your own personal library at home, you accumulate more books than you have space," she said.

Needing more space for Misa Smith's books, Smith Family Bookstore has added approximately 2,800 square feet of space to its store at 768 E. 13th Ave.

Besides becoming bigger, Smith hopes the store will become better as well. With the completion of an elevator to the second-story bookstore entrance due "by the first of the year," she said shoppers with strollers, elderly people and out-of-shape young people should all find the store more accessible.

"The thing we're all thrilled about is the elevator going in. In '77 we had an elevator installed for disabled people, only for disabled people, in the alley behind the store," she said. "We didn't think it was very good, though, in terms of access to the store."

Smith said she believes more people are shopping at Smith Family after the expansion. The store now features more than 10,000 square feet "of just books," but Smith still wishes she had more room.

"We've had a lot of positive feedback from the changes. We still need more space," she said. "I hope with some more shifting around, we can find room for a few more books."

More work space for employees, fewer books stacked on the floor and more books on shelves may improve store or-

ganization and make life easier for shoppers, but bookstore employee Ross Hubbard said customers are still adjusting to changes in the store's layout.

"There's more confusion than anything right now," he said.

Smith Family sells titles ranging from children's books to car manuals to cookbooks, but Smith said buying and selling used textbooks to University students has "always been part of our business."

When Smith Family Bookstore opened in 1974, "we had no idea of the response there would be to used textbooks. ... It was sort of an organic thing we got into because of the demand. We were almost forced to," she said.

The bookstore's expansion happened in the fall after Oregon Art Supply moved out of a space adjacent to Smith Family into the art store's current location in the University Center building.

Another of the bookstore's neighbors, Emerald City Comics, moved into Oregon Art Supply's former location, and Smith Family expanded into the space where the bookstore had previously been from 1977 to 1984.

Smith said the expansion at the East 13th store is accompanied by the recently completed expansion of Smith Family's downtown store.

All of this may seem impressive when compared to the first small bookstore run by Misa and husband Delbert Smith (who now owns Delbert's Cafe downtown) while the two were University students in the 1950s, but she gave some credit to the people of Eugene.

"Eugene is a good reading town," she said. "The public is well-read. This is an intelligent community, an educated community."

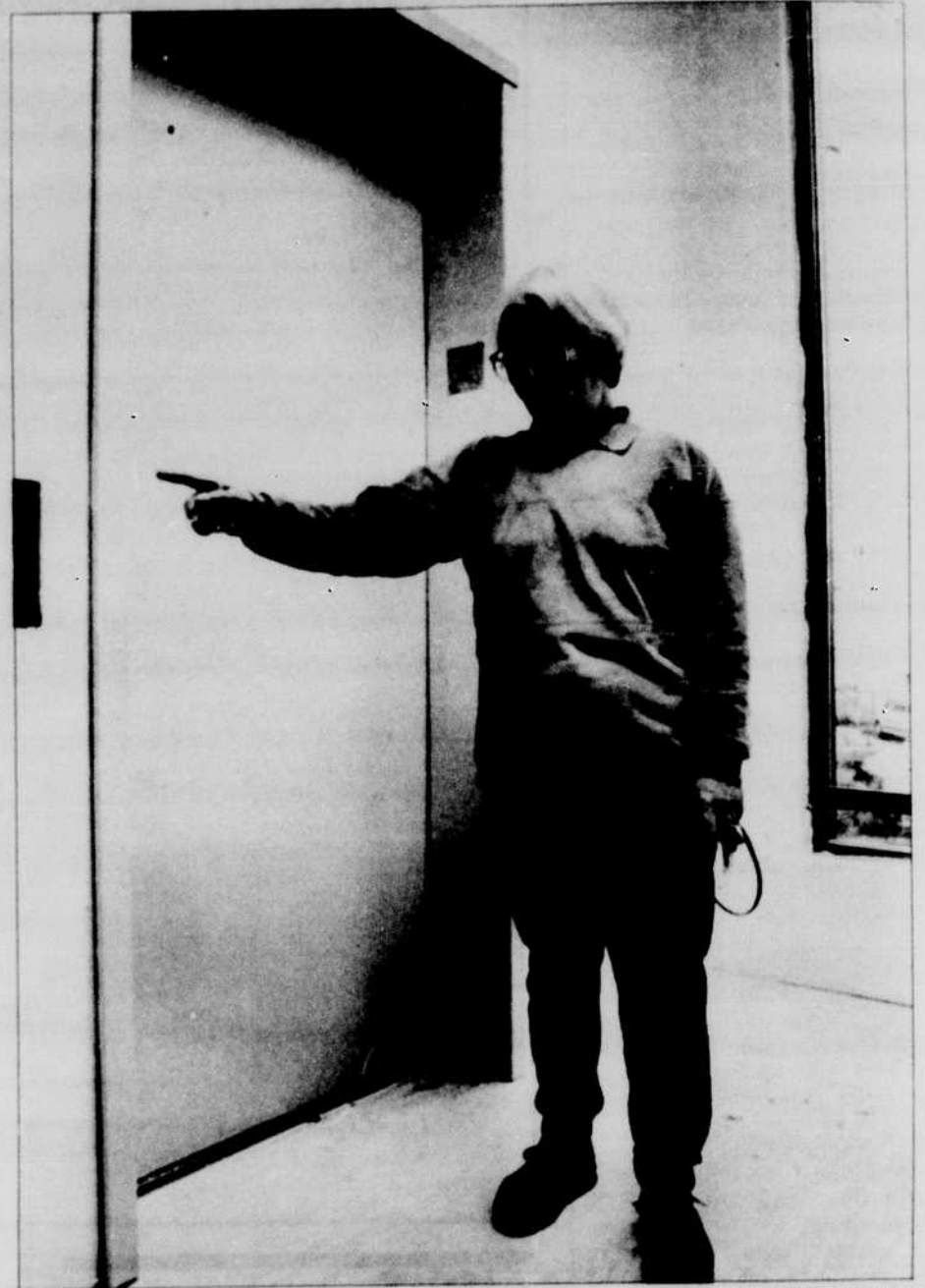
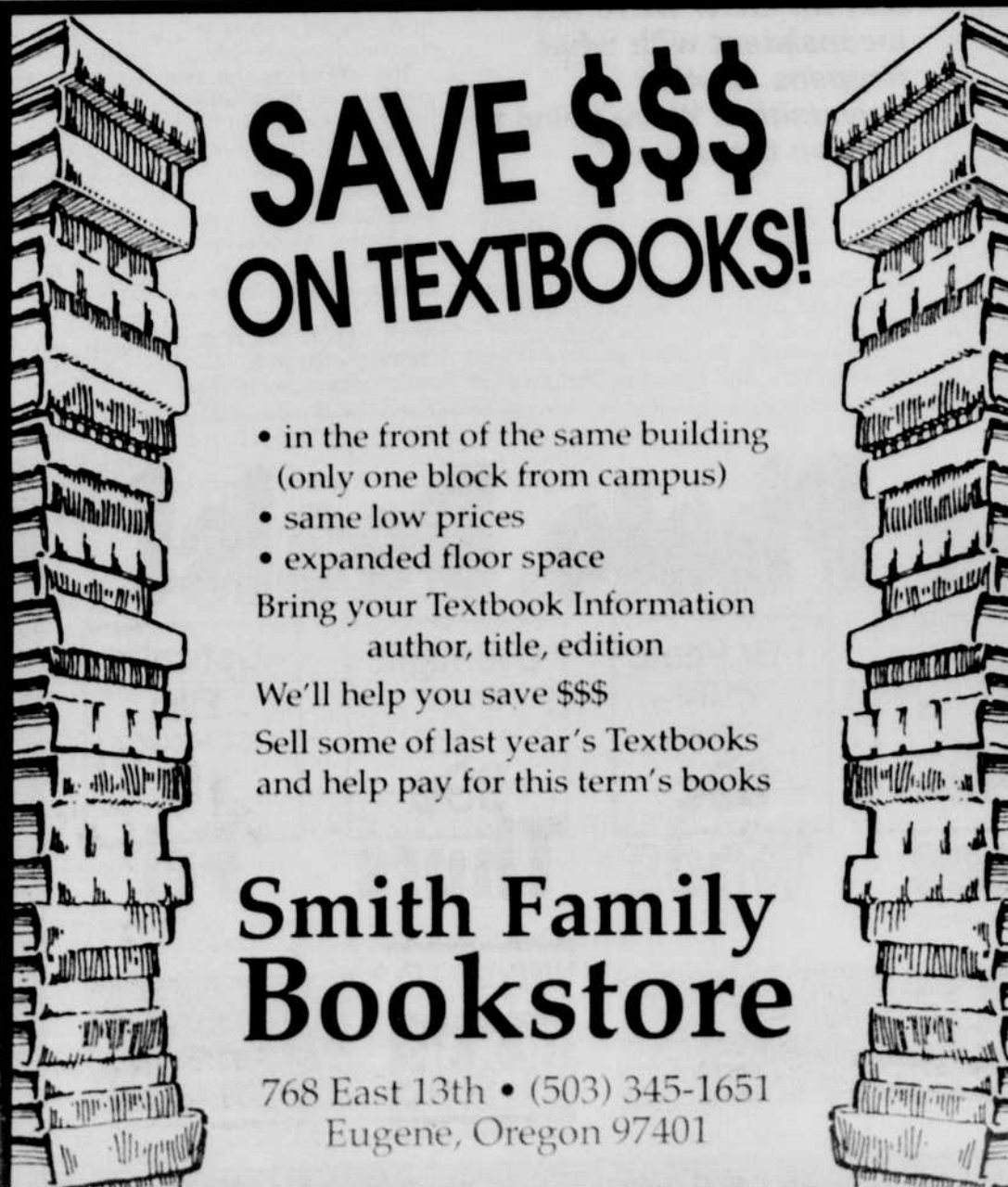


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Although the Smith Family Bookstore is expanding to include more than 10,000 square feet of books, owner Misa Smith said she wishes there were even more room.



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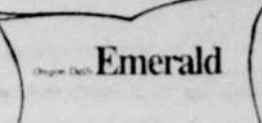
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