

It pays to shop around for books

■ While the University Bookstore offers more than books, it's not the only textbook dealer in town

By Sarah du Soleil
for the Emerald

It's the beginning of the term, and you need to buy textbooks. Maybe you want to empower yourself with some feminist literature or search for enlightenment in a spiritual guide. Or perhaps you just want to relax with a good piece of fiction.

In Eugene readers can find any type of publication they desire. The wide variety of bookstores in town offers literature for every occasion.

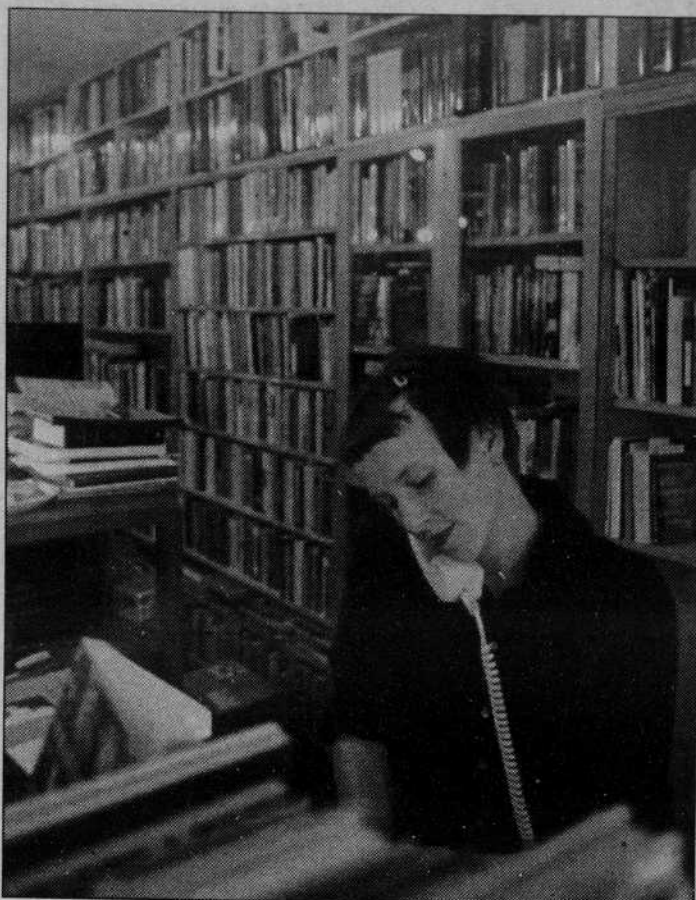
For textbooks, the University Bookstore might seem the most obvious place to go. It sells both new and used textbooks. Jim Williams, the general manager, said the bookstore's mission is "to have every book for every course on time." It also has nonfiction, fiction and children's books.

However, the bookstore sells much more than books. Students can find art supplies, snacks, clothing, computers, calendars and other miscellaneous items. For students living on campus, the bookstore is a convenient place to buy necessities such as shampoo, razors and cold medicine.

Although the bookstore has the advantage of a convenient location and a large stock, junior Corbin Sagmiller said, "The bookstore is the last place I go."

The first place Sagmiller goes is the Smith Family Book Store. In the past, he has found used books there that cost less than the same used book at the bookstore. The stores' different methods of pricing cause this price discrepancy.

Sagmiller also goes to Smith Family because he likes the service. "The employees there probably have a 1000-fold better knowledge about their books than the bookstore employees have," he said.



Catharine Kendall/Emerald
Jessica Glandon, the manager of Black Sun Books, is seated at the front register while she helps a customer on the phone.

For books other than class texts, Eugene has a mess of bookstores to satisfy every literary craving.

Mother Kali's Books, two blocks from the University bookstore on 13th Avenue, focuses on feminist literature. It also carries some required texts. For example, books for women's studies, history and Spanish courses line the shelves.

Another seller of alternative literature is Hungry Head Books. It sells publications that other stores may shy away from, such as banned books and the Unibomber Manifesto.

Words for the spirit may be discovered at one of Eugene's

several religious bookstores such as Tree of Life. Words for the body can be found at the city's adult bookstores such as Exclusively Adult.

Although Eugene boasts a number of independent bookstores, it also houses bookstore chains. Book lovers can visit B. Dalton, Barnes & Noble and Waldenbooks for their general reading needs.

The variety of bookstores in Eugene is a double blessing. First, students can comparison shop for the best textbook prices. Second, when nasty weather forbids outdoor play, Eugene residents can always find a good book to curl up with.

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