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# Project Safe Place begins fund raising

■ Coffee, chocolate and cookies will be sold to raise money for children in crisis situations

By Darren Freeman  
 Oregon Daily Emerald

Caffeine is the key to surviving finals week. At least, that's what a local charity is betting on.

Project Safe Place, which provides information and support to teenagers in crisis, will be selling gift boxes filled with coffee, chocolate and cookies today and Tuesday from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. outside the University bookstore.

At \$5 per box, the packages will be white boxes with yellow ribbons and tags reading, "Good luck on your finals."

"They're for students to enjoy or buy for friends during dead week, and the proceeds will go to children in need," said Project Safe Place coordinator Jill Bishop.

A national program founded in 1983 by the YMCA Center in Louisville, Ky., Project Safe Place is a network of businesses and organizations that help 11- to 17-year-olds who are runaways, homeless or in crisis.

The contents of the boxes were donated by Starbucks, Fenton & Lee and Chocolate Decadence.

Starbucks store manager Steven Traffas said the coffee shop donated about \$200 worth of coffee.

"Normally, we don't give so much," he said. "The store had a surplus, and it was a good opportunity to get rid of it and to have the benefit go to somebody else."

Fenton & Lee owner Janelle Smith said her company donated about 30 chocolate replicas of the University seal.

"Our emphasis has been dealing with youth," Smith said. "This seemed like it was along that same vein."

Project Safe Place has participating businesses in Springfield and the Bethel neighborhood in Eugene, and Bishop hopes to expand the program throughout Eugene during the next two years.

"We try to intervene before youths take things into their own hands," Bishop said.

When a child seeks help at a Project Safe Place business, identified by a diamond-shaped yellow and black sign, an employee calls a local emergency center, which sends a volunteer to the scene to offer the youth food, shelter or advice.

Last year, Project Safe Place helped 32 youths deal with problems ranging from rape to family disputes, Bishop said.

Bishop said she hopes to sell 200 gift boxes.

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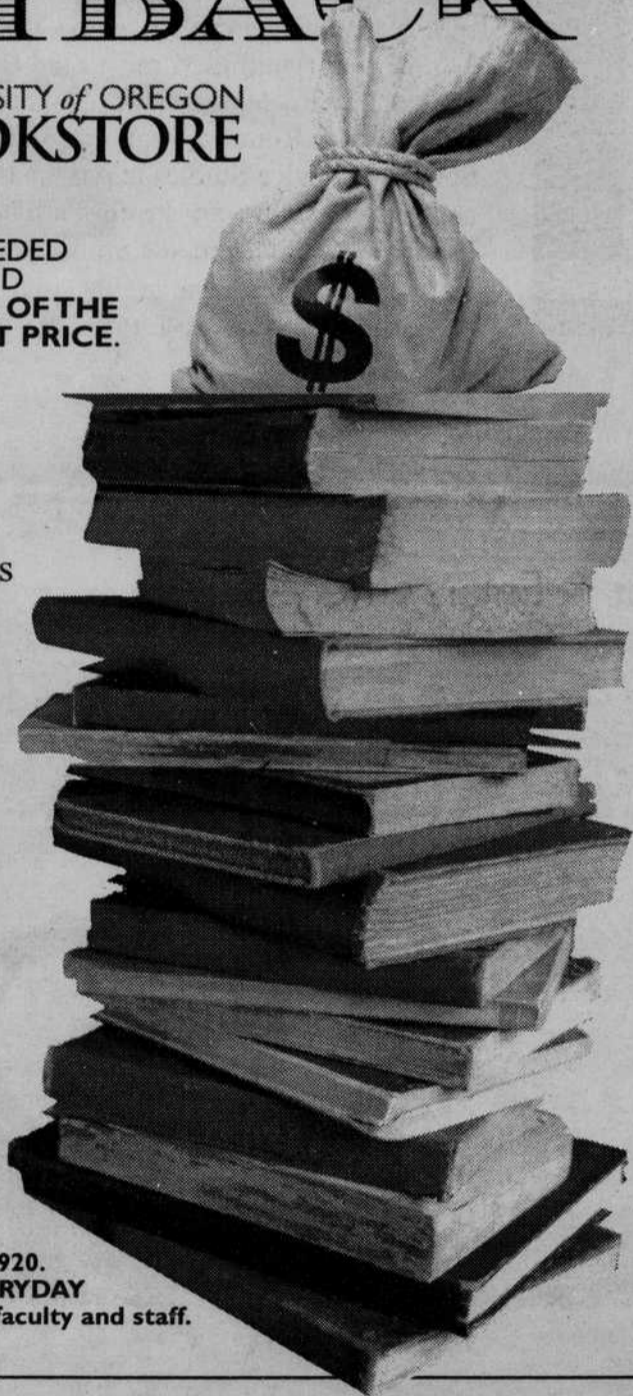
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## Oregon Daily Emerald

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