

Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Artists bind books in a variety of ways; here the pressed text technique is shown.

Book binding

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housed in Special Collections — comes an interminable list of repair and preservation work done to keep the items around for library users to enjoy and learn from.

"We're really the only ones in the state doing this level of work," Helmer said. At other libraries "preservation is often an extra job."

Preservation employees evaluate each damaged book to decide what needs to be done for it. If the book is moldy or has evidence of insect damage, it will often be put in a freezer for up to six months to kill bacteria and vermin eggs.

Books and food don't mix, either. Helmer said the biggest contribution to book preservation that library users could make is to avoid handling books after eating or drinking. Even grease on hands, when transferred to books, can attract biblioclastic bugs, such as silverfish, beetles and book lice.

Some books are damaged deliberately because of sex- or drug-related content. Helmer said an article on psychedelic mushrooms had to be replaced five times before librarians finally gave up and left it out of the volume. Now patrons who wish to view the article must check it out at the front desk.

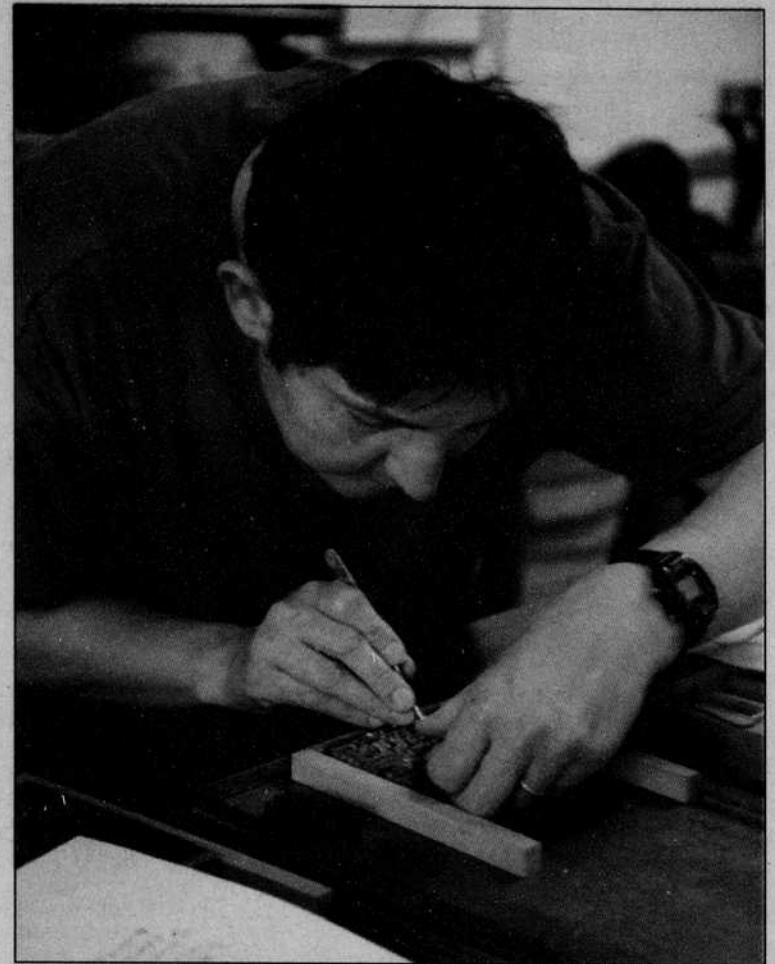
Careless book handling also lands books in the main floor doctor's office, located on the west side of the library. Helmer said the simple task of grabbing a book from the middle of the spine instead of the top can save it an appointment with spine surgery.

Photocopying is also taxing, particularly on older books. Commercial binderies now use a more flexible glue and acid-free paper so books last longer.

New books also receive the attention of preservationists. Paperback books are reinforced with a plastic covering that is sewn to the book by hand. Roberson said it is a lot of work to maintain a collection of 2 million books so proactive preservation techniques save work down the line.

"People don't realize how much work goes on behind the scenes," Roberson said.

Whatever the reason for the damage or loss, books are expensive to replace. The true cost of replacing a book is more than the retail value of the book. Helmer said an average \$40 of staff time goes



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Sandy Tilcock prepares the type to run in the press. Tilcock is the owner of Lone Goose Press, a bookbinding company specializing in hand-crafted binding.

into each book, searching for a replacement and ordering it, before the price of the book is even factored in.

"It is a lot cheaper to repair than to replace," Helmer said.

A basic guideline to not becoming part of the problem is to "think of it as someone's personal creation," Helmer said.

Amanda Garcia, a senior visual design major, has been working in preservation for almost three years. She now has the responsibility of caring for and protecting many of the rare books and manuscripts in Special Collections.

Garcia spends her work days making boxes, portfolios and other encapsulations for fragile materials, such as Ken Kesey's handwritten manuscripts of novels or journals written by pioneers on the Oregon Trail.

All books housed in Special Collections are in temperature and humidity controlled environments. Helmer said each degree the temperature goes up, about ten years is subtracted from the life of

the book.

Garcia said she enjoys working with books because she is interested in "preserving the book as an art form in the technological, electric world we live in."

All of the 60 graduating seniors who work for the library received a personalized blank book handmade by Sandy Tilcock, head of the Knight Library Fine Printing Press.

Tilcock is a well-known bibliopigist who makes and prints each book by hand. Each time she completes a project, which are all done on a one-time-only basis and therefore rare, the Knight Library's collection keeps a copy.

Garcia's job is to preserve rare and fragile books such as the ones Tilcock makes, and Helmer said she believes the task of preservation surpasses economic practicality.

"I believe libraries are repositories of human knowledge," Helmer said. "We have a moral obligation to preserve them for people to come."



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City ordinance proposed by EPD could result in bigger fines, costing students more money.

Informational forum

Friday, May 19th, 2 p.m.
Gumwood Room, EMU



sponsored by the ASUO outreach team

901600

Citations

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for repeated police response to rented properties, including apartments, houses and taverns. The City Council is expected to consider the ordinance in early June.

Many student organizations oppose the ordinance saying it unfairly targets students and would hurt the community, by encouraging evictions, more than it would help. The ASUO has begun organizing opposition to the ordinance and will hold a forum Friday afternoon to educate students.

"We feel students should be educated about this issue, and many of them are not because it's only a proposed ordinance at this point," ASUO Community Outreach Director Marian Fowler said.

The latest draft of the ordinance would force tenants to repay the city the costs of police response to disorderly parties if more than one party with 10 or more people is shutdown within 90 days.

Fowler said the proposed 90-day window is too long and would affect too many renters.

EPD Sgt. Rick Gilliam, howev-

er, countered that a similar ordinance in Corvallis that uses a 48-hour window has been ineffective in deterring raucous parties or even holding tenants financially responsible for repeated response to parties. Gilliam said police had considered a time window ranging from two days to a year.

"We feel 90 days is a fair compromise," he said.

After the first police response, a tenant would receive a warning. After the second response within 90 days, a tenant would be given a bill to repay the cost of officers' wages, injury to officers and damages to uniforms and vehicles. The bill could range from a few hundred dollars to as much as several thousand dollars.

The ordinance was first proposed this fall when police reported writing 75 to 100 citations for alcohol-related offenses each weekend in the University area.

ASUO intern Brian Tanner agreed that something should be done about unruly partying but said the ordinance wasn't the ideal solution.

"It's financially punitive," he said. "It's not proactive, and it targets a part of the community that doesn't have much money. To be

targeting any segment of the population is wrong."

On the other hand, Gilliam said the ordinance would affect renters city-wide and wasn't drafted to target students.

"It's just a fact of life that [University students] are the people causing the problems that we're responding to," Gilliam, the ordinance's co-author, said. "We want to make sure the people responsible are held liable."

Live-in landlords could be forced to split the costs with tenants, while absentee landlords would be notified of the fine but not charged. The original draft of the ordinance held all landlords jointly liable with tenants. The City Council, however, asked police to receive and consider more public input before bringing the proposal to the council floor.

After meeting with students, landlords and tenants, police dropped the landlord liability requirement.

The ASUO will hold a forum Friday at 2 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room. Public testimony will also be accepted at the Eugene Police Commission May 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the McNut Room of City Hall.