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CLOSURE

continued from page 1A
other stores in the area fail to occupy the same niche.

She said the store serves other purposes as well.

"It's a great resource and referral for the lesbian and gay community and a lot of people coming into the community," she said.

Rivers Haley said the store has been struggling financially for some time.

"This season, as far as sales, we're not where we want to be," she said.

She said many small independent bookstores are closing because of competition from large chains. Stores like Barnes and Noble buy in mass quantities and are able to offer discounts on products. However, smaller independent bookstores cannot always afford to do that.

"As an independent bookstore, it's been very hard to compete," Moore said.

While members of the board originally thought they might have to close the store at the end of fall term, assistance from a community benefactor will enable Mother Kali's to stay open through the textbook season of winter term. The store

draws at least two-thirds of its revenue from textbook sales.

"We have been struggling, but we've had wonderful community support," Moore said.

Rivers Haley said the board of directors has been thinking of different ways to generate revenue, such as moving to a smaller space or sharing the office space with others. The store has also organized fundraising events.

Board President Kathleen Kendrick said economic trends have really impacted the bookstore.

"Another thing that we face is that Eugene, even in the best of times, tends to be less economically resourceful than other parts of the country," she said.

She said the store will continue to find ways to serve the community, and she hopes the public will also respond.

"We're hoping that the community will help with the store," she said.

As part of its drive to raise funds and stay open, Kendrick said the bookstore will have an art sale Dec. 20, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Books and CDs will also be 20 percent off from Dec. 10 through Dec. 24.

Contact the news editor at ayishayahya@dailyemerald.com.

MEChA mentors inspire youths

University students spend time with local middle schoolers, share stories and help with homework

By Chelsea Duncan
News Reporter

In a Jefferson Middle School classroom covered with posters of human rights leaders and motivational sayings, members of the Ganas program meet with University MEChA students for a little inspiration.

The Ganas program was created eight years ago to provide a positive atmosphere for young Latino

Turn to **MEChA**, page 6A

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