

Supporters Rescue Local Bookstore

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year, said Katie Carter, the store's program manager. Things were fine, until the economy threw the store another curve ball.

Like many bookstores, In Other Words periodically takes out a line of credit to keep its inventory up and customers satisfied, explained Carter.

She said the store recently had an \$11,000 loan out to keep its inventory of Portland State University textbooks stocked. Holiday sales were supposed to erase the debt, but they were unusually slow this year and didn't cover the cost.

"The loan was the thing that made it a financial crisis," said Carter.

According to Rebecca Luxenberg, defaulting on the loan would have hurt the store's credit, jeopardizing its ability to get future credit. It would have also caused the store to discontinue its PSU textbook program, which provides roughly half of its sales revenue, said Carter. These two factors would have rocked the store financially, and forced it to close its doors, said Luxenberg.

There been news of non-profits folding due to lack of funds, but In Other Words isn't one of them.

"It hasn't been an option in my mind to quit," said Carter, who put out

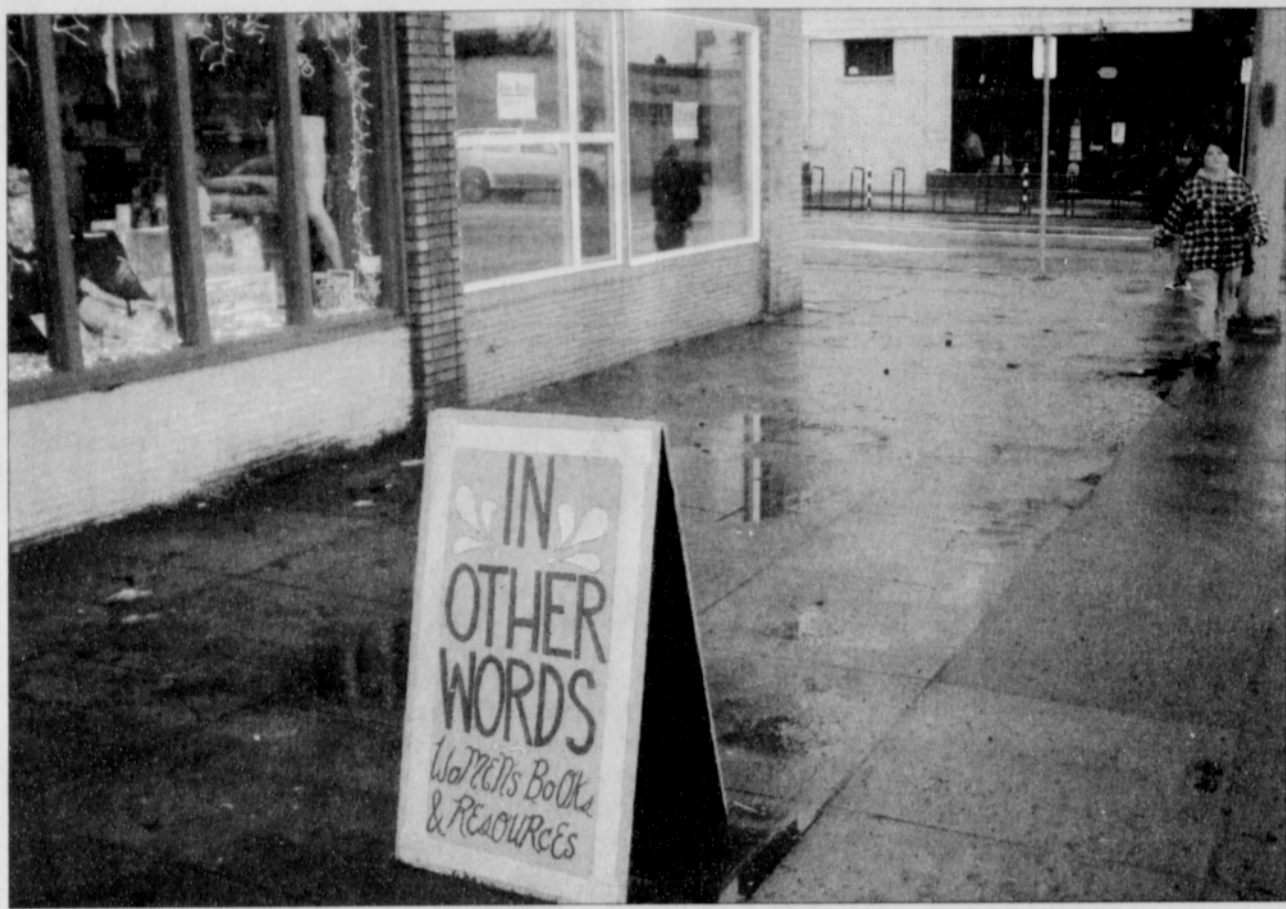


PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Northeast Killingsworth Street off North Williams Avenue is the home of In Other Words Women's Books and Resources, a non-profit community institution promoting a diversity of feminist perspectives.

an appeal to its patrons to help erase its debt. The store had a series of benefits and fundraisers, and got

checks and calls from around the country. Three days before Christmas, the store had raised \$13,000, more than

enough to cover its debt.

"I think it's because we're more than just a bookstore," said Carter of

why people were so quick to rally to the store's cause.

She explained that the bookstore is the only feminist non-profit bookstore in the city and has been around since 1993, first located in the Southeast Hawthorne district. Filling this unique niche has caused it to become more of a community space where people can take workshops, health classes, see films, and attend discussions among other events. Because of its distinct role people don't want to see it fail, said Carter.

However, In Other Words isn't in the clear yet. It still has a \$10,000 loan it needs to payoff by March.

"I'm extremely optimistic about that," said Carter of the loan, which already has a \$2,000 dent in it from donations to payoff the previous loan.

Carter said that the biggest obstacle at this point is to become sustainable so that it doesn't have to periodically address similar crises in the future. The store has set up a monthly sustainer program, where people can make regular contributions. It's also applied for grants, and restructured its inventory to reflect current buying trends.

"They're the reason we're here," said Carter of the store's patrons, who hopes that they will help keep them afloat another 15 years.

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Oldest Man Dead at 112

George Francis, 112, is handed a newspaper reporting Barack Obama's election. He was the nation's oldest man who lived through two world wars, man's first walk on the moon and got to vote for the country's first black president. Francis died Saturday of congestive heart failure at a nursing home in Sacramento.

Oregon Minimum Wage Increases Goes to \$8.40 with Upcoming New Year

Oregon's lowest-paid workers will get some help in making ends meet starting on New Year's Day, when a 45-cent hike in the state's minimum wage takes effect.

Oregon's minimum wage, adjusted annually to reflect increases in the cost of living, will rise from \$7.95 to \$8.40 per hour.

That translates into an extra \$936 a year for a family with one full-time minimum wage worker, according to Michael Leachman, policy analyst with the Oregon Center for Public Policy.

"It's an economic stimulus for working families and Oregon," said Leachman. "It puts money into the hands of the people who are most likely to spend it, spend it quickly and spend it here in Oregon."

"Tying the minimum wage to inflation has been good for Oregon, preventing the lowest-paid workers from falling too far behind," said Leachman, adding that the industries that complained the most about the voter approved law, have done well since the measure's passage in 2002.

He cited data on the restaurant industry, one with a relatively large share of minimum wage workers. Of all industries, it was Oregon's biggest job creator - producing nearly 21,000 jobs - during the economic cycle that lasted from November 2000 to February 2008, according to Leachman.

Those numbers, he said, refute claims that the law would lead to substantial job losses.

Recently, the Oregon Restaurant Association said that it will push the 2009 Legislature "to remove the annual indexing from the minimum wage," claiming that the change is needed to create jobs.

"The restaurant industry was wrong in 2002 and is wrong today," Leachman responded. "The cause of rising unemployment is the recession, not the minimum wage. Undermining the floor that prevents workers from falling deeper into poverty would only worsen our economic woes."

With the New Year's cost-of-living adjustment, an Oregon full-time minimum wage worker will earn \$17,472 next year. That's below the federal poverty line for a family of three.

Smoke Free Countdown

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ing violations, beginning Jan. 1, by calling 1-866-621-6107 or completing an online complaint form at healthoregon.org/smokefree.

The Oregon Public Health Division will investigate complaints and give citations to business owners who are unwilling to comply with the law.

The law provides an incentive

for people who smoke to quit. A smokefree workplace is a proven way to help people go smokefree for good. Oregon's Quit Line is a free service available to all Oregonians at 1-800-QUIT-NOW or 1-877-2NO-FUME.

Also, many private health insurance plans cover smoking cessation support, a proven method to make attempts to quit more successful.

Oregon Bottle Bill Expands

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ers of the same brand and size that they sell.

All retail stores can also limit how many containers can be redeemed per person per day. The law says customers may be limited to a maximum of 144 containers per person per day at the large 5,000 square feet or more stores and 50

containers per person, per day at stores that are smaller.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission has set up a temporary phone line dedicated to answer questions about the bottle bill expansion.

Consumers and retailers can call 1-888-426-2009. You can also visit the OLCC's web site at oregon.gov/OLCC.

24th

Annual "Keep Alive The Dream"

Tribute to: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This event will feature artistic expressions of music, dance, psalm, inspirational speaking and politically motivating speeches.

WHEN? Monday January 19, 2009 11:00 A.M. - 6:30 P.M. **WHERE? Highland Christian Center 7600 N.E. Glisan, Portland, Oregon**

Appearances by: City, State and National Dignitaries, Legendary "Beyons", Oz and Company, University of Oregon Gospel Choir, Jefferson Dancers, Derrick Duffy and Chosen Generation, "No Kidding Choir", Michelle Lang and Still Water, Gospel Music Workshop of Oregon/Vancouver Chapters, Royalty, Linda Hornbuckle & Janice Scroggins, various schools and community groups.

Special Features: Life Time Achievement Awards Ceremony, Dreamers Village Bazaar

Live Program /Radio Broadcast: KBOO (90.7 FM)
Broadcast/tape delayed on Portland Community Media (channel 11) 1:00 - 8:00PM
and on Television Services (PPS - channel 28) 3:00 - 10:00PM

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