

Feminists Reaching Out

Non-profit bookstore adopts survival plan

BY CARI HACHMANN THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In Other Words, the only non-profit of 30 feminist bookstores in the country is like roaming around the room of a smart big sister you never had.

Seventeen years ago, the volunteerrun organization opened on Hawthorne with the mission of being more than just your everyday bookstore.

Unique to the sort, the community organization currently operates in a humble brick building on the corner of Northeast Killingsworth Street and Williams Avenue, where in addition to stocked shelves of feminist and radical literature, a staff striving to support, enrich, and empower women, hosts visions of art on the walls; locally-made crafts, and community-inspired events on a wooden mini-stage. Within the last year, In Other Words has planned to expand into a full-fledged community center; including a free lending library, an archive of historical feminist texts, free educational programming, and a free resource center with a vast range of materials.



driven by what the people want" says In Other Words Program Director Katie Carter. "It is integral to our mission to have as many accessible books to people as possible, and what better way than a library."

Yet, like many small, independent businesses who boast bigger ideals than profit, In Other Words is facing the harsh reality of online conglomerate competition.

Let's face it, "we can't sell our books for a penny," said Carter, in reference to online companies like Amazon who have recently come to dominate the commerce of books.

Last April, federal law changes altered the text-book selling industry allowing college students cheaper access to textbooks. Though the small nonprofit is pleased for the struggling college students, the legislation effectively wiped out the small non-profit's main

"We are a community-driven space,

PHOTO BY CARI HACHMANN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER Katie Carter (left) and Amber Rowland help bring a community center focus to 'In Other Words,' the sole-surviving feminist non-profit bookstore in the country, located on Northeast Killingsworth Street and Williams Avenue.

source of income, textbook sales.

In other words, the bookstore has slipped into a serious financial bind in what could have been their most exciting, project-filled winter. With a sense of urgency, the bookstore is confident that they can replace lost textbook sales through grants and individual donations.

Last month at their 17th birthday party, In Other Words rose over \$4,000 dollars in a single night. However, in order to keep doors open through the winter and overcome increased operating costs of the expansion, In Other Words seeks

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Few Hints of a Hidden Life

Terror suspect struggled to fit in

BY NIGEL DUARA AND JEFF BARNARD

The plot described by the FBI was horrific: a 19-year-old Somali-born Muslim with a grudge against the West, ready to kill and maim thousands at Portland's tree lighting ceremony.



Osman Barre and Mariam Barre enter the U.S. Courthouse in Portland for arraignment of their son, Mohamed Osman Mohamud.

While the FBI describes Mohamed Osman Mohamud as a would-be terrorist, there were few hints of that hidden life to Mohamud's friends, who knew him as "Mo," a quiet, suburban teen who liked to drink gin and play video games.

The teen who allegedly thought he was going to kill thousands of people the day after Thanksgiving in the name of Islamic radicalism is the same one who, three days earlier, wrote and read a Kwanzaa poem about unity with two Christian college students.

Court documents and Mohamud's friends describe the slender Somali-American as juggling contradictory lives — that of an immigrant struggling to fit in and a Muslim who had

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