

Branch store negotiations stopped by EMU Board

By Mary Lichtenwalner

Of the Emerald

The EMU Board on Thursday halted negotiations with the University Bookstore to lease space for a planned satellite store in the EMU basement — the future location of the EMU computer lounge.

Anderson's Sporting Goods, which previously leased the space, closed its campus store in June.

Negotiations with the Bookstore began in August with the idea that the store, to be located in the computer lounge, would accommodate computer users by offering "high-tech" computer merchandise.

Bookstore General Manager Jim Williams, however, presented a proposal to the EMU Board to include a mixture of merchandise in the branch store. The emphasis would be electronic, supplying basic supplies, line printers and computer terminals.

But the Board questioned the proposed addition of other electronic merchandise, including home video cassette recorders, stereos and televisions as well as books, school supplies and rental appliances.

Board Chair Laura Romano said she is concerned the store would become a mini-bookstore.

"My question is 'what does selling T-shirts or telephones have to do with selling computers?'" she said.

Williams said a variety of merchandise is necessary to the success of any store. "The Bookstore today is successful for one reason, and that is the variety and depth of the product mix," he said.

That supplemental merchandise is important to allow for discounting student textbooks, he said.

"We also feel a real lack in our ability to serve the night school students. In the EMU, we'll increase that," Williams

said.

The board agreed however, that if the space is to be leased to the Bookstore, it should be concentrated on computers and computer supplies only.

Frank Geltner, EMU assistant director, said he disapproved of the decision to stop negotiating with the Bookstore. He said he hopes the space will not become more office area.

Student Projects Incorporated showed interest in leasing the space, however, by presenting a request for a change in location. John Dreeszen, a member of the SPI Board of Directors, said SPI's current location is inadequate for its expansion.

"One of the things we want to do is boost the Footnotes operation. (The location) would be a boon for production, typing and distributing footnotes," Dreeszen said.

The board agreed to table further discussion until its next meeting.

ASUO attorney may challenge constitutionality of income tax

By Scott McFetridge

Of the Emerald

ASUO Attorney Karsten Rasmussen and a fellow lawyer will meet this weekend and decide how they can best block the proposed city income tax that will face voters at a Nov. 5 special election.

Rasmussen said the proposed tax may be unconstitutional because it imposes a tax on individuals without allowing them to vote on the issue. Rasmussen said he will meet this weekend with attorney James Edmunson and decide on a plan of action.

Both Rasmussen and Edmunson work in Eugene but live outside the city.

In addition to his part-time position as ASUO attorney, Rasmussen maintains a private law practice.

City officials have estimated that about 30-38 percent of the revenue from the income tax would come from non-residents who work in Eugene. Only Eugene residents will be allowed to vote on the tax measure.

"It shows a certain amount of arrogance on the part of the city toward those of us who com-

mute," Rasmussen said. "It will tax people who won't be able to vote on the issue."

After the weekend meeting, the lawyers will decide whether to proceed with a lawsuit or possibly a temporary restraining order, Rasmussen said. They also may ask state Rep. Ron Eachus, D-Eugene, to request an attorney general's opinion concerning whether or not the tax would be unconstitutional, Rasmussen said.

"We're going to have to pay the tax and we think that's unfair," Rasmussen said. "But what the hell is the point of having an opinion on that (the tax) when I can't vote?"

Because there is a good possibility the income tax will be rejected by voters, the two attorneys may delay any action until after the election, Rasmussen said.

Lee Lashway, a city attorney who has advised the City Council on the tax, said it wouldn't make sense to challenge the tax until after it was approved by voters. A court would not rule on the constitutionality of the tax until after voters had approved the measure, he said.

"The courts aren't in the business of resolving speculative issues," Lashway said.

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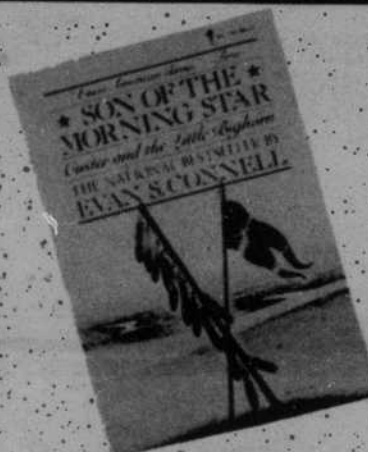
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