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Mayflower Theater torn down before review

By Kirsten Bolin

Of the Emerald

A demolition crew ordered by Sacred Heart General Hospital began tearing down the Mayflower Theater Monday, one day before a scheduled Eugene Historic Review Board hearing that could have resulted in the building being designated a historic landmark.

"It's like a vigilante crew coming in and hanging someone before they had a chance for a trial," said Carole Daly, chairwoman of the Eugene Historic Review Board. "I'm angry we were not allowed to do the process that is set up. At the very least what we would have wanted is to record the building historically with photos, drawings and artifacts."

But because Sacred Heart already had a demolition permit for the site, they legally were not required to wait for the review board's decision.

"Feelings run deep on both sides," said Alan Yordy, Sacred Heart Hospital spokesman. "But we want to get to the positive, not taking down the buildings, but putting up something that will be more valuable space in the long run."

Sacred Heart plans to build a joint-venture laboratory at a cost of about \$5 million on the site of the theater. The laboratory would house the combined staff and equipment of Sacred

Heart's laboratory and a lab operated by Pathology Consultants, now located in the Oakway Mall.

Yordy is uncertain when demolition of the current structure will be complete and when construction of the new buildings will begin.

Though Yordy said the final decision to tear down the building was made Monday morning, others involved with the project had prior knowledge the building was coming down.

"I knew pretty much since Friday," said Chuck Swinehart, project foreman for the Staton Construction Co. "But they called this morning at nine and said have the crew there at 10."

The Mayflower Theater, which opened Sept. 30, 1925, is the second oldest intact theater in Eugene and the first theater established outside of the downtown core. The building, located at 788 E. 11th Ave., also houses apartments and several small business spaces.

"Should (the review board) have chosen to designate the building, we would have lost our demolition permit," Yordy said. "We had been asked by our board to keep all of our options open... we have testimony for the hearing tomorrow."

If Sacred Heart had not proceeded with demolition plans Monday or today and the review



Photo by Karen Stallwood

The screen of what was the Mayflower Theater looms over a pile of rubble. By 4 p.m. Monday, the building's facade was all that was left standing.

board had designated the theater a historic landmark at their meeting tonight, Sacred Heart would have had to appeal the decision to the Eugene Planning Commission in order to proceed with their development plans.

"The question is, how many times should a building be

reviewed? The review has been exhausted," Yordy said.

The building was denied historic designation by the review board in 1979.

But some community members still believe the building has historic value.

"The building is very structurally sound and could be easi-

ly converted into residential and commercial uses," said Brad Perkins, owner of Oregonized Design Restoration/Renovation, a Eugene-based company. "The planning department has come out and said it meets two or three re-

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ASUO asks court to examine funding of independent groups

By Stan Nelson

Of the Emerald

The ASUO Constitution Court heard testimony Monday night on a request that could substantially alter the way independent groups, including the Emerald, receive funding through the referendum process.

The ASUO-initiated request asks the court to issue a declaratory judgment on the question of whether independent groups should have access to student-supported funding via the ASUO elections. The request also asks that a judgment be made on the question of whether the Emerald can use itself as a campaign tool in seeking funding support.

Currently, a referendum may be placed on the ballot in one of three ways: approval by the ASUO president or the Incidental Fee Committee, or by a petition with signatures from 5 percent of the student body.

The proposal asks the court to restrict the Emerald and other independent groups from the ASUO election process without formal representation of the ASUO or the Incidental Fee Committee.

ASUO Vice President John Dreeszen, who did not attend the hearing, said in a prepared statement that the Emerald is benefiting from its independent status without accepting the limitations of a funded group.

He also wrote that the Emerald violates ASUO election rules when it prints advertisements in support of its own ballot measure because it receives IFC funds.

The Emerald receives 16 percent of its funding from IFC, said Jean Ownby, Emerald assistant to the publisher. She contended however, that IFC funds are tied to production costs.

Former ASUO Vice President Marc Spence, who

represented the Emerald, argued the ASUO Constitution gives students the right to bring matters to the ballot without regard to the students' relation to the student government.

He also argued the independent nature of the Emerald should not interfere with a group's access to the ballot. He contended that requiring the Emerald to be dependent on student government for funding is an abridgment of the paper's civil rights.

Ownby said the Emerald is a non-profit, tax-paying corporate structure. The 10-member board of directors includes seven students — two appointed by the ASUO, one elected, and four Emerald representatives. Two faculty members and one community member are also included. This enables the editorial board and staff to remain autonomous. The board has no jurisdiction over the paper's news content.

"We may function independently, yet recognize our affiliation by having University and ASUO members on the board," Ownby said.

Election Board member Alan Contreras asked the court to interpret a 1986 election rule draft that prohibits funding groups that print unpaid endorsements if the group receives more than 50 percent of its funds from IFC. The Emerald is the only University group that receives less than 50 percent of its funds from IFC.

Ownby argued that some form of political advertising is necessary to inform students that they can obtain a refund of their \$1.99 Emerald subscription price if they choose not to read the paper.

The court will decide by March 13 on both the status of independent groups that use a petition-sponsored referendum for funding, and it will resolve the issue of whether the Emerald can use its pages to campaign for its own funding.

Science building funds restored to University

By Andrew LaMar

Of the Emerald

The University will begin construction of two new science buildings before the end of the year, thanks to Sens. Mark Hatfield and Bob Packwood, University officials said Monday.

University officials had expected an \$8.5-million federal appropriation for the buildings this month. But the appropriation was deferred indefinitely from the 1986 fiscal budget by President Reagan.

Hatfield and Packwood made a joint announcement Monday morning saying they pressed the department to restore the funding after the money was deferred from the 1986 budget, an action that would have postponed release of the funds. Funds should be released by June 1, said University President Paul Olum.

Because of the senators' intervention, the deferral has been changed to a rescission, Olum said. A rescission means the funds will be released as planned unless both houses of Congress vote to kill it, Olum said.

"We have the assurance from the statements of Sens. Hatfield and Packwood that there will be no action to withhold those funds," Olum said. The senators said it would be "an unlikely, if not to say impossible, eventuality" that Congress would vote to kill the funding.

"While we have expressed our gratitude to Sen. Hatfield for getting us this project, I really want to say here we're enormously grateful to Sen. Packwood for joining in on it," Olum said.

This means construction of the buildings probably will begin in December instead of the originally scheduled month of October, said John Moseley, the University's vice president for research.

Because of the Gramm-Rudman Act, the University will receive only \$8.1 million of the appropriation, Moseley said. University officials, however, expect to eventually receive all of the federal funding, Moseley

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