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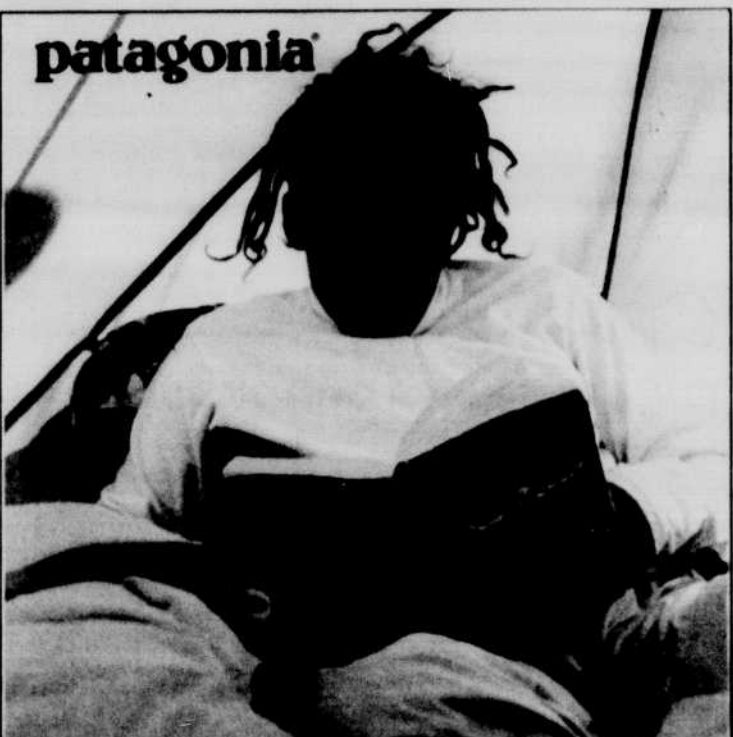
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**COMMUNITY**

**Election on library possible**

By Rebecca Merritt  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene voters may decide next May whether they want to fund construction of a new library with a \$15 million general obligation bond, city and library officials said.

The probable election comes more than three years after voters overwhelmingly approved the purchase of the old Sears building for a new library. If the 10-year library bond passes, property taxes will increase by about \$20 for the average-value house in Eugene, said Carol Hildebrand, city librarian.

"Both the staff and library patrons have expressed a lot of frustration over the delay," Hildebrand said. Hildebrand said the wait has mostly been because of city financial difficulties. Voters approved 1990's Ballot Measure 5 just before the city decided to relocate the library, cutting possible funds for the move. Also, the City Council and the building's owner had troubles assessing the property value and reaching a satisfactory selling price.

The city exercised its option to purchase the building last April and now needs about \$18.7 million for construction costs. If a bond passes, the City Council hopes to have the library opened by September of 1995.

The City Council has also agreed to add an additional floor to the building for city offices. Currently leased offices will move to the building to save the city lease costs. The library also would have the option to expand to the additional floor if needed.

"I find that a really exciting proposal," said Phil Weiler, a Eugene public relations analyst. "This is a heavily used library. We want to make sure we have the ability to expand it if we need to."

In addition to the library bond, Eugene voters may also be asked to approve \$35 million for city building maintenance. This bond would free up general-fund tax dollars that go directly to maintenance. The city could use the money instead to pay for library operating costs and an expanded community policing program.

Members of the Eugene Public Library Foundation are organizing a massive campaign to help raise private money for the library. Sheila Seitz, president of the foundation, said a number of donors have already expressed interest in the library. The



NORMAN MESMAN for the Emerald  
**The old Sears building will house a new city library by 1995 if a library bond passes next spring.**

foundation is looking for community volunteers to help with money-raising efforts.

"We're real excited about the City Council's support of the library," Seitz said.

A political action committee is also being organized to support the possible bond measure and help raise funds.

Hildebrand said a new library in the 100,000 square-foot Sears building could increase library usage by 50 percent. The current library building is 37,000 square feet and is not able to meet the demands of Eugene's growing population, she said. Circulation has increased from 211,000 in 1959 when the library was built to 1.4 million in 1993.

Most of the additional space would be used for study and reading areas. Hildebrand said many Eugene residents have stopped using the current library because they say it is too noisy and crowded. The library last year had to close a public meeting room, which previously held about 1,200 meetings per year, to accommodate its 65,000 registered users, Hildebrand said.

The new library could also be a place for users to gain access to city documents on an electronic system, Weiler said.

"There's a whole range of what we can do," he said.

Weiler said the City Council will meet next week to discuss the possible bond measures.

**Book Browse presents guest authors**

By Ben Moebius  
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The Lane County Medical Alliance's 25th annual Book Browse will take place Thursday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. off Coburg Road and Willakenzie Drive at 3384 Bailey Lane.

The Book Browse is a fund-raising event that provides an opportunity to meet regional authors and view a wide assortment of books.

Guest authors will be available to autograph and discuss their books throughout the day.

Charles Duncan, a former Uni-

versity journalism school dean, will present his book of articles and stories about Oregon called *An Orange for Christmas*. Douglas Bates, an Oakridge native and veteran *Register-Guard* editor, will endorse his book about interracial relations called *Gift Children: A Story of Race, Family and Adoption in a Divided America*.

Other featured authors include Tom and Virginia Booth, with a book of travel stories titled *Adventure guide to Micronesia*; Linda Crew, with a novel about a couple's struggle with infertil-

ity titled *Ordinary Miracles*; Mary Cross, with an extensive historical study of quilting titled *Treasures in the Trunk*; William Sullivan, with a new hiking guide titled *100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon*; and Sharon Von Loan and Patricia Lee, with a cookbook titled *Thyme and the River*.

Tickets are \$3 at the door. All proceeds from ticket sales, as well as 20 percent of book purchases, will be distributed to community organizations and scholarships.

For more information, contact Freya Tripp at 345-3975.

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**DATE: Wednesday, November 18, 1993 TIME: 12:00-1:00pm**

**PLACE: EMU Boardroom**

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