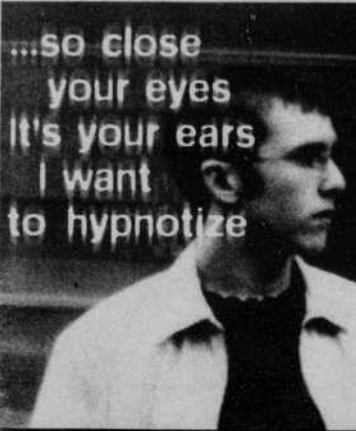


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Plans for a new federal courthouse in Eugene were unveiled last week. The new courthouse is forcing AutoCraft Body and Paint to move, which in turn may require the University to relocate garbage collection services, recycling operations and storage facilities.

Courthouse

continued from page 1

Woodrich said initial plans call for all but 6,000 square feet of the 22,000-square-foot building to be torn down and a 10,000-square-foot addition to be built onto the remaining structure. He also said University President Dave Frohn-mayer was "being real helpful" and making the likely relocation go more smoothly.

Frohn-mayer was out of town and unavailable for comment.

Meanwhile, the city also is getting independent appraisals of the AutoCraft lot and building. Johnson said that he believes the eventual figure for buying the property will be in the neighborhood of \$1.5 million, minus the costs the company would have to pay to acquire the property the University currently leases.

The city's lease with the University states that it would have to give the school notice of the impending sale but would not be responsible for paying any of the University's relocation costs, Johnson said.

The University would likely have at least nine months' warning, Johnson said, because the city's sale agreement with Chiquita stipulates that the company's workers can continue to work at the plant through the next growing season, which won't wrap up until late December 2001 or early January 2002.

"Yes, University Facilities Services would have to move," John-

son said. "But not until next December or January, so the University would have between nine and 12 months before they'd have to move."

Greta Pressman, the campus relations manager for facilities services, said Wednesday that the University has leased the property from the city of Eugene for about three years, and currently uses the site for housing its recycling operations and garbage collection services, as well as for operating a surplus furniture storage center.

AutoCraft does not wish to be a problem for anyone, but they have a unique business and a unique site.

Steve Cornacchia
attorney, AutoCraft

"We're not quite sure what we'd do if we lost this space," she said. "But I do believe we would be given lots of notice if it were to happen."

Regardless of where AutoCraft moves to, Johnson said it may be months before an agreement to purchase its property is reached. He added that the company will be compensated for the forced move, and he doesn't believe the business will be harmed in any way.

"I doubt that a site that's three-quarters of a mile from their existing site and on the same side of the road could hurt their business," he

said. "I honestly can't believe that a change of that length could have an adverse impact."

Cornacchia, the attorney for AutoCraft, said the company has yet to find a location that meets its specific needs, but added that Woodrich remains "guardedly hopeful that the [courthouse] decision will not impact them negatively."

The decision to site the courthouse in Eugene instead of neighboring Springfield was tough, said Bill DuBray, the executive director for the General Services Administration's regional office.

"It was a virtual tie between the two cities," he said. But the Eugene site had three advantages over Springfield: There is already a federal building in Eugene; the chosen site is just blocks away from Lane County Jail, which means a shorter transport time for prisoners; and the planned eight-story courthouse would be a better fit among the existing high-rise buildings in Eugene's cityscape.

The fact that the owner of AutoCraft did not want to move played into the GSA's decision, DuBray said, but he thought the city and the company's owner were nearing a resolution that would be "equally profitable" for the city and the company.

Architects have started work on the new courthouse's design, which DuBray expects will take about a year and a half to finish. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-2002, with the building being completed sometime in 2004.

Calendar

Friday, Mar. 16

Humanities Work-in-Progress Talk: Jean Luc Robin, Romance Languages, discusses "Old Rhetoric for New Science in Galileo and Descartes." Noon-1 p.m., Room 159 Prince Lucien Campbell Hall. Free. For information, call 346-3934.

Women's Center Open Mic Night: "Chicks with Picks" offers women an opportunity to share their creativity and talent in music and poetry with others. 6 p.m., Ben Linder Room, EMU. Free. For information, call 346-4095.

Jeremiah Lecture: Bernard Faure, Stanford University, discusses "Bodhidharma's Coming from the West: The Untold Story." 7 p.m., Alumni Lounge, Gerlinger Hall. Free. For information, call 346-5068. Reception follows.

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