

Cell tower

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"I don't have the time or the staff to respond to rumors like that," he said. Ordinarily, Eyster said, the city planning department that handles zoning proposals such as Sprint's would hold a public meeting in which site neighbors could voice their input. If the cellular-phone site proposal advances to that step, he said, that is when Housing would get involved.

At this point, he said he does not know enough about cellular-phone towers to make a definitive statement as to whether he would support the Villard Street site proposal. "My initial reaction is that I would have serious reservations to the plan," he said.

ASUO Vice President Joy Nair said the student government has no plans to begin an active campaign, and the issue should be decided by the students.

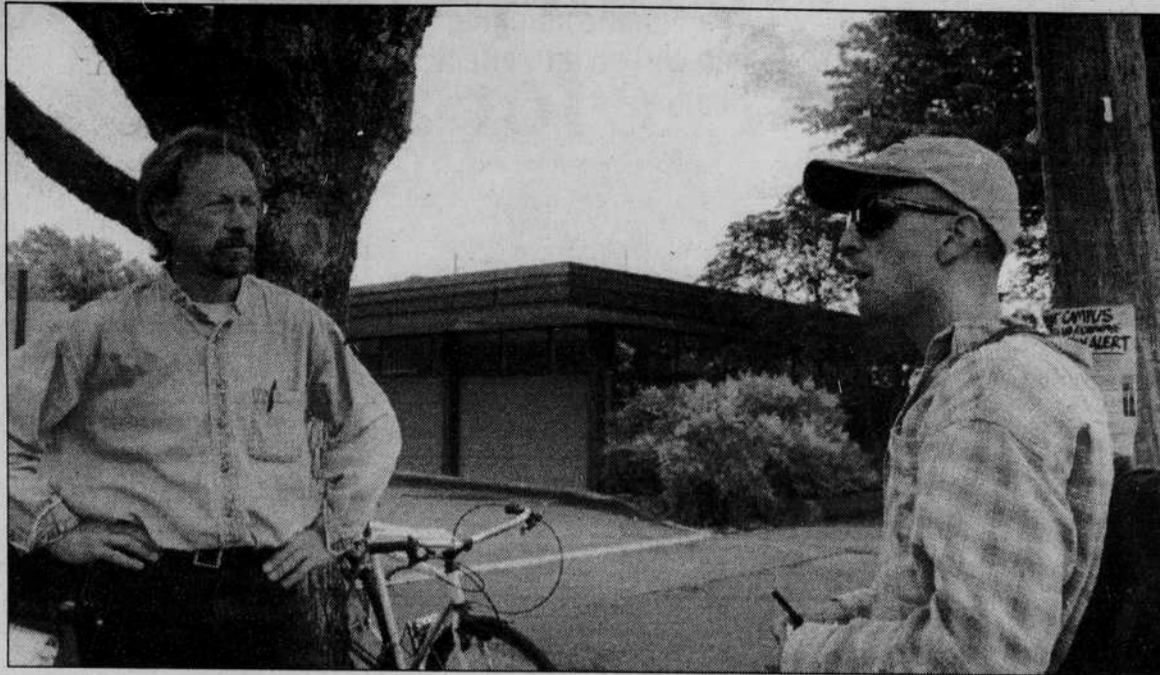
"If this is something the students want, we're going to support them," she said.

Bob Mitchell, the general manager at the Williams Bakery on 13th Street, said the company has been negotiating with Sprint but has not heard from the cellular-phone company for two or three months.

He said if the city planning department approves Sprint's request, Williams Bakery will go ahead with the deal.

"It's pretty much in their hands," he said.

Dave Mellin, a spokesman for Sprint, confirmed that the company has been going through the zoning process at the site since March 2. A final decision on the site is not likely to be reached until August, he said.



Zach Vishanoff, the 'Moss Street Defender,' talks with Mark Bruer, the project manager of Essex General Construction. Bruer and his crew are currently using the house and property where a cellular-phone tower might be placed.

Jessie Swimeley Emerald

If the site is approved, Mellin said Sprint will make every effort possible to ensure that the tower is not an eyesore to the neighborhood. He said the proposed tower would be painted green and resemble a flagpole.

"We really try to bend over backwards in a lot of ways to make sure our sites blend into the natural surroundings as much as possible," he said.

QWEST and Voicestream Wireless already own cellular-phone towers atop Prince Lucien Campbell Hall. University Telecom manager Dave Barta said Telecom Services has no plans to place more on campus.

But some neighborhood residents remain skeptical about the tower.

Karl Wagenknecht, a dentist who has an office nearby, said he thinks many important questions remain regarding the safety and aesthetics of the proposed tower.

He said he would like to see the company choose a site not located in the middle of a residential or commercial area, such as one located on a freeway overpass or on top of a high building. The planners of the tower should consider how they would feel if a cellular-phone tower were built next to where they worked or lived, he said.

"They probably wouldn't want it next to them," he said. "And we don't want it next to us."

The final decision on the Sprint site may arrive after another site request for a cellular-phone tower, made by Verizon Wireless Inc., is taken care of, said Jerry Jacobson, a Eugene land-use permits manager.

Verizon Wireless is appealing the denial of its application to build a cellular-phone tower in the parking lot of the Travelodge motel off Franklin Boulevard.

If that appeal is granted, Jacobson said, a city regulation will bar Sprint from putting up a tower on the Villard site. The city prohibits placing cellular-phone towers within 2,000 feet of each other, he said. A hearing on the Verizon appeal is set for July 27.

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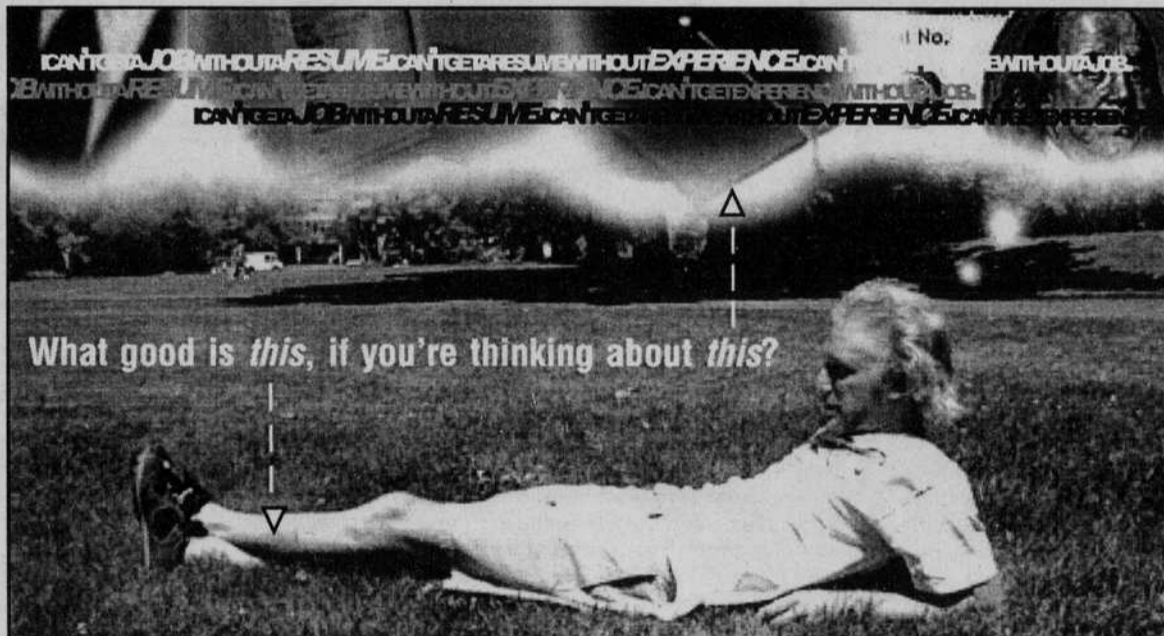
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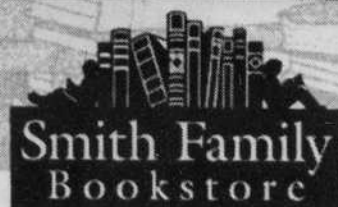
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