



Jonathan House Emerald

Doug Randels, co-owner of Theo's Coffee House, has noticed a sizable drop in patronage since Symantec's relocation to Springfield Jan. 2. Although discouraged about Symantec's move, Randels remains optimistic about the reopening of Broadway bringing in new customers.

## Symantec makes bittersweet exit

■ Although the first week was hard, most businesses are looking at the benefits of Symantec's departure

By Marty Toohey  
Oregon Daily Emerald

An already struggling downtown bid farewell to Internet security company Symantec and its 800 employees one week ago, but some business owners aren't shedding tears over the company's departure.

Symantec, maker of the Norton Anti-Virus program, officially opened its new Springfield building Wednesday, Jan. 2. Although some downtown businesses, including Theo's Coffee House, were hit hard in the first week of the company's departure, others look forward to the long-term benefits of filling Symantec's old office spaces with retail stores.

"Certainly the effect of (Symantec's) leaving will be felt in the short term," Broadway Market owner Rich Hardy said. "But it won't be that severe. Sometimes their workers came and bought individual items, like candy and cigarettes, but you never really saw 500 workers out on Broadway milling around."

Hardy added that Symantec's workers did not frequent the shop anyway because the company provided its own catered cafeteria.

Hardy said Symantec's 1993 purchase of its main building, which had

been a Bon Marché store, hurt downtown by reducing consumer foot traffic. He said his business should soon pick up, however, with the construction to open Broadway to motor traffic scheduled to begin in May and end in September. A new public library is also scheduled to open in December on 10th Avenue and Charnelton Street.

Symantec's lease on its downtown property does not expire until 2006, and Hardy said he is looking forward to new retail shops opening in the property.

"When we first leased the property, we had always planned to move into a bigger building," company spokesman Phil Weiler said. "We knew we might have to get someone else into the property. Obviously it's in our best interest to get it subtletted as quickly as possible." Weiler said Symantec is working with the city's metro partnership to put retail businesses into the five properties, which total more than 162,000 square feet of office space.

Companies that move into the subtletted space will also receive Symantec's 550 spaces in the Broadway Place parking garages, which the company purchased from the city for the duration of the downtown lease, according to Eugene Parking Director George Jessie. The downtown pedestrian mall is a four-block area of mostly empty storefronts. Groups of three or four locals occasionally wander

through or play hackey-sack in front of one of the empty business spaces, but for the most part, downtown is silent, sometimes even during the noon hour.

"There is a silver lining to the downtown situation, with the library and the courthouse opening up, but it's kind of a hard silver lining to find right now," said Dave Hauser, president of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce.

Hardy said he expects companies move in before rent skyrockets.

"There is a lot of property on the other side of us (from the Symantec building) that's dead right now, and when some businesses move in there the whole downtown will be much better off," he said.

Until then, Broadway Market is hoping to "weather the storm," according to store manager Angus James.

Some businesses aren't as pleased about the loss of 800 potential customers, however. Doug Randels, co-owner of Theo's Coffee House, said that his business was down about 25 percent in the first week since Symantec's departure.

"They were good customers, and they bought high-end items like lattes and mochas, not just cheap coffee," Randels said. "We'll miss their business, but they were fun, too, and we'll miss that."

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an additional \$427 to reserve a space from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and \$515 to reserve a space at all times — except for people with disabilities, who can reserve spaces for free when they purchase a permit. Some consider these rates exorbitant given the fact that DPS sells about 6,000 permits per year for 3,200 spaces.

The hooded parking meters have further exacerbated the problem for many people. Permits allow parking at certain meters without paying, but during games and events at McArthur Court the meters on University Street are covered with colored hoods reading "no parking."

Hicks said that DPS hoods the meters the night before an event, but the spaces are open to parking until 4 p.m. the day of the event.

"The hoods have lettering with the hours for parking," Hicks said. "Spots do get filled, but usually there are very few left by game time. We tow maybe one car every other game."

Jones, a Spanish major, said he has never purchased a University parking permit and would never consider doing so. Since he lives near campus, Jones said he usually walks to campus

and buys a \$15 area parking permit from the City of Eugene each year. This allows him to park on city streets near his home beyond posted hours.

But many who don't live on or near campus continue to buy parking permits, pump quarters into parking meters or rack up parking citations. According to Hicks, nearly 70 percent of all citations are issued for exceeding time at a parking meter or failing to obtain or display a permit. The cost of exceeding time at a meter is \$15 and the cost of failing to display or purchase a permit is \$20. The citation for parking in a restricted lot is \$25.

As of Oct. 30, DPS had sold 5,170 parking permits, and Stamm said it's likely that more will be sold by the end of the school year. Parking enforcement officers have issued 8,816 parking citations so far in 2001-02, and Stamm said he expects that number to increase as well.

"That's not out of the ordinary," he said, adding that while the numbers vary from year to year, DPS typically issues "between 23,000 and 40,000 citations per year."

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## News brief

### Groups fail to vote on prostitution

A lack of quorum forced two Eugene neighborhood associations to cancel a vote on whether to publish in their monthly newsletters the names of people convicted of solicitation.

The Jefferson Area Neighbors and the Westside Neighborhood Quality Project were two voters short of the 20 necessary to vote. They will decide the fate of the resolution during their next general meeting Feb. 12.

The resolution called for publishing the name and address of each person convicted by municipal court for solicitation. In Eugene, both the buyer and seller of prostitution are convicted of solicitation.

Prostitution has plagued the neighborhoods for years, said Paul Thompson, co-chairman of the Westside Neighborhood Quality

Project. The two neighborhoods include the area between Willamette Street on the east to Chambers Street on the west and Seventh Avenue on the north to 18th Avenue on the south.

"Our neighborhood had a growing issue with prostitution for many, many years," Thompson said. "It has gone down tremendously, but it has not gone away," he said.

Neighborhood association members believe that threatening "johns" through the publication of their names will be a deterrent for customers of prostitution.

"There have been johns who have told us that they're not looking to be exposed," Thompson said. He added there were "in excess" of 100 convictions of solicitations during 2000, most of them in his neighborhood.

—By John Liebhardt

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## Parking

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lots, city and county fees, and the faculty portion of the Lane County Transit District Ridership program.

At the end of each academic year, surplus revenue goes into the parking reserve fund, which is earmarked for parking improvements and additions. The total surplus for 2000-01 was \$127,000, which brings the total amount in the reserve fund to around \$718,000, Hicks said.

"We keep that money in reserve for opportunities to buy property or emergency expenditures," he said. He added that one long-term plan for the money is to help pay for a parking structure on or near campus — although he was quick to point out that decision is still far from finalized.

"Parking is part of the University of Oregon and needs to blend and fit with the University," Hicks said. "For us to just say we're going to build a parking structure is not realistic."

Parking has been a contentious issue on campus for years. A full-year parking permit costs \$85 for students and \$150 for faculty and staff. It costs

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