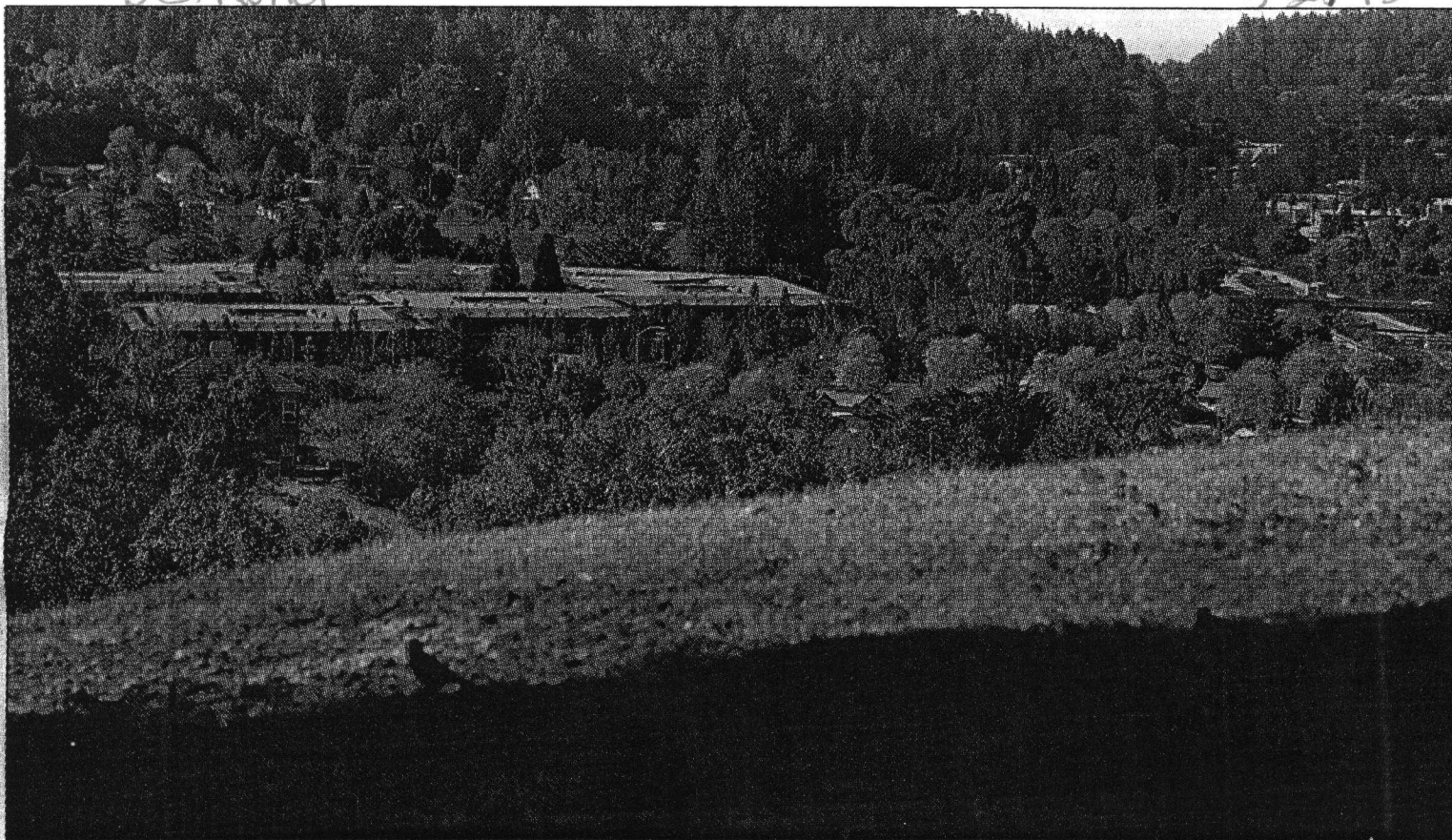


SCOTTS VALLEY

Olivet eyes expansion

While sale is still pending on Bethany property, university makes move for Borland land



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Built in 1993 as Borland's world headquarters, the 370,340-square-foot Enterprise Technology Center sprawls across 24 acres adjacent to Highway 17 in Scotts Valley. Olivet University is considering expanding to the campus.

School leaders also consider expanding to East Coast

By **KIMBERLY WHITE**

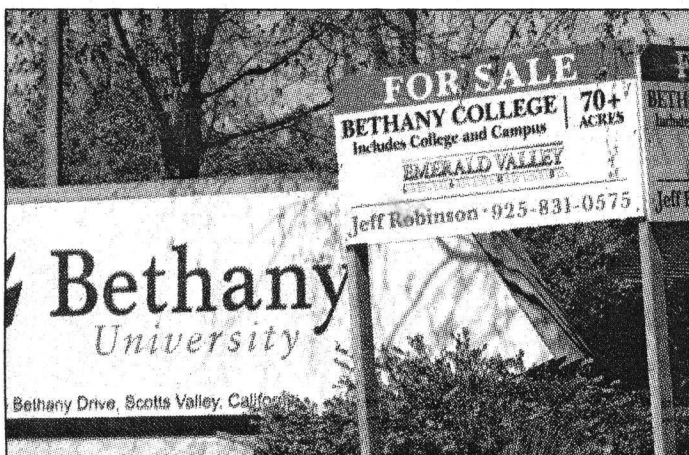
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SCOTTS VALLEY — The spring quarter's in full swing at Olivet University, six months after the Christian college took over the campus previously occupied by Bethany University.

But even though the oft-delayed deal to buy the campus has yet to close, Olivet administrators are still looking to expand, both in Scotts Valley and the East Coast.

For decades, the 70-acre campus was home to Bethany University, but faced with falling enrollment and \$15 million in debt, the school closed its doors last summer. Ownership of the property was then transferred to the Northern California-Nevada District of the Assemblies of God, which owned and managed the school.

The property was put up for sale, and Olivet University — then based in San Francisco — jumped at the chance. Dr. William Wagner, Olivet's president, said administrators had been looking to move to Scotts Valley for several years. When they found out the campus was available, Olivet immediately paid a down payment,



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL

LEFT: The 'for sale' sign is still up for the former Bethany University campus, despite the fact that Olivet University says escrow will close for them soon on the 70-acre parcel.

BELOW: Olivet University buildings can be seen through the I-beams of the never-completed Bethany University project.



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

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OLIVET

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signed a lease and began the fall quarter in mid-September.

This quarter, Olivet's enrollment stands at 270 students, according to Nate Tran, Olivet's dean of administration. That compares with about 530 students who were enrolled at Bethany when it shut down.

Olivet administrators say the school receives funding from private donations and tuition, as well as about 300 "ministries," or online businesses that report on Christian topics.

Among those ministries are Christian Today, the International Business Times and Christian Post, where Wagner serves as chair, according to the Christian Post website.

BUYING BORLAND?

Escrow originally was set to close on the campus Nov. 30, but Olivet has requested several delays, with the latest date set for April 15. But Wagner said that's not because the school lacks money. Rather, Olivet's been in simultaneous negotiations to purchase the 24-acre property on Enterprise Way that was once home to Borland Software Corp.

"The reason we (delayed escrow) three times was because the negotiations with Borland have taken longer



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL FILE

Olivet students find their way around the former Bethany University campus last September. Enrollment at Olivet stands at 270 students this quarter.

than anticipated," he said.

That property is about 1.5 miles from the main Olivet campus on Bethany Drive. Assuming both deals go through, Olivet would have a nearly 100-acre campus.

The Borland property went up on the auction block on Nov. 29 with an opening bid of \$12.2 million, but there were no takers.

Ray Tallman, Olivet's vice president, said the university is still "among the contenders" for that property. But regardless, Olivet has every

intention of closing escrow at the main campus next month, he said.

Olivet is "not reneging on any commitments by any means," Tallman said, adding "there's full agreement of the payment both in the interim and at the conclusion."

Dr. Jay Herndon, who serves as secretary-treasurer of the Northern California-Nevada District of the Assemblies of God, hopes the deal is sealed this time around "so this can be put to rest."

That's what he anticipates — but just in case, the Bethany property remains on the market, with an asking price of \$22 million.

Jeff Robinson, a broker with Emerald Valley Land Co., said the property has technically been on the market for about eight months. But with Olivet's latest request for a delay, he's ramped up his market-

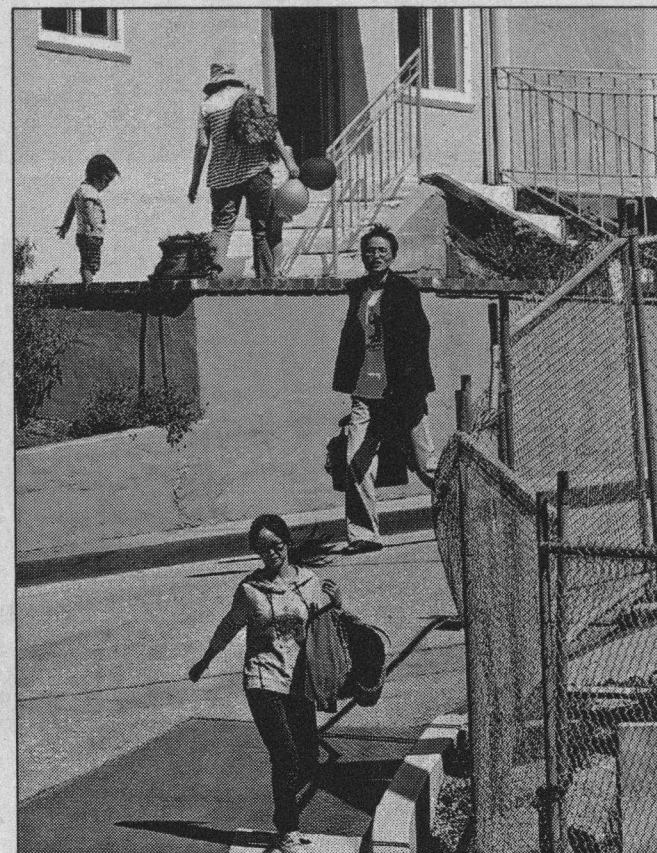
ing activities in the past few weeks, generating a "tremendous amount of interest" both nationally and internationally. A "for sale" sign that recently was put up on campus was illegally removed, he said, but has since been replaced.

An Assemblies of God conference will be held April 21, when district members will get an update on the status of the sale. Olivet could receive another extension if escrow hasn't closed by then, Herndon said, "but we'd rather not be in a position to have to do that."

EYEING MASSACHUSETTS CAMPUS

Meanwhile, an Olivet administrator toured a 217-acre campus in Northfield, Mass., earlier this month, part of a move to establish large satellite campuses on both coasts.

That campus was founded



DAN COYRO/SENTINEL FILE

Olivet students make their way around construction sites on the former Bethany University campus last September.

by D.L. Moody, an American evangelist and founder of the Moody Church, said Jerry Pattengale, an assistant provost at Indiana Wesleyan University. It's owned by the Green family, which also owns the Oklahoma-based Hobby Lobby craft store chain.

The family plans to donate the campus to an educational institution founded on traditional Christian beliefs, and Pattengale is overseeing the selection process. Olivet was among about 30 colleges that toured the site in recent weeks, he said, and a decision likely will be made next month.

"We had a wonderful first

meeting with them and they positioned themselves very well," Pattengale said.

The committee tasked with interviewing potential candidates knows little about Olivet, and members will be looking into its background and finances. But the committee is familiar with some of the organizations providing "considerable financial support" to Olivet. Among them is the World Evangelical Alliance, a network of churches with 400 million Christians in 128 countries, according to Wagner.

Follow Sentinel reporter Kimberly White on Twitter @kwhite95066.