

Food co-op changes with the economy

By DENNIS PFAFF
Of the Emerald

Yogurt, mellowness and tradition all have at least one thing in common in Eugene.

It's called the Willamette People's Food Co-op.

As one of the oldest food cooperative businesses in Eugene, the co-op typifies what a long-hair business has to do to become established in the country of the jolly green dollar. Coming into being in 1969 as

part of a much larger back-to-basics movement by young people, the miniature store catered mainly to the tastes and needs of University students and "counter-culture" types.

Nestled among the middle-income homes in the quiet residential neighborhood around Emerald Street and 22nd Avenue, the Co-op is probably the most serene supermarket in town.

Situated in a rambling, two-story house, the store conforms

to its surroundings on the outside and makes no demands on the integrity of its environment. In a word, it's no Safeway.

Inside, there is also little resemblance to the "since we're neighbors..." crowd. In the second story, one of the managers, Gary Wallace, has just put the finishing touches on two recently remodeled rooms which the Co-op hopes to use as part of a lending library, or rooms for meetings and classes.

Downstairs, polished hard-

wood floors and shelves stocked with granola, organically-grown tomatoes and Wha Guru Chew invite, rather than overwhelm, the customer.

And that, says one of the Co-op's four managers, is one of the things that attracts people to it.

"People started coming here as sort of an anti-Safeway, anti-big store thing," says Martin King, one of the Co-op's four managers.

But the store has problems, though, with drawing almost entirely from University students for customers.

For one thing, they're not always around. King said the three months during the summer when most students are gone present real problems for the store.

For example, King says, this fall the Co-op didn't have enough money to adequately stock its shelves. A \$1,000 loan from a "friend" of the Co-op fortunately came through, which enabled the store to get in some stock and pay for some advertising.

It wasn't a comfortable feeling, though, and King said that's just part of the financial problems that have forced changes to be made to keep the business alive.

When King first arrived in Eugene two years ago, he said "The energy here was really erratic and the finances got really spaced out."

King, who says his major interest in the store's operation is its finances, said the co-op, at the time, was \$6-7,000 in debt.

He said part of the problem may have been due to the "idealism" and lack of business

experience on the part of the managers.

He said "anybody could use the cash register" and thinks that much of the money disappeared that way.

Since then, the co-op started the purchase of the building it was located in to give the business a measure of security. Now, the \$18,000 purchase price has almost been paid off.

The place really isn't that much of a co-op, anymore, either.

Most of the day-to-day decisions, King said, are made by the four managers. Theoretically, he says, each of them has an equal voice, but each of them is interested in different aspects of the operation.

The membership set-up of the co-op has also changed. Previously, members received a price break (about 25 per cent) on the food they bought. In return, they were supposed to work at the store a few hours a month.

Difficulties with that system forced changes which brought delight to few connected with the store.

Now, everyone is charged the same prices and members (roughly, those who work four or more hours a month) get vouchers good for food at the co-op.

"Some people thought that with the elimination of the discount, the cooperative part was also eliminated," King says.

King wants to see the operation return more to that of a cooperative sometime soon.

Right now, however, the major concern is keeping the yogurt on the shelves.



Bruce Packer serves his customer at the Willamette People's Food Co-op, one of the city's oldest food cooperatives. Although the Co-op bears little

resemblance to the local supermarket chain, financial pressures haven't made life all "honey and yogurt" either.

Photo by Dan McGinnis

Seeks local anti-hunger support

Christian group wages fast

By HEATHER MCLENAGHAN
Of the Emerald

An estimated one-fourth of the world's population still do not get enough to eat. While one billion people around the planet do not meet basic nutritional requirements for maintaining life, recent research has shown that some Americans throw away a quarter of the food they buy each week.

That's why today has been designated "Fast for a World Harvest" on this Thursday before Thanksgiving.

Oxfam-America, a group made up of church and community organizations, has chosen today as a time for Americans to give thought to the problem of world hunger. They will use the money people donate from going without food today to help support innovative projects that will help those in other parts of the world grow more food, according to Doug Huneke of Campus Christian Ministry.

Campus Christian Ministry will present a mime performance today at 12:20 in the lobby of the EMU, portraying the problem of affluence versus the needs of the world's hungry, Huneke said.

"Of course we'll be heavily type-casting and

giving a dramatic overstatement of the problems of the world's poor, but our goal is to get the message across," Huneke said. "We want to show students that you just can't throw crumbs to the hungry. You cannot support huge multinational corporations that do nothing to feed people."

Following the mime performance a short explanation of today's fast will be given.

Although many students will have already eaten at least one meal by the time they learn of the fast, Huneke said the importance of promoting awareness of the plight of the hungry cannot be ignored.

"We want to draw people's attention to the problem. We are making the assumption that people won't immediately join us once they hear of the situation, but they may decide to send Oxfam the money they would have spent on their meals today."

Campus Christian Ministry operates a Hunger Center along with Clergy and Laity concerned at the Koinonia Center, 1414 Kincaid St. Further information on anti-hunger movements may be obtained through the office at 686-3597.

Pets

(Continued from Page 1A)

PAWS feels this is a ridiculously short time and encourages people to "call and call" the pound, or better, visit it personally to find a lost pet.

When they have the space, PAWS takes in homeless animals and runs an adoption service. They don't just give an animal away, though; there are strict rules for adoption. Any animal adopted has to be spayed or neutered by the adopting party.

In the long run, PAWS feels that spaying and neutering is less expensive and condemns the "I'll let her have one litter" philosophy. To PAWS, "having a litter does not add to a pet's

personality or health — it only adds to the tremendous number of animals that must be killed each year."

In Lane County about 1,500 animals per month are destroyed in the Lane Humane Societies' decompression chamber. PAWS wants to put a stop to its use.

A decompression chamber is an enclosed space that has the air pumped out of it, leaving too little oxygen for the animal to breathe. After a "period of convulsing," death occurs.

PAWS is sponsoring a petition to the Tri-Agency Dog Control that would prevent the use of the machine at the authority's new facility, and substitute sodium pentobarbital, a painless bar-

bituate, in its place. The petition also provides for the establishment of a low-cost spaying and neutering clinic.

PAWS feels very strongly about the need for spaying and neutering. They see it as the best solution to animal overpopulation.

"Few love to be cruel," says Johnson, "but people letting their animals have litter after litter means more and more animals are going to be destroyed. We feel it is more humane to prevent birth than destroy the living."

Persons who want to help PAWS with their petition drive or learn more about humane education, can call PAWS at 687-9219.

World at a glance

From Associated Press reports

Palestinians seize hotel

AMMAN, Jordan — Four Palestinian guerrillas, identified as "Black June" group members, seized the plush Intercontinental hotel Wednesday, took some of its hundreds of foreign guests hostage and then were overpowered by King Hussein's shock troops in an attack that left seven persons dead.

Three guerrillas, two hotel employees and two soldiers were killed, a Jordanian government spokesman said. The fourth guerrilla was seriously wounded.

China's N-blast largest yet

WASHINGTON—China set off the largest nuclear explosion in its history Wednesday, prompting U.S. officials to immediately activate a nationwide network of stations to monitor radioactive fallout from the blast.

The above-ground explosion occurred at 1 a.m. EST Wednesday at the Lop Nor nuclear test site in western China, said a spokesman for the Energy Research and Development Administration.

Overdosed convict improving

SALT LAKE CITY — Convicted murderer Gary Gilmore jerked the intravenous tubes from his arms Wednesday and was uncooperative with his hospital doctors, but was improved from his sleeping pill overdose.

Nicole Barrett, who joined him in an apparent lovers' suicide pact, remained critical and in a coma. Dr. Grant Christian said Gilmore, whose feet were restrained by "soft shackles" but whose hands were free, was generally uncooperative and uncommunicative with doctors.

N-attack protection developed

SEATTLE — The Boeing Co. says it has tapped the Soviet Union's civil defense program to develop a system to protect its industrial machinery from a thermonuclear attack and has tested the plan by using Soviet defense manuals.

T.K. Jones, Boeing's program and product evaluation manager, says in a report that the protection method works if industrial plants have 48 hours to prepare for an attack. However, the company said it had not yet found a way to protect the workers who would have to implement the protective measures.