



Emerald photo

Saturday Market is a bazaar extraordinaire, where unusual gifts can be purchased.

Market looks to relocate

When the Saturday Market first began in 1970, the founders asked Lane County for use of its two fountain parks situated on either side of Oak Street downtown at 8th Avenue.

"The county said, 'no, but you can move into the parking lot across the street,'" remembers Market Manager Howard Wade.

Wade appears before the Eugene Downtown Commission this morning at 7:30 to propose that the market relocate to those parks on a trial basis. The trial period would determine the extent of possible problems such as discord with traffic on Oak Street and 7th Avenue, Wade says.

If the commission approves the move, the Lane County Parks and Open Spaces department will consider renting the park space to Saturday Market.

"We'd like to be in there by Thanksgiving," Wade says, adding that the parks offer more aesthetics than a black-top lot

and are more obvious to Christmas shoppers.

During the market's early years, the parking lot was almost always filled.

Booth space for such crafts as leather, ceramic, and needle work was allocated by lottery, Wade says. The bazaar's coordinators limited the number of booths to 250 per Saturday, turning down merchants and vendors constantly because of space limitations.

More recently, 125 booths might display wares for the Saturday event. And, "on that parking lot, they look small," Wade says.

"This has been a real hard year, no doubt about it." Last spring's arson attack on the market's stage and advertising equipment caused significant damage, Wade claims.

The market has found itself on shaky ground following a summer of excessively rainy Saturdays coupled with a soggy economy, he says. "We need something positive."

Director shatters myth of aging

By Diane Winocur
Of the Emerald

An old woman, seemingly in a daze, sits at the back of the bus. Her face glows red from too much rouge. She wears mismatched clothing. Most college students would look away thinking her "senile."

But, according to Jean Bader, director of the gerontology department, the woman she describes suffers only from the effects of aging. Her mind is normal because aging doesn't cause senility, Bader says.

Our society entertains many misconceptions about the aged, she says. Beliefs that all elderly people are sick and that gerontology is the study of old-age disease are common misconceptions, Bader says.

"People live in fear of an illness and deterioration-filled old age," she says. Through gerontology, researchers find almost no characteristics inherent in the aging process. Aging by deterioration is "the exception by a longshot."

Because "we see ourselves from the inside out" the old woman on the bus may be ignorant of how others view her, Bader says.

Her eyes may no longer detect fine color differences, so that she purchases red and orange clothing, thinking they match. And her distracted manner could be the effect of prescription drugs — the average senior citizen takes seven, usually prescribed by various doctors, she adds.

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People who are over 65 now do not accurately represent the aging process of future generations, Bader says. People born before 1917 are more likely to age in declining health for several reasons.

Bader says many old people have bought the stereotypes of aging they grew up with. "It's a self-fulfilling prophecy."

The biggest mistake students make about gerontology is to think it does not involve them, Bader says.

But another important consideration for students in gerontology is employment. Jobs relating to gerontology are relatively easy to find, Bader says.

In a recent Newsweek special issue on jobs, working with the aged was second on a list of

careers with the highest-expected growth. Some 80 percent of University gerontology students find jobs directly related to their field, Bader says.

Student taxpayers should be concerned that one-fourth of all federal dollars is spent in some age-related manner, she says.

As the post-World War II "baby boom" moves into middle- and old-age, fewer taxpayers will be carrying the burden of more retirees.

Gerontology majors study much more than the physical aspects of aging, Bader points out. The interdisciplinary nature of the program offers students everything from the examining of the philosophical aspects of aging to designing bathrooms with the arthritic in mind.

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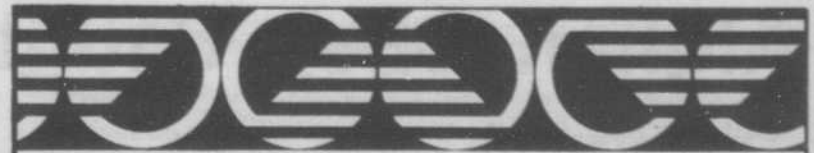
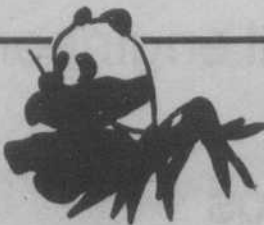
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