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## Alternative markets dispense natural food

By Sean Nelson  
Of the Emerald

Students and community residents can find inexpensive and plentiful produce and food products at the various alternative marketplaces located around Eugene.

Alternative markets have the added bonus of providing the traditional European flair of open-air markets to the shopping atmosphere in Eugene.

The Grower's Market is a weekly food-buying cooperative, located at 454 Willamette St. on the north side of the building.

"It's been going since 1971, and features the lowest prices in organic produce in town," Manager Ruth Atcherson said.

No membership fee is required to shop at the market, Atcherson said. "One need only work half an hour per order to

get the market price," she added. Customers can order food on Wednesdays between 4 p.m. and 7:30, and pick it up Thursday between 4 and 7:30, Atcherson said.

"The market is only open on Wednesdays," she added.

According to Atcherson, the market has every vegetable or fruit that is in season.

"Everything anybody wants to order we will attempt to buy," she said.

People interested in cooperative food buying should drop in some Thursday after-



Photo by Stephen Maher

**The Grower's Market offers a wide selection of produce as well as dry goods in a cooperative, socially conscious environment.**

noon and visit, Atcherson said. "The Grower's Market also has such stock as dry goods and toilet paper," Atcherson said.

"We're a lot like family," she said. The market owns the downstairs office and rents the upstairs offices to non-profit groups. The upstairs spaces are often used for meetings of various organizations.

"We consider ourselves an asset to the alternative community," Atcherson said.

"We are dedicated to promoting peace through cooperative living," she added.

For information about the Grower's Market, call 345-9173.

Another alternative business is Sundance Natural Food Store, located at 748 E. 24th Ave. From juices made of exotic fruits to the latest bargain on the price of potatoes, the shopper will find money saving potential as well as a unique shopping experience.

"(Sundance) market is a full-line natural food store," according to Gavin McComas, proprietor of the market.

"I think our prices are competitive," McComas said. Sundance has a large bulk food section, a large selection of cheeses, one of the best wine selections in town, and locally and organically grown produce, he added.

McComas also said the establishment has a collaborative management style.

"It's democratic in that we solicit the opinions of all relevant parties concerning the decision making process," he pointed out.

"We try and involve people as much as possible in the business, he said.

The level of wages for employees depends upon the amount of business the firm does, McComas said. As volume increases, salary costs go up and vice-versa, he added.

"We have an extraordinary wine section," McComas said.

Turn to Markets, Page 3B

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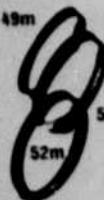


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