



Photo by Alasdair McCondochie

Skip and Henry, members of a Eugene-area band, entertain passers-by at the Saturday Market.

## Saturday Market a special place

By Colleen Pohlig  
Emerald Contributor

The setting is the the corner of Eighth Avenue and Oak Street on a Saturday afternoon. The mood is mellow, a symbol of Eugene.

The atmosphere is truly unique, as the faces of young, old, hippies, yuppies, and everything in between mix and mingle, forming a melting pot called the Saturday Market.

"The Market is a real special place," said Saturday Market manager and University graduate student Bill Goldsmith. "It's special to Eugene because people from all different lifestyles can come together. They enjoy themselves, they feel a part of something."

The Market is limited to handmade items and home-made food. It is one of the only places in Eugene nowadays that one is able to purchase something from the person who actually made it.

"You're assured originality (at the market)," said fudge maker George Collingwood. "You're not going to find an item labeled 'Made in Taiwan' here."

Celebrating its 21st season, the Market has seen many

changes but it has also been host to some vendors for years. The vendors share a certain bond that is easy to recognize.

Many of the vendors agree that the Market is much more than merely a place to sell their items.

"This is not only a market place, it's a community, a celebration," Goldsmith said. "The Market really gives a feel to Eugene that's very unique; it's a precious kind of thing."

The general belief among the vendors seems to be the same in that they believe the Market adds a certain something to Eugene.

"The market is an expression of Eugene's outlook on life; it's an open, friendly, family gettogether," Collingwood said.

"The spirit, the ambiance here at the Market is wonderful," said scarf maker Natalie Goff.

Another aspect to the Market is the music. One can listen to just about every kind of music under the sun on the Market's stage.

"The stage is a big attraction," said Market safety worker and University student Jim Desantis, who sets up musical equipment and keeps the

crowd from getting out of hand. "We get pretty good bands coming through here and it gives musicians a good way to be heard without having to go to the WOW Hall or somewhere else."

Yet another major aspect of the Market is the Food Court. Whatever the mood or craving, it's there. Americanized food is less popular than foreign and is only available in Southern Cajun, baked goods, pizza and lemonade.

"The vendors have made their dishes from scratch, from perhaps an old family recipe or one they have created themselves," Goldsmith said. "You won't find hamburgers and fries here."

As far as the business phase goes, "this is the best place to start a small business, the cheapest way," said Tony Woods, a veteran of the Market of 17 years and maker of teddy bears and baby clothes.

More than 40 Oregon businesses have gotten their start at the Market. A few examples are Burley Bike Co., The Monster Cookie Co. and Gold Conspiracy Jewelry.

The Market will run through Nov. 29, when it will move to



Photo by Sean Poston

Dennis Adams, better known as Poindexter the Clown to shoppers at the Saturday Market, is a newcomer. He moved to Eugene in August from San Francisco, and is popular with the market's younger clientele.

the Lane County Fairgrounds through Christmas Eve, then for The Holiday Market. The Holiday Market will run through Christmas Eve, then will shut down until the first weekend in April.

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