

MARKET

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The market, however, was forced out of business in 1959 because of the advent of grocery stores in the Eugene-Springfield area. Small farmers weren't able to compete with the low supermarket prices.

It wasn't until the land movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, Amorose said, that the idea of a community farmers' market was reintroduced.

"People were moving back to the land," he said. "They don't want a single crop form."

During this time, Amorose said people were also looking for a form of personal communication with farmers that couldn't be found from large growers or supermarkets. Responding to this new demand, a Lane County task force was organized to recommend the re-establishment of a downtown farmers' market.

The Lane County Farmers' Market opened business in 1979 under the umbrella of Saturday Market. By 1988, the produce market separated from the neighboring market and is now an independent, non-profit entity.

While it is not the largest of Oregon's 20 farmers' markets, Amorose is certain that the Eugene market is the longest running. The market opens each year in April and operates at its downtown site every Saturday until November. From November until December, the market conducts business at the Holiday Market at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

"We have grown 35 percent per year since 1983," Amorose said. "People in Eugene are naturally supportive of alternative and small scale local solutions."

About 70 percent of the market's 120 growers practice organic farming methods. Besides not using synthetically derived pesticides, organic growers practice soil restoration techniques. To legally be certified as an organic farmer, Amorose said growers have to work to rebuild the soil.

However, producers can be claimed organic farmers by practicing no-spray methods without reconstructing the soil. In the future, Amorose said, federal law will require all organic producers to be certified.

The market, Amorose said, is open to any small, local grower. Interested growers should contact him. The only criteria that has to be met is that the product must be homegrown. "We're open. We've never turned anyone away," he said.

Like most small, local producers, Ron and Faye Spidell of Delta Farms appreciate the outlet offered by the Lane County Farmers' Market. For the past two years, Delta Farms has been a regular participant of the market.

A certified organic producer, Delta Farms grows plants and vegetables at a three-acre Springfield resident.

Amorose said the farmers' market has become increasingly popular because of its socially, politically aware environment. People are also interested in the rare varieties of produce they can obtain through the market that aren't available at the average supermarket.

The market, Amorose said, is just beginning to grow, and the prospective partnership will allow even more growers to participate. While the market's members are supportive of expanding the market, several have mixed feelings.

A Tuesday and Thursday market, Stinson said, would interfere with the farmers' limited growing hours. Local growers Ron and Lewis Howes said the demand for a weekday market wouldn't be as profitable as the existing Saturday market.

Nevertheless, Amorose remains optimistic. "The best days are yet to come," he said. "We're just starting to mature."

Holy Moses



Photo by Jeff Paslay

Former Olympic gold medalist hurdler Edwin Moses was at Saturday's Oregon Twilight meet, where he was an honorary starter for the 400-meter hurdle event and signed autographs afterward.

IVORY

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tectural history professor, who died in 1991. "If I hadn't had those architectural history classes, my movies wouldn't be what they are today."

With producer Ismail Merchant and writer Ruth Praver Jhabvala, Ivory has been making movies for 30 years for their company, Merchant Ivory Productions.

Ivory, 64, grew up in Klamath Falls and graduated from the University in 1951 in fine arts.

Although he now lives in New York where his film company is located, Ivory travels to Oregon every summer to his cabin at Lake of the Woods near Medford and tries to keep in touch with the University.

Proceeds from ticket sales and contributions to the presentation ceremony of the Pioneer Award have raised more than \$40,000 to endow a Presidential Scholarship at the University.

Past recipients of the Pioneer Award are former Oregon Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, Nike founder Phil Knight, author Ken Kesey and Oregon Symphony Director James DePreist.

SHOOTING

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I expected."

Toni Johnson, 20, a graduating senior from Philadelphia, said she initially balked at attending graduation ceremonies.

"I just wanted to go home," she said. "It's been sort of weird. It's not some kind of exciting thing. It's been ... sad for me."

Simon's Rock officials and students have been lobbying Massachusetts lawmakers for stricter gun control laws since the shootings.

Lo bought the rifle at a local gun shop the day of the shootings, police said. Authorities believe his ammunition arrived in a mail-order package.

Lo's lawyers are preparing an insanity defense. Prosecutors have declined to specify any motive for the crime.

'We all lose innocence at some point. But to lose it so radically at such a young age is something I feel terrible about.'

— Dean Bernard F. Rodgers Jr.,
Simon's Rock College of Bard

Friends and acquaintances have described Lo, a native of Taiwan, as a troubled teen-ager who sometimes expressed hatred for blacks, Jews, homosexuals, AIDS patients and the handicapped.

At his first court appearance, his head was shaved and he wore a sweatshirt with the name of the rock group Sick Of It All.

THIS WEEK

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