



Elizabeth Thompson of Sweet Potato Pie and her children Asher and Maia

BEST HIPPIE BUSINESS

1. **Sweet Potato Pie**
2. **Sundance Natural Foods**
3. **Saturday Market**

"What's a hippie business?" some of you asked, and others of you gave us the answer: Sweet Potato Pie! And also Sundance, with its array of natural foods, and Saturday Market, with all its lovingly made crafts, foods, performers and more. When asked what "hippie business" means to her, Sweet Potato Pie owner Elizabeth Thompson replied cheerily, "I'm totally not digging the title of BEST HIPPIE BUSINESS, so I'm changing it (officially, pie-style) to BEST HEMPY BUSINESS." And what does that mean? "1. Offering products to make the world a better place — saving the Earth one hemp/organic cotton T-shirt at a time. 2. Educating consumers about the benefits

of conscious consumerism — knowing where your stuff is made and who made it ... putting a person behind each product we sell. 3. Selling simplicity — why buy three chemical cotton T-shirts when you can buy one organic cotton tee you're going to wear every day anyway...? Living proof that LESS IS MORE. 4. Having a good time and laughing at ourselves along the way! Hemp! Hemp! Hooray!" Damn! That's not a reply, that's a manifesto! And one we approve of fully — though we do think it's pretty hippie. In the good way!

BEST BOUTIQUE/CLOTHING STORE

1. **Sweet Potato Pie**
2. **Deluxe**
3. **Infinity Mercantile**

BEST GROCERY STORE

1. **Market of Choice**
2. **Sundance Natural Foods**
3. **Capella Market**

BEST RECORD/CD STORE

1. **CD World**
2. **House of Records**
3. **CD/Game Exchange**

We are living through the Great Decline of the Brick-and-Mortar Movie/Music Store (Goodbye, Tower Records! Sayonara, Music Millennium! Bon voyage, Flicks & Picks!) and yet here in Eugene, out in a strip mall along West 11th, resides a keeper of the torch: CD World. While its name is dated (they've been around since 1989, so we look the other way), the stock on hand is always exhaustive and definitive; the staff always willing to point out the trends in new music to



CD World ceiling

clueless parents; the website (www.gotocdworld.com) always jam-packed with good information (if presented in a clunky format). Additionally, the store regularly offers free stuff, stocks a "local" section and has in-store performances of hot up and coming bands. Hard to go wrong with this winning combination of everything disc-related.

BEST DOWNTOWN BUSINESS

1. **The Kiva**
2. **Sweet Potato Pie**
3. **Lazar's Bazaar**

The letter writer who recently told us s/he wouldn't "darken the doors of downtown" — and that only thuggy teenagers would — clearly doesn't know squat about downtown. Luckily, our readers do, and you voted the little natural foods store that could Best Downtown Business. Kiva, with its combination of bulk foods, wine and yummy, yummy cheese, has been around for decades now, weathering the mall-driven destruction of downtown, the pedestrian mall and the Connor-Woolley dead space. Though the early closing time on Sunday challenges many of us, and though some of the newer, younger employees could use a course in customer service, owner George Brown and longtime staff members like Kate, Holly and Megan charm the money right out of the pockets of everyone who walks through the doors. Whole Foods be damned (seriously, we think it might already be damned), EW readers vow to stay loyal to the little store on the corner of 11th and Olive.

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Janice Dunn
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SIUSLAW
CARTER & CARTER
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683.2900
260 Country Club Rd., Suite 230
Eugene, OR 97401
janice@carterandcarter.com