

Food coop moves, expands

by Shelly Kalkowski

Starting this week, the 33rd and Holdrege Golden Que, will attract more than pinball wizards. Now the building also houses the People's Food Coop.

Formerly located at St. Mark's on-the-Campus Episcopal Center, the People's Co-op has been offering produce, dairy products and reduced prices for almost a year.

Recently, another group of Lincolnites decided to organize a coop for food staples. Their products include rice, flour, salt and

"At first, we were just going to do it ourselves," Jerry Anderson, an organizer of the food staple coop said. "Then we decided to ask the People's Coop if they were willing or ready to expand operations."

The People's Food Coop decided they were, The result is a one-stop outlet for produce, dairy and staples products.

Prices are lower than at commercial stores. Bread is a dime a loaf, eggs 25 cents a dozen and milk 83 cents a gallon.

Bobbie Carlson, another food staples coop organizer, said the coop will buy supplies from local wholesale outlets and farmers. A 10 per cent mark-up will be used to meet overhead costs and buy coolers to store perishable foods.

Right now the coop owns only two

When the coop was still located at St. Mark's members would order their groceries on Monday and pick them up Thursday.

"A lot of people can't program their needs for a week. Order one day and pick it up later," Anderson said. "So we are going to try and keep the store open six or seven days a week."

The coop will depend on volunteer help to stay open, Anderson added.

According to Mike Turner, People's Food Coop member, coop membership currently numbers around 100. Members are considering raising the one dollar membership fee to three dollars. In return, members pay only a five per

The coop is organized on a volunteer-committee basis. Members volunteer to perform the weekly activities: picking up food, filling and taking orders, collecting money. Dave Stephens, UNL business administration student, manages and books.

"Before we had operated under a director, but we weren't making any profits," Turner said. "so the members voted to change to this other system."

To utilize the space at the Golden Que the past month, volunteers have been operating a free store. People leave unwanted items and take whatever they want that's there. Carlson said the store also will accept handcrafted items on consignment.

Eventually members hope to be listed as a non-profit organization and be authorized to handle food stamps, Carlson added.

Who can join the People's Food Coop?

"The coop is for those people who are interested in an alternative to the supermarket. People who want more control over what and how they buy groceries," Anderson said.

Currently, most coop membesr are students. But it is hoped the new location will bring in more Lincoln community members, Carlson



Bobbie Carlson and Mike Turner . . . discuss the food coop's operation.

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2,700 dorm residents fund AUF

Almost half of the students in UNL residence halls gave up their Wednesday evening meal on behalf of the All University Fund charity drive, according to Gail Watson, AUF residence hall chairman.

More than 2,700 students waived dinner rights, Watson reported. A maximum of 5,061 could have participated, she

East Campus dormitory residences had the highest participation rate. Only eight of 256 residents didn't participate, Watson said.

Participation table: Abel-Sandoz 868 (1387) Cather-Pound-WRH 721 (1322)Harper-Schramm-Smith 779

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