

Report on the Women's Place.

Since 19th September 83 the Co-op has funded a part-time co-ordinator in the Women's Place. This was for 8 hours a week at £1.25 an hour. This has been the situation for the last 4½ months. The aims, within this period were to assess the viability of the Women's Place both financially and more importantly, as a base for women's activities.

The initial 8 weeks of the 4½ month period were taken up with redecorating the place - little or no organisational work was possible. In the latter 2½ months the time-table below has evolved.

<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tues</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thurs</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>	<u>Sun</u>
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R.C.S.	A	A	A	R.C.S.	A.W.	
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Clare	Finny	Joan	Anne F	Deirdre	C.E.	R.C.S.
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Women's	R.C.S.	R.C.S.	Lesbian	Women's
Health	G.C.S.G.		Group	Group
Talks.				

R.C.S. = Rape Crisis Group.

G.C.S.G. = Greenham Common Support Group.

The above two groups alternate on Tuesday nights.

= Annette

The other activities which have been organised by the Women's Place include the monthly Women's Social which takes place outside the Co-op on the 1st Tuesday of the month and which will recommence on the 7th February. We have also contacted a large number of women's groups and organisations and are in the process of gathering information from them. As the time-table indicates there is, generally someone in the Women's Place during the day which means the room is relatively accessible and open.

This, then is the present situation within the Women's Place; it is backed by substantial enthusiasm and a general willingness to work on the part of the women involved and attending meetings

The future plans are;

- 1) The organisation of a series of monthly public meetings in Connolly Hall. The first of these is being organised in conjunction with the Women's Health Group - the topic is contraception and the meeting will take place in February. Further topics will include : Sexual Harassment; Women and the Law; and Women and Education.
- 2) The organisation and setting up of a women's library in the Women's Place - shelves are being built at the moment.
- 3) Provision of tea and coffee facilities - this is dependent on removing or fixing the leaking sink in the toilet so that water is readily available.
- 4) We are writing an advertising leaflet which will be generally available in the Co-op and will tell women about the Women's Place and its activities.
- 5) We are organising a regular Women's Bop which will take place in the childrens space on the last Saturday of each month - the first is on Sat. 28th Jan.
- 6) We are also planning a Womens Place Benifit Weekend at the end of March which will involve : a Women's Social; Women's Cabaret (mixed); films and also , perhaps women only, working in the Co-op over that Weekend (to be discussed at a later date).
- 7) The Women's Place is interested in taking an active part in the Bookshop particularly in the areas of feminist and linked sections. To be discussed at a later date with those involved in the Bookshop.

Finance

Present average weekly income:

R.C.S. -----	£5.40
Lesbian Group -----	£ 2.20
Women's Group -----	£2.60
Social -----	£2.50

£12.70 = present average weekly income.

Projected weekly income:

Women's Bop -----	£2.50
Health Talks -----	£1.60

contd.

Greenham Common Support Group-----	£1.60
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	£5.70
+ present income -----	£12.70
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Total projected income -----	£18.40

Based on the figures of the projected weekly income of the Women's Place we now feel that:

- 1) the Women's Place should now pay it's own co-ordinator.
- 2) the Women's Place should pay 10% of it's weekly income to the Co-op, this %to be reviewed on a regular basis.
- 3) money from activities which would take place in the Women's Place were it not for lack of space, would be split 50:50 between the Women's Place and the Co-op. Groups in this category at the moment:

Women's Performance Art.

Greenham Common Support Group.

Women's Bop.

- 4) We would hope, that while striving for financial independence, our need for short term loans could be met by the Co-op - this facility may be necessary for the Women's Benefit Weekend or other similar events.

Women's Place as a Resource Project

In What Way?

A base for women's activities; a meeting place where energies can be organised and used effectively. We do not feel, at the present moment in time, that there is much point in trying to work out the theory beyond this.

While it isn't for us to work out the Co-op's position re: resource projects in general we would like to make the following points with regard to our own situation:

- a) While we want to be autonomous we do feel it is important that there is meaningful support, for what we are trying to do, within the Co-op.
- b) In assessing the viability of the Women's Place and other resource projects effectiveness must take precedence over financial stability.

Membership

At the moment only the co-ordinator must be a member of the co-op and fulfill membership requirements, otherwise it is up to the individual women involved in the Women's Place to decide whether they are interested or not.

(Annette will fulfill membership requirements outside the Women's Place)