

Fair and frugal food



Students in the north end of Halifax could really benefit from the organizing of a food co-op in their area.

Over a week ago, members of the Halifax community got together at the North End Library to discuss the possibility of forming a food co-operative in Halifax.

A food co-op is a non-profit consumer-run food store where, instead of prices being set by a company in order to make a profit, prices are set by elected officers who set prices which pay for the cost of selling the food.

The co-operative is financed and operated by members through an elected board.

There was no set mandate from the meeting, and another meeting is planned for the near future.

The idea of a co-op came about after the local supermarket, which was infamous for its poor quality and high prices, left after community protest.

At present many of the

Uniacke Square residents, who are elderly and have no transportation, are in need of a close supermarket that won't rip them off.

Co-op membership can be open to just a certain group of people, membership can be bought for a sum of money, or other ways can be used, including having non-members pay a certain per cent extra for buying items in the store.

Depending on the type of co-op which is set up, members of the co-op will include families, people on pensions, and hopefully students.

Some reasons you should consider getting involved in a Halifax co-op are:

1) You will be supporting a community-based democratic organization that will put your money back into Halifax, and north end development.

2) Hopefully, the co-op will have a membership cost that will be cheaper than or equal to going to a regular supermarket.

Also, if you use the co-op as a non-member and pay a higher price for the food, the price should still be competitive with other grocery stores.

3) If students and families begin to shop at the co-op instead of regular stores, there will inevitably be a drop in prices as the other stores try to get rid of the co-op.

Whether you buy a set amount of groceries per week, or you are living off Kraft dinner and cereal, you ought to consider using co-op.

If you are in the north end, it should be just as close as other supermarkets, and will likely have better service, better quality, and better prices than most other stores.

The automated convenience of large chain supermarkets may be appealing to a busy student life, but a food co-op can give us cheaper food, and a better reason to spend our money in the first place.

Geoff Stone

l e t t e r s

Women's centre does not get the boot

To the editors:

I would like to respond to the article printed in the Gazette a couple of weeks ago titled "Women's centre gets the boot" in order to correct what I feel are some inaccuracies.

Henson College agreed to help

Patchwork Community Women's Centre through its initial period of development and to provide some of the resources that we needed to get ourselves established. Henson College has provided us with rent-free space and meeting space for a year and a half; they have covered printing costs, photocopying costs, and office supplies. Due to a number of unfortunate circumstances (which seem to be largely logistical), we are being asked to leave this space sooner than we had anticipated, but I think it is unfair to suggest that Henson College has failed to honour their end of the agreement. Patchwork didn't "get the boot". We were asked to vacate the space and we were given plenty of advance notice in which to make alternate arrangements.

We are actively looking for a space.

Henson College, Mary Morrissey, and our advisory board (of which Toni Laidlaw was never a member) have been generous. They have given us financial support and moral support, as well as valuable guidance and experience. The advisory board was dismantled by mutual agreement that it was in Patchwork's best interests to be directly accountable to the Dean of Henson College. Those women who sat on our advisory board continue to make their experience and expertise available to us; Mary Morrissey has been an irreplaceable resource.

In its infant stages, Patchwork, like any other infant, needed support and guidance, which was provided in a big way by

Mary Morrissey and Henson College. Although Patchwork is still very young and we have many struggles and much growth ahead, perhaps in order for us to continue to grow, it is time for us to stand on our own legs, as wobbly as they may be. Surely we will fall down from time to time, but with support from people like Mary, we will back up and try again. Soon we will learn to walk, and perhaps before too long we will even learn to run. I would like to extend many thanks to Mary Morrissey and Henson College for their support and generosity.

Sue McKay
Patchwork Collective Member

Thanks

To the Editors:

The N.S. Voice of Women would like to thank *The Gazette* and CKDU-FM for publicizing *Bossin's Home Remedy for Nuclear War*, which played to a full and receptive audience in the McInnes Room last Friday night.

We extend particular thanks to Juanita Montalvo and the Dalhousie Student Union for their special assistance in bringing Bob Bossin and his one-man musical medicine show to the campus and the community. Everyone in attendance seemed to enjoy the show, and Dr. Bossin and organizers were gratified by the response.

Barbara Bachrach Taylor
N.S. Voice of Women

