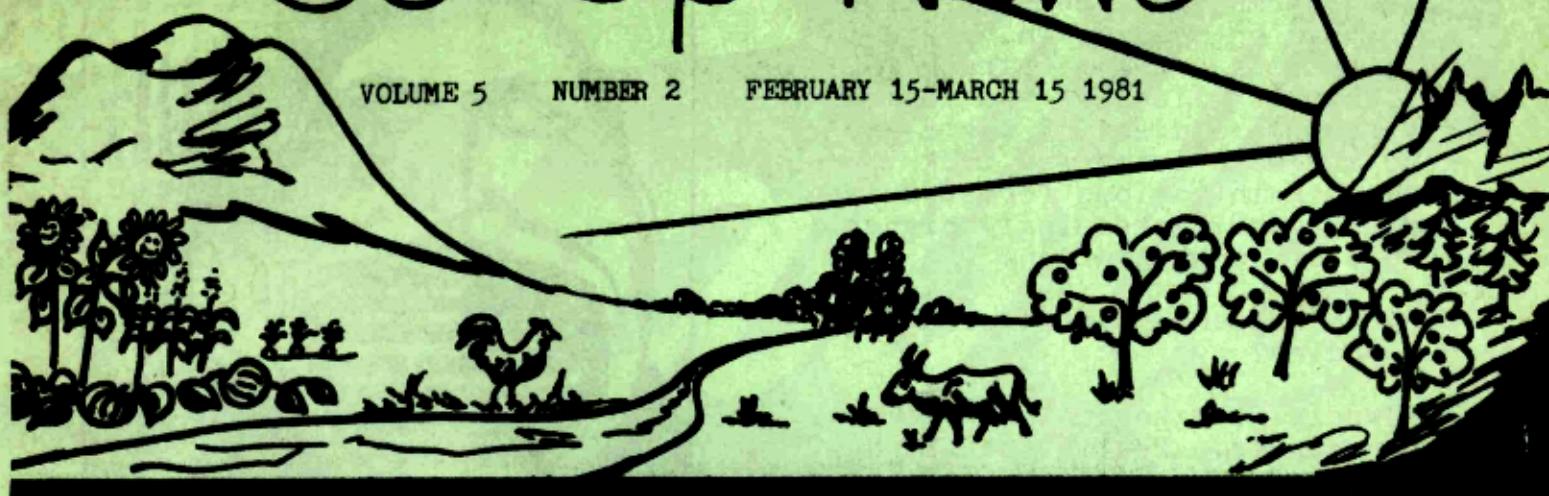


Co-Op News

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Pesticides Kill --

-- EAT ORGANIC

PART I

By Beth Hartmann

Pesticides are chemicals manufactured for the purpose of killing organisms that interfere with production of commercial crops. They have been used extensively since World War II. Most of them were developed as part of the war effort. Thirty-five years later we are in a position to evaluate the effects and implications of a world-wide food system becoming increasingly dependent on these chemicals. In this series of articles I will present information on (1) human health issues, (2) land use and environmental issues, and (3) issues of international corporate irresponsibility, all as they relate to pesticide production and use. Accompanying this series is an annotated bibliography of books and other materials available at the Co-op on the politics of food.

It seems pretty clear that pesticides could pose a health problem. But the industry puts a fair amount of effort into obscuring the issue, calling these chemicals "safe as salt" (sic) or declaring that some of the same toxic compounds occur naturally, although in what concentrations and under

what conditions is never made clear. Besides, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and state agriculture departments are responsible for protecting us by monitoring and restricting pesticide use.

I've chosen four basic questions to answer about pesticides and health as a way to examine some of the potential health dangers.

1. Do pesticides used on crops actually end up on the food we eat?

A. The FDA sets limits on what concentration of pesticides residues is permissible on food sold in the U.S. The enforcement of these policies falls short at several points. Only a third of the pesticides used on raw food are monitored regularly. Many of the pesticides manufactured in the U.S. are not even testable by current FDA methods. Those foods that do get tested for pesticide residues have often been eaten before the tests are completed. Where violations do occur, punishment is infrequent and almost never severe.

Besides coming to us as residues on food plants, some pesti-

cides (as well as other toxins) may be present in meat. This is because some of these chemicals, when used on feed grain, are eaten by livestock and concentrate in the animals' tissues. As meat by-products and animal waste are more and more being fed back to livestock in various forms, these toxins reach increasingly higher levels of concentration.

2. What happens to pesticides in our bodies?

A. Twenty-five percent of them may cause cancer. Pesticides are designed to suppress metabolism and growth. It is not surprising, therefore, to find them linked with miscarriages and abnormal fetal development. Oil soluble pesticides accumulate in body fat and are discharged into the bloodstream during weight loss. They will also accumulate in breast tissue and excrete into the milk of nursing mothers. In 1977, an Environmental Defense Fund study found that the average mothers' milk would exceed FDA pesticide safety standards. These are a few of the known physiological effects of pesticides. There may be many other symptoms and side-effects that are never diagnosed as being pesticide-related. Such symptoms might include rashes, headaches, and flu-like symptoms.

3. What happens to the people who have the closest contact with pesticides; the farmworkers, production plant workers, packers and so forth?


A. Clearly, the people who have the closest contact with these chemicals will suffer the greatest effects. The United Nations World Health Organization estimates that 500,000 people worldwide are killed or incapacitated annually as a result of pesticide use. Most of these people live in developing



countries. About one third of the pesticides manufactured in the U.S. are exported. Fifteen percent of them are banned here. In this country, many of the farmworkers are undocumented and have no recourse if they are harmed by pesticide contamination. Even among documented workers, there is a poor record for safety standards.

4. How can we avoid consuming pesticide residues?

A. Eat organically grown food*, when eating non-organic fresh produce, either peel it or wash it with soap and warm water. These steps will help you keep these toxic chemicals out of your body. They won't do anything much to effect the ongoing crisis in international agriculture. More on this subject in future segments.

*The Co-op clearly marks organically grown foods with this symbol:  Farmers who sell us organic produce sign an affidavit stating that they have used no chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

Spray 2,4-D And See

from Mother Jones (Feb/March 1981)

"Babies are replaceable"--that's the word from a Weyerhaeuser forest products chemist in answer to charges that the company's herbicide spray program causes pregnant women to miscarry.

Dr. Illo Gauditz made the statement while meeting in Ashford, Washington, with members of the local Succotash Alliance. The Mt. Rainier-vicinity group says that in the past year, out of 12 pregnancies in Ashford, there were nine miscarriages, one child was stillborn and one infant died shortly after it was born with a rare heart defect.

During the past year, Weyerhaeuser sprayed a large area just outside Ashford approximately 15 times with the herbicide 2,4-D. That chemical is currently suspected by the Environmental Protection Agency of being linked to various health problems.

Gauditz's statement was amplified by Weyerhaeuser community relations manager Karl Burch, who explained that it "was spoken from a strictly scientific point of view, purely biological. In the animal kingdom, including humans, if a woman loses a child through miscarriage, or even when it's older through an accident, the woman can have another one. That's really all she (Gauditz) meant."

Gauditz and Burch also suggested to the group that women plan their pregnancies around the spray schedule.

The Alliance labeled both statements "unbelievable."

FOOD POLITICS BIBLIOGRAPHY Part I

This is the first part of a series of very short reviews of publications the Co-op either sells, or can order, on issues relating to the politics of food. I am not presenting them in any particular order because I did not discover and read them in any particular order. Sometime this spring, the whole bibliography will be organized and reprinted as a handout and reference list.

Food First: Beyond the Myth of Scarcity, by Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins, Institute for Food and Development Policy, 1977, \$2.75.*

This is a classic analysis of the causes of world hunger. In it, Lappe and Moore have stripped away the myths surrounding hunger and illuminated its real causes. Until we have a clear understanding of what the problems really are, there is little we can do in the way of proposing solutions. A question/answer format is used to expose the myths of scarcity, "natural" disaster, efficiency of scale, and foreign aid. Lappe and Moore write about big business, neo-colonialism, and the Green Revolution, a study in modern corporate expansionism, while maintaining a hopeful outlook.

World Hunger: 10 Myths, by Frances Moore Lappe and Joseph Collins, Institute for Food and Development Policy, 1979, \$2.25.*



Some people in the world are hungry because there's not enough food, which is because there's too many people. Right? No way! These assumptions along with several others stand between our understanding and the real issues behind feeding the people of the world. This book is a very abbreviated version of Food First.

Radical Agriculture, edited by Richard Merrill, Harper & Row, 1976, \$6.95.*

This collection of articles postulates that much of what is alienating in society is directly attributable to the destruction of traditional and responsible agriculture. In its place we are seeing high technology farming, centralized corporate control over the production and distribution of food, and the destruction of rural communities. Topics addressed in this book include: the interface between city and farm; corporate agribusiness; farmworker issues. The last section of the book, in search of solutions, looks at the "new rural renaissance", the philosophy and practice of small scale, appropriate technology farming.



The Pesticide Syndrome, by Linda Siskind, Earthwork, Center for Rural Studies, 1979, \$2.50.*

This short book doesn't waste words. It is a thorough and well documented indictment of corporate gross irresponsibility in the name of profits. We have all been pesticide guinea pigs for the past 30 to 40 years. Now the results are coming in and they don't look promising for health. Meanwhile, profits are better than ever, Read this book. Jump into the fray.

Agribusiness in the Americas, by Roger Burbach and Patricia Flynn, Monthly Review Press and the North American Congress on Latin America, 1980, \$6.50.

World hunger is the result of capitalist social relations and class structures. This book provides a marxist analysis of the workings and impact of agribusiness on an international scale. The focus is on the U.S. and Latin America. Included is an in-depth study of Del Monte corporate activities internationally as a case in point of the impact of multinational agribusiness both domestically and in the Third World.

*These books are for sale at the Co-op. All others may be ordered. Talk to Beth.



FORUM

you should know about sugar



SUGAR

Terry McGuire

The drug to end all drugs. The world is hooked on sugar. The economies of drug addiction. When we consider only the facts as opposed to the advertising and PR copy of agribusiness interests, the case against sugar is airtight. The end product of the refining of sugar cane and sugar beets is totally devoid of food value. ALL the nutrition has been removed in the refining process. A pure chemical remains, offspring of the industrial age.

Addiction before birth. The average mother in these United States, uses between 100-120 lbs. per year. It's in her system. It's in her milk. It's in the formula if she bottle feeds.

The child grows. If the mother bakes, it's in all the recipes in the media and in the popular cook-books.

It's in the school cafeteria and the lunch room vending machines for the snackers.

In the work place it's just the same.

If the truth had an advertising budget, we would all be informed of these facts, this situation, by the T.V. and the daily newspapers. But, things being what they are, it behooves us to take the bull by the horns; we must accept the responsibility to educate ourselves so

that we can raise mentally and physically healthy and strong offspring, teaching them to care for themselves and to avoid the destructive substances pushed by a modern and monstrous food industry that puts profit before people. The most destructive, the most widely used, the most addictive of these substances being household white sugar. Also know as industrial refined sucrose.

The author-scientist Thomas Malthus put forth the idea that wars, plagues and catastrophies of other kinds were natural population controls for the tendency to overpopulate. Malthusian checks they then were called. Sugar is the ultimate Malthusian check, far outstripping all the others in death and all other physical and mental malfunction.

Some of us are saving ourselves. And sharing this vital survival knowledge with others as they become aware enough to question the situation and start calling a spade a spade when it comes to nutrition for ourselves and our children.

So overpopulation, instead of being a problem as we had thought, is instead a survival mechanism for a species that is killing itself off with poison and pollution in this industrial time.

Sugar on the table and smoke in the air. Agent Orange on the roadside for good measure. Save the children.

References: Sugar Blues, William Duffy and The Saccharine Disease, T.H.Cleave.

FORUM (continued)

MOVE FORWARD CO-OPS, GAIN POLITICAL POWER, ORGANIZE COUNTER-INSTITUTIONS, TURN THE SYSTEM DOWN, AROUND, REVOLVE THE DOORS TO THE FUTURE

by Thomas Nogler

The vision of a "co-operative commonwealth" is the legacy of both socialist and populist movements in America-- in fact, it is a main point of intersection. Thus, many founders, including Eugene Debs of the Socialist Party, had come from the Brotherhood of the Co-operative Commonwealth, a doughty and popular group whose vision was more compelling than its program of establishing a "co-operative commonwealth" in an unsettled western state. Interestingly, the plan was not entirely quixotic. Numerous laborers and small farmers did migrate to the chosen state, Washington, where their co-operative and labor union effort formed an eventual important base for the Washington Commonwealth Federation, a massive movement in the 1930's and 40's. Moreover, the notion of a "co-operative commonwealth" continues to be a regular, alternative formula to "democratic socialism" through party history-- in fact, seen as the same thing. At the same time, populists from the 1890's, through the great farmer-labor movements of the 1920's and 30's, often used this formulation to describe their version of a future free of corporate control. Leading centers of the economy would be publically owned and supplement producer and consumer co-operatives. This more recent heritage now forms the basis for fledgling, but important efforts to revive radical working class politics-- most notably in Minnesota, where the farmer-labor association has achieved not unconsiderable success.

The Farmer-Labor Association, formed in 1977, had an initial base similar to NAM's (new american movement): mostly young activists, from college educated backgrounds, radicalized by the sixties, with a smattering of older movement veterans. The F.L.A. built self-consciously on the radical populist traditions

of the 1930's and 40's. It was admittedly more accessible in Minnesota-- but still invisible for almost everyone, including original FLA members. It used the phrase "co-operative commonwealth", as had the original Farmer Labor Party. The button proclaiming 'For a Co-operative Commonwealth' proved to be a best-seller. Since its founding the FLA has simply had exciting successes: forming out state chapters in half dozen areas of Minnesota including chapters of insurgent farmers, considerably impacting elections in Duluth; attracting several state legislators to membership and most recently winning overwhelming victories for one of its leaders (She is woman who has been active in gay rights, neighborhood, and labor union struggles



on the South side of Minneapolis) in the Democratic primary for state representative. The FLA now has over 500 members; it is a recognized political power in the state of Minnesota(it won one of five seats on the national Democratic Party's Central Committee, with the candidacy of a radical farmer leader from western Minnesota); It was the acknowledged left wing leader of Minnesota's delegation at the National Democratic Convention(where one of it's co-chairs, Alice Tripp, a farm leader also from western Minnesota, gave the main seconding speech for Ron Dellum's presidential candidacy).

The formulation of "co-operative commonwealth" speaks precisely to the need for synthesis here. It builds directly on socialist traditions, and also appropriates themes from populism in a way that will express the ambiguity and complexity of any real world anti-capitalist movement in America.



January

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

QUARTERLY MEETING REPORT

by Jason Ringel

The Quarterly Meeting of the Co-op was held the night of January 26th with roughly forty six members, staff and board attending. Among some of the lighter issues discussed:

Sego (Co-op board member) introduced the idea of establishing an Indochinese food buying club. Three Indochinese groups have approached the co-op asking for help in establishing a Co-op of their own to deal in their ethnic foods.

Fuel Wood Co-op meeting to be held February 7th beginning at 7 P.M. at the Co-op. Interested? Come to the planning meeting.

The idea of establishing a Co-op Credit Union was brought up. Instead of giving your money to banks that often use it for investments in third world countries, why not put it in this credit union where it will be invested in Washington State? There is a questionnaire to tell of your enthusiasm for this project. There is a limited number available so please fill out one per household. If you have any questions on any of the above matters, please contact the Co-op staff.

All of the following board items were approved by the Co-op members attending last monday's meeting.

A standing Co-op policy states that senior citizens receive an automatic 10% discount. No provision had been made for an additional discount for seniors who work nine or more hours a week. The new policy for these seniors is that they will receive a 25% discount on their sales after 9 hours of work and there will be no time limit on their coupons.

(continued)

It will be a board decision, and not staff, to remove any "objectionable" printed material from Co-op grounds. "Objectionable" is meant to be if any person tells the staff the wording or content of an item offends them.

It was decided to form an editorial staff for the newsletter. This staff would consist of one board member, one co-op staff member and any one co-op member. The editors would prevent slander or any other problems of an unedited publication.

"Sugar Ballot Blues"

There were many problems associated with the recent sugar ballot. Many people were confused by the wording of the ballot. Also only a small percentage of members voted. Because of this, another sugar ballot will be presented for membership approval. This new ballot will try to make the question clearer so you know the consequences of your stand. It is your responsibility to educate yourself on sugar. It has not been decided if the Co-op will supply any information on sugar. All this will be drawn up by a task force. Until then the staff's interpretation of the last sugar ballot will be, "not to sell any item which uses sugar as a food additive." Look for the new ballot in the weeks ahead.

Several working membership plans were discussed but no change of policy was made. The following plans reflect a new co-op policy. These are seen as a base not only to revise the working membership system, but to help the co-op be a smoother run organization with more of an outreach to members, their ideas and their energy.

The worker member coordinator staff position was dissolved. Tyra will no longer solely assign working members their work to be done. Three task forces were set up to help the co-op be more efficient in how it operates. The three task forces are: an Outreach Task Force to come up with ideas of how

to make the co-op accessible to low income people, seniors, the handicapped and diverse racial groups. An Accountability Task Force to deal with problems of worker inefficiency, staff-worker conflicts or any other problems with personnel. And a Creative Ideas Task Force to come up with new policies to make for a better run co-op.

All three task forces have begun to meet and decide what they want to accomplish. After the task forces come up with an idea they will present it to the Board who in turn will present it to the members at the quarterly membership meeting. If you have any questions, suggestions, or energy to put into a task force, inquire at the Co-op.

The working membership issue will be one of the first questions for the task forces to settle. Until an alternative plan is set up, the system will remain as it is.



CRITIQUE

by Tyra

The Board and Staff have recognized that the January membership meeting was somewhat of a fiasco. Many of you who attended probably feel the same way. We wanted to write this article critiquing the meeting so that people would be reassured that the process will go smoother in the future. We were all surprised at the turn out and would like to maintain a high level of involvement by members.

About time, we heard comments like, "too much to do in too little time", "not tightly structured enough", "too muddled". Hopefully we can remedy this. It was suggested that the next meeting be set for an entire day or entire afternoon/evening. This would give enough time for clearly scheduled discussion, information sharing, defining and clarifying issues and decision making.

The Board has discussed their role in organizing the meeting and recognized that they would rather serve as a coordinating body for the membership rather than a power bloc. More on this as the board works on defining its role.

It has further been suggested that some kind of social time be set up after the meeting to work off some of the excess energy. Anyone interested in a square dance after the April meeting?

We also felt that it would be good to have a time set aside at the beginning of every meeting where we would explain the meeting process (consensus) and the role of the facilitator. We should not make the assumption that people have worked with this kind of decision making before. This explanation might help move things along.

It is important, as happened at this meeting, that printed material about proposals, policies, etc. always be made available for

people to study before the meeting and handed out at the door for people to study before the discussion.

The feeling about childcare for this past meeting was that children were welcome to be in the room with us. Unfortunately, the ideal of having children surrounding us in a natural kind of way can become, in reality, sometimes distracting. In the future, we will provide childcare as well as have children welcome in the room. Kids, and the adults who are taking care of them, will then have the option.

We thank all of the members who put time and effort into participating in the January meeting. We welcome any suggestions people might have about this or any other meeting. Either talk to a board or staff person or write down your ideas and put them in the suggestion bowl on the front desk.



A MID-WINTER REVELATION

BY VINNIE RUSSELL

As the sun was breaking through a pearly fog, on a recent January morning, I went out to visit my long-dormant garden. At least I had assumed it had been long-dormant. In October I had pulled up the huge stalks of "spent" broccoli and cabbage, to make way for fall tilling and mulching. The big seedy plants lay on a pile of leaves and brush, where I had tossed them with plans to burn the whole thing. But my procrastination paid off with an amazing sight: the seeds in the seed pods

were germinating, hanging in mid-air! Not only that, but the woody stalks had sent out new root systems into the rotting, crumbly leaf mold. These were giving sustenance to dozens of fresh green shoots, growing vertically from the main stalks lying on the pile. Some of the shoots had produced tiny florettes of sweet, mild tasting broccoli! The flavor was a surprise, because my summer crop had been strong and bitter; the cool weather might have made the difference. One stalk of red cabbage had grown half a dozen shoots whose tiny leaves were already curling into heads.

Here is a living demonstration of the potential for winter crops in this area. If these plants could do all this with such careless treatment, imagine what they might have produced with deliberate tending! Fortunately, I am not the first to realize this; Robin Bergren and

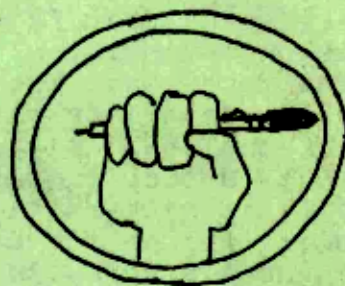
Robin Ostfeld, working with our local farmer network, are already making plans for greatly expanded winter crops in the 1981-82 season. The goal is for the Food Co-op (and other local markets) to be freed from dependence on out-of-state produce, and to provide a market for local crops, all through the year.

This season has seen some important steps in that direction. Here we are in January, and the Co-op is only just now coming to the end of local-carrot season. We have moved about a ton a month since July, of the sweetest, freshest carrots available. Abundant supplies of sunchokes and cabbage are still flowing from local sources. BRAVO!!! Here's to bigger and better winter crops each year from our own area.

BE A YOKEL----BUY IT LOCAL!!

BOOKKEEPERS' CORNER

by Beth



What can I tell you about how 1980 was for the Co-op financially? I can tell you it was a good year. I can refer you to the statements graph and help you make some sense of them as a way to understand something of the esoteric realm of financial analysis.

First, the income statement. This is the same form of income statement that regularly appears in this column. The difference is that these figures cover the full year rather than a one- or two-month period. A brief tour of the most significant aspects of the income statement shows us:

1. Sales were just over one half

- million dollars in 1980.
2. Gross margin for the year is 18.4% of sales.
3. Wages is by far the largest expense at \$45,000. (See last month's Bookkeepers' Corner for a labor cost analysis.)
4. Total net profit is over \$2,000. It is this last point that I will say a few more words about.

At the end of June profits for the year were over \$8,000. By the end of September, profit had dropped below \$4,000. The analysis of this loss has been presented in previous newsletters. Briefly, it reflects the annual summer sales slump (see sales graph), a drop in gross margin caused by high food

losses and an increase in working member discounts, and an increase in staffing costs. The situation stabilized, then improved during November and December. By the end of December, profit on operations was almost \$4,500. The difference between this figure and the final figure of \$2,131 is the result of year-end equipment and petty cash audits. (No, we're not being robbed blind. Internal procedures have been in need of spiffing up since the beginnings of the Co-op and these audit figures are a result of that work.) The last important thing to say about this profit figure is that this is the first year the Co-op has made a profit. In 1977-79 the Co-op lost, on operations, a total of almost \$16,000.

To get a better idea of the Co-op's actual financial status and where it's headed, we look at the balance sheet. Assets include everything the Co-op owns of any value. (Cash is a negative number in this case because our records show a negative checking account balance. We don't bounce checks, however, because on any given day, there are about \$13,000 worth of checks that have been written by us but have not yet been received at the bank. The use of this "float" time is a standard business practice and allows us to use more of our money and the bank less.) The Co-op's largest asset is its inventory at over \$32,000, up \$10,000 in the last year. Liabilities are everything the Co-op owes. Even though we don't need to pay these debts immediately, they decrease the overall worth of the Co-op. Net worth and membership capital reflect what the Co-op is "worth". It is what would be left if we liquidated all assets at full value and paid all debts in full. This figure (\$22,270.36), when compared to net worth a year ago (\$6,998.84) shows an increase in net worth for 1980 of \$15,271.52. This is a rather astounding improvement. This is also the most optimistic analysis. We get a dif-

ferent viewpoint if we look at capital fund as a liability (something we have borrowed and, therefore, owe). This would put net worth for the end of 1979 at minus \$258.33 and net worth at the end of 1980 at \$5,414.20 for a total gain of \$5,672.53. Neither viewpoint is perfect. Technically, capital fund is a loan to the Co-op. It is always refunded upon request, with interest. But, in reality, we don't know how much of it will ever be reclaimed.

In any case, the Co-op has done well in 1980. Where we might not have done as well as we had hoped, we understand much of where we fell short and why, and are in the process of projecting and planning for 1981. In next month's Bookkeepers' Corner we will speculate on the possibilities.

If you have any questions about financial matters, either come in and talk to a bookkeeper (we live in a small cubicle at the end of a long hallway at the back of the Co-op) or leave us your question in written form and we will answer it in the newsletter.



Income Statement for 1980

<u>Revenue</u>	
Sales	\$514,786.90
Cost of goods sold	(420,067.17)
Gross margin	94,719.73
Miscellaneous revenue	399.20
Fundraising	461.17
Total revenue	95,580.10

<u>Expenses</u>	
Advertising	\$ 1,153.72
Repair & maintenance	2,964.10
Medical benefits	2,095.62
Depreciation	1,831.93
Wages	45,205.88
Payroll taxes	5,409.92
Utilities & phone	5,782.19
Rent	9,450.00
Supplies	8,893.58
Newsletter	947.72
Taxes & licenses	2,721.72
Interest	1,279.64
Other expenses*	3,365.08
Total operating exp.	91,101.10
Equipment audit loss	1,745.96
Petty cash loss	601.36
Total expenses	93,448.42

Net profit for 1980: \$2,131.68

*includes p-nut butter machine rent, subscriptions & reading materials, towel service, extra storage & meeting space, insurance, bottle deposits, outreach, bad debts, miscellaneous.

Balance Sheet as of 12/31/80

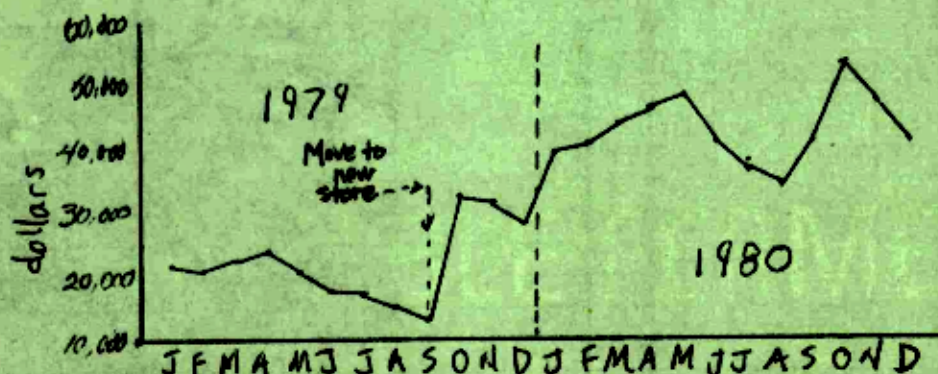
<u>Assets</u>	
All cash ¹	\$(1,067.12)
Loans recievable	3,238.92
Accounts recievable	763.77
Inventory	32,653.89
Equipment	9,792.26
Other assets ²	3,576.19
Total assets	\$48,957.91
Assets 12/31/79	35,767.37
Increase during 1980	13,190.54

<u>Liabilities</u>	
Loans payable	\$15,500.38
Accounts payable	7,505.54
Taxes payable	3,643.63
Bulk deposits	38.00
Total liabilities	\$26,687.55
Liabilities 12/31/79	28,768.53
Decrease during 1980	2,080.98

<u>Net worth & Capital membership</u>	
Membership capital	\$19,206.35
Capital fund (dues)	16,133.00
Capital fund interest	723.16
1977-79 loss	(15,923.83)
Profit for 1980	2,131.68
Total net worth	22,270.36
Net worth 12.31.79	6,998.84
Increase during 1980	15,271.52

1. includes checking acct., savings, cash in registers, petty cash.
2. includes deposits, uncollected checks, prepaid insurance, supplies on hand, prepaid rent.

Sales per month for 1979 & 1980





BOARD REPORT

The Board started the year in an exciting way when George Barner and Mai Hoang came to the January 1st meeting. Mai is the Secretary General of the recently formed Indo-Chinese Consortium, a group of Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian refugees who are working together on the common problems of adjusting to a new society. One of their problems has been the lack of availability of low cost food. Many of the refugees are low income and have been going to Seattle to get the kinds of food they want. George connected the Consortium with the Co-op, with the idea in mind of the Co-op assisting the Consortium in starting a food buying club. From this meeting a committee has been formed of board member Sego Jackson and staff member John Calambokidis, to work up and present a proposal on the details of how the Co-op and Consortium should work together. John and Sego have met several times with different leaders of the Consortium and have begun to make plans about food ordering, distribution, finances, etc. The final proposal should be ready soon and volunteers will be needed to get this new food buying club off the ground. Interested people should should contact Sego at 491-7667.

Co-op member Llywolaf Johns has been working on getting direction signs to the Co-op on the corners

of Harrison and Division and Rogers and Bowman streets, in order to make the Co-op more visible to more people in the area. He came to several board meetings this month to report on his progress. City codes say that off premise signs can only be used by businesses that cater to the tourist trade, such as restaurants and hotels. The city will, however, alter the codes in certain situations. There is a Board of Adjusters that meets once a month to review requests for exceptions to the city code. Llywolaf has applied for a hearing and is working on presenting our case before the Board of Adjusters. The going may be rough. We'll find out the results at the end of February. The hearing date is February 25th. Our Board of Directors approved of this endeavor and has been thinking about doing more advertising and outreach. Many people who'd like to come to the Co-op don't know where we are or even that we exist. Every member can do their part by telling people about the Co-op and bringing newcomers in to shop and get acquainted.

We have also been working on some issues that resulted from the sugar ballot and its controversies. The board is considering a policy that would require the balloting of issues twice a year, let's say beginning January 1st and July 1st. If such a balloting procedure is adopted, it would solve several problems and help the Co-op be an effective democratic institution. Members would always know to VOTE on issues during (for example) the months of January and July. Committees would always have a time line for researching and presenting issues to the membership before balloting. The tendency to hurry a ballot would be lessened and the membership would not be hit with ballot f after ballot. The board will also be clarifying who is directly responsible for the contents and wording of ballots. We have also developed a policy that states that the Co-op

newsletter shall follow the printed material policy and shall contain no personal slander or obscenities. Items in the newsletter will reflect the Co-op's purposes as stated in the by-laws.

Lastly, we spent some time planning for the General Membership Meeting and going over the different proposals for changes in the working membership system. We greatly appreciated all the proposals that were written and the great turnout at the General Membership Meeting. We may forget sometimes, but the Co-op really depends on membership involvement on all levels. That is what Co-ops are all about.

Credit Union Survey

IF YOU HAVE ONE FILL IT IN AND RETURN IT TO THE CO-OP, SOON!! IF YOU DON'T, THERE IS A HEAP AT THE CO-OP ALONG WITH A DETAILED EXPLANATION OF WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT.

HELP!

We need an editorial board for this newsletter. One meeting per month to critique each issue and plan for the next. Working member credit for working on the newsletter. Contact Tyra if you are interested.

fruit trees

Fruit trees and berry bushes are in!! Local varieties, guaranteed to grow. They are on sale now and it is a perfect time to plant them.

PART II OF ELLEN'S SERIES ON LOCAL PRODUCERS WILL BE COMING NEXT MONTH--
--ON SUNNYDALE EGGS.

THE OLYMPIA FOOD CO-OP
921 North Rogers
Olympia, WA 98502
754-7666

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!!!!
10 am - 7 pm

Helping with this months newsletter

Melissa
Beth
Vicki
Jean
Hard Rain Printing Collective

The deadline for the newsletter is the last Friday of each month. Drop off articles and items of interest at the Co-op.

