



**Issue 26**

**1 Aug 1971**

## **WHY DON'T STUDENT CO-OPS WORK ?**

You may have noticed that most students do not live in co-ops. That is because student co-ops are impossible. You see students don't want to take responsibility. They do want to get a degree and get out. They prefer getting high--in some fashion or other, to working on running their lives. They drift and absorb what is thrown at them, saying "so what, its only four years."

Even if students did want to run something, it would be impossible for them to do so. They wouldn't know how. By the time they found out, they would be ready to graduate and a new ignoramus would take over and botch things up. Students are too transient to build organizations. Students don't have much time or money. They are too busy getting grades and paying tuition to have the resources to build co-ops.

Being a student from the standpoint of running your own life, is like suspended animation.

A well known co-op organizer says and practices "get out of school, you have to liberate yourself from the idea of getting through in four years."

--Max Kummerow

ROCHDALE COLLEGE, 341 Bloor St, Toronto, Canada

We recently published a 400-odd page volume dealing with Rochdale's history, philosophy, relations with society, and so forth. It's a compendium of old calendars, news clippings, former briefs and surveys, and the first ninety pages contain the views of Peter Turner, the present president of Rochdale. The book is called "There Can Be No Light Without Shadow". We plan a second printing, probably in late summer, and if you want a copy you should place an order now--we will print according to the number of orders received. It will be hard bound, hard covered, and the cost will be \$30.

## **October in Toronto**

You may have heard rumblings about a North America wide conference NASCO was planning for Boston this fall. Well, they're almost true! October 20-24 is the date and the place is beautiful Toronto, not Boston.

Toronto is a good place. It's friendly, and the home of some very interesting co-ops. The conference is beginning to shape up nicely. Speakers are now being lined up, and there are some good ones coming. Neill-Wycik College is the local organizer.

We welcome any suggestions for workshop topics, speakers or resource people, but they are needed soon, if they are to be seriously considered. Among planned topics is the role of co-ops, communities, communes and similar groups in bringing about social change. More details will be coming in future editions of the newsletter--keep watching, it promises to be an interesting and valuable conference. Please send any comments or suggestions, or questions to--

A. E. Dreyfuss  
120 East 32nd St  
New York, N. Y. 10016

NASCO's 1971 directory of student co-ops, "Student Co-ops in North America" is now ready. Anyone subscribing to the newsletter should have already received their copy. Additional copies are available and cost \$1 each.

# COMMON MARKET FOOD CO-OP

1340 East Washington, Madison, Wisconsin

The Common Market Food Buying Co-op opened last winter as an attempt to bring people in the city together to solve a large problem: expensive, unwholesome foods. We emphasized involving people in the Madison community, the unemployed, the poor people, the welfare folk, rather than be a student-dominated organization. Since the orders were reduced only slightly during the past two weeks of vacation at the U, we can see that the co-op has succeeded in becoming a group of "stable citizens."

An important part of the co-op is help for the local farmer. We try to get as many foods as we can locally. We get cheese, eggs, honey, dairy and bakery products, all from around Madison. The vegetables, nuts, and fruits are trucked up from Chicago. Right now people are working on getting meat and taxable items like paper products and pet food for the co-op.

Common Market also puts in a large organic order each week. Many people request that we get as much organically-grown food as possible. Just recently we began getting organic eggs. And a large number of farmers around here are starting to grow crops organically.

Within the regular membership there are five committees: FOOD, which investigates new foods and takes care of the weekly load; TRANSPORTATION, which makes sure that the weekly pick-ups happen; WORK, which gets people to run the co-op and committees; FINANCE, which takes care of the book-keeping jobs and cashiering; and COMMUNICATIONS, which does things like write this here article.

Orders get to the warehouse by Tuesday afternoon each week. Later that same day, the orders are totaled and given to the buyers who go down to Chicago and to nearby farmers and pick up all the food.

--reprinted from the newsletter  
of the Madison Association of  
Student Co-ops (MASC)

SASKATOON CAMPUS CO-OPERATIVE ASSN. LTD. 1904 Main Street, Box 385, Sub P.O. #6, Saskatoon, Sask., Canada

The need for Campus Co-op emerged from the fact that both off-campus living and on-campus living left something to be desired. Off-campus housing was often expensive and of low quality, frequently remote from the campus. On-campus residences housed only 590 people and was expensive. In both a feeling of independence and real community spirit was lacking.

As a result, various groups of students rented houses. In this arrangement usually one man had to sign a lease; but beyond this legal requirement, a genuine community offering a more dynamic mode of existence was established. In the original houses co-ed living was established and all household duties were equally divided among the members. It was people from this background that decided to form a cooperative housing association. Campus Co-op was formed and after a few problems, a 14 suite apartment building was acquired.

The co-op was set up to provide services for and to its members at the lowest possible cost and with as much participation as possible to provide the maximum benefit to the members' total education.

Another principle of the residence is to give as much freedom as possible to its residents without interfering with the comfort and freedom of the others in the building. This concept of freedom includes:

1. freedom to decorate each room to suit the occupant without damaging house property
2. freedom to have guests without restriction except the consideration of roommates
3. freedom to make rules for the house, if rules are desired and to make decisions on the running of the house
4. freedom to complain constructively or destructively about how things are run
5. freedom to be yourself and to express yourself as you really are

The Board is not concerned with only providing room and board and a community spirit to residents but also has power to provide related services to university students (food services, acquisition of books, etc.).

The association was formed to provide students with a vehicle to better their housing needs while attending the university. The extent of participation will determine its success or failure.

# On Forming an Organic Food House

Aoxomoxoa Organic Food House  
428 Hamilton Place  
Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104

I am living in an organic food house that, except for the fact that we have a bloodsucking capitalist landlord, is run fairly co-operatively. Rather than go through the complicated events of its formation, I think a run down on the problems we've had would be more useful.

1. Far and away the biggest problem was turn over. So many people said they wanted to be in it, then dropped out for a number of reasons. Probably the biggest was the money problem; in order to establish an account in the bank, we felt that \$30 per person (with 14 people) would be about right, plus we had to pay the landlord a first month's rent, last month's rent and a double damage deposit, which was \$200 per person. This meant each person had to pay 230 dollars in advance of signing the lease. Many were indecisive about staying in town at all, so a financial burden of this sort was an understandable deterrent. One girl was all set to live there. She paid her \$230, chose her room and was all set. Then, the last day of finals, her father came up, saw the house, and refused to let her live there, muttering something about fire hazards. There is a hidden benefit of the high turnover rate. All of the spaced-out, non-cooperative transients were the first to be scared away leaving a hard-core of committed fanatics.

2. We felt that weekly meetings of the co-op were necessary, not only to make decisions but also to try and get a group spirit. However, this was made a big hassle for two reasons--(a) Oftentimes, few people showed up, and (b) the turnover rate was too big to allow the cultivation of any sort of group spirit.

3. Food was another problem. Two or so people were macrobiotics and didn't want citrus fruits, spices, tomatoes, potatoes, eggplants, or any animal food except fish. A few were fanatic vegetarians who wanted no part of any meat or meat derivative (believe it or not, cheese fits into this category). The rest were there just to try it out, reduce the poison or live in a communal set-up. These people would eat whatever their bodies felt was best, be it brown rice or chuck steak. At first, we were striking this and that from the list of foods that the house would buy, but it got to a ridiculous point. Finally, we decided that nothing but the really contrivarsial items (meat, eggs, or cheese) would be excluded. It now turns out that not enough of the questionable items were bought to make any difference.

4. Decision making is a very strange business. Rules tend to cause a reaction, so we run the house as anarchistically as possible. Right now, after two months, we're finally having a working-cleaning problem. We have a signup sheet posted and sometimes blanks occur. Before the more anal people would jump to it, but they're getting sick of having all the work dumped on them, so blanks sometimes remain unfilled. People reacted strongly to may signs subtly (?) urging a more even work distribution, so this way will have to work.

--Cliff Sloane

## ORGANIC FOOD!

The following are suppliers of organic food on a wholesale basis. Some are quite good, both in terms of price and different types of food available from them. We've probably missed a few good distributors, so if you know of others, let us know!

ARROWHEAD MILLS  
Hereford, Texas 79045

good selection, good prices

BETTER FOODS FOUNDATION, INC.  
300 North Washington St  
Greencastle, Penn 17225

"nutritious foods, free of harmful additives"

CHICO-SAN  
Chico, California 95926

macrobiotic service

COLLEGEDALE DISTRIBUTORS  
Collegedale, Tenn. 37315

some organic foods

EREWON TRADING CO., INC.  
33 Farnsworth St  
Boston, Mass 02218

mostly macrobiotic, a little on the expensive side

JAFFE BROTHERS  
Valley Center, California 92082

MOTTEL HEALTH FOODS, INC.  
451 Washington St  
New York, N. Y. 10013

some organic foods

ORGANIC FOODS AND GARDENS  
1384 South Rice Rd  
Ojai, California 93023

"organically grown natural foods"

\*ORGANIC MERCHANTS

1326 9th Ave  
San Francisco, California 94122

see note below

Wm. G. Scarlett and Co  
608 President St  
Baltimore, Md 21202

"health foods"--grains and seeds  
only

TIMBERCREST FARMS  
Healdsburg, California 95448

WALNUT ACRES  
Penn's Creek, Penn 17862

"Organically raised" food  
a really big operation

JOSEPH A ZALOOM CO, INC  
8 Jay St  
New York, N. Y. 10013

nuts and dried fruit  
great prices

\*It costs \$30 a year to join, and they will provide you with a list of the approved distributors, plus the questionable--those who use the government's definition of "organic" as having a certain percentage of carbon in the chemical makeup.

Future newsletters will contain notices of both job openings in co-ops and of people looking for jobs working with co-ops, and hopefully some good photos and graphics--this is, if you'll help us. We don't have enough people to track them down, so the only way we can get them is if you provide them. So, if you need a job, an employee, or know of some new community or co-op groups, or have some good photos or interesting graphics, an article, thoughts or ramblings, why not send them to us--we'll be more than happy to return them if you want. Our address is:

NASCO  
1500 Gilbert Ct.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

## CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY

"CONNECTING THE PAST WITH THE FUTURE" is the name of a conference being sponsored by Community Service of Yellow Springs, Ohio. This conference is for both rural communities and community members seeking new hope and for young pioneers and commune groups seeking environment and social setting for a new order. The dates are August 6-8, in Yellow Springs. Registration is \$5, and there are motel and camping facilities nearby. For further information and registration forms, write --Community Services, Box 243, Yellow Springs, Ohio 45387

This will be the last issue of the newsletter until about the first of September. Until that time, we'll be out on the road (mostly out west) trying to visit and talk to as many of you as possible.

As seems to be our usual state of affairs, we haven't got any money. That means that if you haven't subscribed to the newsletter yet, now would be the best time possible, especially since every cent you contribute will be matched by the Cooperative League Fund. Just to make sure that no one feels left out, we got a tremendous selection of different type subscriptions. Just select the one that suits you best, send in this portion of the page, and your contribution and you'll be helping us open lines of communication, and helping other co-ops get started.

regular subscription	___ \$6
contributing	___ 25
supporting	___ 50
sustaining	___ 100
benefactor	___ 500 or more
Plus the special ROCHDALE SUBSCRIPTION	___ \$18.44

Our address is:

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Student Cooperative  
Organization**

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