

The

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END OF THE SUMMER ISSUE



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE BY
REFLECTING ON THE PAST

Thank You From The Pine Press

I would like to thank everyone who wrote something for The Pine Press this summer. I was proud of every issue, I hope you were as well. Thank you education officers, you all did a great job. Hope to see you all next semester.

Chris Profeta

Vice President of Education

Each year SHC sends a group of co-ops to the NASCO Institute to mingle with co-ops from around North America and learn more about the ways different cooperatives run. The Ann Arbor co-ops are usually gracious enough to put our members up in their houses, and there is plenty of opportunity for socializing after institute classes. This year the Institute will take place October 31 through Nov 2. NASCO sent us this preview, which will hopefully get you interested in attending.

NASCO Institute 2003 Preview

At this year's institute, we will address the theme "Facing Ourselves: Examining Power and Privilege in our Co-ops". We're excited to announce that Tim Wise, considered to be "the foremost white anti-racist intellectual in the U.S.", will address this theme as our keynote speaker. As a renowned writer and orator, praised for largely organizing the fall of neo-nazi David Duke and his work battling apartheid in South Africa, Tim Wise will assist our membership in taking a critical look at the dynamics of diversity and exclusion within our movement.

This year's program will also tackle power and privilege beyond racial issues, including a course entitled "Compassionate Resolutions to Mental Health Crises in Cooperative Communities" and "Learning Patterns and Group Effectiveness". Participants will be able to engage with panel discussions debating open vs. selective membership, and the inadvertent or subversive imposition of white hippie culture, as well as traditional panels on anarchism and ecological sustainability. The early registration date is still a while off, but mark your calendars before it slips away.

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THREE MOVEMENTS

Aaron Mosier—Mosier

On Wednesday, the 30th of July, I attended a presentation at Urban Options at 405 Grove St with Joan and seven other co-op members. We met with Tom Stanton, the President of Urban Options and B.E.S.T. Options, and Pat Hudson, one of the more recent additions to the Urban Options team. Both B.E.S.T. Options and Urban Options focus on sustainable living, but B.E.S.T. Options is the for-profit parent company of Urban Options, a non-profit organization. B.E.S.T. Options focuses on consultation, whereas Urban Options works towards educational goals. The presentation took place in a 1920s era home, which had been retrofitted from the ground up (literally) to be energy efficient. The home was a testament to the goals of the companies, as it was so efficient that it has qualified to wear the Energy Star logo. As of the beginning of this year, only 22 buildings in the state of Michigan had this status.

The presentation that we were given suggested a few different stages in a proposition to help make our homes more clean and efficient: especially important considering the rising natural gas prices.

The first stage: Education.

Urban Options, being the educational company that it is, would like to visit with our members and teach us various things such as being more aware of our energy usage, and how to reduce some of our energy costs. Their company gets a grant for a speaker to come out, so this visit would not tax our finances. It would be possible, in fact, to have representatives of their company come around on an annual basis, teaching energy efficiency and awareness to co-op members year after year. Members could visit their demonstration home (405 Grove) or we could schedule seminars to take place at various houses. Each seminar would take 45-60 minutes, and they would ask for us to fill out evaluation forms when they finish. Their main goal is to get across that less energy cost doesn't have to mean less comfort.

The second stage: Analysis

After our education at the hands of Urban Options, we should be more capable of operating our homes in a more energy efficient means. However, our houses are *old*. They have old wires and old pipes. There is going to be some energy loss with that mix. That's where Doug Black, an 'energy nerd' at Enerficiency, comes in. Mr. Black's company makes computer models of buildings based on a series of measurements made in the home, and then changes from an ideal model into one with similar energy consumption as your actual home. After the model is made, B.E.S.T. Options would make recommendations in ways to improve your home. According to Mr. Stanton, he reduced the utility bills in his own home by 50% with a \$2,500 investment in his own home. Analysis runs around \$1,000 for a fifteen-bedroom home.

The final stage: Update Technology

With the analysis from Enerficiency and the recommendations from B.E.S.T. Options, we can set about making actual improvements to our homes. The changes would start out with the ones with a fast payback, like more efficient light bulbs & refrigerators, or tuning up a boiler. We could work with contractors that we are used to, and have B.E.S.T. Options make sure that the work gets completed. In the long run, we're talking solar panels, the works.

I'm sure that you're wondering about the cost of all this, but there was something else they wanted us to think about first. Students could be hired to do some of the work. People will need to measure out the specifications for each building and we'll need people to install some of the stuff that it would be inane to call in a contractor for. This way, we keep money in the pockets of the students, and they get to learn as much as they'd like to about sustainable energy. They may even teach other people in the future. See? It's that whole educational thing that Urban Options was talking about.

So, what's the cost that we're looking at here? Lots. We'd need some serious capital to be able to upgrade even one house, but in time they'd pay for themselves. As an example: Mr. Stanton spent \$2,500 to cut his energy bills in half. The energy bills at my home are \$2,000 per year, so if we could keep the same sort of efficiency as he had, it'd pay for itself in a little over two years. But the question is, where would the money come from? Our presenters think that we could probably find investors, seeing that if we pay 20% interest on a couple year investment, that's better than you're going to see out of anything else that has as low of a risk. Things might even be arranged to pay for the renovations in monthly installments over a couple years.

If we choose to get involved with Urban Options, it seems like we'll have some sort of long-term relationship, no matter if they just come around every year to talk about efficiency, or if we decide to upgrade our homes. They're really eager to work with us, seeing as we're two organizations that are trying to educate people in an alternative way of living. With the different technology in our homes, it might even interest new members to the houses, people who are interested in playing with globally responsible energy or some uncommon technology.

Some of the people from Urban Options would like to come by for a board meeting sometime soon, to hear what our group thinks about their project. If you'd like more information you can visit their websites:

Best Options: <http://home.mindspring.com/~tom.stanton/best-options/>

Urban Options: <http://www.urbanoptions.org/>

They also have house tours available, and a potluck on August 12th, from 6:30 PM until everyone goes home.

TEN OF MY FAVORITE ATLANTIS HOUSE MOMENTS

Mara Wolke—Atlantis

It may not be true, but I have heard rumors that there are some houses within the system in which no one really talks to each other. Hearing this has always made me really sad, mainly because one of my favorite things about living in the co-ops is that I feel that at any time there's always someone around to hang out with, and at the risk of extreme cheesiness, I really do feel like we have a small (if however dysfunctional) family going. Yeah, I know not everyone is interested in being social, but I've decided to write down a few of my favorite house moments in the hopes that it may encourage more houses to want to build their own communities...especially with fall coming up and new people moving in and all...so, here goes, in no particular order, and I know I forgot some, here they are and hopefully they won't scare you all entirely off the subject.

1. Halloween 2002: The whole house got dressed up to go to the Orion and Montie parties. Everyone looked great, and it's the first time I can remember all of us hanging out together as a house. Also, some of us carved pumpkins a couple days before, and while mine looked more like a diseased person and less like a cat, it was still a fun time.
2. Fall and Winter 2002: Every time Danielle and Tara came into Meijer's to do the house shopping while I was working. It cheered me up to see them and gave me a welcome distraction from the *beep, scan, beep* routine, even if it did take at least twenty minutes to scan them completely through..... But it was also always amusing to try to figure out what we were having for dinners that week from the massive piles of frozen chicken breasts, beets, and pesto packets.
3. January 2003: It was my 21st birthday and everyone came out. We finally ended up at the Peanut Barrel, and in the exact moment before I blacked out at the table, I remember looking around at everyone that was there, realizing they

were all more wasted than I'd ever seen them before and having a great time. The fact that just about everyone was there and having a great time made it the best birthday I ever had.

4. Winter 2003: Someone got the great idea to go ice skating at Munn. A whole bunch of us went and rented skates and hit the ice. We fell a couple times, Megan chased some Scandinavian girls, Danielle showed us all her pro secrets, and by the end...well, we didn't suck as much as we did when we started.
5. Mid-October 2002: Danielle and Tara made a cake for Max and Andy's birthday despite the fact that a certain baker had a massive cold. Oh man, that cake was diseased, but it sure did look nice. Me, I thought the whole process was hilarious.
6. Spring, 2003: After dinner one night, a brawl broke out for no particular reason. Though most of the house cleared out of the kitchen, the main brawlers, Chris, Max, Matt C. (I'd been telling him his time was coming for awhile), and I wreaked general havoc for about half an hour. Oranges flew, chairs were tossed, and though I ended up being clothes-lined by Matt C., getting a rotten banana and a packet of jelly squashed on my forehead and in my hair, I swear I've never laughed so hard in my life. (Plus I got to douse Max in chicken fat which was extremely enjoyable).
7. New member picnic, 2003: Almost everyone helped or was there for the new member picnic this year. At one point, there were about seven or eight people in the kitchen doing various things. A bunch of us had stolen recipes from our mothers and were busy cooking while others cleaned up after us. Julia was making a salad, Danielle worked on her mother's chicken ranch casserole, Tara and Sarah were baking cookies and brownies and washing dishes, Chris was filling our massive soup pot with cut-up fruit, and I was finishing up my mom's coleslaw and blueberry salad while others came and went. Eric Steffey and Chris carried our sofa outside, and we all spent the afternoon scaring the new members and eating.

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ONE YEAR AT MOSIER HOUSE

Aaron Mosier—Mosier

Rhianna Atwood. Tony Benedict. Dave Bordelay. Ariel Brovont. J.R. Buison. Chris Conn. Theresa Dinkins. Josh Funk. Dave Gibbs. LeRay Jones. Pakaal Mendoza. Aaron Mosier. Ryan Shannon. Jim Snavelly. Brandon Tylus: All names that will live in infamy as the brave coopers who moved into 505 M.A.C. in August of 2002, the house that would be known as Mosier.

In The Beginning... Some may say that the beginning of Mosier House was when Jim Divita (The Shadowwood Board Representative) agreed to move his boys out early, in exchange for release from their fall contracts. It might be when the house was first populated with the fifteen people who, for reasons as varied as colors in a crayon box, signed up for the house. I would say that the beginning came when J.R. Buison and myself made our presence known to the boys of Sigma Pi, on the night of August 8, 2002.

I went into the house alone that night, talked to the boys who should have been long gone, staked my claim to the house and tried to get some peace for the coming work of cleaning up this hellhole. *What have I done...* JR came home later and so I was kept awake by the sounds of snoring, rather than the sounds of partying frat boys. After that night, I would find another place in the house to sleep.

In the morning, I tried to assess the extent of the damage and filth that was my new home at 505 M.A.C. Avenue. There were piles of stuff in the living rooms, the dining room and halls. People were asleep in rooms, on couches. Some of these guys didn't even live there, and were just squatting friends of the Sigma Pi boys. When Joan and Lisa came by to drop off furniture, Joan just laid the smack down on these guys: knocking on each of the doors, waking people up, telling them to get out and that their contract was up. It was an awesome sight to behold.

Continued on Page 6, **Mosier**

September 8, 2003

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B.E.S.T. Options will be giving the board a presentation on how to reduce energy costs.

All co-ops are encouraged to attend.

Fall Board Meetings

September 29

October 13

October 27

November 10

November 24

December 8

Meetings at 7 pm in 328 Student Services

Everyone is invited.

REFLECTIONS ON A REBORN HOUSE, ONE YEAR LATER

J.R. Buison—Mosier

As I sit in my old room here at Mosier, I stop to think about all the events that have led from when I moved in, to this room, to the new room that I'm in now.

I start outside in the parking lot, where on August 8, I officially walked in to then Shadowwood House, the Sigma Pi Fraternity house at the time. Weeks before, Sigma Pi was given their move-out date of August 7. When I first walked in the house, the house was still inhabited and chaos was abound. Loud music and stuff was everywhere. All I could do, just coming home from work, was collapse in the first available room in the house.

The next weeks would be spent salvaging and restoring the house as best as possible. With the help of fellow housemate Aaron Mosier, we went and started stocking the house for the new membership that would be coming in later in the month. We fully stocked the house, with plates, forks, glasses, and other necessities. Cleaning some of the major messes

that Sigma Pi left required the work of professional cleaning services. In the meantime, the house was being worked on for the house network. Substantial damage was done to this once beautiful house, and little by little, the members would slowly work towards restoring the house to its former glory. From re-carpeting the first and second floors, to fully cleaning all the bathrooms, the house has grown from barely livable to fully furnished. We even have an in-house computer that the general membership can use.

The people that we have had through this first year have been definitely memorable. From the treasurer who made the bank account his own personal dining card, to the loud house members at house meetings, we have certainly had our share of unique individuals. And, in that uniqueness, I believe that the house has become stronger and more democratic in deciding house affairs. The events that have unfolded the past year have changed me as well. I have learned to be more open and receptive to ideas, as well as work with everyone to make ideas work.

This coming up year looks to be very exciting, as we will have a full house for the first time. I have met a good number of the new residents that are coming, and they appear to be a good, hardworking group that want to make Mosier a wonderful place to live.

Moments, Continued from page 3

8. Homecoming parade, 2002: The parade went right down Bogue St., past our house, and just about everyone ran out to watch it on the median. We amused ourselves even further (I mean, come on, parades are great on their own) by making fun of people in it. When the MSU marching band came down the street, we all shouted at and cheered for Matt C. who was in the drumline and he tried to grin at us from underneath the vampire teeth he was wearing for some reason.
9. New Year's Eve, 2003: We decided, kind of at the last minute, to have a private party and we all got wasted. At midnight, a bunch of us went to watch the ball drop, and it really was the most memorable New Years' ever because everyone hugged each other, and Atlantis started a new year.
10. Various lawn activities 2003: Having a massive lawn has its advantages, and some of my favorite house moments have taken place out there. To name a few: random people playing football horribly, playing with sparklers, lying on a blanket reading with Lana under a streetlight while Matt C. practiced tumbles in the background, Maureen letting me help walk her turtle Ziggy Stardust (I LOVE TURTLES!!!) in the grass, and Matt C. and Chris' gym hour on our handicap ramp.

Well, there you have it. I'm sure I left a bunch out, but there were just too many random house moments, trips to movies, crazy games, crazier parties, video hours, and times we just laughed to write them all. So, to all of you who are moving out, I will truly miss you. The Bells: I will miss your random crazy rantings and stories. You have to come bring us flowers every day next year!! Carey: I will miss your momness, Bagheera, and your always brilliant and wonderful advice. Julia: I will miss your dedication to the co-ops, your ability to keep me in check, and your rolling eyes at my craziness. Oh yeah, and your quickness to laugh. Danielle: What the hell can I say? Your old manness, your penis obsession, and your million different kinds of laughs. Steve: Oh how I loved tormenting you on the random times I happened to see you. You crack me up. Andy: I still say you're a bastard, but I'll miss how you're always awake at night and always put up with my harassments with a smile. Angela: My first roommate, who is also always awake at night, I will miss your crazy movies, even crazier laugh, and randomness. Remember that creepy picture on the bulletin board? How come no one but us saw its creepiness? So, to you all, I will miss seeing your faces every day, but I know you will come visit us all the time. How do I know? Because I know you know I will hunt you down if you don't. Okay? Okay.

MOSIER

Continued from page 4

With the boys and their possessions out of the house, it was time for a heck of a cleaning. Not many people were willing to clean the house. J.R., Kate Rehahn, Julia Walker, myself and a couple other people contributed help to cleaning up the rooms, stocking the kitchen and other jobs to get the house ready for residents. The professional cleaning crew of **Elite Cleaning** came in, and tried their best to get the place sparkling. It was just after they went through, that the Ethernet people came in, and messed up all their good work.

The house was in working condition, if a little rough, when people started moving in August 20. Our first house meeting went well, if a little long. We decided to change the name, and that the name change would happen in September. When the 15 name list was whittled down to Mosier, there was a bit of an uproar from our leadership and from NASCO. I was told that my house 'wasn't just some pedestal for [me] to jack off on.' Some people would only refer to it as 505 MAC House. Some called it Cha-teau Mosiér. In time, it seems the name has stuck.

Members... Where? In the first year of Mosier House, we suffered a membership crisis similar to what Phoenix went through when they opened up. The SHC gave all sorts of incentives to people so they would move in. There was a lot of debate over this issue at Board meetings, because they wanted people to move into the house because they liked it, not just for the money. People who moved in could transfer from their former house without having to find a replacement. For some of the first to sign, a \$50 bonus would help with moving expenses.

Some interesting statistics about the residents of Mosier House:

- 23 different people lived in the house over the course of the school year.
- Despite that, there were never more than 17 residents at any one time.
- We had one squatter in the school year, who talked about signing but never did.
- 9 people have lived in the house over the summer: exactly 50% of house capacity.
- 2 squatters lived in the house in the beginning of summer. They never signed.
- Four of the original people to move in still remain in the house: J.R. Buison, Aaron Mosier, Jim Snavely, and Brandon Tylus.
- Less than half of the members of the house have been MSU students.
- The average age of the house members is over 23.

To be continued...

FROM A PAST CO-OPER

Namsoo Park was an SHC member and Atlantis housemate way back in 1997, before most of us moved into the system. He also helped out Joan in the office. He sent her the following e-mail just to catch up with the system he left so long ago.

To Joan,

Thanks for your good memory again. To tell you the story, I went back to Korea after I stayed in Atlantis and I actually joined military service which is a requirement for most Korean male citizens. After 2 and a half years of this service, I'm finally done and now I'm here at MSU again. (BUT this time with my fiancé.)

For your information, I've attached one of the pictures we recently took with this email. I hope everything's fine with you as well as your professional career (as you've mentioned, the co-op is full for fall, so I assume you are still doing Great!) Well, I hope I could have a chance to stay in a co-op someday again, though I am not sure whether the coop accepts a student and his wife.

Please feel free to let me know if any of your friends, including yourself, are subleasing apartment for a very short term (08/15~08/30).

Thanks again for your help.

Regards,

Nam



Hey everyone, summer is over...**GET OVER IT!**

What are you doing right now, moving, painting, redecorating?

Why not take a break at write an article for The Pine Press. Everyone's doing it. It's more fun that you might otherwise think.