

## PINECONES

To all the new co-ops at New Community --- for being such a cool bunch of people.

~ Crystal and Steve

To Jeanette and Bobbi @ New Com. – I love you guys!

~ Steve

To the Finance Committee --- You guys ROCK!!

~ Steve

To Amy K. @ New Com. --- For the wonderful cleaning up and disinfecting of our kitchen after that unexpected mess one night.

~ Crystal

To the Education officers --- For getting those Pine Press submissions into me on time.

~ Crystal

To Everyone at New Community --- For making my birthday such a WONDERFUL day/night.

~ Crystal



*A Co-op Story:  
The Holy Water Story  
by Darrett Bunce, Elsworth*

*I used to live in Orion House back in the day--way back in 1995. Over at Niko (next door, which used to be a co-op back then) they were having a wide variety of social and spiritual problems. There just was never a good group of people over there who could get it together long enough before things got screwed up again. There was a lot of bad feelings going around between the house's members and this was causing more than the usual amount of paranoia.*

*Some of the people in the house thought (probably correctly) that these were partly negative vibes that had carried over from previous years. But, instead of focusing on the interpersonal conflicts that were appearing between housemates these perceptions manifested themselves in ghost sightings. You know how certain kinds of people are especially sensitive to "ghosts". They see them everywhere. Some especially see them when they're high. You know the kind I'm talking about. First it started off with one sighting and then this one sighting begat another and that another. Once people get the suggestion in their heads some things can really take off. Eventually a group of Niko members became hysterical and worked up. This group decided the house needed an exorcism. So they called a priest. They had seen his flier downtown. The priest had advertised himself: "Fighting Evil in East Lansing since 1992". So, I'm over at the house after the exorcism and they're telling me a version of what I'm telling you now. This group is still worked up about ghosts and evil presences. They're telling me what happened and every time the story is recounted it just adds to their mounting hysteria. Everything is spooking them, every little weird noise or flicker at the edge of their perception. Then one of them "sees" something in the attic (apparently the source of some of the sightings and ghost H.Q.). So with a yell they come pouring out of the attic and they all run into someone's room down the hall. I follow curious as to what their hysteria will lead to> next. In the room to which they retreated I see one of them flicking water on the others and then on me when I come into range. "What are you doing?" I ask. Then they show me. In her hand is a clear plastic jug-- a 2 liter pop bottle— filled with water. On the jug, in blue marker written almost illegibly are written the words "holy water". The priest had left protection for them just in case the Evil returned.*



### **Felis**

By Samantha Dettloff, Ferency

The unknowing prey  
Sits calmly  
On the white plain.  
The predator is  
A coiled spring inside the  
Covering of  
Black and orange.  
Green eyes peek out  
From behind green leaves.  
Muscles explode,  
Cat pouncing  
On hapless prey,  
White paws  
Batting the little curl  
Of paper and wire.  
It skitters across the floor  
And the cat attacks  
Once more, tiny teeth  
Shredding the twist tie.  
She steps away and  
Turns her back,  
Uninterested,  
But then leaps around, and  
With a quick flip of  
Her sleek black head  
Tosses the toy  
Behind a chair.  
Minutes later, in  
Calico comfort,  
She falls asleep  
On a seat cushion,  
Reliving epic battles  
With fearsome foes  
And the glory  
Of a war won.



## THE ADVANTAGES OF STUPIDITY

By Tim Devries, Hedrick

Most people say being stupid will lead no where. They claim that it is the worst possible condition in which to spend one's life, and if possible, it should be completely avoided. They would even suggest if the symptoms of stupidity are caught in the early stages, it could easily be treated by a surgeon. The most effective method used to do this is the chainsaw technique, later described in volume two. Yet, perhaps if people took a closer look at some of the advantages stupidity had to offer, they wouldn't have such a negative attitude toward it. After reading this paper, one will understand the advantages of stupidity.

Admittedly, stupidity has certain disadvantages. Life isn't a bowl of cherries. And being stupid doesn't make it any fruitier. Being stupid can annoy even the most sensitive people. If one acts stupid, and does it in the wrong crowd, like a group of adults, it will seem more immature than funny. If one is forced to act stupid while dealing with lower life forms, for example, high school teachers, one may encounter barriers such as cruelty and insensitivity, with the utterance of statements like, "Think with your head straight!" or, "You have a brain, use it." Yet these are all true, there are still many advantages to stupidity.

The first advantage is very easy to understand. Stupid people are never asked to do a lot. Many have noticed that people tend to steer away from someone they feel may be stupid. This is for a very good reason. The stupidity which they possess makes a name for themselves, a name which can be very difficult to shake. Possibly, it is a word which describes the working habits of the person, such as "crappy". Yet, this creates a positive situation for the stupid person. They will have a lot of free time on their hands for more of life's truly meaningful pleasures. Some of these activities are combing facial hair, and counting the pixels on a Sony TV.

Now, there has been a rumour going around that suggests that stupid people have low expectations. This is true. They are so stupid that they don't realize great from O.K. They could have a Sanyo cordless phone, but would probably choose instead a Pierre Cardin alarm clock telephone, because it comes free with their sensomatic folding bed. And someone with the "advantage" of stupidity might have a hard time doing certain tasks, or setting things up.

Yet this isn't all bad. For example, if a stupid person leaves the chore, and comes back to it later, no one will be able to understand it. Would they get fired from their job? No. For the very simple reason that no one would understand their work except for them. The job would have to be given back to the stupid person, perhaps with a higher salary, or someone would do it for them, leaving them with even more free time!

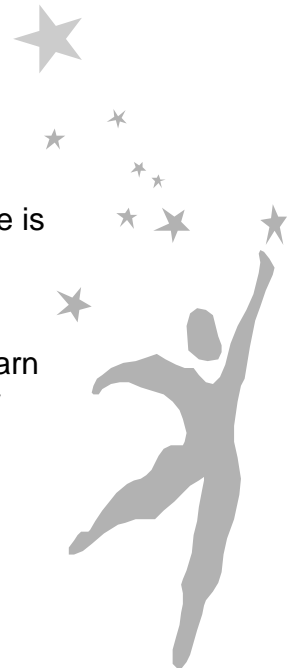


Advantages of Stupidity Continued.....

Free time is great for brainstorming (Admittedly this seems to be a bad choice of words!). Yet the ideas stupid people create tend to be original. For example, when was the last time someone stupid said something, and made one think about it? It seems that people are always talking about someone else's dumb idea. An example of such an idea would be, "How many stories will that English teacher drop before having a stroke?"

This would suggest that stupid people may have the upper hand when it comes to thinking up original ideas. In fact, the next time someone wants an original idea for something, they should try talking to their local, community stupid person. The reason for this is that while a stupid person thinks with his head, he does not do so in an organized manner. This is why they have so much creativity. By thinking in this fashion, their ideas have a natural tendency to flow more easily, without the interruptions which occur from the editing of thoughts that logical people would have normally. Thus if someone else should say to one, "That was a stupid idea!" one should merely look that person straight in the eye, and say, "Thank-you!" This also means that the claim, "Stupid minds think alike." is not true. All stupid minds have different ideas, each idea being original.

One of the final advantages of stupidity is that stupid people are always remembered, even after graduation day. It has been noticed how a quiet person is always hard to detect, and often remains anonymous. There is a very good reason for this. The mind has a hard time keeping quiet people in its memory track. But it is much easier and pleasing for the mind to remember someone really stupid. Anyways, when was the last time one laughed at an idiot in one's Freshmen class? When was the last time one laughed at a kid at the back of the room? The evidence here proves how stupid people last longer in someone's thoughts. The largest advantage which arises from stupidity is that it takes up 2/3 of DNA storage space, which is excellent for keeping stupidity in the family. Thus, stupidity clearly has many advantages, as long as someone is smart enough to use them! It is important to understand that stupid people are like all other humans physically. Yet, because of the difference between smart and stupid people, smart human beings should give them some breathing space. Teachers can learn that someone graced with stupidity, deserves more respect. After all, they are special.



Sam's Yummy Good Recipe for the Issue

## Spicy Honey-Kissed Chicken



Apportioned for one person. Cooks in about the same time as rice does, so it's not hard to have a decent meal in a not-so-long period of time. If you want it to cook faster, cut the chicken into thin strips.

1 chicken breast

1 tbsp vegetable oil

Rub:

1 tsp ground cumin

¼ tsp sage

¼ tsp ground ginger

¼ to 1/8 tsp ground pepper

¼ tsp salt

Sauce:

1 ½ tbsp lemon juice

½ tbsp honey

½ tbsp soy sauce

Combine rub ingredients and rub firmly into chicken. Heat pan and add oil. Cook chicken over medium heat for about 15 minutes, or until chicken is nearly cooked through.

Whisk together remaining ingredients and stir into chicken. Increase heat to high and cook for 1-2 min or until chicken has cooked through.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!

JUNE 29, 2000

5:30 PM

There will be a free dinner that everyone is invited to. The purpose of this dinner is to meet people from the Inter-Cooperative Council (ICC). ICC is Ann Arbor's equivalent to us (SHC). There will also be a speaker from NASCO as part of the evening.

~POW WOW~

There will be a pow-wow on June 17 & 18 at Louis Adado Riverfront Park in Lansing. The pow-wow is free and the Grand Entry (when all dancers first come out in a large circle) will be at 1:00pm and at 7:00pm. People will dance until 10 or 11:00pm on Saturday. On Sunday, Grand Entry will be at noon and will last until 5 or 6:00pm. Volunteers are needed so if you are interested please contact Eva or Robin Menefee at 393-7236.

~ JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER ~

When having parties, etc at your house, please remember that if your house would receive a violation for noise or something else that SHC can incur possible rental license problems. So PLEASE use common sense when having a party.

THANKS J

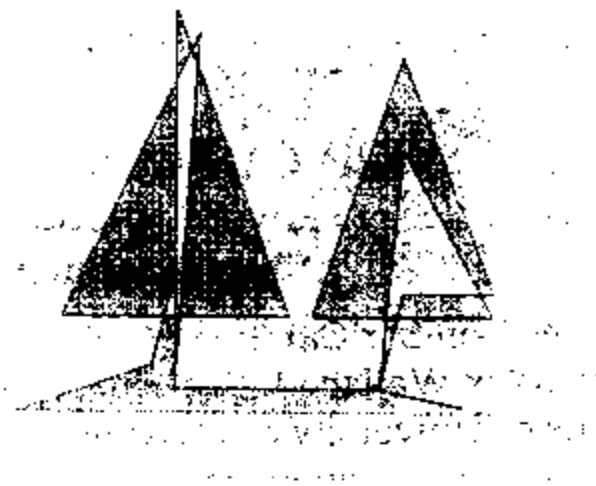
One last thing.....

Anyone is welcome to submit stuff for the pine press (pinecones, poems, stories, etc...). If you want me to include something for you, all you have to do is email it to me at [willefor@msu.edu](mailto:willefor@msu.edu), give it to your house education officer, or submit on disk to the SHC office (317 Student Services).

Thanks,  
Crystal Willeford, VPE and Pine Press Editor

## Schedule for June 2000

- June 13: EC meeting, 6pm, Co-op Office  
Education committee, 7:30pm, Atlantis  
Membership committee, 7:30pm, Atlantis  
Physical Development, 7:30pm, Ferency  
Finance Committee, 7:30pm, Orion
- June 14: New Member Orientation for those who did not attend the first one, Elsworth, 7:30pm.
- June 16: Deadline for submissions for the June 23<sup>rd</sup> Pine Press
- June 20: EC meeting, 6pm, Co-op Office  
Board of Directors meeting, 7:30pm, Location TBA
- June 27: EC meeting, 6pm, Co-op Office  
Education committee, 7:30pm, Location TBA  
Membership committee, 7:30pm, Location TBA  
Physical Development, 7:30pm, Location TBA  
Finance Committee, 7:30pm, Location TBA
- June 29: Education dinner program with ICC (Ann Arbor Co-ops), 5:30pm, Phoenix



## WHY LIVE CO-OPERATIVELY?

### Economic Benefits:

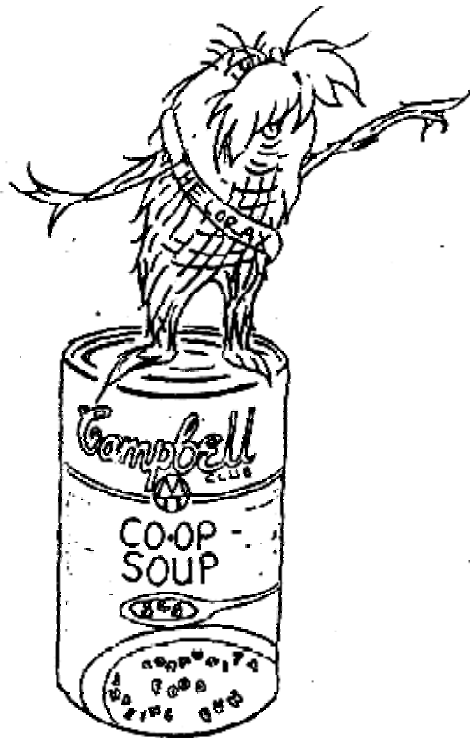
Our primary purpose is to provide cooperative, affordable housing to college students. We achieve this by buying our food in bulk and cooking our own meals, as well as doing most of the maintenance and all of the general cleaning. By sharing living expenses with other members, cost of living is generally less than living on your own.

### Social Benefits:

The co-op is an ideal place to meet new people and be a part of a strong community. Members often find that a family type of support group forms within the houses.

### Environmental Benefits:

Cooperative living benefits the earth through the common ownership of possessions and sharing of resources. For example, to prepare our dinners, we make two trips to the grocery store per week and use two ovens—something that would take 60 trips to the store and 60 ovens if we each lived alone.



In many ways we resemble a big family, but we're not patriarchal.

In many ways we're a big club, but our interests are varied.

In many ways we're a business, yet we do not pay a landlord.

In many ways we are a social and political movement, but we are not a party seeking to enrich our pockets.

We are a group of people living cooperatively for our mutual benefit, making room for our similarities and our differences, sharing ourselves, celebrating one another, and practicing a very real democracy.