



# Fourteen Ounce Okie Doke Co-op NEWS

121 Columbia Street  
Olympia, Washington 98501 357-5145



Volume 1 Number 3

June 1978

## CDC Issues

For those who have been unable to attend any of the Wednesday evening get-togethers down at Radiance, here is a brief sketch of what the Olympic CDC has been up to:

Since the benefit held April 16, at which we earned approximately \$75 by donations and food sales, we have been meeting weekly to share our energies, drawing up preliminary by-laws for a community Credit Union and discussing information gathered throughout the week. Issues such as "What are the conditions of membership going to be?", "How will the Board of Directors be comprised?" and "How will existing community service groups be able to work within the CDC organization?" are being discussed, and each week we make a certain amount of progress towards the first draft of the by-laws.

A good deal of outreach work has been going on also -- getting in touch with groups like the Community for Christian Celebration, which is attempting to organize extended families in Olympia/Thurston County; the Crisis Clinic, which so far has acted to get people in touch with people and groups of similar interest (something we hope to do as one of our major functions); and the Women's Health Center. These groups have expressed encouragement and brought new ideas of how to go about the work we have set out to do.

Our feeling is that as we grow and learn with each other about the directions we share as individuals living in a community, bonds of cooperative, neighborly assistance can develop; and that we all have a great deal to gain by walking/working together in this manner.

The original project of organizing a community credit union is already well underway, and each week we discuss new ideas and connections in other areas of community development, all of which leads to the birth of a group of folks, working together to facilitate alternative and cooperative and working systems such as a hardware store, alternative school, musicians guild,

Photo by Brenda Dickison



working together to facilitate alternative and cooperative and working systems such as a hardware store, alternative school, musicians guild, retreat center, clothing exchange, skills bank, transportation collective, and any other needs which are brought out during meetings which can be developed by ourselves through working with one another to make it happen.

As the Beatles have sung, "And in the end, the love you take/Is equal to the love you make." Whatever good energy you can share with the CDC will be amply rewarding. Come to one of the meetings when you are interested and want to share with us in community. Every Wednesday evening at 7:00 or slightly thereafter, Radiance Herbs and Massage, Fourth Avenue, Olympia.

WEDNESDAY AT RADIANCE \*\* 7:00 PM

## Contributions for Register



During the month of June cashiers will be asking shoppers in the co-op if they will contribute \$1 (or more if you like) toward the purchase of a new cash register for the store. The new register which has been chosen will help the staff compile sales and inventory information which will give us some idea of where we lose money, so we can cut those losses.

At present, the co-op is unable to make ends meet. Work on a new mark-up and membership fee system is under way. Accurate information from a good cash register will help. But we need some

means of financing this new machine. It will cost about \$1,600 altogether. About \$600 has already been raised via benefits and contributions. We will continue doing benefits. We will also continue asking members to contribute. About 90% of the people responding to a survey last month said they would contribute \$1 for the cash register. Most felt the contribution should not be mandatory.

The new cash register should be in and working by the first of July -- which is, by the way, the first day that there will be no sales tax on food.



# Editor's Note t.t.

Howdy! Here we are again, trying to improve with every month. I hope all you folks out there are reading the OKEY DOKE NEWS and enjoying it. All the folks involved have been working very hard and coming up with some very good results. I want to take the space to thank everyone who has worked so diligently, they are: Brenda Dickison, Rick Crawford and the Thurston County Parks and Recreation Department, Co-op managers Beth and Steve, Anna Schlecht Carolyn Kuhn, Doug Plummer, a ghost writer for the CDC, Jo Feinberg, Jan Reimer, et al.

If there are any of you who would like to work on the newspaper in July we would really appreciate the help. I will be going on vacation in mid-July and we'll need to find someone to take the paper down to the press on the 2nd Thursday of July. The press is in Centraillia at the Daily Chronicle, it takes about 2 hours to print and then you are set to jet. We'll also need some help with layout and ad sales if any of you feel so motivated. Remember it's a great way to earn your working membership and do something worthwhile for our co-op. If you might have a few free hours in July please get in touch with me at the Blue Heron Bakery 866-BAKE or at home, 357-9324.

## Produce Update

The co-op tries to carry as much organically grown food as possible. We also try to let people know what is organic and what is not. Yet now the only thing we know is what the person selling it to us tells us, and as long as there is a difference in price between organic and non-organic, there will be people trying to pass off commercially grown food as organic.

I would like to get some interested people together and work out a policy on what we call organic and what we don't; and maybe to investigate our sources and see what kind of food we are really getting. Anyone who is interested should contact me, Steve, at the co-op.

Produce is in that middle between seasons where prices fluctuate crazily. Lettuce has dropped to almost reasonable levels, but is reportedly going sky-high again, possibly by the time you read this. Local stuff will be in within a couple of weeks, and the prices will come back down then. Green peppers are still expensive, but not quite as bad as they were. Zucchini is getting cheap now, half the price it was a month ago. Cucumbers are also cheap. Tomatoes are coming from Florida now, and are looking much better. The old ones were from Mexico, were not very good quality, and Mexican growers can use any pesticides they want, including DDT.

Fruits are coming in. The California cherry season was real short, so cherries are outrageously expensive, but Eastern Washington cherries will be in before too long. Nectarines and peaches will be in soon, cantelopes will be coming down in price; non-organic bananas have been dropping in price, though the organics the co-op has been carrying have not. All winter the organics have been the same price as the non-organics, but now that there is a significant difference we may carry both.

Apples are going up in price. The organic Golden Delicious (my favorite) may be out for the season, and the last ones we got were of terrible quality. Organic Red Delicious are expensive but still available, though quality varies from terrible to excellent. We will have the non-organic reds and Winesaps. Apricots will be in soon, but it's too early to know what prices will be. Fuerte avocados are out of season; Hass are the only ones available now, and are more expensive. Watermelon is available, but expensive; but the price is coming down. California strawberries are really nice, and Oregon should be in soon. Local produce is just starting. Asparagus, green onions, and radishes are in now, and more soon. If you are growing more than you need and are interested in selling to the co-op, contact me (Steve) at the store.

## Alternative Info

'Bout time we introduced ourselves. A group that sprouted out of shared interest in "Alternative Intentional Communities" that was refined with some academics last year and defined with the expansion of the Faith Center at TESC to encompass a budding "alternative community information center," and re-inspired by increased involvement with the CAREL group that puts out CASCADE is now (whew!°°° take a breath!) is now a more and more workable resource file covering these listed topics and more.

We have available the addresses of a large number of people and places around the region, the U.S. and even some in the rest of the world who are interested in, studying about, and/or living in "intentional communities" of one kind or another. We have files of names and places; addresses of communities; institutions and individuals studying communities. We have a complete and continuing set of the two major magazines put out by people within the community network about and for the people in communities: Communities, published in Louisa, VA., and Green Revolution, from the School of Living/-Downhill Farm. Many related magazines, both American and British. You'll find books and a very comprehensive bibliography of the diverse literature on communities: pragmatic critique and solution, and visionary theory. You can almost always find a person with some background and/or enthusiasm in talking about the prospect of a supportive community to share your life and energy with around here, too.

This summer Alternatives Community Access (ACA?) will be working to include most all of this information on computer memory so it can be more readily accessible to the local alternative community, and that it may be expanded to include the social change, self-help, and social/community services groups available in the Lower Puget Sound area.

All of you can help a lot with that by dropping by a list of the folks you know who are doing some kind of work the alternative community should know about and share in, in your neighborhood or wherever, and we'll ask them if they'd like to be included in a community services directory like this one for Olympia/Lower Puget Sound.

Almost any Olympian would be surprised at the number of their neighbors doing social healing activities in our community who don't know about all the other Oly folks involved in similar work areas.

Let us know what you're up to, and come by to look through all this good stuff.

Yours in cooperation,

Jim Reiton  
Randy Clark  
Clark Devineau

Alternatives Community Access  
A-922 TESC, 866-5006  
or 3rd Floor TESC Library 3227

LA  
TIERRA

218 W. 4th.....NEXT TO CHILDHOOD'S END



Step into  
Summer with  
new  
clothes...  
Cool cotton  
gauze,  
bright colors  
& fun  
styles.  
Great to  
show off  
that new  
tan.

Mon-Sat 10:30-5:30  
352-6706  
FREE PARKING ON SATURDAY  
DOWNTOWN



Budget

Tapes  
&  
Records

214 W. 4th

943-9181

10-7 Mon-Fri

1-6 Sat. 1-7 Sun

Lowest Prices in Town



# Compost

55 gallon drums FREE or whatever you would like to donate towards a new cash register. The co-op empties two oil barrels a month and cannot return them to the distributor.

If you prefer working in the co-op when it's not crowded and noisy, come in and help clean up before 10:00 am or after 7:00 pm (5:00 pm on Saturday). There's usually someone in by 8:30, 9:00 to be on the safe side, and there's always lots of work to do starting anytime after 5:00 or 6:00. If your household or group would like to do a project together for working status, talk to the staff about arranging a clean-up party, crew, whatever.

The co-op meeting schedule is:

Staff meetings every Thursday at noon (closed because the office is tiny).

Staff/Board of Directors meeting on the second Monday of every month at Radiance at 7:30 pm, Board meetings the Wednesday morning following the staff/Board meeting at 9:30 at Betty's house (anyone who attends three consecutive Board or Board/Staff meetings may then vote at Board meetings as long as they continue to attend, or get themselves elected).

General membership meetings are the third Thursday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Friendship Room of the Senior Center across the street from the co-op.

june						
sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1 noon staff meeting	2	3
4	5 evaluation & goal setting workshops 7:30pm Radiance	6	7	8 evaluation & goal setting workshops 7:30pm Radiance noon staff meeting	9	10
11	12 Co-op staff-board meeting 7:30pm	13 evaluation & goal setting workshops 7:30pm Radiance	14 the leaders' Mtg Co-op financial planning meeting 7:30pm Radiance Co-op board meets 9:30 Betty's	15 noon staff meeting	16	17 Do the 1000 long center pipe books have you earned your working member status this month?
18 Father's Day	19	20	21 Summer Solstice	22 Co-op general membership meeting 7:30 Sr. Center noon staff meeting	23	24
25	26	27	28	29 noon staff meeting	30	

Special meetings will be announced in the Newsletter and posted in the store. There will be evaluation and goal-setting workshops June 5, 8, and 13 at 7:30 pm at Radiance, and a special financial planning meeting Wed. June 14 at 7:30 at Radiance.

## Climb Aboard

Anyone interested in standing for these positions may contact members of the staff and Board through the store, or come to the next general meeting June 20 prepared to give a brief statement of why you are interested in serving on the Board, what relevant experience you have, what kind of time commitment you are willing to make, etc. If you may be interested but are uncertain about the obligations or anything else, make an appointment to talk to one of the staff or Board members.

There will be three positions on the Co-op Board of Directors opening at the end of June. Elections for these positions will take place at the general meeting Tuesday evening, June 20. One of the positions is a six-month term; the other two are each one year. Board of Directors responsibilities include representing the membership in policy decision-making, and hiring and firing of staff; dependable attendance at various meetings; maintenance of a close working relationship with the staff; a knowledge of store operations; and a willingness to work within a cooperative group situation.

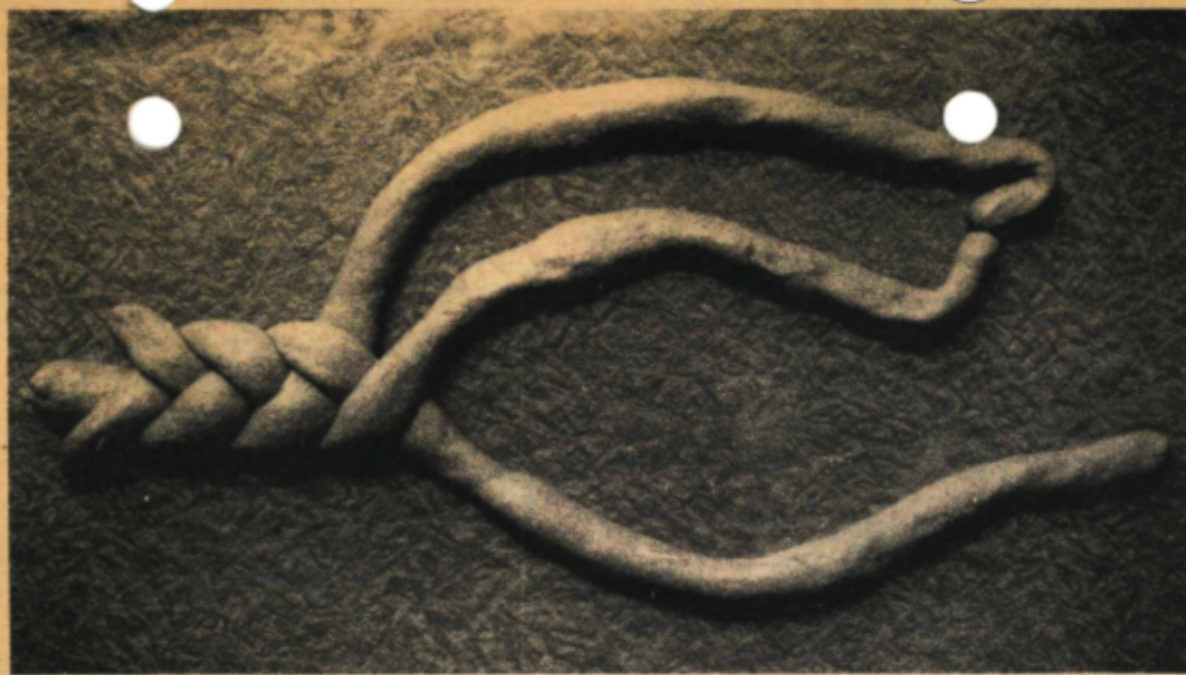


Photo by Doug Phummer

**BLUE HERON BAKERY**  
 RT. 14 BOX 65 • MUD BAY ROAD •  
 OLYMPIA • W.N. • 98502 •  
 866-2253

HAND MADE NO PRESERVATIVES  
 NET WT. 24 oz. (1lb. 8 oz.)

**HERBS**

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**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE**

LOCATED

202  
 357-4470

**GNU deli**

serving fine soups, sandwiches,  
 desserts, imported beer and  
 wine. Quiche dinners  
 after 6 p.m.

In downtown Olympia on  
 the corner of Thurston Ave.  
 & Capitol Way  
 943-1371

JUNE GRUBS

THURSDAY, JUNE 8	OPEN MIKE
JUNE 9, 10	JAZZ GILA
THURSDAY, JUNE 15	JAZZ MYRA HILFORD & STEVE LUCIANO
FRIDAY, SAT. JUNE 16, 17	FOLK LINNY KESSLER
THURS. JUNE 22	JAZZ, ELECTRONIC MARK VALE
FRI., SAT. JUNE 23, 24	EXPLORATORY JAZZ
	JOHN ALKINS
THURS. JUNE 29	BLUESGRASS TURNER SALAD
FRI. SAT. JUNE 30, JULY 1	COUNTRY FOLK BOB HALPERN





## Co-op Bank

The creation of a National Consumer Co-operative Bank moved a step closer to reality recently. On April 6th the U.S. Senate Banking and Urban Affairs Committee voted to report to the full Senate an amended version of a Bank Bill passed by the House last July. This move coupled with Carther administration support increases the bill's chances for passage this session.

Such a Bank could play a vital role in strengthening the consumer co-operative movement in this country. It could be especially important to so-called "new wave" co-ops, those with primarily lower income members. As a lending institution the Bank could provide capitalization needs by many co-ops to stabilize their operations. It could also be the key to enabling co-ops to develop integrated solutions to community problems such as housing, childcare, healthcare, etc. To help co-ops gain expertise in these areas, the Bank will be authorized to provide technical assistance similar to the services the Small Business Administration provides to independent business people. There is also a special self-help fund within the Bank provisions for use by under capitalized co-ops who cannot meet normal loan requirements.

The Senate Banking Committee took this latter assistance to low income co-ops further than originally called for in the House version. They changed the definition of a low income co-op from one who has 51% or more of its membership at or below the poverty level down to only 51%. This should qualify almost all of the "new wave" co-ops. The committee also added provisions requiring at least 35% of all co-op bank loans be made to low income co-ops. They further provided that low income credit unions could be eligible to receive Bank technical assistance, thereby help-

ing poor people to gain control of their own monies. Many of these provisions are expected to meet significant opposition when the Bank Bill is considered by the full Senate.

The Senate committee also significantly reduced the proposed allocation for the Bank from its original \$500 million. This reduction was necessary to secure administration support for the bill. During its first years the Bank will issue \$100 million in preferred notes to the Treasury Department. The Treasury will purchase \$50 million each year for the next four years bringing the total allocation to \$300 million. The self help fund will receive total allocation of \$75 million during this time. The budget for technical assistance will be \$2 million the first year and subject to Congressional review each year thereafter.

All federal government money received by the Bank must eventually be repaid. As this occurs the Bank will change from a government controlled institution to one owned and operated by its member borrowers. To insure the solvency of its operation, and to protect private business from possible unfair competition, the Bank will be required to issue all its loans at the fair market price. At present this is expected to average 8% interest.

The Bank can be of great use to our co-operative movement. It is, however, not yet a reality. There is a strong opposition to the Bank Bill in the Senate as there was in the House. The bill passed that body by only one vote last July. Opponents can be expected to damage the bill if they cannot defeat it. One such attempt may be to replace a sunset clause which the banking committee stripped from the House version. This clause would require the Bank to automatically cease existence after five years. Such a clause is both dangerous and unnecessary. It would prevent the Bank from securing long term financial agreements when the federal financing stops.

Bank supporters among the co-operative movement are urged to counter this opposition - to demonstrate the need and the support for creation of a National Consumer Co-operative Bank. Petitions of support signed by co-op members and letters from co-op representatives which are sent to out Senators can help show our backing of this important legislation.

Do any of you readers out there have a recipe for Scandinavian knackbrod, the old-country, thin, dimpled, hard, rye-based, large-diameter 12" "wafer" with a hole in the middle?)

Clarence Bruce  
c/o F.O.O.D. Co-op  
112 N. Columbia

### THE F.O.O.D. CO-OP INCOME STATEMENT MONTH OF MAY, 1978

Sales	\$25,565.00
Cost of Goods Sold	24,492.00
Gross Margin (4%)	\$1,073.00

Expenses:	
Rent	\$ 252.
Depreciation	20.
Wages	1,262.
Payroll taxes	201.
Utilities	77.
Supplies	63.
Advertising	32.
Insurance	20.
Taxes & Licenses	142.
Maintenance, repair	35.
Interest expense	14.
Truck operation	(54.)
	2,064.

Net Loss	\$ 991.00
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Sales are still up there over \$25,000 but the gross margin dropped to an all-time low of 4% last month. This means that of our mark-ups of 10%, 20%, and 30%, we are only realizing 4%. The majority of this loss is due to misuse of the co-op, careless wrapping and handling of food. Due to the fact that we cannot make ends meet with current mark-up and membership fees, work is being done to change the by-laws, to put into effect a new mark-up and membership system this summer. If you would like more information or an opportunity to participate in the process, check the meeting schedule elsewhere in this issue.

Beth

## Alienation or Involvement

First impressions are always tinged with a fair amount of distance, especially in places with their own rhythms. I can remember my first visit to the co-op and what it was like to try to find a toe-hold in the organic hustle-bustle of this funny little store. Though I ended up falling in love with this place and became a manager, many people remain on the fringe.

Despite the cooperative ideals that we pride ourselves on, this co-op can be very alienating to new people -- and, sadly, even to regular shoppers who don't feel they have a place in the store. This alienation is the result of many things, but is mainly due to the various "isms" that we arbitrarily categorize each other and ourselves with. Hipism, organicism, ageism, and though we may not choose to own up, even classism and sexism smack some of us across the face when we come into the

store, while others of us remain innocently oblivious. We lose touch with our goal as a community cooperative when we overlook the alienation that puts off lower-class people, senior citizens, middle-class people, gay people, and other community people.

In accordance with Newton's First Law of Motion (a body at rest tends to remain at rest) this problem will linger until we all take more responsibility for it; alienation is the product of a symbiotic neglect. Those of us who feel comfortable enough to holler our conversations across the store need to be aware of how that affects others. And those of us who feel alienated need to think about why we don't have a place in the store and perhaps make an effort to create one (being a working member does wonders!) We all need to learn more sensitivity in working with each other.

Anna