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Major crises:

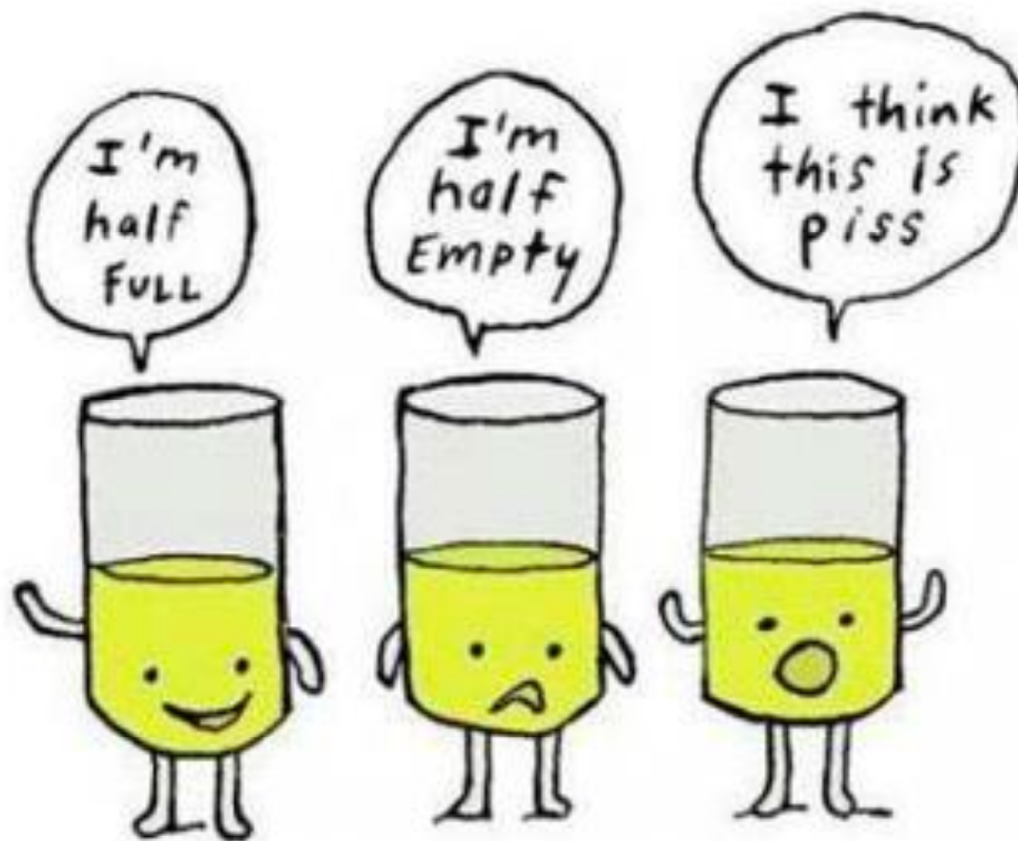
Ecology

Economics

Social justice

Interpersonal (family)

Intrapersonal (industrial-era atomization)



REALISTS

The only ones who really know what's going on.



- Portrait of the Co-op-er as a Young Man
 - Atomized/alienated
 - Despondent over ecology
 - Cynical about democracy
 - Suspicious of altruism (people acting out of others' best interests)









Housing/ “rent”

Food (bulk organic vegetarian groceries)

Domestic work

House decision-making (consensus-based)

Board governance

LOTS of extras: bikes, expensive tools, hook-ups

Community: (relatively) diverse



- Connected through everyday “excuses” to interact (“material relations”)
- Collective action fostering ecological impact
- Consensus-based “micro-democracy”
 - Understand more, but expect more, too



- “There is no such thing as the government/
it’s just people ruling over people.”

Solar Community Housing Association Davis, California







California Center for Cooperative Development, Davis, California



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- Education
- Properties
- Development

– (not just housing)

... basically, all a 10-year extension of my “house chores”!

Soapbox: Beware “The Movement”!



- Cooperation > cooperatives (which include Subway, de-mutualized “mutual” insurance, etc.)
- “-isms” haven’t worked out too well for communists, trade unionists, or even capitalists

So then what is our organizing principle? (Barf alert!...)

It's all love.



So, how do we engage?

- “Where is your pain” (and needs and interests) as a consumer?
- Find other people with “pain” in the same area.
- Figure out a common solution predicated on mutual respect and care.

Cooperation is really conflict resolution.

- Done right, you will encounter the things about yourself you find the most difficult.

- Listen carefully, and take people seriously: process over product.

- E.g; Algora steel workers and their family life.

Co-op Education

Your own co-ops, no matter how informal, will provide an excellent learning platform.

Formally, this is hard (partly b/c of ED vs. CD schism). CBU's MBA in CED was one of the only "business of CED" programs I found in all of North American that had anything to do with co-ops... Canada also has St. Mary's and Sherbrooke.

Canadian Cooperative Association (check out their Webinars!)

NASCO: Institute, Board service

Conclusion: Why Cooperate?

Co-ops are: FUN, diverse,
participatory, idealistic *and*
practical!

The problems we face as
communities, nations, and as a
species were all made together.

They can only be solved (or
mitigated) together.

Elinor Ostrom



- Clearly defined boundaries/exclusion of external parties;
- Locally-adapted rules for appropriation and provision of common resources;
- Most participation in the decision-making process possible;
- Effective monitoring by accountable monitors;
- Graduated sanctions violators;
- Cheap and accessible conflict resolution;
- Self-determination recognized by higher-level authorities;
- For larger CPRs, multiple layers of nested enterprises

Phillip Blond



- <http://www.respublica.org.uk/>
- Left and right are actually mostly in agreement on the centralization of a large State (whether its emphasis is military, corporate subsidy, or social services)
- Decentralize business, government, and society

Venkatesh Rao

ribbonfarm.org

“From Social Business to
Superlinear Corporation”



- Compare “immortal” cities to increasingly-short-lived businesses:
 - the key differences are *openness* and *embeddedness*
 - “Cities **subsume the entire lives of their citizens**, while corporations, no matter how hard they try, will always subsume only a part of the lives of their employees, customers, and suppliers.”

*“Cooperate
and no one gets hurt”!*

