

The Knothole

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5-1-1963

## The Knothole, May 1, 1963

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

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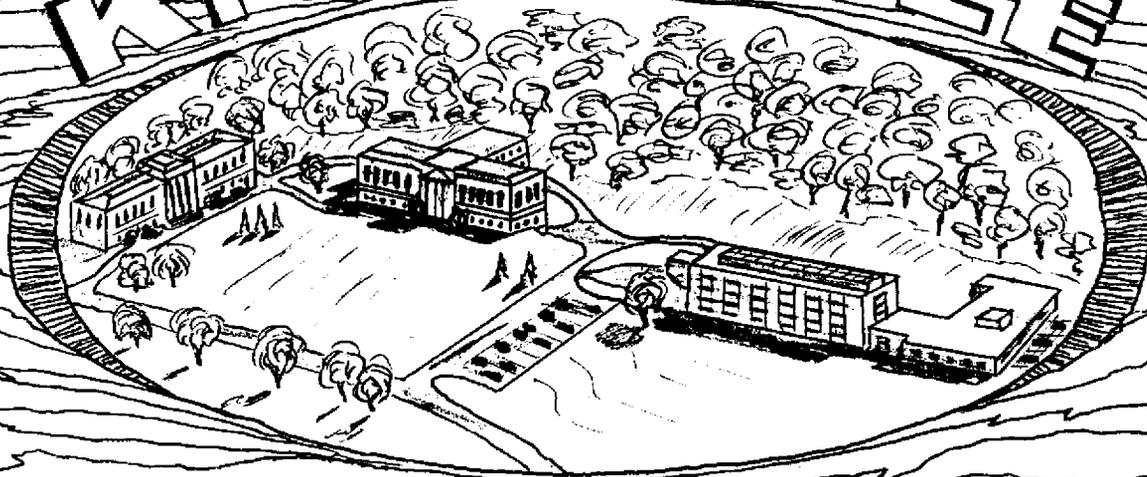
### Recommended Citation

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body, "The Knothole, May 1, 1963" (1963). *The Knothole*. Book 62.  
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OUR CAMPUS AS SEEN THROUGH THE

# KNOTHOLE



Editors: R. Bathrick, J. Dwyer, M. Kelly, R. Kutty, H. Rupp, R. Sena

May 1, 1963      Deadline for Entries: Monday 8:45 A.M.      Published by Alpha Xi Sigma

### SELF PITY

Spring is here and about this time of year, a student's fancy turns even further away from his studies than it has been. I'm not going to write about the usual things that happen openly, such as littering, destruction of property, and vandalism in general, for you can read of these "letting off steam" devices any day of the week. Instead, I would like to stimulate your mind to think of the times when you are not letting off steam but just brooding and goofing off. Have you ever thought of the motives for this kind of action?

Every student has his problems but there are certain people attending this college (not too many I hope) that certainly won't be able to take on the responsibility they should be capable of upon graduation. These are the people who feel sorry for themselves. They're constantly waiting for some unseen saint to pick up their work and push on ahead of them as a drill would in to hard rock. Students who can't face this hard wall of reality are wasting their time and the State's money by attending our College. They haven't grown up and will no doubt have very little initiative later on in life.

The first sign of this malady is a student's slouching on the outside reading offered in his courses. Then the disease progresses towards the self-pity center of the brain (some place it, along with this type of brain, quite far down the spinal column). Now, outward signs start to appear. The patient goes to bed early because he is "tired" while in his own mind, the poor dear classes himself with the overworked pyramid builders of ancient Egypt. Soon he skips a class here and there

by resetting his alarm and going back to bed. Before he knows it, he's an expert at figuring out how many cuts he can get away with, without the notorious Pink Slip catching up with him.

By now, our prisoner of education is convinced that any school that makes its students think and work hard should be made the victim of an atomic attack. How will our inmate fare in the nasty old world outside his self-made institution? Not very well, I'm afraid. Suddenly, even everyday chores around the house will become Herculean and he will end up assigning tasks to other members of his family and to his friends. All this in the name of making life as easy as he thinks he deserves it. This, the final stage of the disease, usually causes the "death" of the victim. His neighbors, friends, and even his family, have lost respect for him and he is ostracized and only tolerated by them.

When this happens, Society has a truly sick individual on its hands. We should recognize this when it affects us and our surroundings and should try to help the person involved instead of just tolerating his ignorance of reality. The sooner this is done, the sooner will our colleges and our society in general become a better place in which to live and learn.

Robert Sena

During a Freshman English class this year, the instructor addressed the foresters and asked why they segregated themselves from the University by acting so crude. The reply? "We are crude! We want to be crude! And you ain't gonna change us!"

Pride in our school is a valuable asset to each person associated with it. If you feel inclined to express this pride do it in terms of our qualified instructors, rating among other Forestry schools, and wide vocational opportunities. It should be an educational program based on good public relations and not a display of crudeness, dungarees, and boots.

Whether we like it or not a good deal of our future is going to be controlled by the cross campus kiddies at Syracuse and every other University. Grow up and meet a few of these people in the other world. You'll find they're very much a part of your world and little different from yourself.

R. Bathrick

#### SUMMER SESSION IN TROPICAL FORESTRY

The deadline for submission of applications for admission to the Summer Session in Tropical Forestry has been extended to April 30, 1963. The program, which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation and conducted in Puerto Rico in cooperation with the Institute of Tropical Forestry and the University of Puerto Rico, is scheduled to begin June 10th and continue through August 31st. Junior and Senior students in General Forestry, Wood Products Engineering and Landscape Architecture are eligible to apply for admission. Those accepted will receive a stipend in the amount of \$600 each to cover the travel and subsistence costs involved.

Printed announcements for the Summer Session have been distributed to all departments within the College. Additional copies together with application forms and a detailed outline for the program may be obtained from the Graduate Office or Department of Forestry Economics. Students interested in applying for admission should contact Dr. Larson, 320 Bray Hall, at their earliest convenience.

THAT GOOD FEELING

We have all experienced the good feeling that comes with the doing of a purely unselfish act. One such act is the donating of blood to the semi-annual blood drive or at any time. Many of us who wanted to give blood at the last drive were unable to do so because of illness or a hundred and one other reasons and have decided to wait until the next drive before giving again. If you are in this category, please give careful consideration to the following excerpt from a letter to me from Dr. Morrison.

"Several months ago Mr. Joseph Wray who completed both his B.S. and M.S. at our college wrote me for help in securing the last dozen or so pints of replacement blood against the hospital account of his young daughter who died of leukemia something over a year ago."

Because this blood debt was incurred outside this area, only donations made directly to the center can be used to fill it. Dr. Morrison has been urging students to go to the center, but so far he has had little success. If you would be interested in giving a pint of blood to the Helen Wray account sometime between now and the end of the semester, please fill in the following slip and drop it in the Knothole box in Marshall Lounge and I will arrange transportation to and from the center. This is an opportunity for you to help out a grad of our college and get that good feeling at the same time.

Ray Kutzy

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I would like to give a pint of blood to the Helen Wray account.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

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CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MOOSEWOOD'S NOTEBOOK

#17

Some years ago during the dust-bowl era, one of the southeastern stockmen's magazines published a picture of an abandoned farmhouse in a wind swept field, and offered a prize for the best one hundred word description. It is said that an Oklahoma Indian boy won the prize with the following letter: --

Picture show why white man crazy. Cut down trees. Make too big tipi. Flow hill, water wash. Wind blow, soil gone, grass gone, door

gone, window gone, Squaw gone. Whole place gone to hell. No pig, no corn, no pony.

Indian no plow land; keep grass, buffalo eat grass. Indian eat buffalo; hide make plenty big tipi, make mocassin. All time eat. Indian no work. No hitchhike. No ask relief. No build dam, no give damn. White man heap crazy.

"SOME RUMBLES OF GREY MATTER FROM A SMALL GROUP  
OF HIGHLY INTELLIGENT MINDS"

A Naturalist? What is a Naturalist? What about this so called "Balance of Nature"? Isn't man just as much a part of this natural environment he has been accused of upsetting as an insect, a bird, another mammal, a tree or a virus? If an insect has a biological right to fight to survive and maintain his existence, cannot man be allowed to do the same?

Miss Carson, in her latest literary gem, suggests that biological control is the best means by which man can regulate pest populations, be they insect or plant, and warns us that by using toxic chemicals we are, in effect, disrupting the balance of nature. She has a right and a responsibility as a human being to inject her ideas, philosophy, or what have you, into the minds of everyone who will listen. But by the same token, so has each and everyone of us that same responsibility.

We will assume that man is superior over all other animals (at least of this earth) simply because of this quality of intelligence. Man is an animal, is he not listed among the species of the animal kingdom along with the insects, reptiles, mammals and birds? It is also generally assumed that this animal, man, considering the short time he has been on earth in relation to other animals, has been highly successful. His mere increase in numbers gives evidence of this.

I recognize this "balance of nature" not as a balance but as a complex conflict for survival; and man is in this conflict just as is an insect or a minute virus organism. Isn't it true that new species are being found while others are becoming extinct. Some of "us" are losing out in this conflict.

Of late, man has seen fit to consider insects as competition; a barrier to his wants and needs. We have institutions of higher learning to prepare us for this battle; Entomology, forest pathology, medicine, are just a few of these fields. Not many years ago man was content, upon finding a worm in an apple, to spit out that particular bite. He did not complain much about washing small animals, vermin and soil from fresh vegetables. Today he expects his food to be in an edible condition at the time of purchase. What was once only desirable is now a need. We see that man is not only intelligent (he has the ability to control his environment), but also can be greedy and vicious. Take a few minutes to watch a couple of children calmly accepting one of two pieces of pie that are "approximately" the same size. As a species we have always fought for the "biggest and best piece of pie".

In colonial times it was "natural" for man to invade the forest, chop down a few trees to build a shelter, cut down larger areas to grow his food, and kill other animals for food and/or clothing. Is there any basic difference between this venture and today's massive bulldozers clearing large areas of land to build

a housing development?

Man simply has the capacity of creating a larger effect on his environment than any other animal. If he wishes, he has the capacity to destroy his environment. Not many lower animals with far less intelligence than man, will willingly destroy themselves. Since man is rational, at least capable of being so, it is reasonable and logical to say that he will not destroy his environment, since it is just that upon which he depends for life.

Shades of Malthus. Is man slowly becoming an epidemic? Each year our number continues to grow at a rapid rate. We are already concerned about our "population explosion". Predictions are available in respect to how long our supply of fresh water, coal, and petroleum will last. We are enough concerned that we spend vast amounts of money and time in an effort to develop new resources, atomic power; fresh water extraction from the ocean, along with food and minerals; we are even trying to locate another planet that is hospitable to man. Man is truly an ambitious and powerful animal. He has increased the life expectancy of his numbers in certain areas of the earth, from 45 years to 72 years. How is he able to do these things? Through intelligence and an ever increasing knowledge of himself and his surroundings. Were it not for his intelligence he would certainly be well on his way to becoming an epidemic? Surely his worst enemy is himself.

And finally, can many of these questions be answered without regarding religion? Probably they cannot, if you consider religion as an idea. Philosophy can also be included as an idea or a way of life. So we continue living.

C. Tiernan

#### RETALIATION FOR STEINBECK

It's time to wake up to the facts Mr. Colby. Sex, even in its "raw" form, does exist on this earth and it's high time you realized it. John Steinbeck has used sex, not as Miller does in Tropic of Cancer, but as a vehicle to help him express the theme of his novel, The Winter of Our Discontent. The good qualities of this book, along with its revelation of today's temptations, far outweighs any superficial "disrobing" of characters that might occur. Grapes of Wrath didn't have much sex in it (presumably the reason you liked it) because it didn't need it to get across the point of the tragedy of the Southwestern dustbowl of the early 1900's.

Mr. Steinbeck is noted for intense development of his characters and here is where the Nobel Prize winning disrobing of characters comes: the stripping off of superficiality and the baring of the inner person to his readers. I was deeply moved by Steinbeck's intimate delving into every corner of even his minor characters. This, along with the masterful way in which Steinbeck weaves his plot together into a final meaningful climax, makes The Winter of Our Discontent worthy of any award it gets.

Robert Sena

WPE CLUB ELECTS

On April 25th, the Wood Engineers Club elected officers for next year. The new officers are:

- President ..... Myron Kelly
- Vice President ..... Garth Wilkes
- Secretary ..... Clay Crosby
- Treasurer ..... Ray Nozynski
- Program Director ..... Chet Socha
- Student Council Representative ..... Fred Blausner

HONORS CONVOCATION

It appears to me that a large segment of the student body was absent from their seats at the honors convocation last Wednesday. As noted by Dean Shirley, a number of students had legal excuse for trips, etc. But where were the rest of the "students"?

The students should not be present only at this convocation because it is required, but should be present in recognition of their fellow students achievements.

I am sure that if they were in the front five rows, they would appreciate an audience. Let's hope that next year the students will have a little more consideration.

Carl Vogt