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The Knothole, May 8, 1963

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

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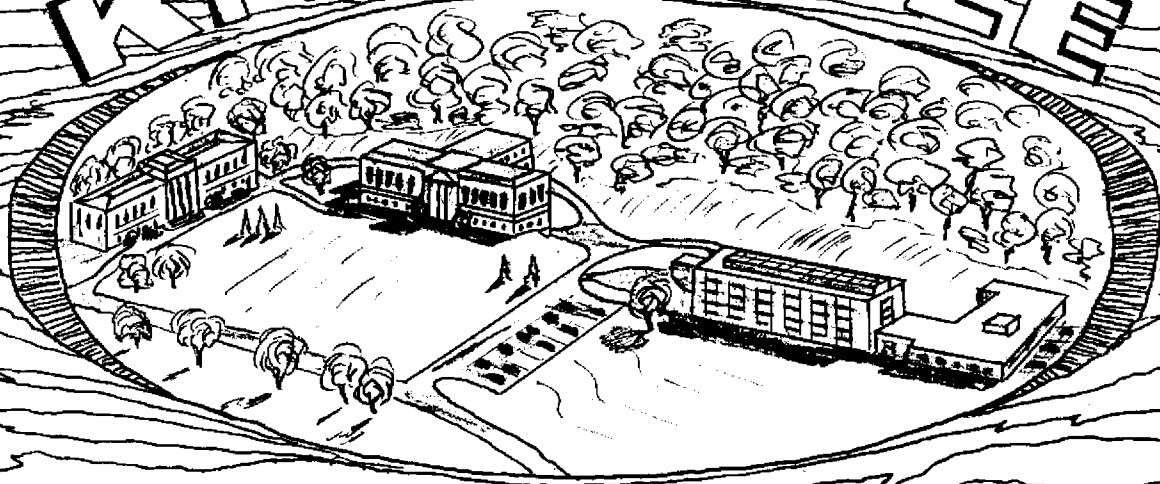
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OUR CAMPUS AS SEEN THROUGH THE
KNOTHOLE



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

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MIXED EMOTIONS

One of the advantages of being an editor of a college newspaper is the opportunity to blast or praise your fellow students. Not too often does the situation arise where both become possible in the same week, but this is just what has happened at the College.

When I first came to the College in 1959, I received the impression that our College was one with strong traditions and a close knit student body. I have been reminded of this many times since then and the point was brought home to me again last week when twelve students responded to the request for blood made in The Knothole. It should give us all a good feeling to know, that as students or graduates of the College, we can count on the rest of the student body for help in such a situation.

At the same time that these twelve students were doing their good deed, many others of the student body were tramping on one of the College's oldest traditions. I am referring to the attendance or lack of attendance at the last two convocations. There can be no excuse that the subject was poor or the speaker terrible, because both of the convocations were designed to honor our fellow students.

The facts that the senior class seemed to be well represented at both convocations and that the twelve who gave blood were all seniors or graduate students, lead me to believe that the poor attendance at convocation cannot be accounted for as just a springtime lag. Instead it seems to indicate that possibly the underclassmen at our College have decided to abandon traditions and give up the feeling

of closeness shown by forestry students in the past. I certainly hope that time and the students will prove that assumption to be false.

At this time I do not intend to propose any steps that should be taken to remedy the situation of poor convocation attendance, instead I will just make the following comments. First to those who gave blood I would like to say congratulations and thanks on the behalf of Joseph Wray. Secondly to those who missed convocation the last two weeks because they were just too lazy to attend or because they felt it would be a big joke to cut, I would like to point out the fact that there is a college catalog section in our library and I suggest that the next time you go to the library you visit this section and find yourself another school.

Raymond Kutty

NEW ADVANCES IN SCIENCE - PART IV

1. A person should take a bath once in the summer and not quite so often in the wintertime.
2. Blood flows down one leg and up the other.
3. A triangle which has an angle of 135 degrees is called an obscene triangle.
4. Sea water has the formula CH_2O .
5. The hookworm larva enters the human body through the soul.
6. Algebra was the wife of Euclid.
7. Benjamin Franklin produced electricity by rubbing cats backwards.
8. A vacuum is a U-tube with a flask at one end.
9. Parallel lines never meet unless you bend one or both of them.
10. A circle is a line which meets its other end without ending.
11. English Sparrows and Starlings eat the farmer's grain and soil his corpse.
12. For asphyxiation: apply artificial respiration until the patient is dead.
13. To collect fumes of sulfur, hold a deacon over a flame in a test tube.
14. Ammonium chloride is also silly maniac.
15. When you haven't got enough iodine in your blood you get a glacier.

DISENCHANTMENT

Several articles appearing in The Knothole have revealed a confusion and disenchantment among segments of the student body with regard to job opportunities available in land management and to the adequacy of preparation offered in that option. Several people have expressed their thoughts on this matter but, no one

has offered substantial information with which to raise the problem above the level of mere misapprehension. Certainly, if the problem is so nebulous any effort to search out the cause would be unwarranted; however, the fact that such confusion and disenchantment do exist is reason enough for concern. What is the cause of the prevailing attitude of uncertainty?

Uncertainty, confusion, disenchantment, whatever it is called, it is the result of lack of knowledge, perception, and a sense of reality which prevents the student from foreseeing what conditions will be like after graduation. Take for example the student who after four years of college bewails the fact that job opportunities are not all roses and clover; that the summation of his studies, a resource management course, does not purr like a Rolls Royce. That student is lacking in the ability to synthesize the academic world with the business world.

Students often labor under the mistaken impression that the college is responsible for providing all the knowledge necessary to enter our profession. A college education is only a drop in the bucket; barely a flicker of light with which to gain one's bearings in the dark abyss of ungained knowledge. The student must acquire most of his knowledge on his own.

Knowledge may be developed and augmented with perceptive abilities, but these abilities cannot be transferred from a book or a professor to the student like knowledge. Perception can be developed in class, not by sitting complacently in one's seat, but by questioning, rejecting, and challenging, for all teachers are fallible and all find communicating their thoughts difficult.

Finally, a sense of reality must be developed by each student through outside reading and personal contact with practicing foresters in order to approach successfully the academic community with some sense of priority. The hindsight of men in the business world offers a key to a sense of reality and helps prevent a rude awakening in the spring of the senior year.

Nelson Hoy
'64 - L. Mgt.

MORE COLBY CRITICISM

Dear Mr. Colby:

The morals of others seem to be of great concern to you; you might examine your own. You stated last week in The Knothole that John Steinbeck in his latest novel "disrobes a female character from the very tips of her polished toes to the hair crowning her beautiful head." If you were to read The Winter of Our Discontent beyond the paper-back cover you would find that the only disrobed females would be ones conjured by your imagination.

I can excuse your ignorance (perhaps I'm being overly kind in calling it ignorance) when you incorrectly state that John Steinbeck was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for a particular novel. But I don't believe you have any moral justification in deliberately misrepresenting someone else's work.

Even Allen Hawley wouldn't consider writing such an article for a little-read

paper like The Knothole (it just wouldn't pay, man). Fortunately for you no one is likely to press libel charges against you.

Richard Jagels

THE PENDULUM REVISITED

I would like to elaborate on a few properties of the pendulum that Mr. Colby omitted in his interesting article last week.

On most grandfather clocks, or at least on most of the ones that I've seen, the pendulum consisted of a long rod suspended from the clock with an adjustable weight, usually circular in shape, attached to the rod. The position of the weight along the length of the rod is critical to the accuracy of the clock. Having the weight high up on the rod will cause the arc of the pendulum to decrease in length and cause the clock to go faster than usual. If the weight is too low on the rod the arc of the pendulum will increase and cause the clock to go too slow.

Considering the total possible arc of a pendulum, which is almost three hundred sixty degrees, the amount of the arc to the left and right which a properly working clock pendulum covers would have to be considered as primarily the middle ground. If the arc is increased from this central position and the pendulum allowed to swing to the extreme right and left the progress of the clock is impeded.

I suggest that we apply this analogy to our society as possibly more accurate than the one that Mr. Colby suggests.

It is the "middle of the roaders" that are responsible for the progress of our society. The "rightists" and "leftists" are an impediment to that progress.

Jason Welsch

WHERE THE APATHY LIES

There is basically in some of us, as men, an inbred feeling to be free and not to be tied down to the routine stereotype living which is so common in our advanced civilization today. A choice of of profession must be made however and you chose Forestry because this most closely resembles the ideals which you have already established in your mind.

Since you are located on a large campus, with lots to do, your social life begins to develop and along with this the proverbial question pops up, "And what's your major," you proudly reply, "I am in Forestry," she says, "Forestry, what's that, Oh, I know, isn't that where you sit in a fire tower all day and play forest ranger." You're astonished, you don't know that much about Forestry but you do know is it not as simple as that so rather than complicate matters anymore, you say, "This Syracuse weather is certainly unpredictable, isn't it?"

Upon meeting other people you realize everyone else has the same concept of Forestry and even your friends and relatives begin to wonder why you are in college since the trees seem to have been doing pretty well without you for the past few million years. You become depressed. Here you are, going to classes practically eight hours a day, five days a week, and studying like a son of a gun, and nobody

knows what in hell you are doing it for. It seems so obvious to you because you are in classes eight hours a day, five days a week and all you hear is Forestry, Forestry, Forestry and you find it hard to conceive that anyone would have the audacity to say, "Forestry, what's that?"

Then suddenly you get a brilliant idea. You will conform. So you quickly hide your boots and buy sneakers, you remove your dungaree jacket and wear a sporty raincoat, and finally you take off that beat-up hat of yours and comb your hair for a change. Now if anyone asks what you major is you simply say, "I am a Biological Scientist," and you hope their questions don't pry any further.

Your disguise works, you are now well liked and respected on the outside but within you are still wondering exactly what forestry is. After learning the many principles and concepts of Economics, Silviculture, Ecology, Soils, Botany, Chemistry, Pathology, and Physiology you reach the epitome where all this knowledge is finally going to be coordinated under the heading of Forest Land Management. Now the opportunity has arisen where you can ask your teacher the proverbial question "Forestry, what's that, Sir?" The reply is simple, "Well, eerrr...., I don't exactly know.

Just observing.