

The Knothole

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The Knothole, May 15, 1963

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

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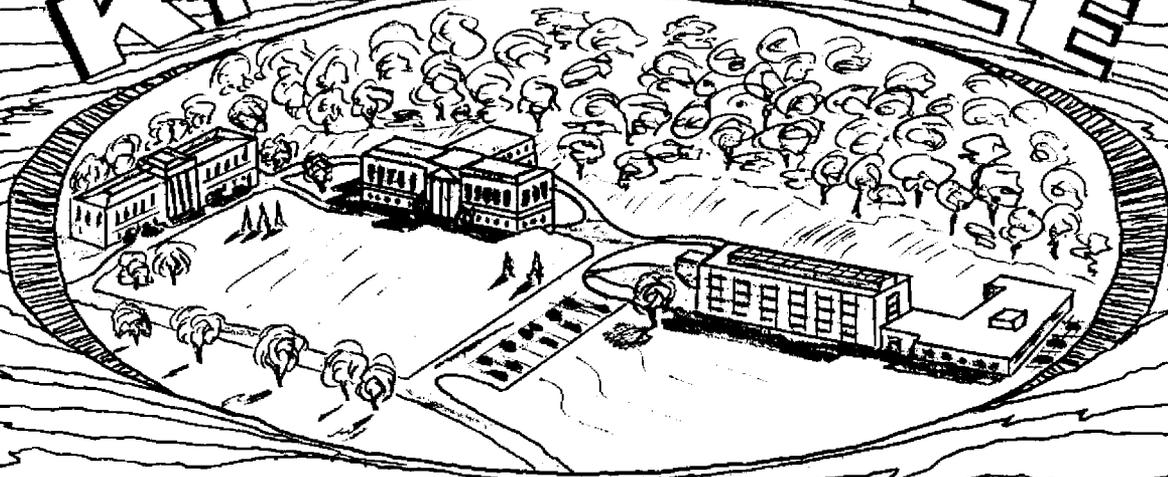
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OUR CAMPUS—AS—SEEN—THROUGH—THE
KNOTHOLE



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PANIC TIME

Well, I guess it's about time to panic, get out the no-doze, and then buckle down. Like death and taxes, our inevitable finals have managed to creep up again.

This article is just a note (back to studying - or praying - whichever you need more of right now) from the editors to let you know that we hope you all make it back next year with renewed "vigah" and interest in your paper, "The Knothole".

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR FINALS!

The Editors

VALID CRITICISM BY KNOTHOLE CONTRIBUTORS

After reading last week's Knothole gem, "Where The Apathy Lies", I am convinced that the apathy and disconcern lies with many of our wise and witty Knothole writers. The writer of the above article seems to be a General Forester with some courses in Forest Land Management. How he and many like him can conceive of any course that will answer the proverbial question, "What is Forestry", is beyond me. He may have been sleeping for the last four years but it must have dawned on him that forestry is an infant science, experiencing growing pains. Forestry at the

same time encompasses a vast array of specialized skills and sciences. That these skills and science can be combined into a meaningful term or course is a difficult task, to say the least.

The educational system is also in a state of flux in this transition era. While I will agree that the Forest Land Management Curriculum leaves something to be desired, I feel that these problems will be ironed out. It is our responsibility to face up to these problems and not hide behind veils of "biological scientist" and illogical, emotional outbursts.

It appears to me that the problem with many of these "constructive" criticisms is that the writer fails to view the framework of the problem and attach it objectively. Valid criticism hinges on logical reasoning that is clearly communicated.

To cite a case of the above, if I consider the Senior class of General Forestry and its relation to the Land Management Curriculum and staff, I must consider these facets of the relationship.

Our student society is composed of all types - from city babies to more mature individuals (remember Forest Economics 102). Then there is that element of perpetual grippers. Intermixed is the fun-loving student who is here because the education is cheap and is no more conceived with forestry than his buddies - the cross-campus kiddies. A few become disenchanted in their four years here but haven't the strength of their conviction - to get out. That's part of the framework a professor has to teach in. (Pity the Prof.)

On the other side of the podium, some of our profs have a ways to go in perfecting an education scheme. Some favor the dogmatic approach, others submit to their audience and feel it out. Most profs present a challenging and rewarding course of study.

In leveling criticism on any educational setup, it must be remembered that there are many intangible elements connected with this experience. It seems shallow and materialistic to judge an education or a curriculum on the job opportunities or starting salary when one considers the new ideas and friendships associated with this College.

It remains for the editors of this year's Knothole to prevent the paper from turning into a sounding board for every crackpot who feels he has a gripe. It remains for the writer to use discretion and objectivity when contributing to The Knothole. This paper is an image of the forestry student.

David Riordan - Forest Land Management - '63

OBSERVATIONS OF A SENIOR

It appears to me that the reason so many cross-campus kiddies walk across the lawn is not just because they are not chased or carried off (depending on sex), but because they see certain Forestry students walking across the lawn to Baker Lab.

The library is no longer always a quiet room offering knowledge to the sincere student, but is now a gathering place where noise distracts from the use of its services. Where does the fault lie? With me, with you, and with the library staff which doesn't preach the quietness that they even fail to practice. We converse too loudly at the library tables in order to overcome both the noise of

typing and talking coming through the open office door (or the kennel door).

Of course, we don't have to converse in the library....we have a lounge and a canteen room for the purpose of relaxing, eating, and socializing. But often you can't even hear yourself think in these places because of the noise of the immature and boisterous freshmen and others throwing their trash with poor accuracy at distant waste baskets. If everyone could increase their accuracy over the summer, we could make a game of keeping the tables clear of trash in the fall instead of relying on janitors, secretaries, and the conscience of the few responsible students who are proud of their college. For those who feel they must retaliate after losing money in one of the vending machines by kicking or punching it until it is really out of order; you might be interested to know that the Student's Association receives a commission from those machines. But there is no income from a broken machine. Our income from these machines is expected to be about \$1,050.00 this year. This pays in part for such things as your barbeque, banquet, yearbook, Knothole, clubs, and refreshments at club meetings and class "meetings". Speak to the attendant from Lamson Automatic Service about refunding your money.

The re-scheduling of the recent Student Awards Convocation to a day when more than half of those students being cited were away from the college on departmental trips or attending Spring Camp, made a farce of what should have been a most sincere and inspiring occasion. The recognition given to those who were present seemed hardly a fitting reward for their efforts.

To the Seniors who gripe because the tradition of Seniors leaving the convocation first has been lost; when you sat behind the Seniors of previous years, did you wait for them to leave first. To the underclassmen, if you want this tradition respect given you in your Senior year, you had better give it some thought next September. It would only take one minute to vote for or against this tradition at the beginning of the first convo next fall.

There is another tradition that might be lost in the future, but for a quite different reason than lack of support. This tradition is the class meeting held annually by each class. The source of the downfall stems from a back office on the second floor of a certain non-instructional building across campus. This office is well known to many male students. These meetings are as strong a tradition as any at the College and their loss would be as great to the Forestry spirit as would be the loss of the barbeque. So plan these meetings with care and discretion; keep the Forestry spirit high. Don't yield to outside pressure. Maintain traditions.

The departing Senior class once again displayed its superior Forestry spirit this past Friday evening. The annual meeting was intended to be strictly a volleyball tournament but early darkness and heavy rain soon caused square dancing to prevail on the muddy court. Because those Seniors who participated gave their all in spirit, fellowship, and physical endurance; the end of the evening found most Seniors happy and stiff.

Sarcasm is soon forgotten; but the pleasantries and experiences of four wonderful years are remembered always.

Fred J. Robinson