Utopia in Love Canal
By Dawn Montanye

Love Canal, New York, the site of one of the most publicized cases of toxic waste dumping in this century, is now part of an ambitious plan for affordable housing. On October 16, seventeen ESF students took a trip to this infamous neighborhood to hear firsthand from the Love Canal Area Revitalization Agency, the local Environmental Protection Agency, and a former resident of Love Canal exactly what happened in 1978 to cause the evacuation of 900 families, and why some declare that much of this land is now habitable.

The story of Love Canal began in the early 1890's when William T. Love built a canal near Niagara Falls to provide electricity for his "model city." The project, ultimately abandoned, left a 3,000 foot long, 80 foot wide ditch which was purchased by Hooker chemical and used from 1942-1953 to deposit 21,000 tons of toxic waste. In 1953, Hooker Chemical sold the clay covered canal to the city Board of Education who built an elementary school on the site.

During the 1970's local resident Lois Gibbs started gathering neighborhood anecdotal evidence of spontaneous fires occurring in backyards, and chemical smells seeping up from basements as well as documenting numerous cases of miscarriages, birth defects and cancer. In 1978, acknowledgment from government officials of human health risks from toxins in the canal led to three declarations of emergency on the surrounding 350 acres. Houses next to the canal were bulldozed and a voluntary buy-out of homes was offered for the rest.

Utopia continues on Pg. 9
LAND O’LAKES 75TH ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HELPS BUILD THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

Minneapolis, Minn.—In celebration of a major milestone in its history, Land O’Lakes, Inc., announce a special scholarship program for its 75th anniversary in 1996. The Minnesota-based cooperative will award seventy five $1,000 scholarships to students throughout the United States who are pursuing advanced training in the field of agriculture, food service or food production.

We strongly believe food and agriculture represent growth industries in our rapidly changing global economy and thus offer abundant career opportunities for today’s students,” said Land O’Lakes President and CEO John E. Gherty. “As a grass roots, member-owned business, Land O’Lakes has a rich heritage in these industries and a clearly defined vision of what it will take to succeed in the future.”

We see one competitive factor, above all others, as fundamental to long term success—that involves hiring, training and retaining people with the right skills and education,” said Gherty. “Through this scholarship program and other initiatives, Land O’Lakes will continue its support for building a stronger U.S. agricultural sector to serve a world market.”

Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll in an undergraduate program at an accredited college, university or vocational school. Scholarship awards, distributed in May 1996, will be based largely on the applicant’s response to an essay questions. At least 20 of the 75 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors.

Scholarship applications can be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Land O’Lakes 75th Anniversary Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 39104, Chicago, IL 60639. Completed applications must be post-marked by March 15, 1996, and received by March 31, 1996.

SPEAKERS CLUB ANNOUNCES ENDORSEMENTS:

The Atlantic Region of Sierra Club will be announcing its endorsements of County, City and Town candidates on October 25th. All candidates in the county were invited to apply and the Roaring Group of Sierra Club approved over fifteen candidates who feel are interested in protecting the environment of the county as well as that of the country. All candidates will be invited to speak at the meeting, and there will be time set aside for questions. A newly formed Student Sierra Club will also be introduced. The meeting will take place at 7p.m. in Illick Hall, ESF campus. Refreshments will be served and parking is readily available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Rhea Jezer, PhD, Chair
P.O. Box 183 Dewitt, New York 13214
Phone: 315-446-7060 Fax: 315-446-6053
Email: rjezer@mailbox.syr.edu
Bicycle Thefts at ESF
By David McCue, News Staff

Between September 7 and 25 six mountain bikes were stolen from the ESF quad. Five of the six were locked with cable locks, and one with a U-lock, to the bike racks in front of the Marshall and Illick Halls. The thefts were all between the hours of 1pm and 10pm.

Paul McGuinness, Director of Public Safety, believes that these thefts were performed by the same person, or group of people. He stressed that although this particular rash of thefts seems to have ended, another could begin with out warning.

Paul McGuinness has offered the following advice:

• Buy a quality U-lock. It is a relatively low price in respect to the value of the bicycle you are protecting.

• Register your bike. It is a Syracuse city ordinance and can be easily accomplished through public safety.

• If you see any suspicious activities around the bike racks or anywhere on campus, do not hesitate to use the blue light Help Phones.

• If you have any information regarding the bike thefts, contact public safety at 470-6666.
Sounding Off
With Greg Bubniak

Relatively Disturbing

I was interrogated by one of the other Knothole staff members at the end of last week. This particular staff member did not agree with what I wrote practically every week. It is a phenomenon that I am all too familiar with, but it does not disturb me. I am under the firm belief that we all are entitled to opinions—if I didn’t, then I would not subscribe to the concept of America. As we continued to discuss things and offer differences of opinion, I was struck profoundly by a recurring theme; this staff member’s ideas were based on relativistic ideas.

Relativism. What is it? Why should you care??

Relativism is the perception that there are no absolute rights and wrongs. This is an attitude that we see far too much in our society today. You hear it in advertisements and often in films, “do what you want, when you want and to hell with everyone else”, and the attitude that “whatever works for you is fine.” Where moral relativism falls short is that it leaves the person in charge to make up for his or herself that which is right or wrong—unavoidably will affecting those around them. I am not claiming to be the one who decides that which is right or wrong—that decision is for a power much greater than little old me.

I will use an example: imagine that you go to the computer cluster and are goofing around on Netscape. For those who do not know what Netscape is, I’ll characterize it as a very easy way to spend a lot of time on a computer at any computer cluster. So, back to the Netscape thing. The computer cluster you are in is completely full, and people are waiting to do work on these computers. You continue to use Netscape for recreational purposes, while they wait. Are you doing anything really wrong? Not really, but you are depriving those people who need to do work the opportunity to do so. That would be considered rude by the person who is not allowed to do work because you are tying up that computer. Some would consider that to be wrong, some would not. In the world of the undeniable truth, you are wrong.

The example I used is a simple everyday type of thing that I chose to illustrate my point. The issues that this applies to are broad ranging, from abortion to drug use. What it boils down to is this—for those who think that there is no right and wrong, then you’ve just given the entire society the keys to justify anything they do. I do not buy that at all, so I am resigned to the fact that there are absolute truths. These truths are governed for all that exists on our Earth by what is known as Natural Law. I will write about Natural Law and its implications on our existence in the near future.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!
Habitat for Humanity has just surpassed the 500 hour mark. In 5 Saturdays, volunteers have donated over 500 hours of their time. If one person worked forty hour weeks it would take them over 3 months to put in the hours that we have managed to do in five weekends. Pretty impressive.

Our work has included several projects. The first major one was a joint effort with the United Way and their Day of Caring. The other two continuous projects are ours alone. Habitat is currently working on renovating the Ross center, a building that houses several volunteer organizations of the city of Syracuse. Our other continuous project includes the completion of House of ‘94 and the 5 house building blitz. We hope that by the end of 1995 these 6 houses will be completed due to the interest and work ethic that the SU Habitat for Humanity Campus Chapters have shown (the VP of the club sometimes forgets to put down ESF in the name since it is mainly the SU student body doing the volunteering, so I hope that we can show that ESF IS WHERE IT’S AT).

Anybody can help. We meet at Hendrick’s Chapel at 9am on Saturdays and carpool to the worksite. Usually we are back on campus by 1:20. All you need is the desire to work. All skills are taught on site. There are no future commitments or obligations, but if you want, we will find other things for you to do. Please stop by our office in the Schine Student Center, rm. 126 I.

500 continues on Pg. 9
Attention all ESF Students and Faculty:

Are you an expert at any of the computer programs available through the campus computer clusters? Would you like to enhance your presentation, speaking, and teaching skills? Would you like to help your ESF-mates learn a valuable tool? Computer tutorials are now being planned. If you are interested in teaching a one hour class, contact David McCue at 423-4513

NEWS FROM THE REGISTRAR

1) Student audit forms have been mailed to your local address. If you did not receive one, you may pick up a duplicate copy in the Registrar’s Office, 111 Bray Hall. Audit forms MUST be returned to the Registrar’s Office before you can pick up your registration materials. Registration materials will be available beginning November 6.

2) Undergraduates who anticipate graduating in December must fill out the Undergraduate Application for Graduation. If you have not yet done so, you can get this form in the Registrar’s Office.

Attention: faculty and students

Physical plant has hired a student assistant to pick up mixed office paper and cardboard from your recycling baskets. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO, is place your baskets just inside your door by 8:00 AM on your assigned day for your building. Leave the door ajar so the basket can be seen (if the door is closed you will not be interrupted) and it will be emptied and returned to your office. With your cooperation we can decrease the amount of paper products being discarded.

THANK YOU

The Recycling Club

The pickup days are as follows:
Tuesday
Thursday
Illick
Bray
Marshall
Walters
Baker
Moon
Physical Plant
Old Greenhouse
Old M&O

SEMINAR
Undergraduate Teaching Assistants: Lessons Learned

Tuesday, October 31 Noon
Moon Conference Room

Donald J. Leopold
Associate Professor, Environmental and Forest Biology
Sarah P. Webster
Assistant Professor, Moon Library

Refreshments Provided

Peace Corps
Informational Session
On Campus

Thursday, October 26
Bray Hall, Room 300
7 to 9 p.m.

Learn how you can join the other 75 ESF graduates who have served in the Peace Corps over the past five years, gaining hands-on, international experience in forestry, fisheries, agriculture, and environmental and science education.
DID YOU KNOW...

Since the beginning of the academic year there have been five reports of non-consensual sexual intercourse at Syracuse University. The victims were two first-year students, two sophomores, and one graduate student. Two incidents occurred in the victim’s room (one on campus, one off-campus). Three incidents occurred in the accused’s space off-campus. In each of these five cases, the victim knew the accused.

REMEMBER...

Reports indicate that most sexual offenses:

Involve Alcohol

Are Between People of the Same Race

Are Committed by Non-Stranger Perpetrators

Occur Both On and Off Campus

BE CAREFUL!!

-An open letter to ESF Students-

End-of-Course Student Questionnaires:
The Student’s Role

ESF faculty typically administer a course questionnaire by the last day of classes of each semester.

We hope you will take the time to complete the questionnaire and answer each question carefully. Thoughtful written comments are particularly valuable. The information you provide is part of a continuing effort by ESF faculty to enhance the curriculum and the teaching/learning in each program and course.

To maintain confidentiality, end-of-course questionnaires are completed anonymously and are collected by someone other than the instructor who delivers them to the Instructional Development, Evaluation, and Services office (IDEaS) in 8 Moon. Questionnaire reports are made available to the instructor after course grades have been submitted.

Your comments are a highly valued part of the teaching and learning evaluation process. Thank you for your significant contributions.

Dudley J. Raynal, Distinguished Teaching Professor Chair, Faculty Governance Subcommittee on Instructional Quality and
Charles M. Spuches, Director Instructional Development, Evaluation, and Services (IDEaS)

“Appeal to this Age: Photography of the Civil Rights Movement, 1954-1968”

On Exhibit

November 1 - December 20, 1995

at the

Robert B. Menschel Photography Gallery
Schine Student Center
306 University Place
Syracuse, New York, 13244

Gallery Hours: Sunday through Friday, 10a.m. - 1p.m.

Panel Discussion
November 14, 5:45 p.m.
in room 304A&B, Schine Student Center
Reception immediately following in the Menschel Gallery
(Both events are free and open to the public)

For more information contact Jeff Hoone at 443-1300.
Robin Hood Oak Award
Nomination

If you step behind Bray Hall you will notice a dignified and proud oak tree. This graceful tree, known as the "Robin Hood Oak," germinated from an acorn which came from a 1000 year old English oak found in the heart of Sherwood Forest. Legend has it that this major oak housed Robin Hood and his merry men, heroes of the 14th century ballad. It's with this proud heritage that the Robin Hood Oak Award finds its name.

For 23 years, the Robin Hood Oak Award has been given by an ESF student committee to the Class' graduating seniors and graduate students who have made outstanding contributions to the college and public community. The award recognizes the fine character of these individuals and the effort they have made to improve the quality of ESF campus and community life.

Once again, the time has come to nominate students graduating this December for this prestigious award. Nomination forms are available in 110 Bray and Moon Library foyer. Please return all nomination forms to 110 Bray by noon on Friday, Nov. 24. These awards will be presented at the annual December Soiree, Friday, December 8.

The following is a list of qualifications that must be met by the students nominated:

1. Must be a senior or graduate student graduating in current semester.
2. Must have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5.
3. Must have been active in leadership and service at ESF. The person nominating the student (including him/herself) must provide this information.
4. Community service will also be a consideration for the award recipients.
5. Nominees may include students who have actively participated in years previous to this academic year.

NOTE: It is not necessary for the nominee to hold or have held office of any type, and holding an office does not automatically entitle a student to an award.
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY AND RETURN TO 110 BRAY BY
Friday November 24, 1995

Name of Nominee: ____________________________
Local Address: ________________________________
______________________________

Circle One: Current Semester Graduate    Finishing Graduate Student

Your Relationship to Nominee: __________________
Your Name/Title: _______________________________
Your Address/Phone Number: ______________________

What contributions has this individual made to the campus? Describe in as much detail as possible:

What contributions has this individual made to the local community?

What else should the awards committee be aware of when considering this nominee?

Thank you for your time in nominating this individual.
Utopia continued from Pg. 1

Today, a fenced in grassy mound indicates what was once the elementary school and a quiet neighborhood street. Underneath the mound, a pipe draws contaminated sludge to a treatment facility a few hundred yards away. It is not this area that tells the story, but the boarded up houses in the “uninhabitable zone” that represent the legacy of this toxic waste dump. About forty people still live in this area, their yards dotted with monitoring wells, the soil six inches deep with contaminants.

A half mile from the “uninhabitable zone” is a little league field and municipal pool. A cement mixer stands in front of a newly sided home. Over the past five years, the Love Canal Revitalization Agency (LCARA) has sold all but 35 out of the 250 homes originally obtained in the buy-out, and has now renamed the area Black Creek Village. In their informational film, “Fighting for Utopia: the Dream of Love Canal,” LCARA explains that two major studies by the EPA found soil, air and water quality levels safe enough for human habitation. Joanne Hale, resident of Love Canal in 1978, questions the extent of the studies and disagrees with the habitability decision.

Criticism such as Joanne Hale’s is often dismissed as being uninformed. In 1978, citizens such as Hale’s and Gibbs’ were viewed as hysterical housewives. When Joanne Hale was asked to respond to this comment she said, “Day after day I fed my baby dioxin laden vegetables, is that hysterical?”

Recycle continued from Pg. 1

Composting session by layering buckets of food scraps with leaves, sticks, grass and water in a wire ring right in the center of the conference room. On Wednesday, students stayed for lunch and were entertained by a recycling magic troupe. How do you make #2 plastic and aluminum disappear from the landfill? Recycle it! In between sessions both days, students were able to network with others equally psyched about waste reduction.

Hopefully all those who care for our tiny spinning green globe will come to our own Environmental Awareness Week, November 13 to 17, here on campus. From Monday to Friday, we will provoke students in a range of environmental themes. Lectures include work/study opportunities in South American rain forests, Adirondack wilderness management and global warming. During the week, Recycling Club will help sponsor a Food Jamboeree and Coffee House. Please bring yourself, ideas and creativity to our meetings, Wednesday at 5:30pm in 241 Illick, and help plan for this event.

500 continued from Pg. 4

Other Habitat for Humanity Happenings:
- Plant and Pumpkin Sale: ESF Marshall Hall October 25
- Schine Bookstore October 26, 27

Spring Break Trips:
This is the time to look for announcements for a chance to travel and have fun during spring break. No need to stay home. Trips are cheap and it’s more fun then Florida. If you get involved now you will have a say in where you go.

FREE SENIOR YEARBOOK PICTURES!

CALL: 1-800-969-1338 FOR AN APPOINTMENT!
By Carl Wolf Studios, ESF’s Official Photographer

NIFKIN LOUNGE
OCTOBER 24 & 25 10am-8pm
(Walk ins are accepted)

FOR DECEMBER & MAY GRADS ONLY!

PLEASE DRESS UP FOR THE PICTURE!
In The Near Future...

Wednesday, October 25
7:30pm-8:30pm, Nifkin Lounge
Alpha Xi Sigma Meeting 5:00pm, Nifkin Lounge
Recycling Club Meeting 5:00pm, 241 Illick
Knothole Meeting 6:30pm, 22 Bray

Friday, October 27
“Heat Shock Proteins and Thermotolerance: Lessons from a Desert Fish.”
Dr. Larry Hightower, Univ. of Conn. 4:00pm (refreshments at 3:30pm), Lundgren Room, 304C Lyman Hall

Monday, October 30
USA Meeting 5:30pm, Nifkin Lounge

Tuesday, October 31
Student Environmental Action Coalition Meeting 6:00pm, Nifkin Lounge
HALLOWEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEN!!!

Wednesday, November 1
Excellence Leadership Series: “Sleepless in Syracuse: Stress Management” 7:30pm-8:30pm, Nifkin Lounge
Alpha Xi Sigma Meeting 5:00pm, Nifkin Lounge
Recycling Club Meeting 5:00pm, 241 Illick
Knothole Meeting 6:30pm, 22 Bray

Classifieds

Don't Miss This!! -- Room for rent $187.50 per month plus utilities. What a steal! Cavernous rooms -- open immediately. Call Mitch, Tyler or Dave at 422-5790.