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SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

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FORESTER WINS FISHER MODEL CAR TROPHY

Through the efforts of Peter T. Gregory, a forestry sophomore, the College of Forestry has received a trophy symbolic of honors won in the 1955 Fisher Body Craftsman's Guild model car competition.

Pete won first place in the senior division for New York and won $150 in cash. He also won top regional honors for New York and Connecticut and received an expense-free trip to Detroit to the Craftsman's Guild national convention.

The winning model represents approximately 500 hours of work. All the features are designed exactly at a scale of 1" = 1'. The body is of laminated yellow poplar and the front and rear bumpers are cut and shaped out of solid blocks of aluminum.

The model and trophy are now on display in the library and will remain there for the next ten days.

SWEETHEART BALL

Once again, on the week-end closest to St. Valentine's Day - this year, February 11th - the Paul Bunyan Club presents the "Sweetheart Ball". This gala affair, which is considered by all as the highlight of the Forestry School social calendar, and by many as the best function of the year on the hill, will be held in the Marshall Hall Lounge from 9-1. As in other years, the Ball will be semi-formal, and with refreshments provided at intermission.

The music for the shin-dig this year will be provided by Dick Kowell and his smoookooth dance combo which has drawn large crowds in previous years for the Winter Week-end "Stockingfoot Hop".

Chairman for the 1956 edition of this Hill famous blast is Don Burke who is ably assisted by co-chairmen Bob McLea and Larry Thomas. Entertainment is being rounded up by Bart Green while Jack Burger presides over the eats, the publicity is being handled by Bill Day. The lounge decorations are under the supervision of Tom Hoffman and Ned Holmes, tickets are in the McLea department and the whole shebang is being carried on under the careful scrutiny of the faculty advisor Dr. Harold B. Gatslick (The Dry Kiln Kid).

This year's dance committee decided that rather than choosing the queen from the "femme fatales" at the dance, they would send applications to all women's living centers, and have an advance contest such as is done at other University blow-outs. The initial judging from the 53 entered contestants for this coveted recognition will be held on Feb. 7th, with the queen being picked from the finalists at the dance.

So all you Stumpies shine up all your boondock boots, Scoopies drop your T-squares for a night, and join the Ute men for a real wingding. At this point, the Paul Bunyan Club would like to extend a special invitation to all the freshman men in the Tree School to get hold of a ducat to this swing-out and come around to see that Foresters don't always go to dances in motorcycle boots and black leather jackets with pine trees on the back.

Tickets are on sale from any Paul Bunyan man and from the more select members
in the other departments for the ridiculously low price of $2.00. That's the
"Sweetheart Ball" in Marshall Lounge on February 11th from 9-1. A semi-formal
affair with music by Dick Kowell, and intermission refreshments.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

As a criterion for evaluating our education, I offer the following which
may be found on page 165 of "Understanding and Using English", Birk and Birk.

"Every student who attends an American College needs three types of ed­
ucation: general education, liberal education, and specialized education.
By general education I mean that education which is required to become an
effective member of the human race; it provides us with the means of commu­
ication with one another, with an understanding of the relationships with
human beings and the institutions which they establish, with an analytical
approach toward the physical universe of which we are all a part, and with a
concept of the position which we hold in the stream of time and history. By
liberal education, I mean the education that frees us from the confines of the
group, the patterns and conventions; and enables us to become truly an individual;
it is therefore the education which discovers our greatest abilities and interests
and then develops them to the highest capacities which we can achieve. By special­
ized education I mean the education which will enable us to make a living in a
competitive economic world..............Carter Davidson 'What I expect of English
Teachers' ".

It is not likely that any student will deny that the specialized education
we are receiving is excellent, but if we accept the premise that general and
liberal education should rank equally with specialized education, it can be
safely stated that this balance does not exist in the C of F curricula. This
concept (as stated in the above paragraph) of a balanced education provides for
a more satisfactory preparation of a professional man than the concept of rigid
specialized training. A rich store of facts and methods is of questionable
worth to a man whose knowledge of "human beings and institutions which they
establish.... the group, the patterns, the conventions..." is so limited as to
prevent him from making intelligent value judgements.

Turning to another area of consideration, the following excerpt is from the
General Catalogue 1954-1956, page 24, under the title "The College Objectives":

"The College, being an institution of higher learning, has the fundamental
objective of preparing its students to become responsible, thoughtful citizens
and leaders in society. It seeks to install understanding of the principle of
democracy, appreciation of the cultural heritage of modern civilization; intellect­
ual awareness and honesty, and habits of critical analysis and constructive
thinking."

While these are certainly worthwhile objectives, I am at a loss as to how
some of them are reached. Surely knowledge precedes understanding and apprecia­
tion. Where in our curriculum are we exposed to knowledge of history and govern­
ment; objective analytical information on the makeup of societies; the relation­
ship of the individual to society; contemporary social issues and group tensions;
and the factors that influence cultures?

It is not difficult to deduce that I think our education too specialized,
and that some of the College objectives bear the taint of verbalization. It
is not news that the College has long considered and will in the future offer
new curricula providing for studies in the humanities and social sciences. In
light of this, my criticism has reduced value if considered as an appeal for
a change. However, my object in writing is not solely to offer my views, but
also to stimulate thought of those students who are under the present curricula
so that they may be aware of the education they are receiving.

J. Hayes
Sophomore