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The Knothole, January 4, 1971

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

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THE APPLIED FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE--Practicality is the Keywrod

The Applied Forestry Research Institute (AFRI), located in the basement of Moon Library, is a SUNY-sponsored organization providing service research in forestry. The Institute's primary objective is to undertake and perform applied research in the management and use of forests and related resources in New York State. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, as well as other agencies and the wood-using industries, has been aided by AFRI-organized and funded research in practical forestry problems which required immediate attention.

Although the AFRI is an independent entity, its director, Mr. Raymond L. Marler, reports to the President of the College of Forestry through the Associate Dean for Physical Science and Research. Also, the Steering Committee, responsible for guiding the Institute toward worthwhile research programs and for formulating the budget, has as its chairman the Forestry President. Research results of importance to College academic programs are presented to members of the College faculty during periodic meetings with individual departments. Often, technical questions are referred to an appropriate College department for their analysis. College of Forestry graduate students engage in Institute projects when the Institute feels their knowledge would prove helpful. Due to this mutual cooperation and aid, the AFRI has become an important asset to the College of Forestry, while at the same time increasing its research capabilities.

The AFRI is oriented toward practicality and immediate action. The State Dept. of Environmental Conservation might approach the Institute with a problem which cannot be solved by the Department's own operating personnel for reasons of lack of time or knowledge. Perhaps the problem concerns wood harvesting, or forest administration, or even forest protection. The AFRI will decide, through the Steering Committee, whether or not to take on the task of studying the difficulty. Or, if the problem is of such a serious nature that the delay inherent in committee action would only bring about a worse situation, the director of the Institute may independently cause action on the problem to be initiated at once.

Project leaders are assigned to specific research problems once action has been approved. These leaders are professional foresters, assisted by qualified technicians. They may decide to tackle the problems alone, using Institute resources, or may find that it is necessary to request assistance from the clientele served. Such assistance could involve only manpower, but has often taken the form of machinery and field laboratory space as well. When the research team reaches its conclusion, it will make appropriate recommendations. The client must decide whether or not to take action upon them. Should the team findings bring to light new and important knowledge in a particular field, the Institute reserves the right to publish such findings in their own formal research publications and in professional journals.

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The AFRI is presently at work studying the wood characteristics of plantation-grown red pine. Resulting information will be supplied to prospective users of the wood, where it will also aid in planning the marketing of red pine products. Mr. Jack B. Cody, AFRI Senior Research Associate, is project leader. Several other research projects are going on also, each of the same practical nature. Each has immediate significance in some phase of the forestry field, and a few may yield results important not only to the client but to many other professional foresters.

- Paul Hornak

THE STUDENT CHAPTER OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY--DEBATE ENDS

The controversial issue regarding the Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society is practically over now. Student Chapter President George Walter and his wildlifers had a rigorous time convincing the Student Council of the chapter's merits; but after several attempts at trying to get official recognition, club status was realized. In itself, this victory will perhaps only be important to George and his fellow student members; yet to the people who were involved with their task of achieving council recognition, something additional was seen as an outcome.

Last December, an Executive Meeting of the Student Council was held with the main purpose in mind being to seek out the importance of this issue. A prominent member of the College's administration was present; and thanks to his clarifying statements, the following points were brought into focus:

A. Any organization that seeks a budget from student fee monies should be of the nature where all students will have the opportunity to become full members of that organization.

B. There are three (3) types of organizations; these are:

1. Sponsored Groups - these are organizations that are open to every registered student. These groups are eligible for funds,

2. Recognized Groups - these groups are of a professional nature and, as such, are restrictive in the sense that students seeking full membership are normally required to pay an additional fee to join the parent organization. The Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society is such a group. Because of their professional nature, these organizations are recognized by the Council and allowed to have all the privileges of Council such as voting power. However, recognized groups would not be allocated a budget from student fees,

3. Temporary Groups - these groups are normally of an "ad hoc" or momentary nature. Such groups usually arise to solve some suddenly occurring problem. These organizations exist with the purpose of accomplishing their goal, whatever it may be. When the goal has been reached, the group merely dissolves. Student fees and/or such funding is not commonly concerned with this type of group,

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Thus, the general consensus of those present at the Executive Council meeting was that monies from student fees should be spent for all students. These monies should not be allocated to any student organization that is restrictive in membership requirements in any manner whatsoever. The result of this lies in the thought that, in the future, any organization applying for Council membership should evaluate itself as to which of the three group categories that group typifies. Then, with this knowledge on hand, it will be easier for all persons involved to be aware of what the new organization may or may not duly ask for in regard to Council rights and funding.

- Mickey Sull

THE KNOTHOLE

The student publication of the New York State College of Forestry.

PUBLISHED: Every Monday

ARTICLES: Students and faculty who have ideas about our College, notices they wish to announce, suggestions, stories, poems, or anything that they might think our readers would find interesting are encouraged to submit them to the KNOTHOLE for publication. Please sign name to articles and date them as well.

DEADLINE: Articles should be put in the KNOTHOLE mailbox in the basement of Marshall Hall no later than ten days prior to publication.

Anyone interested in joining the KH staff is encouraged to get in touch with any of our staff members either in person or via student mail. We also welcome any comments and/or criticisms. These should be placed in the KNOTHOLE mailbox.

STAFF

EDITOR: Mickey Sull
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STORIES and REPORTING: Mark Clark
Paul Hornak
Sue Koft
FACULTY ADVISOR: Dr. J. V. Berglund
TYPIST: Barbara Dewan

EDITORIAL:

The paper recycling project at our College seems to be proceeding fairly well, although I'm sure the people involved are still most anxious for additional help. I myself am quite impressed by the number of paper receptacles Jim Welch and his crew have placed inside our campus buildings. My sincere compliments go to them for their efforts. HOWEVER, as many of my friends have pointed out, these receptacles are, in many places, the only waste containers to be found. In various classrooms where

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students are allowed to smoke (by permission of the instructor), there are no common wastebaskets. If a person finishes drinking a soda, he can't throw the can or waxed paper cup into the paper recycling can because it is plainly noted that these materials are not to be recycled. The same is true when a student finishes a pack of cigarettes. The tin-foil inside the empty pack cannot be recycled. Please, besides the sand-filled ash trays found in the halls, place wastebaskets there also. It will be appreciated.

- Mickey Sull

To the Editor of the Knothole and the Campus Community of SUNY College of Forestry

Friends,

I am hoping that the recent approval by the Forestry Council to name the renovated student lounge in Marshall Hall the Eustace B. Nifkin Lounge is a significant event in the history of the College. As mentioned, I was told in the council meeting that SUNY prohibits the naming of any of its facilities after persons still living. If that be so, then let me extend my condolences on the death of Eustace.

We might be saddened by the old gentleman's death, but we might reflect on his demise, too. Eustace B. Nifkin was, in his day, a great forester-woodsman-stumpie. He was well educated, dedicated, and a believer in the customs and ideals of America. The old boy was older than most, however; and he died of what might be termed an inability to shake off those ills that were eating away at him. Let us, the College of Forestry Community, take his death as an appropriate warning.

Tradition is not enough. We know as scientists familiar with the evolutionary process that organisms adapt to their environment over time. Man, too, is subject to these processes. It is not, however, simply a biological evolutionary process in his case as some here at the College seem to think. The factor of chance is eliminated by man's greatest adaptive mechanism—culture. Culture encompasses the evolutionary pattern; but with it we can direct our development, which distinguishes us from the passive animals and the apparently passive stumpies.

In an America wracked by social ills, this forestry school remains a non-entity, a non-participant in the cultural evolutionary process. Look around you; the evidence is everywhere. In an age where concerned citizenry is starting to question the basic tenants of the American military-industrial technocracy, we at the College of Forestry are glorifying in our competency to produce scientists. In a climate of charged polarization, the most self-defeating course ever seen in American history, faculty and students here express a bitter concern over how those terrible radicals are using our student fees. I

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might add it took a faculty member to bring up the issue. Something struck me about
the whole unfortunate situation of violence and radicalism in America. Namely, that
it wouldn't exist at all if we, the people, had been responsive so many years ago
when the kids were into non-violent demonstrations. What drives radicals to be rad­
cicals is the heartbreaking despair that sets in when nothing gets done or maybe things
get worse. Like when you protest the Viet-Nam war for four years and all of a sudden
we're in Cambodia. The real villains (and the ultimate victims) are the masses of
mindless Americans who do nothing about nothing. Or perhaps, in the case of the SUNY
College of Forestry, where we do nothing but, at the same time, wax nostalgic over
our great traditions.

Imagine those incredibly complacent, apathetic "cross-campus kiddies" who are
dealing with such issues as racism, ROTC, university military complicity, and govern-
nance of their university, while what do we do? Well, student council has dealt with
some pretty heady, relevant problems lately, the least of which was the matter of nam-
ing the student lounge.

Of course, the most salient condemnation of the lack of concern for the ills of
America at the College is our almost complete ignoring of the environmental crisis.
An institution that probably should be the leader in the Eastern U.S. in fighting
pollution can hardly mount anything more than a simple paper recycling project.
Incidentally, ask the people involved in the project about how difficult it is to
get help to work on it.

I keep talking about concern for the ills of America. It occurs to me that
people who used to be concerned with these problems and manifested it were known as
patriots. I would like to coin a new term--radical patriots. Wouldn't you also like
to become a patriot?

Eustace B. Nifkin died for our sins!

I suspect that all this might be interpreted as a "wise guy" ploy to further
allienate the campus. Let me apologize if its approach is a grating one for anyone.
I am very sincere about these topics and feel that we need to act. The mere fact
that the typical reaction to the forester is "will you live in a fire tower" might
be an indictment of the profession which has not made itself heard. Please don't
fall into the trap of polarization but rather become yourself a patriot--someone con­
cerned with the betterment of America.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas Catterson

TO THE EDITOR:

I have just read the letter by Mr. Sull concerning vandalism in the Forestry
library and wish to voice my own comment concerning the issue. Vandalism and other
misuse of all university and College of Forestry facilities is certainly unnecessary,
but why slant your accusations so that they involve only S.U. students and Forestry
property? What about destruction done by Forestry students to S.U. property? To me,
it seems that Mr. Sull is more upset about non-Forestry students crossing the border

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into "our library." Why such a possessive attitude when Forestry students have unlimited rights to S.U. facilities, such as libraries, gymnasium, dormitories, etc. Stopping vandalism is good--dividing a campus into territories is bad.

P.S. I drive the S.U. campus shuttle bus on weekends, and I have noticed that the worst abusers of this facility are noisy foresters. Should I single them out because they are Forestry students? I don't really think that's the thing to do. This kind of slanted attitude is unwise and can only end up in hard feelings among the various sectors of this campus.

- John R. Spinney

RUFUS AND THE CALICO SCALLOP

Scientists at the National Marine Fisheries Service Exploratory Fishing and Gear Research Base in Pascagoula, Mississippi have known for some time that the calico scallop beds off the north Florida coast could give commercial fishery interests a shot in the arm.

But in order to determine the value of the resource and how it might efficiently be managed required some doing. For the scallops were covered by 150 feet of water.

Base engineers retreated to the drawing boards and came up with RUFAS--the Remote Underwater Fishery Assessment System.

RUFAS is a towed vehicle bent on ferreting out scallop beds. Its sophisticated optical system is connected by electrical cable to a vessel which serves as a remote control center.

A trained pilot can maneuver RUFAS to any position over the seabed while electric motors turn the brainchild's maneuvering vanes. Special sensing devices are used to determine its height above the seabed in addition to scouting for uncharted obstructions.

The optical system--composed of special lights, television, and 35 millimeter cameras--is also operated from the control center. When RUFAS is gazing at the seabed, the television monitor and video tape recorder give scientists a high quality picture of the terrain. The motion picture camera can be operated whenever biological phenomena need to be recorded.

RUFAS to date has already provided timely information for commerical fishermen about the location and abundance of calico scallops. Even more important, it has provided scientists valuable information concerning growth rates, spawning and density of the previously elusive calico scallop.

- Conservation News
  November 15, 1970
The National Science Foundation has developed a new program to support graduate students working for the Master and Doctor degrees. The objective of this program is to stimulate creativity in graduate education by involving students in all aspects of research project management, including planning the project, writing the proposal, negotiating benefits with NSF, ordering supplies and equipment, dealing with support personnel, preparing reports and working with their peers in carrying out the research. This is to be done with a minimum of faculty supervision to maximize the educational consequences.

Guidelines for preparation of proposals include the following:

1. The project must be student designed and managed.
2. The project must be interdisciplinary and involve at least two students whose interests are broad enough to be working for graduate degrees in different departmental areas.
3. Student investigators must be citizens or permanent residents of the United States.
4. Research results may or may not be intended as the basis for a graduate thesis.
5. Stipends will be on the same basis as those established for research assistants at the institution.
6. Proposals may be submitted at any time since there are no deadlines or fixed award dates.

This program sounds like a challenging opportunity for graduate students or prospective graduate students to seek financial support for their studies and research. Allocation of funds to this project for the current fiscal year are modest. However, NSF expects a substantial increase in funding for the next fiscal year which starts July 1, 1971.

Additional details on project proposal preparation are available in the Graduate Office. Interested students may secure a copy by contacting:

William L. Webb
Dean of Graduate Studies
200 Bray Hall

CANAL STOPPED

Construction on the controversial Cross-Florida Barge Canal was called to a halt last September by Florida's Silver Springs. Silver Springs asked for the halt until "recommended studies and tests proved that it would not be a grave threat to the water supply of Central Florida." The Silver Springs statement was distributed to radio, T.V., government and public officials. It indicated that although the Army Corps of Engineers had assured that the ecology would not be affected by the canal, the Rodman pool near Palatka was not a mess of flooded trees as well as underwater weeds and hyacinths. The primary concern over the canal is its threat to Florida's underground water supply.

- Skin Diver
December, 1970
Vol. 19, No. 12
MEMO TO: All undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and supporting staff

FROM: Ray Curran, Editor, EMPIRE FORESTER

SUBJECT: Yearbook Sales and Distribution

It appears quite likely that this year on the Hill there will be only one yearbook, the Empire Forester. One copy will be available free of charge to all undergraduate students at the College of Forestry.

The theme of this year's book will be environmental action. Our present environmental conditions and how the College of Forestry is actively engaged in working toward improving the environment will be related pictorially, supplemented with copy. To emphasize our concern with the earth, the 1971 edition of the Empire Forester has been named the "SIKOS" - meaning the home. As is a function of a yearbook, it will portray student life and activities--especially covering seniors and faculty.

Enough books have been ordered to accommodate only undergraduates. Anyone else desiring a copy must order one in advance. Copies will be $3.50 payable on or before receipt of the book.

As our yearbook goes to press, the American Yearbook Company has singled it out for possible national distribution as a design model by "red flagging" all aspects of its production in their plant.

Address all inquiries or orders to the Public Relations Office.

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Henry L. Diamond, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, today announced the filing of an application for a Federal grant of $1,551,000 to build a chemical-physical wastewater treatment plant at Waterford to treat industrial and domestic wastes.

Total cost of the new plant is estimated at $2,073,530. The Waterford Sewer District and the Department of Environmental Conservation will supply the balance of the cost, $522,530. Project director is Dr. Leo J. Hetling. Construction and operation of the plant will be by the Environmental Facilities Corporation.

Pilot studies at Waterford in treating paper mill discharges as well as sanitary wastes have proved the feasibility of the chemical-physical treatment process, which was developed under the Pure Waters program. The pilot studies were conducted for a three-month period from a trailer-mounted plant that treated a 50/50 mixture of paper mill waste and raw sewage. In spite of the highly colored paper mill wastes, the treated wastewater was crystal clear and so pure that it was suitable for most industrial purposes, including reuse by the paper mill itself. Wastes from the paper mill and from the Village of Waterford presently are discharged without treatment into the Mohawk River.

"With this project," Commissioner Diamond said, "the Department is making a major effort to bring laboratory research to practical application in the shortest possible time. I am very gratified that this chemical-physical treatment method, which started in laboratory test tubes only two and a half years ago, has already proved so useful that we can start construction of a full-scale plant next year."

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The full-scale plant, designed to handle 1.7 million gallons a day of industrial and domestic wastes, is scheduled to be constructed during 1971 and to be placed in operation in 1972.

The plant will use chemical coagulation, a single stage low lime process without re-carbonization, settling, carbon absorption and mixed media filtration. The pilot operation at Waterford demonstrated that high degrees of phosphorus and nitrogen removal are possible, cutting down on undesirable nutrients that contribute to water pollution.

The new facility will be built on Garrett Field, at present a baseball diamond, a few hundred feet from the Mohawk Mill Waterford plant.

- News Release
  Public Relations Office
  New York State Dept, of Environmental Conservation

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THERE ARE STILL SEVERAL ITEMS IN "LOST & FOUND" IN MRS. SPEAR'S OFFICE. HAVE YOU LOST ANYTHING LATELY?

NOTE: Don't forget to check your student mailbox in Marshall.

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COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Final Exams !!

The Nifkin Hour

Information on the Children's Day Care Center sponsored by Upstate Medical Center which is available to College of Forestry students.

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