5-17-1971

The Knothole, May 17, 1971

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

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Recently I took a trip into the Ecuadorian Semi-tropical rain forest which lay on the east side of the Andes mountains. This was a trip back into time. Its purpose was to visit the site of a colonization project which is being carried out by the government. Due to overpopulation in the mountains, several groups of people are attempting to start a new life in the jungles. They are given 125 acres of land each to work, form cooperatives and build small villages on centrally located communal lands.

The trip to one of these co-op villages called Sinai, involved a days walk through knee deep mud, wild rivers and rain. The trail was lined with multitudes of fascinating plants and vines of an astonishing variety and diversity. The sight as we entered the village perhaps was similar to what an early American colony may have looked like. Here they have felled the mighty timber of the jungle, making clearings on which they raise crops. During the day the sound of the broad-ax rings from the jungle followed by the dull roar of giant trees crashing to the earth.

To the west lies "Sanguy": one of Ecuador's active volcanos rising to an elevation of over 17,000 feet. The weather is so bad that even though it is close, good views are rare. One night it cleared for a few hours revealing the cone silhouetted against the star-filled sky. Every few minutes fiery eruptions could be seen throwing red-hot lava high into the air, falling and bouncing down its snowy slopes. This added to the feeling of wildness found in this small jungle commune.

The village consists of huts constructed from bamboo or palm and thatched with palm leaves. Around each house is a subsistence garden of bananas, uka, beans, corn, root crops and other vegetables which make up their diet. The men of the families worked here a year clearing and building houses before the wives and children made the trip in. They are trying to get chickens, swine, and livestock started as they continue clearing their lots and starting pastures.

The diet of the colonists is mainly starchy foods, with a scrap of meat on rare occasions. For the first year the food has been donated by the Church until the colonists are able to produce for themselves. We ate in various homes during our stay. A typical meal consisted of a thick soup made from noodles, rice, corn, uka root (a starchy rooted plant tasting much like potatoes) and sometimes a chicken foot or wing for flavor. Then we would be served a huge bowl of either bulgar (boiled wheat) or rice with a corn meal cake. The drink would be either a native herb tea or "Colada" (a hot drink made with hot water, sugar and ground oats or corn).

The whole scene had the flavor of an early frontier settlement. The village is connected by paths cut through the fallen timber. As (continued on next page)
I walked over these walkways there was another sound in the air which was new to me. This was the rhythmic swishes of the pit saw. Two men, one standing on the ax-squared log (which is mounted on a log rack) and one in a pit below it, pass a large saw blade through the log. In this way after much tugging up and down the bamboo houses are being rebuilt with the hand sawn lumber.

Life starts early in the morning with the crowing of the roosters and the tinkle of machetes and axes as men trudge through the mud to clear land on their lots. On one such day we visited an Indian hut which is about three hours from the village of Sinai. The "Shuara" Indians are the original inhabitants of the land. They build oval shaped huts from the split bamboo and palm stems. Their only furniture may be a bed, table or bench all made from bamboo. In the middle of the floor is their cooking fire, which has three logs meeting in the center. The cooking pots are placed in this triangle formed by the logs and as the fire burns the logs away they are pushed into the center more, similar to the way our own American Indians were to have done it. Around these huts are large clearings with uka, corn and other root crops growing. They hunt using spears and the old poison dart blow guns. Some use percussion muzzle loading shot guns. They appeared quite content drinking "Chicha" (a fermented drink made from uka), speaking their native language and having one or two wives doing the work. Their main concerns were those of survival and their land.

I found the jungle to be a biologically fascinating place with its lush multitudes of plants, wonderful fluorescent colored insects, huge butterflies and the three foot long earthworms. The ecosystems are so complex - such as the large numbers of parasitic and saprophytic plants which line the trunks of the large trees forming lush green screens everywhere. There is so much here to be studied and understood. However, the deep mud, torrential rains and humidity make me think that I won't go into tropical forestry or botany for a little while at least.

The Colonization program is now under fire as to its effects on the soil and how long it will be before the soils are depleted. The clearing of the land and upsetting of the delicate ecological communities of the jungle may have adverse effects on the soil. This has been one of the reasons for failure of similar projects in other Latin American countries. Can proper management correct the mistakes of others? With the amount of rain fall here (4-8 meters a year) - erosion and leaching of the soil could produce another biological desert similar to that which the people left in the mountains.

Very little is known about the ecology, soils, plant species and climate of these areas due to a lack of money for research. Yet people continue to clear land, work hard for a new home that could very well leach away underneath them. Without the proper research and knowledge of the situation - I guess time will tell who is right. If the United States was being settled at this point in time it would be interesting to see what kinds of reports and objections would be raised about the ecological effects of settlement on the soils and forests of the new world frontier.

While the talk revolves around SST's, war, pollution, resolution, confusion, abuse, political and ecological problems in the States, these people are hard at work settling the virgin jungle. They pass their days engaged in hard physical labor trying to live in this jungle

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wilderness; almost in another era where the fang and the ax still rule.

Yours truly,

Tom Catchpole
Cerpo de Paz
Casilla 4926
Cuenca, Ecuador
South America
April 13, 1971

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

TO THE KNOTHOLE:

As one more academic year draws to a close, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell all of you how much I've enjoyed this year's Knothole. The articles, arguments, humor, etc. have been timely and interesting -- and what's more -- the issues have been on time -- every Monday morning without fail! What more can I say -- except -- THANKS!

Harry W. Burry

TO THE KNOTHOLE:

I inadvertently omitted a name from the list of charter members of the TOP OF ALGONQUIN CLUB. Through an oversight on my part, I failed to record the fact that Bob Mrowka was in our climbing party. In fact, Bob was one of the eager beavers who slept out on the slope overnight; he made camp in a small cave formed by two overhanging boulders. In all rights, I probably should have listed him first.

E. H. Ketchledge

IN DEFENSE OF OUR STUDENT BODY:

The involvement of the student body of the College of Forestry in "pertinent affairs" and world problems has come into question among our own ranks. Some of our comrads doubt our desire to better the world we live in. As a College of Forestry student, I interpret this doubt of our intentions as a gross insult.

Any living being is concerned most with three things (respiration, ingestion and reproduction); these three things take priority over political views or anything else for that matter. At the College of Forestry, we are concerned with the study of how to maintain these essential functions. Without these three functions we could not exist; respiration, ingestion and reproduction are the bases for life. Regardless of any political views a person may possess, I do not doubt that these three functions enable him to be alive to expound his views.

On the College of Forestry campus we live, breathe, study and learn the intricacies of the ecosystem. We study everything from insects and trees to wildlife and urban planning. Our goal is not to demand change but create it, in a manner that is beneficial to all living creatures. It is no easy task to right the wrongs done against our environment, it takes a great deal of education and desire.

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Most of us have only been on the face of the earth a mere quarter-century. Who are we to come along and say that just because we're young and in College we have the right to protest and demand? Most of the time activities such as these do more damage than good. In order to be truly effective we must rise one step higher than the enemy; know more than he does and be able to use it, then you've really accomplished something.

Most of the students in the College of Forestry are dedicating their very lives to the environment. We are trying to do good for the damage that our fellow humans have brought down on the environment. We have the unique chance to learn something, understand it and apply it to the good of mankind. To say we don't care or we won't commit ourselves is not only unfair but it is also a gross understatement.

Preston Gilbert
LA - '74

"ON THE OUTSIDE"

by Jim Wilkins

OUT OUR BACKDOOR

On the front page of the May 6, 1971 Syracuse Post-Standard I saw a headline, "Alpha Portland Ordered to Abate Pollution." The article noted that due to urging from New York State Assemblyman Miller of DeWitt, Commissioner Diamond of the N.Y.S. Dept. of Environmental Conservation had ordered the Alpha Portland Cement Company plant in Jamesville to start working on plans to stop its pollution of the air. Diamond ordered the company to submit plans by August 1 of next year. Alpha Cement will also have to submit quarterly reports on the progress towards pollution abatement. Miller said he had been "bombarded" by complaints from businessmen and residents concerning pollution in that area. Miller contacted Commissioner Diamond and the abatement order resulted. Miller said he also brought the cement dust problem to the attention of Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz and the Onondaga County Air Pollution Control Agency. Miller said he was "very pleased" with the results. This story was also on the radio.

I can't help but to think of driving up Rt. 81 or looking over Solvay from the front of Marion and wonder why nothing is apparently being done about the problem. When coming up Rt. 81, for you who haven't seen it, one notices the dark cloud over the Syracuse area from Tully and on. It almost looks beautiful with its complete dominance over the city. As for looking towards Solvay, you've probably noticed the dense cloud on certain mornings. The sight of Onondaga Lake may be improved by this cloud since it's murky waters leave something to be desired as far as a view goes (or as far as anything goes). It seems typical to me that it was the residential businessmen that got the action in Jamesville-DeWitt. I wonder why no squawk is put up about the Solvay area, or is it that many of the J-D businessmen work for the Solvay industries.* Does Solvay meet the state standards in air pollution abatement? If it does it still looks dirty. If the businessmen are the only ones that can get action and make the front page, I think we should start writing to them instead of our legislators. C'mon businessmen, let's look someplace besides just out our backdoor.

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* I don't mean to pick solely on Solvay but it is one very noticeable example. I'm sure there are some others in the area.

**FBL FINALE**

The championship of the Forestry Basketball League was decided on April 14 and 15. Roosevelt Raiders set the stage for their championship victory by putting on a dramatic late-season surge. The Raiders first defeated powerful KSA 44-28, then upset the unsuspecting Gunners, one of the top-seeded teams by the score of 32-29. These victories pitted them in the best of three game championship series against Fomes Annosis, who also had proved their fire by tapping the SAP, another top-seeded team with a 36-34 loss in the semi-final. Roosey, seeking to average their overtime loss to Fomes in the regular season, won the first game 32-28. Carl Johnson and Eric Oehler collected 12 and 10 points respectively for the winners, while Joe Maculaitis and Mark Visvary split 16 for Fomes. The next night Roosevelt took it all, playing their characteristic deliberate offensive, tough zone defensive game. John Zielinskis 10 and Bob Pederson's 8 being unable to offset the 27 and 9 points by RAdiers Eric Oehler and Bob Huss.

**TO THE KNOTHOLE**

In the May 3 KH under "Archives" is the statement "On phonograph records and tapes are the Floyd Carlson forestry radio shows which for many years were heard on a local station." This statement should be extended. Starting in 1937, Professor Carlson, once a month interviewed members of the faculty through WGY, Schenectady, and this program continued for 32 years. In 1948 an 18 year contribution to the Empire State FM School of the Air was begun which comprised some 600 programs aired by 15 to 22 FM stations reaching millions of children in their own classrooms. 1942 saw the beginning of the Forestry Forum which eventually involved 58 AM and FM stations reaching 1400 high schools, and one million listeners each week.

In May 1946 Floyd chose "Old Moosewood" to inaugurate the first of the College's TV programs over WRGB, Schenectady. We had fun. The presentation was called "Poison-ivy; don't get Rash." Among other props I had a potted plant of poison-ivy, and remember gently fondling it to indicate that one cannot get this rash by merely touching the plant!

Then two years later Floyd and I presented "How to Know Your Christmas Tree" over an eastern seaboard network originating in New York's ABC station WJZ. These programs were the beginning of a series of telecasts over several stations in New York State, the latest one being "New York Forestry" beamed from Station WNBF Binghamton, on May 3 of this year.

W. Harlow - '25
EDITORS NOTE: This poem is gratefully dedicated to Pete and all the boys.

MY TEAM

Looking at the disarray of many wooden chips
Where countless sharpened axes often times have hit,
I stroll awhile, kick a pile of sawn-off softwood discs,
And in my mind I see my friends, taking fun and risks.

It seems but just a day or so
When I was checking times
For all the events so long ago
We won, we lost and tied.

The cut-off cants so strewn about
That speak of strength and skill;
The red pine split in quarter parts
Because of a teammate's will.

I sit upon the sawhorse
And it squeeks beneath my weight;
Heh! - it's seen some days I helped to make-
The tales it could relate!

The scars from iron binders
And the well-worn, top cross ties
That held a woodlot in its life
Of every shape and size.

Aside the make-shift stantions
Two pitted logs lie still;
How much they've felt the peavey's tooth
I've never known or will.

Oh! the countless wooden memories
Of men, their spirit and sweat
That speak to me of several years
I never shall forget.

It's part of me and part of them
I know, within my heart,
And I can see it'll always be
No matter where we are.

And all this we'll remember
When from here we have been weaned,
Yes, the thrill, despair and glory-
The pride of the Woodsmen's Team!

- Mickey Sull '71
TO: UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENTS
FROM: TERENCE J. Hoverter, LIBRARIAN

In order to accommodate the needs of students, the Library would like to extend its opening hours for the examination period of May 23-June 1, 1971, as follows:

May 23 - Sunday, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.
May 24 - 28, Monday-Friday, from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.
May 29 - 30, Saturday-Sunday, from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.
May 31 - June 1, Monday-Tuesday, from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Because of lack of funds to employ student help during these hours, we will need volunteers. All interested students are asked to contact Mr. Knouse in Room 111, Moon Library, or by telephone: extension 287 from the College of Forestry extension telephones or extension 7287 from dormitory phones.

FROM FORESTRY COUNCIL - MAY 5, MEETING

Jim Goulet announced the results of the referendum of student fees. They are as follows:

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(Please note that these are the unofficial results, since the L. A. students in Venezuela have not yet voted.)

Jim Goulet reminded all clubs to get their budgets in as soon as possible.
Dr. Palmer attended the meeting and carried on an open discussion with the Council in regard to the letter he received censuring the administration for lack of adequate attention given to the issue of student fees. He informed the Council of problems he was negotiating with the budget of the State University system, with the budget of S.U., and with the recent budget out of our own college's finances. Dr. Palmer proposed to the Council that it send a representative of our Council to appear on his Advisory Council.

Mickey Sull moved that we vote for a vote of confidence for the administration. Seconded by Bob Loveless. The motion was passed.

Mickey Sull moved that Student Council elect one representative of the Student Council to serve on the President's Advisory Council. The motion was passed.

Tom Catterson moved that because of the lack of effective college-wide communications, the GSA and the Student Council recommend a study of the feasibility of a college newspaper, jointly sponsored and staffed by the administration, faculty, and students. It is our idea that the format be similar to that of the S.U.'s RECORD and that the cost of the paper be shared by the three above mentioned groups. It is hoped that this new paper will absorb the present KNOTHOLE, FORESTRY CALENDAR, and INSIDE FORESTRY. Furthermore, an editorial page, composed of from one to three sections, be available for input by students, administration, and faculty. The motion was passed.

NOTE: The above summary of Student Council proceedings is a modified form of the minutes taken by Barb Ingerson, Secretary of the Student Council.

THE KNOTHOLE: The student publication of the State University of New York College of Forestry at Syracuse University. Published every Monday. 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 these to the KNOTHOLE for publication. Please sign name to articles and date them as well. Articles should be put in the KNOTHOLE mailbox in the basement of Marshall Hall no later than ten days before publication. Anyone interested in joining the KNOTHOLE Staff is encouraged to get in touch with any of us members either in person or via student mail. We also welcome any comments and/or criticisms. These should be placed in the KH mailbox.

STAFF: Editor: Mickey Sull, Associate Editor: Evan Dentes, Artwork: Montana Brown and John Karoly, Reporting: Paul Hornak, Barbara Steves, Jim Wilkins, Faculty Advisor: Dr. J. V. Berglund, Typist: Doreen Squire.