2-14-1978

The Knothole, February 14, 1978

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.esf.edu/knothole

Part of the Communication Commons, Creative Writing Commons, and the Environmental Studies Commons

Recommended Citation

http://digitalcommons.esf.edu/knothole/380

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the College Archives at Digital Commons @ ESF. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Knothole by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ ESF. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@esf.edu.
Feb. 15: Mr. J. Ronda speaks on "Assessing Park Manager Responsibilities". Presented by the Dept. of Managerial Science and Policy on Wed. from 11:45 to 12:45 in 324 Bray Hall

Feb. 23: Curtis Bauer of Forecon, Inc. speaks on "Consulting Forestry: What it is and How it works". Seminar will be held in Moon Conference Room at 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the SAF

---

**STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

- Nominations close: February 21st
- Elections: March 7th and 8th
- Note: More information is in the entrance to Moon Library.

---

**DROPPERS TAKE NOTE**

*** ESF students must use an ESF drop/add form when dropping a course, even if it is a SU course. ********************

---

**AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION**

* CALL FOR PAPERS *
1st Annual Spring Conference on Water Resources
Sponsored by: Salt City Student Chapter of the American Water Resources Association
Applications: Include Abstract (not the paper itself).
Title of Paper
Audio-Visual Needs
Name and Phone Number
-Submit to Room 206 Marshall Hall
-Papers will not be published
-Conference will be held on April 15.
-Any Water related topic is welcome
-Deadline is Feb. 15, but leeway will be given if interest is shown.
-For further information, contact Keith Ryan at 471-9739.

---

**BOB MARSHALL CLUB**

The Bob Marshall Club has scheduled its annual snowshoe/crosscountry ski trip for Saturday, Feb. 25 to the Tug Hill region of northern New York. There will be an organizational meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. in 212 Marshall to determine the exact destination, assign hikers to cars, and acquire snowshoes for those who don't own them. Anyone who is interested in going on the trip should sign the list posted on the Tech's door (333 Illick) and attend the meeting on the 22nd. If you have any questions, call John at 656-9841 or ask at the meeting.

---

* The last two ESF Basketball Games will be played at home!!! Get out and see them play!*
Feb. 15 Thompkins-Cortland CC 5:45 WB
Feb. 26 Intramural All-Stars 5:45 Man

---
To the Editor:

(Editor's note: This letter was written in response to the series of articles written by Steve Kinne on the Educational Process.)

Steve, I think it's great that someone is finally talking about the process of education at this institution as opposed to content. However, I do have a few things to add: Since we are the College of Environmental Science and Forestry why don't we draw on some of the principles of Environmental Education. In setting our goals for education why stop at understanding? From our knowledge and understanding we build our attitudes, beliefs, and values; those things that we deem important. Our actions in turn are based on our values, and the sum total of our actions is the lifestyle we have consciously or unconsciously chosen. Since I've come to this school I've learned to recognize many different species of trees, and I've assimilated some knowledge of their anatomy, needs, and value to man. But all this is in the cognitive domain that you limited your goals to. The role of education must be to go on into the affective (emotional) domain of feelings, attitudes, values, and lifestyles. The value of wood as a resource to man that I learned here somehow couldn't explain my feelings as I stood in what was formerly an oak stand near my home which had been 'selectively harvested'. I do know that because of that experience I use cloth napkins and write letters on the backs of old handouts instead of throwing them away. But how many experiences have you had here at school that have affected your attitudes, values, and lifestyles in such a way? Shouldn't education deal with these areas as well as recognition, knowledge, and understanding?

Secondly, Steve, I don't think it is up to the teachers to motivate students. Motivation should come from within the individual student. Also, the teacher should be an integral part of the learning process. It is the teacher's responsibility to create dynamic learning situations. It's difficult to get yourself motivated, however, when the dynamic learning situation consists of someone talking to you in a room that's too warm at 8:30 in the morning.

So what are the alternatives? You didn't have to come to this school. There are other schools that base their entire program not on curriculum but on the process of education. Check out a catalog from the College of the Atlantic sometime, you won't believe it. A friend of mine at this school did his undergraduate work at a state school in California. The main difference between that school and this one, according to him is 'the atmosphere that stifles creativity' here at ESF. But the fact is we did come here, and as long as present methods of instruction continue to turn out competent professionals to industry and government (the schools strongest financial supporters) little change can be expected. There are still a few different courses such as Dr. Frank Maraviglia's Creative Problem Solving (EIN 510), but because many see only the content of such courses and not the value of experiencing the process, enrollment is low. Just as children who have attended an open classroom-type elementary school have difficulty adjusting to a junior high school situation, most of us have played the game too long, and when given a chance to express ourselves creatively, crawl back to the security of knowing our grade rests comfortably in a mid-term, final, and lab practical.

In a course I took last semester, the students failed to understand the fact that an assigned paper was to be graded. Everyone thought that the papers were going to be copied and distributed to the students in the course for their own use. Without the grade as a motivation, the result was a pile of mediocre and downright poor papers, and a lot a complaining about a lack of communication when everyone found out that they had been graded for their work. Steve, I feel that this is typical of education at this institution. Sure the teacher should have communicated better, but was that any reason for the quality of the work and learning to be diminished? Certainly we all need to work for educational reform. But let's begin where we can have the greatest and most immediate effect - with ourselves.

Craig Cramer

To anyone who submitted an article or something for the Knothole, I'm sorry if it didn't make this issue. Pressures from the printing office forced this issue to be shorter than normal because of the shorter work week (Lincoln's Birthday must be celebrated, you know.)

Jane E. Kolwa
Get those nominations in for the **Distinguished Teaching Award**
by next week.
Just select a professor and submit his name and qualifications to the Student Council mailbox in the basement of Marshall in care of Jim Perry.
Come on!
Everyone has a favorite prof.

---

**To the Editor:**

In the Feb. 6th *Daily Orange*, Marsha Eppolito wrote an article called "ESF's Judicial Process: Unjust System of Justice."

We question the responsibility of Marsha as a reporter. While interviewing the executive members of the ESF Student Council, Marsha stated that she was writing an article against our judicial system based on complaints she received from several students. She indicated to us that she decided to write a negative article, before she went out in search of the facts. Marsha had made up her mind about our judicial system before she bothered to find out how it worked.

Concerning Marsha’s random sampling of 77 ESF students, she said only 10 approved of the system. However, it must be pointed out that upon sampling these students, she explained the system to the students first, and while doing so left out important details that might have affected the students' answers. She did not leave these details out on purpose, but rather because she had not checked out fully the way the judicial system worked at the time of the survey.

We are not questioning whether or not ESF's judicial system is fair, it may well be that it should come under investigation by the ESF Student Council. We are questioning if the *Daily Orange* acted responsibly in the manner in which the article was prepared. If a newspaper is to have any integrity, it must get all the facts first, then make its decision.

The editorial staff, policy, and manner in which articles are conceived at the *Daily Orange* should come under question by the students of our community.

The purpose of a student newspaper is to responsibly serve the needs of the students who support it. It is not to try to create sensational issues so it can sell a few more advertisements.

---

**Letter to the Editor:**

Sure, Student Council looks good on your resume, but if that is your only reason for running, then we don't want you.

Student Council is alive and needs support to keep it that way. Any ESF undergrad or grad is welcome to run for a Council office. You do not need experience. We will gladly train you in all that you have to know. All we ask is that you have the urge to work and be creative. Today, with the help of Cathy Glennon in the Office of Student Affairs, holding a Council Office is more productive and meaningful than it ever was. There is a lot that can be done on our campus. SUNY is thinking of unionizing, Clubs need money, and Students need better social events and representation.

Think of the experience you can gain. A Student Council Office is an excellent way to work for your school while doing a favor for yourself.

Please consider us seriously.

Jim Perry
First Vice President
Student Council

---

**Easter Tour to Williamsburg, Virginia and Washington, D.C.**

March 19-23, 1978

This Foreign Student Tour sponsored by INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERVICE, INTERNATIONAL DIV. YMCA is offered to all foreign students, trainees, exchange program participants, etc. Cost: $55.

Charter bus leaves from and returns to New York Port Authority bus terminal.

Applications available in the SERM International Office -319 Bray Hall.
A college education is a process whereby the notes in the professor's notebook get into the students' notebooks without going through the head of either. (Reprinted from "Today's Chuckle")

QUESTIONS ON EDUCATION

Near the end of last semester, I recall a conversation concerning a friend's final project that ended with a statement very similar to this: "But don't you understand, I don't want to have to think! I just want a plain old exam where I can memorize everything the night before and forget it after the test!" Sadly enough, this is the point we're at. Don't ask me to think, just give me something I can memorize and forget. Is this the intuitive, creative mind that our colleges are turning out? Sometimes I feel as though I've just come off a production line for Texas instruments... Switch me on, perform an operation, store temporarily, and clear. No mess, no fuss, no bother... and no real thought process involved.

According to the administration, M-R is a valid educational process. Agreed... to a point. A foundation must normally be laid down before a structure can be built. For example, a plant key is useless unless one has previously memorized the botanical terminology. However, when the M-R process is stretched to a point where it is practically the only educational process, then it becomes invalidated. Why? Because now it is being used as a substitute for true understanding.

One of the biggest problems with M-R is that it is usually a temporary phenomenon. Unless repeated or used continuously, or brought to the understanding level, it circulates in the short-term memory banks and soon dissipates (for students, this hopefully occurs after, and not before, the exam). If, however, those facts can be made relevant and meaningful, they stand a good chance of being internalized, stored away in long-term memory. But how often are the facts made relevant and meaningful? How often are they used not as the foundation, but as the structure itself?

Actually, when attacking the M-R system, I am really attacking the lecture method which propagates it. Considering the fact that the lecture method predominates almost totally in postsecondary education, criticism of it should not be taken lightly. Two questions concerning M-R come to mind immediately. First, why should the lecture be used to convey information that already exists in texts? Secondly, with all the shortcomings that have been evident for centuries, why has the lecture method persisted? I tend to think that the answer to this last question may be in administrative factors rather than in factors relating solely to education.

There are three main characteristics of the lecture that make it practical: It is cheap (student:teacher ratio is very high), flexible, and provides both the teacher and student with a kind of reinforcement and security! According to several educational psychologists, the lecture method is suitable in some instances. Below is a list of such instances taken from Gage (1975) in his text on Educational Psychology.

1. When the basic purpose is to disseminate information.
2. When the material is not available elsewhere.
3. When the material must be organized and presented in a particular way for a specific group.
4. When it is necessary to arouse interest in the subject.
5. When the material need be remembered only a short time.
6. When providing an introduction or directions for learning tasks.

(Pay particular attention to items 1 and 5). The same researchers found lectures to be inappropriate in the following situations:
1. When objectives other than acquisition of information are sought.
2. When long-term retention is desired.
3. When the material is complex, detailed or abstract.
4. When learner participation is essential to the achievement of the objectives.
5. When higher cognitive objectives are being sought (such as analysis, synthesis, and integration).

What, then, is the basic goal of education? Is it merely to pass out tidbits of information, or should there be other objectives as well? Are we seeking long or short term retention? These are questions one must ask when evaluating the M-R method. The results of many studies should prove disquieting to all those who use merely the "talk..."
Questions on Education

and chalk" method in postsecondary education.

However, (in keeping my own goals in mind), it is not the purpose of this article to condemn the lecture method, nor to advocate any of the other teaching methods available (of which there are several, all with their own merits). The purpose is to point out the fact that there are other methods out there waiting to be tried. Their use only depends on the objectives of the teacher. It is that different methods be tried and used, and that variety be incorporated into the educational program. The lecture is too easily misused and the other methods are far too beneficial to stick almost exclusively to just one method.

Steve Kinne

American Water Resources Association

The student chapter of the American Water Resources Association is planning a field trip to the Joseph Schlitz brewery in Baldwinsville for one afternoon during the week of February 20-24. We will be given a guided tour of their waste treatment plant, water lab, and brewery. Although samples will be viewed in all three locations, we will be restricted to consuming only those in the brewery. If you have the time, we've got the trip, and all are welcome to come along. A mandatory meeting for all those wishing to attend the trip will be held Thursday night, February 16, at 7:30 PM in room 212 Marshall Hall. At that same meeting we will also discuss recent developments concerning the spring conference, and all members are urged to attend.

On February 27, Monday, we will be presenting an EPA film entitled "Is Your Drinking Water Safe?". This will be shown beginning at 7:00 PM in room 212 Marshall. Everyone is welcome. For any questions concerning either event please contact Charlie McKeen, 479-6424.

Thanks for Your Blood

The recent Red Cross blood-mobile here on campus was a great success. We were hoping for 150 pints. What we got was 184! Thanks to all those who helped in setting up and cleaning up afterwards. And a special thanks to everyone who cared enough to take the time to give their blood. You're great!

Mike Kennedy
KFD Blood drive Chairman

ESF Graduation
Past and Prospective

Traditionally, ESF graduation ceremonies have encompassed two days. The afternoon prior to the SU graduation, called 'Class Day', has been held in various places, the more common being Marshall Auditorium and Libby Patio. At this time President Palmer introduces the Deans of our four schools who in turn announce the three top students of each school. From these twelve students, the valedictorian and salutatorian are disclosed. During the program remarks are delivered by President Palmer, the Alumni President and the Senior Class President, and presentation of the Senior Class gift is made. A reception for students, parents, faculty and the administration follows in Nifkin Lounge.

Day Two involves SU commencement exercises (10AM-12) to which each ESF senior is given 3 guest tickets. Notices regarding SU's activities and ESF's involvement in them will be mailed to students in March. A buffet for parents, students, faculty and administration follows this and is set up outside on the forestry quad. This brief sketch of events needs your suggestions for improvements. All interested students are encouraged to attend a meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 12:30 PM in Nifkin Lounge. Let's make Class Day into our graduation-get involved early... Anyone with any ideas, complaints, etc., can contact me through student mail...

Tonda Thering
Council Corner

Howdy! To start things off on a partying note—the UnBBQ was a smashing success! We had over 600 people in attendance, including some faculty and administrators. Thank you to our Social Chairman George and to all who lent a helping hand. Keep your eyes posted for all upcoming events, including club activities. After all, you do pay for them!

Speaking of paying, your SA Pres and Treasurer are meeting with the SU SA Pres and Comptroller this week to discuss the student activity fee we pay them. We’ll keep you posted.

The poll taken on grading systems has been tallied—overwhelming majority in favor of the change!

The Committee for Student Input has been busy. They got the school’s Public Relations Committee to add The Knothole to the recipients of their news releases. Also, they’re ironing out the kinks of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee. It seems our two student reps aren’t always told when the Committee meets! Maybe someone should tell them “rep” is an activity not a title!

The Nifkin Lounge Committee reported that new carpets are being ordered. This year we want to buy a stereo system for the Lounge and are looking into murals. We NEED input on what type of murals are wanted by you guys before we can go ahead with purchasing anything. Some ideas are posted on the bulletin board outside the SC Office. Come check them out and leave us a note as to which—if any—you prefer. The sooner, the better. Don’t you want to hear Jackson Browne (or whoever) singing to you over lunch?

For more info on SC happenings, I refer you to the "Broken Bottle" and "Excerpts for Activists."

Also, if anything is bothering you, no matter how petty or large, share it with us. You’d be surprised at what we can do!

One last comment—don’t forget nominations are open for SA Distinguished Teaching Award, Yearbook Recognition and Dedication Awards, and of course Council Positions. Be constructive—run for office!

Your loving SC

"Excerpts for Activists"

What can you DO about:
--the fraudulent health fee you pay
--the proposed change in TAP formulas that would give $100 million more to students in private colleges over the next four years, and NOT ONE CENT to SUNY students
--further cutbacks in EOP stipends (in 1974-75 they were $1,108 per student; in 1978-79 they are $646 per student!)

SASU suggests an answer—UNIONIZATION!
"We must take steps as a statewide Unionization Movement to build a statewide structure as well as a strong and secure Union office. Our ability to wring concessions from the University and state bureaucracy will depend on students at different schools pulling together for the same goals...We need to formally establish a structure for eventually bargaining with the state...
***We must always remember that we students are the only reason for SUNY to exist. We are numerous, creative, and when organized, very powerful***"

The above wasn’t written in the early 70’s—it appeared two weeks ago in "The Organizer," a publication of the Unionization Office of SASU.

SASU - the Student Association of the State University - is an independent organization composed of and for SUNY students. They also have a professional staff of lawyers, lobbyists, etc. so they'll have a bit of umph behind them.

This newsletter we recently received not only gives suggestions and outlines strategies on what can be done primarily about the three aforementioned problems, but also gives examples of what unionizing has already done for students at universities!

"The Organizer" is posted on the bulletin board outside SC Office. Check it out! We CAN make things happen! Maybe the time is past due for students to again get "radical" to be heard and respected.

NOTE: SASU is funded by membership dues. A SUNY school does not have to be a member to partake of their programs and "cash in" on their results; but the more member schools they have, the more they’ll be able to do. We are not a member school. Look at their publications and let the Council know if you think we should support them next year.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE KNOTHOLE CREATIVITY CONTEST IS THIS FRIDAY!! WRITE A FEATURE ARTICLE, COMPOSE A POEM, DRAW SOME ART, OR WHIP UP A CARTOON. CHECK THE RULES IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE OF THE KNOTHOLE...
IMPORTANT

Monday night, the 20th, in the Moon Library Conference Room at 9:00 p.m. there will be an open hearing to aid the S.C. Awards Committee in their selection of the "Yearbook Dedication," the "Distinguished Teaching Award," and the Yearbook "In Special Recognition Award." Please attend and support the professor or staffmember of your choice.

TWICE AS IMPORTANT

Please use this paper to nominate someone who would like to run for a Council Office. Yourself, maybe? Submit the person's name, phone number and office desired to the Student Council mailbox in the basement of Marshall Hall. Please see the display case in the foyer of Moon Library for details.