The Knothole, April 30, 2007

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

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A weekly journal produced by the students of
The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry
and your Student Activity Fee!
A Letter from the Editor:

Listening to church bells ring in the background, the notes filling the air, the sound being carried by the gentle breeze that makes the branches of the trees sway back and forth, each branch having small buds of green or red that will soon sprout into beautiful leaves for summertime. The birds are chirping too and the smell of fresh rain makes me smile, for it is the rain that will provide life to so many things this spring. The rain has a distinct smell only present around this time of year. The rain in March was much different. Even though it maintained its purpose, it was cold and unwelcoming. But this rain smells of growth. I am relieved to know that a new season has begun. And so this means that we will all be going our separate ways for the next few months, some staying close and others far away. And there are those who will not be coming back, moving on into this world that rarely makes sense to any of us. I guess that’s the beauty of it. I hope all goes well for those who will not be coming back. For everyone else, I’m sure there is a sigh of relief that classes and research projects will continue to consume our day-to-day lives for a year or more; at the very least we can be happy that in the whole scheme of things we will have minimal responsibility. At least there is summer to look forward to.

April Showers Bring May Flowers. I can’t wait!

Sarah Pallo
Editor-In-Chief
The snow didn’t keep the fun of Earth Week away, it just postponed some of the events. Here is a recap of the events that went on during Earth Week.

President Murphy made his opening remarks for Earth Week in Nifkin Lounge where there were tasty snacks and a slideshow of Costa Rica in the back. Near the entrance of Nifkin Lounge was a beautiful banner that read “Earth Week 007” with designs that the Earth Week Committee had made. The banner was placed on the wall of Bray later in the week. White Earth Week shirts were sold throughout the week for $5 and tie dying them was free. Tote bags with a big Frog and Earth design were also being sold. The Undergraduate Student Association ended Monday with a USA mixer.

Tuesday opened up with a delicious Morning Munch. Kristy Blakely led a small group on a “Tree Walk” where she showed off her favorite tree on campus, the Flexible Pine (Pinus flexus) that can bend really easily and is located in back of Marshal Hall. A group of students enjoyed moving their bodies to Contra Dancing which was located in Nifkin Lounge.

On Wednesday, the Bioethics Society held an exciting Recycling Debate. “Is recycling more energy intensive then getting virgin stock” was one of the topics discussed. Then everyone had penguins on their mind as they watched “Happy Feet” in Marshal Auditorium. Leslie Teagarden led the Earth Healing Ritual on the quad while the group joined her in celebrating with delicious grape juice, fruit bread and even vegan bread!! Scott and Ben MC’d the Alpha Xi Sigma Coffee Haus. There were many performances in the Coffee Haus including a reading and acting of The Lorax, singers, musicians and Gary who can bend his leg in a weird way (which was really cool!)

On Friday, there was a delicious BBQ and Ice Cream Social. Spotlight on Research took place in Moon Library.

Saturday had community service opportunities and ended Earth Week with the Battle of the Bands!!!

Overall, Earth Week was very well planned this year. Jorge Barbosa was in charge of Earth Week and used the help of his Earth Week Committee to make Earth Week a success!!! The only thing that could have made Earth Week better is if the snow at the beginning of the week had not scared away some of the students. Next time we hope for more sun.
Opinion

Before you get a real job, try field work!

Rebecca Dionne
Staff Writer

As summer break approaches many of us have started planning out what our next move will be. For graduating seniors, many of them have found employment waiting for them just after graduation; others plan on grad school starting as early as this summer. Or those slackers, such as me, have no freaking clue where we’ll be or what we’ll be doing. It’s scary and exciting all at the same time. I can imagine myself anywhere in the world. I’ll go wherever they’ll take me (preferably an environmentally related field with money to start paying off those student loans). Yes, I’ll travel the country, the continent, the world! If only I could see as far into the future as next month! I sure hope I have a job by then! Out of all the jobs I could possibly get after college, one of the best would be as a field technician for any random wildlife research project that needs summer help.

I would be happy as a field grunt, doing the dirty work of research. It really is one of the best jobs an EFB kid can get. Last summer I spent my days in the woods of Maine radio tracking, get this, leopard frogs. Do you know how difficult it is to transverse a retained clear-cut, completely engulfed in mosquitoes, trying to keep your feet dry in near swamp conditions, maneuvering a radio receiver through thick underbrush while searching for a cryptic animal no bigger than your hand? Yeah, it’s a piece of cake! And honestly, I’d do it for an entire summer all over again. Being a field technician makes you a tougher person. You’ll get dirt under your nails and scars if you’re lucky (that stick just came out and stabbed me, I swear). You can’t truly appreciate all the research being done in our fields unless you actually go out and do it. Even if it’s not your project, there are so many things to be learned by working for a graduate student or professor for the summer. I learned so many great things not only about amphibians of Maine but also research techniques, various plants and insects, ecology, and about how I handle myself in tough conditions. I found myself doing things I never thought I’d do and ended up actually missing doing those things. (Ok, yeah, I don’t miss carrying buckets of dirt over 150 meters of clear cut to repair pit fall traps or scooping out decaying small mammals from said pit fall traps). Not only was it a great learning experience but the networking I did has come in handy. Working for someone at another college, in another state, broadens your future horizons up so much more. It also looks great on a resume. For the most part, being a field tech. was the best job I ever had.

So as I tentatively plan out my future I have been and will be including any field technician summer positions along with the more permanent, career pathway jobs as possibilities. I really recommend you to do the same. Sure, going back to the same old job you had in the grocery store at home is a safe bet, but wouldn’t you rather spend your days and nights in the middle of the woods and not only get paid for it but learn a thing or two? Yeah, that’s what I thought.

Eustace B. Nifkin to Stumpies

Fellow Stumpies:

I am disappointed with the results recently posted from this year’s Waste Audit recently conducted on the Moon plaza by the GCI: 42% of our garbage could have been composted or recycled!

Our campus Green Campus Initiative has placed well-marked compost bins around campus, leaving us no excuse when ridding ourselves of banana peels, orange rinds, or apple cores, etc. Bins for recyclable bottles and cans are all around campus.

Maybe we don’t recognize the different waste streams on campus and in our daily lives. I believe that well-marked containers, placed in familiar groups, could make source separation virtually painless.

I have noticed that my fellow students regularly use the current receptacles while paying no attention to the “type of waste” stickers marking the bin. The current marking method (identification stickers—“PAPER”, etc.) placed on the tops of the cans do not seem to clarify the importance of source separation, and this results in wastes placed into the wrong container, an inefficient use of our Physical Plant employees’ time and effort as they keep our campus clean.

I propose that pods of 3 WELL-MARKED bins be placed at needed locations (for instance, place PAPER, TRASH, and RECYCLABLES containers together). This configuration would, in my opinion, work well outside the entrances of all buildings on campus.

Clear markings identifying the contents, on all vertical faces of the various containers, would raise awareness of the ease of source separation. A one-page explanatory publication could be posted on campus bulletin boards, with a weatherproof copy affixed to the top horizontal surface of a bin at each pod location.

Perhaps we should reconsider “what is recyclable?” We generate more recyclables than just aluminum cans and glass bottles… many plastics are bought or brought on campus daily, and I believe students and staff will reduce the vast amount of recyclable items that currently get placed into the garbage stream, if it were only made clear as to “what materials go into what bin?”

We chose this college so we could learn how to “Save the Earth”; let’s show our community how to do it… piece by piece.
Hearing the Tree Fall

Mercury Monitoring Legislation
A Promising Act towards Protecting Human Health and the Environment

Sarah Pallo
Editor-In-Chief

Mercury, a neurotoxin that has serious health impacts on humans, fish and wildlife is gaining increased attention as mercury contamination continues to cause problems nationwide. This problem doesn’t hit far from home, as nearby Onondaga Lake is known to contain large quantities of mercury along the bottom of the lake, where approximately 7 million cubic yards of the lake bottom sediments remain contaminated. As a result, the lake bottom sediments are listed as a hazardous waste site.

According to a new study of a three year effort by the Hubbard Brook Research Foundation (HBRF) released in the scientific journal BioScience in January 2007, there are five identified mercury hotspots along with nine suspected in the northeast. Although a direct source cannot be linked to the hotspots, it seems that U.S. coal-fired power plants are a likely candidate. In the case of Onondaga Lake, the main source of the initial mercury concentrations came from the Allied chlor-alkali facility, which discharged around 165,000 lbs of mercury between 1969 and 1970. However, the exact source is still being investigated, with special attention being paid to Nine Mile Creek and the Metro wastewater treatment plant, both sites from which high concentrations are entering the lake. Clearly, mercury contamination continues to be a major problem.

The Mercury Emission Act of 2005 was a bill that set out to establish requirements concerning the operation of fossil fuel-fired electric utility units, solid waste units, hazardous waste combusters, boiler units, medical waste incinerators, portland cement and chlor-alkali plants, all responsible for high levels of mercury emissions. The main purpose of this act was to accomplish accurate, long term monitoring of the atmospheric mercury deposition in order to reduce the quantity of mercury entering the environment. This was achieved by setting several standards and regulations for each of the major sources of mercury emissions.

Yet even with this act in place, mercury pollution continued on a massive scale. More recently, ‘The Comprehensive Mercury Monitoring Act’ includes the major issues addressed in the Mercury Emission Act of 2005 but adds a new comprehensive approach that measures mercury in air, soils, surface waters, fish and wildlife. This improved monitoring network will provide field data to detect hotspots that would otherwise go unnoticed. The studies highlighted in BioScience suggest that this new monitoring system is needed to “quantify mercury deposition patterns nationally, determine the impact on fish and wildlife and document the environmental response to emission reduction policies.” The reason this is so important is because EPA’s previous data on mercury deposition was flawed, de-legitimizing the EPA Mercury Rule and computer model method that was used to gather data. This shows that we are in need for real mercury measurements, which are guaranteed with the passage of the Comprehensive Mercury Monitoring Act.

Not surprisingly, the new act proposed in Jan. 2007 has produced a stir among factories and plants that have been able to get away with their mercury emissions and contamination until now. Basically, arguments against the act have been made by any big interest factory or plant that is going to be directly affected (in a negative way) by the new monitoring system. One group, the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) quickly responded to the BioScience Article. Provided are three out of five responses that they gave to the new act: (1) the modeling does not fully include important sources of mercury (2) mercury emissions trading will not exacerbate “hotspots” and (3) No link between mercury deposition and mercury in ecosystems is provided. These responses are basically an attempt to claim that their research is flawed. These counter claims can always be expected when dealing with regulations and standards on emissions of chemicals that are hazardous to the environment and human health, mainly because it will always mean more expenses paid by the factories and plants who have continued to pollute for their own interest at the expense of the public good. I believe the passage of the Comprehensive Mercury Monitoring Act as well as the necessary funds to support it will be the next step toward protecting the health of fish, wildlife, and people.
What I did with my middle years instead of having children
A look into Professor Hall’s personal presentation

Celia Dubin
Technical Editor

On Thursday April 12, 2007 at 5:30pm in 1 Illick hall, Charlie Hall made his speech on “What I did with my middle years instead of having children.” The American Fisheries Society hosted the speech. Charlie Hall has been making this speech with his general enthusiasm and jokes every year since March 2, 2000.

There were two main topics that Charlie covered in his speech. The first was, of course, that his life “fundamentally revolved around fish.” The main point of his speech, though, was that at about age 26, he decided that there were three big things he could do with his life: “Become a good ecologist, do a lot of fly fishing, have a family.” He decided that he could only do two and do them well; he decided to choose the first and second.

Charlie talked about his years growing up in the Coast of Massachusetts. His father inspired him and “taught him to see the truth,” his mother was the town historian. There were fewer houses on the Coast of Massachusetts then there are now. Charlie Hall stated, “I’m not interested in catching fish, I’m interested in watching the fish and how to get them on my line.” He walked the audience through his life as a fisher, student, grad, post grad, assistant professor and researcher.

At age 6 he “got married to a beautiful fly fisher lady,” who happened to be Myrna Hall; her first words to him when they met were “do you know how to fish?”

His final message was “here I am approaching the end of my life and I was where you were once and I made my decisions and decided fundamentally that I couldn’t do everything. I can only do two things. What are your two things? How are you going to arrange your life?”

His speech was exciting and inspiration for fish lovers and general ecologists. If you would like to attend other speaker presentations, check the bulletins around campus and the Student Activities e-mails.

Noteworthy Recycled Notebooks Coming at You From GCI

Julia Morse
Contributing Writer

The Green Campus Initiative has been hard at work collecting used paper from the computer labs to bring you (drum role please) recycled notebooks! The notebooks are made out of one-sided recycled printer paper from the various recycling bins in the ESF and SU computer labs. The notebooks are bound with cereal box covers and a cloth spine, like the ESF readers. You can pick up your unique notebook soon at small stores for only a dollar.

We love the notebooks, but here are some easy tips for saving paper!

☑ Print double sided from the moon library computers
☑ Never print full page Power Point slides, instead print 6 slides to a page
☑ Use smaller margins (1” works well) by changing the margins in “page setup”
☑ It sounds obvious, but print only what you really need!

But if not, recycle your paper! Maybe those Power Point slides you accidentally printed twice will be fun distraction for a future notebook owner who’s bored in class…

And now for some interesting facts about recycling:

☐ Americans dump 180 million tons of garbage annually — more than 40% of which is paper. High-grade printing, copying and writing paper is the largest single component in a landfill.
☐ Americans throw away enough office and writing paper annually to build a wall 12 feet high stretching from Los Angeles to New York.
☐ To produce each week’s Sunday newspapers, 500,000 trees must be cut down.
☐ If you had a 15-year-old tree and made it into paper grocery bags, you’d get about 700 of them. A supermarket could use all of them in under an hour! This means in one year, one supermarket goes through 60,500,000 paper bags! Imagine how many supermarkets there are in the U.S.!!!

For more recycling factoids, check out these websites:
http://www.buyrecycled.com/facts.htm
http://www.recycling-revolution.com/recycling-facts.htm

Start next year off right! Come to a GCI meeting next fall – bring ideas! Bring friends! And of course, have a wonderful and green summer!
Global Warming: The Science Behind the Headlines

Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel a Climate Scientist with the Global Environment Program, Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) based in Washington, DC, spoke at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) on Tuesday, March 6 on “Global Warming: The Science behind the Headlines.” The presentation was co-sponsored by the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Initiative of Syracuse University, SUNY-ESF, the ESF Women’s Caucus, and the Syracuse University Graduate School. The presentation was part of SUNY-ESF’s Women in Scientific and Environmental Professions Speaker Series.

Dr. Ekwurzel began her presentation by discussing climate changes and trends since 1850. Some of the points she mentioned were:

- 7% of the maximum area of frozen ground has decreased since 1900 in the Northern Hemisphere.
- Satellite data collected since 1978 indicate a 0% reduction in the extent of summer sea ice.
- Eleven of the last twelve years have been the hottest on record since 1850.

Dr. Ekwurzel discussed the connection between reduced sea ice and snow coverage and the increased average global temperatures. Specifically, since sea ice and snow work to reflect back into the atmosphere about 90% of the sun’s energy, losing ice actually increases heat absorption by the earth.

Why is the snow and sea ice melting? Given the relative stability of the sun's energy output and of the amount of other particles in the air (such as those from volcanic ash) over time, most of the change appears to be due to increasing amounts of heat-trapping emissions in our atmosphere. Carbon dioxide, for example, is produced in large quantities by fossil fuel-burning machines and power generation facilities today and, because of its slow absorption by the earth's oceans (absorption can take anywhere from 50 to 1000 years), accumulates in our atmosphere over time. Methane (average absorption time of 12 years) and nitrous oxide (average absorption time of 114 years) are two of the other heat-trapping gases.

What can we expect in the future in Central New York? Dr. Ekwurzel discussed future changes such as the annual average temperature rising, shorter winters, and a shorter coverage of ice on nearby lakes. She also stated that there would likely be more intense precipitation, both in the winter and during other seasons as well, when storms do occur. Elsewhere in the country, subtropical areas will likely continue to dry out, coastal areas may experience flooding, and urban areas (because of the extensive amount of pavement and buildings) will have amplified summertime temperatures.

What options does our society have for the future? The first option that Dr. Ekwurzel raised is to decrease the amount of longer-lived gases (e.g., carbon dioxide) released into the atmosphere to prevent the buildup of these gases over time. Our society may also need to adapt to climate changes over time by altering the design of our homes or the location of our residences (e.g., away from coastal areas). Finally, Dr. Ekwurzel emphasized the need for new options for the future.

Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel works on the national climate program for the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). She is leading UCS’s climate science education work aimed at strengthening support for strong federal climate legislation and sound U.S. climate policies. Prior to joining UCS, Dr. Ekwurzel was on the faculty of the University of Arizona Department of Hydrology and Water Resources with a joint appointment in the Geosciences Department. Her specialty is isotope geochemistry, a tool she has used to study climate variability in places as disparate as the Arctic Ocean and the desert Southwest. She has published on topics that include climate variability and fire, isotopic dating of groundwater, Arctic Ocean tracer oceanography, paleohydrology, and coastal sediment erosion. She has also worked as a hydrologist with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, working with communities to protect groundwater sources. Dr. Ekwurzel completed her doctorate work at Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University and post-doctoral research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.
President Murphy’s Spring Open Forum
Addressing the College’s Current and Future Plans

Carlos Rosales
Layout Editor

Tuesday, March 27th, president, Dr. Cornelius Murphy held an open forum in Nifkin Lounge, where he discussed the college’s current involvement and its future plans for the years to come.

He began by declaring ESF’s involvement in the American College of University President’s Climate Commitment, which involves addressing the problems of global warming. ESF is one of the 13 colleges and universities that are member of the leadership circle to help shape this initiative. This commitment was executed this past January 19th.

Also, the president affirmed the college’s commitment in its institutional plan to become carbon neutral by June 30th, 2015. The Green Campus Initiative was partially credited for participating in this project, since it has been actively and nationally recognized for its work for the last 4 years in a row. As a part of this, President Murphy stated the campus policy that all new campus constructions and renovations have to be compliant with U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmetal Design (LEED) standards. Currently all of the college’s diesel vehicles are being operated on a 20% biodiesel mix (B20) fuel and on 85% ethanol mix (E85). The only problem is that the college has to order three thousand gallons of the biodiesel from Buffalo to power the vehicles and it does not make sense to do so when the campus is trying to prevent gasoline usage. So, the college has designed dispensing facilities to make its own B20. This was set up in a greenhouse next to Bray Hall. The college uses vegetable oil from dining halls in 50 gallon containers to turn fatty acids into biodiesel. For variety, the school has two compartments; one with bio components and the other one with petroleum-based fuel, in case the school would like B80 or B10, depending on the season. If the school wanted to make E85, one compartment would be for ethanol, and the other one for gasoline to make either E20 or E80, according to the season. In addition, all of the school’s recently purchased vehicles are either dual fuel, which either use E85 or regular, or they are hybrid.

ESF has also installed a 250 kilowatt (kw) molter carbonate fuel cell with an energy efficiency greater than 80%, and a 17 kw photovoltaic system is expected to be installed on Walters Hall late in the spring. The photovoltaic system would be used in Walters when the building is in need of energy, but when it is not needed, it contributes to the campus in the same way. Also, the college has submitted a proposal to NYSERDA to evaluate roof-mounted turbine systems.

Baker lab under renovation would also constitute a photovoltaic shade by the door to reduce heat that goes inside as well as to use such heat for the campus. Last summer, two chillers were replaced with high efficiency absorption chillers, which have saved substantial electrical energy, which help reduce carbon dioxide discharge. Also, all windows in Walters were replaced with high efficiency thermal windows as well for the same reason. Dr. Murphy said the audience, “we’ll be doing more things down the road to become self-sustaining and becoming carbon neutral.”

Regarding student fees, he mentioned that the annual technology fee has increased $18 for full time students, and this would be used for salary increment for employees, for equipment and technology upgrade, for expansion of wireless Internet access, and for acquisition of T-1 lines for remote campuses. Another increment was made on the student support services fee with an increment of $13 a year, which would include 16% coverage of the student services provided under ESF’s contract with SU, and 4% increase in the amount of services provided by SU.

Concerning scholastic honors, he stated that the standards to be in the dean’s list, which was previously called the honor roll, is a GPA of 3.50 or better, and to be on the President’s list, which was previously called the high honor roll, a student would need a GPA of 3.85 or better. Dr. Murphy was very glad to see an increment in the percentage of students with a 3.5 and 4.0 GPA, and he mentioned that these lists were created to inspire students and that is why the standards were increased.

The president’s last announcement was the most cheerful one, in which he was very happy to mention that ESF was one of the 492 colleges and universities recognized in the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. He congratulated and thanked everyone for making it possible and proposed ESF’s next step will be to become one of the six President Award winners, in which a college is chosen based on what it has been involved in. An example is Katrina’s restoration involvement by many students in Habitat for Humanity.

 Afterwards, the president opened the floor to an open discussion to discuss any student concern. One of them was regarding mid-semester evaluations, in which he said that all faculty believe it to be a good idea, and faculty chairs are currently getting faculty members to do it in their individual courses. The reason for the evaluations is for faculty to see the reality of their courses through the lives of their students, and faculty use such feedback to improve the course curriculum. Also, it was stated that mid semester evaluations are no replacement for end of the semester evaluations. Mid semester evaluations go to the specific course teacher and end of the semester evaluations go to the faculty chairs. Dr. Murphy’s last message to the ESF community was to participate in the ESF Campus Master Plan, which focuses on gateway access and the landscape of the campus, to improve it and to contribute to the ESF campus’s carbon neutral desire. This program is being co-run by ESF’s very own Board of Trustees Representative, Nicole Formoso, so if anyone would like to get involved, she is the person to call.
Disappointing End to a Disappointing Season...

ESF’s Ultimate Frisbee Team’s Season in Perspective

Graham Tuttle
Staff Writer

The score was 14-14 game to 15. This was it, known in Ultimate Frisbee as “Universe Point.” This was sectionals, the first of the three tournaments that make up the college Ultimate Frisbee championships. A win in this game meant your team earned the right to play again. A loss meant your season was over.

The SU/ESF men’s ultimate Frisbee team, Scooby Doom, stood ready to receive the disc, pass it up the 70 yard field, and complete a pass in the end zone to score and win the game. The first few passes went off smoothly, and then captain, Jason Chow, threw a huck (long throw) into the end zone that fell inches from my falling hand. A turnover would give Doom’s opponent, SUNY Buffalo, a chance to score and win the game. But, I called a foul for contact resulting in me falling over and therefore being unable to make the catch. The Buffalo player agreed that it was foul, and we now had the disc at our own endzone, poised to score, win the game, and continue our season. Sloppy cutting and frantic play by Doom resulted in us turning the disc over and giving Buffalo a chance to win.

Doom was able to come up with a D (turnover) from sophomore Nick Myhre and get the disc back. However, my huck to sophomore George Eichmen was D’d by Buffalo and they now had the disc 40 yards outside their end zone. A long huck by Buffalo star (and Syracuse Native), Steve Glauser, floated perfectly into the end zone for the score and win.

I, along with the rest of my team, numbly lined up, shook the opponents’ hands, and then collapsed on the field. A combination of physical exhaustion and emotional anguish left us all unable to speak or move. The seniors on the team, Corey Mallonee, Jon Mihaly, John Smith, and Graham Tuttle, knew they had just played their last game with Scooby Doom. In the four years we’ve been on the team, this was the first time we were eliminated from the Championship series in this first round tournament.

This year we were a young team, trying to rebuild after loosing our foundation of seniors from last year. As a young team, we suffered many losses early in the season. Unfortunately, even though we thought everything would “come together” for the championships, the same mistake ridden play that plagued us all season continued at Sectionals.

If there is a silver lining to this disappointing season, it is that next year the team will have one more year of experience under their belts. All the young guys have tasted the bitterness of a devastating defeat, and will use it to drive themselves next year.

Global Warming Forum and An Inconvenient Truth showing

Alexander E. Metzger
Staff Writer

Stolk Auditorium was transformed into a peaceful, soothing image of a sun-dappled stream. A willow tree hung low, threatening to disturb the glassy surface of the ambling water. All of a sudden, there was Al Gore’s voice. He spoke of childhood, the things that are important in life, and the way things are in the world today. If you have seen Al Gore’s film An Inconvenient Truth, which most of you probably have, you know the image exactly. For those of you attending ESF who haven’t seen this film; it may be time to transfer.

The SU Physics Club was the responsible for organizing and sponsoring this free event, which took place on Thursday, March 29th. In addition to the movie showing, they assembled a panel of resident experts that would answer the audience’s questions on global warming. The panel was a mixture of faculty from SU and ESF campuses, each with a background that lent itself to the analysis of the huge issue of global climate change.

Much of the discussion was centered on personal decisions that individuals can make to reduce their global impact. This included such topics as alternative energy and consumer products. The conversation then shifted to a heated debate on nuclear energy, which left some audience members flustered. The main questions, such as “is it safe,” “what do we do with the waste,” and the ever popular “does it cause three-headed fish,” were addressed in detail. As with most complicated issues of this nature, no conclusion was drawn, and those with very strong opinions on one side of the issue were met with equally strong opposition.

Later on in the discussion, some larger issues were raised, including the US Government’s role. The discussion of the Kyoto Protocol, factory and vehicle emissions standards, and government subsidies of the fossil fuel infrastructure were those that have happened in any given ESF classroom. According to the audience, the Kyoto Protocol should have been signed, emission standards should be stricter, and government subsidies should be increasingly directed away from fossil fuels and used to start building a green energy infrastructure. No surprises here, at least not in the sense of originality.

So, what does this mean? Why do we continue to hear the same arguments and counter arguments? Why do we see the same combative stances? As the panel of speakers directly stated, things are moving slowly at present. Internal governmental squabbling and indecision is making it tough to see much action; and therefore, much progress. The idea that the panelists seemed to eventually settle on and emphasize was steadfastness. Stay motivated, stay informed, and don’t let discouragement suck you into the swamp of sorrow. If you want to help, keep the idea alive. Strive for fresh, original views, but don’t be afraid to bring up the same good points. What’s important is that people know that the discussion will continue.
Moon Library, the academic living room of the campus, is often not the quietest place for serious study. And for much of the semester that is fine. Many students are comfortable working together in groups which naturally generates noise. But during exams it seems that the need for a truly quiet study environment is apparent. Here are some hints:

- The quiet study room on the lower level, adjacent to the computer lab, is quiet. No one talks there and there are a number of study carrels where you can hide from the rest of the world.

- Along the west wall of the library are individual study carrels with a view of the Moon parking lot, Hendricks field, Lawrinson dorm, sunsets, rain and snowstorms!

- There are also individual study carrels at the north end of the Library where it is quiet.

- The Moon conference room on the main level and room 19 on the lower level are not scheduled for meetings or events during the exam period. These rooms therefore are available for serious quiet study. The library staff will post signs reminding folks of the availability of these spaces for study.

- While we can't guarantee that it will be quiet there, the Bird Library has a 24 hour study area on the first floor from April 9-May 9.

- Perhaps you can modify your behavior a little bit and encourage your friends to do the same:
  - Turn your cell phones off so they don't disturb you or your neighbors in the library.
  - Go outside of the library for conversations (it should be warm enough soon!)
  - Just be quieter in the library and study here during finals! Do you want the library staff to tell you to shush?

The Moon Library will extend its hours until midnight the night before each exam. Good luck on your exams, happy studying and have a great summer.

While you are away this summer we will be “re-doing” the Moon Library for you. Look for some wonderful changes in our appearance when you return.
Westcott Restaurant Review

Rebecca Dionne  
Staff Writer

Living in Westcott Nation I have easy access to a variety of cuisine. This is super convenient after coming home hungry from a long day on campus. Pretty much anything I feel like eating, if I don't have it in my own kitchen (or am too lazy to make it) I can get right on Westcott Street, just a half a block from home. Here is a review of the restaurants on the main drag.

Alto Cinco:  
There is nothing I don't like about this restaurant. The staff is friendly, funny, and not bad to look at. Take out can be picked up or delivered (now all day). For sit down dining you may have to wait awhile on busier nights, but it’s worth it. The dining room is romantically lit with soft lights and candles and decorated with art and flowers. Faster sit down service can be arranged by ordering at the take out counter and asking to sit along the wall in the entry way/waiting area. Food is made fresh to order and they serve vegan, vegetarian, fish, and chicken Tex-Mex dishes. (Sorry, no red meat). My favorite burrito is the rock shrimp but my stand by favorite is always the regular; filled with rice, beans, salsa, cheese, and sour cream. You will not leave this place hungry after eating a plate of salad, corn bread, and entrée, or a three-pound burrito. Alto also has a great selection of imported beers and wines. For a classy but relaxed night out stop in after 11:30 for Alto Cinco's late night. If you're not a wine connoisseur like myself, simply ask the bar tender to suggest something and you will not be disappointed. Prices range from around $5-$15.

Dorian's:  
For inexpensive but tasty Greek food stop into Dorian's for a quick and casual bite. They have a large list of specialty pizzas and subs named after ancient Greek gods and goddesses. You can choose anything from steak subs (not the best in town but ok for the price), white pizza with tomatoes, or a vegan (or not so vegan) gyro. The seating here is plentiful but not the most comfortable or cleanest; typical for a cheap pizza parlor. Go in the summer when their outdoor patio is open.

Munjed's:  
This Middle-Eastern and Greek Eatery is great for a moderately priced sit down meal. The staff is friendly and the food is better than Marshall Street's King David's. The menu describes everything for those who are not familiar with Middle-Eastern dishes. Try some falafel with Tahiti sauce to start, or some feta and olives. For a lighter meal order a pocket or wrap such as Babagonouj (eggplant, tahini, lemon, and garlic, with lettuce, tomato, and onion) or a chicken Grecian (chicken breast, lettuce, tomato, onion, feta, and garlic dressing). Feeling a little hungrier? Order moussaka, a sweet/savory dish comparable to American chop-suey. Most dinners come with pita and Greek salad. End on a sweet note with baklava cheese cake or a chocolate hazelnut roll. Get it to go if you're all ready full of great Middle-Eastern/Greek goodness.

New Garden:  
The best Chinese food around and maybe even the fastest. When I'm out of ideas, or groceries, for cooking dinner I call up New Garden for an order of steamed veggies. This heaping portion of mixed vegetables comes with rice and beef gravy. The order is usually ready within 5-10 minutes and there are always leftovers to mix with other things later on in the week. New Garden cooks all their food up fresh; just go in to order and watch them make your food while you wait. The spring rolls have shrimp in them which I like but is not mentioned on their menu. They do have bean curd/tofu dishes and anything can be left out or substituted. The food here is not as greasy as other Chinese places, the portions are large, and the prices are reasonable. And there's free tea!

Sabastino's Pizza:  
Nothing beats a large slice of pizza for $1.50 at 2am when you're walking home from a night of drinking. This is probably many a Westcott Nation resident's guilty little pleasure. While not a sit down restaurant (aside from two or three chairs and a table set in a corner by the door) Sab's has a large pizza and sub menu. I enjoy a chicken finger sub (a half is 8" and only $4.99) with lettuce, tomato, pickles, and mayo. Other items include mozzarella sticks, stromboli, wings, and fresh haddock dinners (not sure how fresh or if it's really haddock). Probably the best part of Sab's is that you can spend what seems like forever deciding what beer, energy drink, or junk food you want to get. Or, you can receive instant satisfaction by simply walking in, throwing down a buck fifty, saying “slice” and after the cashier echoes your request you turn around and there is a greasy, cheesy, slice of pizza bigger than your face. Nothing cures those beer munchies like Sab's pizza (nothing will make you want to vomit more either).

Mom's Diner:  
Mom's is nothing to write home to your mom about. While the food is tasty, it's nothing but average and overpriced. I usually only go here if I don't feel like driving for, or cooking, a normal egg and home fries breakfast. The frettta is a great concept; a mixture of home fries, eggs, and your choice of vegetables, meats, and cheeses all scrambled together and served with toast. But the portions they serve are definitely not worth the price they charge. The coffee is decent but it is serve yourself and they're pretty stingy with the refill sizes. Go to Mom's if you want, but only if you're too lazy to make your own breakfast.

Las Delicias:  
I have not had the pleasure of trying this Latin/Caribbean restaurant but I've only heard good things. From a Yahoo! User review: “This the best place to get good latino/caribbean food around the University Area. The prices could be better [and] you may have to wait a bit, but the food cannot be matched.” I know that it smells great every time I pass. I will definitely be trying this place out soon.
Being the River

Derek Pursell
Opinion Editor

Watching the south branch of the Potomac River meander through the mountains of West Virginia.

Listening to the curious, adventuresome birds sing their songs, swooping to and fro with the majesty of their natural gift.

Feeling the wind brush the contours of your skin, breathing in the moist air it brings you.

Absorbing the life-giving rays of the Sun, taking in what you and the Sycamore trees around you need.

Witnessing the constantly changing nature of the river, as the water yields to the recalcitrant Earth beneath it.

We like to believe that our time is precious. What we consider worth our time is very representative of what we value and who we are.

The next time you find yourself in front of a stream, massive or minor, stop, and wait. There is much it can teach you, if you take the time to listen.

By Jams Marotta

The Sound Spectrum

By Jams Marotta

4-30-07
Funk'n Waffles
The Action 7pm

5-2-07
Mezzanotte Lounge
Grace Potter & the Nocturnal 8pm
Moon Boot Lover

5-3-07
Funk'n Waffles
Camp Camp 10pm

Trexx
DJ Snickaz

5-4-07
Funk'n Waffles
Tremé Trio and The Flavour
“ass exploding, pelvic grinding funk”
10pm  All Ages $5

Mezzanotte Lounge
Rose Hill 9pm
Drive
Verno

Bull & Bear Pub
Los Blancos 10:15

Half Penny Pub
Caroline Blue 5pm
Temporal 3 Pattern
Rocket Boyz

5-5-07
Mezzanotte Lounge
Rhubarb 10pm

5-6-07
Funk'n Waffles
Gracer
The Tip of the Iceberg

Things I learned at ESF

By Celia Dubin

1. No walking on the quad or you will be tackled
2. The Dome is for jumping on the outside to hear an echo
3. People sometimes walk barefoot to class
4. An environmental school is located in the middle of a city
5. ESF has no official colors; guess what the unofficial one is?
6. What happened when the fungal and algal met?

... They took a lichen to each other, but the last I heard their relationship is on the rocks.
7. No matter what major you are, you are going to know what a plant is
8. Trees have different names
9. I am a Stumpy

You Know You’re a Stumpie When...

By Celia Dubin

1. You at least heard of the legendary Steve Fox
2. You wonder how Syracuse people know you go to ESF until you realize you are wearing some form of clothing that has the ESF logo
3. You decide to walk up a hill instead of stairs
4. You never realized how many vegetarians/vegans you can meet in one place
5. You know what a vegan is
6. Your very familiar with Monty python and may have recently debated if a sparrow can carry a coconut
7. TG means free food and drinks
8. You want to tackle anyone who walks across the quad.
9. You have more plants than friends
10. You know what a stumpy is
Advertisements

Lunchtime Discussion Series

Dr. Sue Senecah
Associate Professor, Environmental Studies

Bringing women’s ways of knowing to deliberative democracy

Wed., May 2 (new date!), 1 pm, 105 Marshall

Sponsored by the ESF Women’s Caucus (http://www.esf.edu/womenscaucus)
Advertisements

The Folkus Project’s press contact is David Fulton at (315) 457-8056 or press@folkus.org.

**What:** a Folkus Project concert

**Who:** Anais Mitchell

**Blur B:** Writing and singing with redemptive energy about the challenges of our times.

**Where:** May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Society
3800 East Genesee St, Syracuse, NY
(just inside the Syracuse city limits from Dewitt)

**When:** Friday, May 4, 2007 at 8:00 pm

**Admission:** $10

Artist's website: [www.anaismitchell.com](http://www.anaismitchell.com)
Artist's MySpace site: [www.myspace.com/anaismitchell](http://www.myspace.com/anaismitchell)

Calendar entry: Anais Mitchell will be performing as part of the Folkus Project concert series at May Memorial Unitarian Universalist Church, 3800 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, N.Y., on Friday, May 4, 2007, at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 and refreshments will be available. Admission is $10. For reservations, email tickets@folkus.org or call (315) 440-7444.

**About:** Anais Mitchell

“Listening to Anais Mitchell perform her meticulously written songs, fervently singing them in a distinctive, almost childlike voice, you’d think it was her life’s mission to rouse the hearts and minds of her listeners. This 25-year-old singer/songwriter makes small-sounding, big-thinking folk songs that sound like front porch serenades. Her lyrics tackle the personal and political with equal aplomb, often blurring the lines between the two. What separates Mitchell from other singer/songwriters with political leanings is that she delivers the message without compromising the song -- everything fits together naturally and her thoughts are expressed in lyrical and subtle ways. Each of her finely crafted songs is a small poem -- delicate, meaningful, and personal. The raw, sweet timbre of her voice and serene picking style draw you in, and her dazzling lyrics keep you there. Her music is powerful but she is always gentle with her statements, whether exploring the connections between friends and lovers, religion and violence, or prosperity and pain.”

“An expressiveness that reflects and goes beyond her years. Mitchell is an original.” – The Boston Herald

“Mitchell brings a worldly depth to her writing. Raised by a novelist and a community organizer in rural New England, she grew up listening to Dylan and the Dead, Leonard Cohen, Velvet Underground, Joni Mitchell, Ani DiFranco, Dar Williams, and Tori Amos. She started writing songs at age 17 and performing them live during her school days, which were punctuated by a remarkable amount of traveling. Mitchell made several trips to the Middle East, and also spent time in Europe and Latin America, studying languages and world politics. In 2002 she moved to Austin, where she released her debut album, “The Song They Sang When Rome Fell.” In 2003, the Kerrville Folk Festival honored her work with the prestigious New Folk award. After graduating from Middlebury College in 2004 with a degree in political science, Mitchell spent extensive time in Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East, studying languages (Spanish, German, and Arabic) and international politics. This troubadour-like experience has seeped into her music, and she has become adept at fusing her passion for literature and politics into her lyrics. Mitchell released her second album, “Hymns For The Exiled,” in 2004. The stirring collection of guitar and voice cemented her status as a folksinger to watch, and the record eventually reached the ears of DiFranco, who signed Mitchell to her label, Righteous Babe Records.”

“Anais Mitchell may be the best under-30-year-old singer-songwriter performing today.” – The Midnight Special

“The Folkus Project is a nonprofit organization that fosters and promotes traditional, contemporary, and multicultural folk music in Syracuse and Central New York. Between Labor Day and Memorial Day each year, approximately 30 shows are presented. In addition, occasional workshops are sponsored in coordination with concert appearances by artists who do such things. To learn more about Folkus and the upcoming concerts, visit their web page at www.folkus.org. Click on Join Folkus Fans to sign up to receive brief e-mails during the Folkus season (fall, winter, and spring) alerting members of upcoming concerts.
Want to join the Knothole staff and get credit for it?

Register for the fall semester class CLL 498 Independent Study.
Look out for fliers in the fall for the first Knothole meeting.

Thank You to ALL our Frequent Readers during the Fall 2006 and
Spring 2007 Academic Year!
You Guys Are Awesome! :)

On Behalf of the Entire Knothole Staff, We wish ALL Graduating Seniors
Good Luck in Your Future Endeavors, and
We Will Definitely Miss you Around Campus! *tear*
Have a Great Summer to EVERYONE! And Wear Sunscreen!