The Knothole, February 21, 2008

SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry Student Body

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In This Issue:

Behind the Scenes with Jack Hannah
Controversial Technology!
Horoscope Debut!

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:

Letter from the Editor

Salutations!

This week’s issue features a couple of interesting articles on controversial technology including sonar technology and Radio Frequency Identification. We’ve also got updates on activities going on around and outside of campus.

March is just around the corner...have you applied for your summer internship yet? Summer internships are a great way to gain some experience on what you want to do with your life and are especially important to make sure you’re headed in the right direction!

Check out www.esf.edu/internships for more info!

Enjoy!

Tina
Editor in Chief
By: Stanley Milewski

Since it can be quite easy for students to take the quality faculty here at ESF for granted, it is only appropriate that outstanding professors should be featured in our campus newspaper from time to time. This week, I have taken the opportunity to profile the academic achievements and credentials of Benette Whitmore, an author and writing instructor who has made her mark among the very best in her fields of interest.

Those who know Benette only as a teacher lack a true appreciation of the breadth of her contributions to the world of literature, particularly as expressed through her wide versatility in not only teaching, but authorship as well. Benette has contributed to a wide variety of periodicals, perhaps most notably *The North American Review*, with a short story in 1999. She has also written six children’s books, as well as recently adding to her following the young adult readers with her novel *Shelter*, published in 2006. Benette has also developed her affinity for youth literature by authoring *Go Animal!* or *Extinction Stinks!*, an innovative children’s program dealing with endangered species and the environment that is performed for young children in area schools. This is not the only occasion upon which Benette has applied her creativity in the entertainment and education of young people. In the mid-1990’s, she was the primary writer of 35 episodes of *Pappyland*, a children’s television series that in its time, enjoyed a sizable nationwide following on both PBS and the Learning Channel.

The road to the compilation of these impressive credentials began with a bachelor’s degree from Queen’s University, in Kingston Ontario, coincidentally, the alma mater of another well-known ESF faculty member, Mark Meisner. This solid foundation was bolstered three years later when Benette obtained an M.A. in Communications from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, across the way at Syracuse University. More recently, Benette has added yet another chapter to her extensive educational background by pursuing her Ph.D. in Cultural Foundations of Education at Syracuse University.

Benette’s value to our academic community has been formally acknowledged twice; first with ESF’s Distinguished Teaching Award in 1999, and then in 2003 with President Murphy’s Award for Outstanding Community Service for her extensive promotion of volunteer work through Service Learning projects inherent to some of the courses she has taught. Craig Lazzar, a former Service Learning student summarized the invaluable potential of Service Learning assignments by labeling them “an internship in the classroom,” an articulate expression of a sentiment many former Service Learning students, myself included, share.

After gaining experience in a dizzying array of professional engagements, Benette has enjoyed the stability of teaching solely at ESF and Syracuse University since the early 1990’s, residing in the pleasant suburban setting of Fayetteville. She has two children, Kallie, a film major at Emerson College in Boston, and Eli, a psychology major at Syracuse University. Benette has come to embrace our College’s strong belief system of environmental responsibility and the general like-mindedness of the student body regarding the foremost environmental issues of our day. She considers the small-school ambience of our campus, and the commitment of ESF students to making the world a better place, to be among some of its most attractive attributes.
Hearing the Tree Fall

Court Rule Against Navy on Sonar Usage

By: Debbie Moschak
Managing Editor

The Navy uses sonar for military training off various coasts along the United States as a way to prepare for submarine combat. However, the consequences of sonar can have detrimental effects on marine wildlife, especially dolphins and whales. The sonar, which can be as loud as a space shuttle at takeoff, disorients the animals, causing them to beach themselves and die. The use of sonar off the coast has been a continuing controversial topic, with most opposition coming from environmental organizations, yet the Navy insists that it is a necessary part of their training.

About three weeks ago, President Bush made an executive order to exempt the Navy from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), stating that it was “emergency” training in the name of national security. This allowed the Navy to continue to use sonar off the Pacific coast, near San Francisco, without conducting an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by NEPA. This area is home to various kinds of marine life, including five species of protected whales. The submarines used for training in this area are extremely outdated and are only currently used by countries that we would be highly unlikely to be in conflict with.

The day after President Bush made the executive order, the National Resources Defense council filed a suit, stating that Bush did not have the right to override NEPA. Last week the case went to court, and U.S. District Court Judge Florence-Marie Cooper rejected the Bush administrations executive order under the conditions that the situation was not an emergency, so NEPA could not be overruled. “The Navy’s current ‘emergency’ is simply a creature of its own making, i.e., its failure to prepare adequate environmental documentation in a timely fashion”, wrote Judge Cooper. She continued to say that the Navy’s position “produces the absurd result of permitting agencies to avoid their NEPA obligations by re-characterizing ordinary, planned activities as ‘emergencies’ in the interests of national security, economic stability, or other long-term policy goals”. Although Judge Cooper acknowledged that the Navy did take some measures on their own to prevent harm to marine animals, such as having aerial spotters and halting sonar use if an animal was seen within 2,000 meters of the testing site.

I applaud the NRDC for getting involved and Judge Cooper for properly upholding the law and helping prevent President Bush from abusing his powers as president in the name of national security. With this court decision, I hope that the Navy begins to seriously reconsider their use of sonar and begins to take the appropriate measures to protect our precious marine life.
Radio Frequency Identification is back once more but some say not for the better!

By: Daniel Liwicki

Computer chips implanted beneath our own skin? Although the idea may be too Orwellian for some, the reality of such an identification system is gaining more and more support. Created more than half a century ago, Radio Frequency Identification or RFID is making a strong resurgence in the realm of identification tracking technologies for everything from pet identification to self check out grocery markets. Bearing the question: How far is too far for Radio Frequency Identification?

RFID is a technology founded in theory that goes back to physics of the early 1800s. However, the first true work on frequency reflection was not published until around 1950 when it was further explained by scientist and engineer Harry Stockman. So what exactly is this form of identification? Radio Frequency Identification is based on the three internal components; a scanning antenna, a transceiver with a decoder, and a transponder concealing the desired information. The scanning antenna is attached to a surface, a door frame for example. As the RFID tag moves within the receiving range of the antenna, the information decoded in the tag is transmitted and processed by the receiving unit. On average this scanning process takes less than 100 milliseconds to complete.

The movement for the RFID technology stems from the arguments against the currently accepted bar code system as well as the declining costs of the Radio Frequency Identification. One benefit of the system is the relative size of each RFID tag unit. The approximate proportions for a standard tag are no larger than a single grain of rice! Also, large quantities of products can be accounted for and processed in a single instant using the RFID system as opposed to individual barcode scanning. Finally, unlike modern day barcodes, the tags do not have to be on the surface of the object to which they are affixed. This drastically changes the surface scanning tradition that is so widely accepted in the shipping and distributing arena today.

However, as is the case in most identification systems, there are drawbacks to the technology at hand. Leading the controversy is the protection of civil liberties. There is something to be said for the invasion of privacy that RFID can produce. The most common fears are that government organizations, large corporations, and even other individuals with proper technology, can track the purchases and critical information of unknowing citizens. RFID supporters still attest that the software is nothing new but instead improved and worthy of consumer’s trust, pointing to the evidence of the long life spans of the chips which has proven to be upwards of decades and even infinite.

Today, RFID is slowly making its way back into the mainstream of consumerism. Most livestock processing centers use RFID tags to account for the vital statistics of each animal tracking its progress through the duration of processing. Many pet owners have even replaced traditional pet collars or physical identification markings with RFID tags implanted just under the skin of their pets with the help of an adapted hypodermic needle. The reason that Radio Frequency Identification systems have not caused a tremendous uproar may be their relatively long existence and applications thus far. However, all of this may change if corporations continue to pursue the possibilities of RFID infused within the human body.

Scan-it-yourself check out aisles, vital personal information, GPS unites; the ideas of installing RFID tags within humans have seemingly endless applications.

RFID tags implanted between the shoulder bones of dogs and livestock have proved to be successful. Are humans next? Will there be a day when these tags are implanted in each and every newborn? This question is frighteningly complex. In the end, the theory of Radio Frequency ID and its human potential is to some a question of ethics.

For now, I tend to side with gaining a better understanding of RFID and how it can be used in practical ways in society. There is no reason to assume that an Orwellian society is our fortune just yet. The nice thing about destiny after all, is that it is ultimately held within the human hand.
Environmental Communication Workshop

ECS Sacket’s Harbor Semester Project- Preliminary Visit

By: Stanley Milewski

A number of students, myself included, have been presented this semester with a unique opportunity finally commence the process of putting to practical use the sizable knowledge we have acquired as ESF students regarding the finer points of sustainability and the workings of the natural environment. This unique opportunity is known as Environmental Communication Workshop, (CMN 493) or ECW, and it is a loosely structured course taught by Dr. Sue Senecah that aims to instruct students in the interest of fostering small-group dynamics and cohesiveness, a life skill which for many of us will likely prove invaluable once we commence the next chapter of our lives as professionals.

Despite the solid educational foundation outlined above, good intentions alone are not enough to create a productive learning experience. To this end, each time the class is taught, there must be a project, or projects for the students to devote their energies to during the course of the semester in order to create real-life situations in which to forge the cohesiveness and continuity of the small workgroup outlined in the paragraph above. This semester’s major project is an intriguing engagement with the village of Sacket’s Harbor, a pleasant, quaint village of roughly 1400 residents located sixty miles to the north, on the shores of Lake Ontario.

To cut directly to the chase, Mayor Mike Kinnie attended one of our classes several weeks ago and asked us to consider assisting him and his administration in a proposed “greening” of Sacket’s Harbor. The request was readily granted, as the class by unanimous mutual agreement, felt that the project would be a worthwhile cause for our major project. The initial substantive step in this process took place last Friday, the 15th of February, as the entire class, plus Dr. Sharon Moran of the ES faculty, an interested elective member of our group, piled into an ESF bus at 7:00 AM for the lengthy trek to meet with our friends to the north.

The bus trip was (thankfully) uneventful, and we nearly arrived in Sacket’s Harbor on schedule (no thanks to Google Maps). During an orientation period with Mayor Kinnie and his associates, we learned of the Village’s ideas and goals, plus the resources at its disposal with which to carry out their idyllic ambitions. The portion of the visit that provided perhaps the most utility was the guided tour we took of the village in the pickle bus; the mayor and his associates squeezed inside after our initial conference. During our tour we could envision the substantive objectives of the Mayor and his assistants, as well as the raw potential for the Village to capitalize on its historic legacy. The major concern stemming from this extensively planned revitalization is the execution of any further development within the village in a sustainable manner, and thus our chief purpose for enlistment in the project.

In preparation for the site visit, all members of ECW were required to thoroughly examine a lengthy document outlining the aims and corresponding concerns of the Village, which they called the Waterfront Revitalization Plan. Upon concluding our site visit, it became our obligation to meticulously reflect on what we observed on Friday by synthesizing this data, making use of our expertise as students extensively trained in all things environmental, and formulating creative ideas and solutions to assist the high-minded WRP plan to reach a sustainable and productive outcome. The one-hundred-seventy page document is far too complex to adequately outline in this article, though some of the chief concerns of the Village are the cleanup of a brownfield, green building initiatives, traffic flow issues, waste water handling, and last, but not least, “The Pool,” a long-conceived plan for the creation of a “green” indoor swimming facility.

Although this is specifically our semester project as a class, both the class and our friends to the north will welcome any additional assistance from interested students or faculty; our school is among the best with regard to dealing with an engagement of this nature, and any additional input would be cordially welcomed.

To receive additional information regarding the Sacket’s Harbor project, or a.pdf file of the Waterfront Revitalization Plan, feel free to email Dr. Senecah at ssenecah@esf.edu, Mayor Kinnie’s office at mayor@sacketsharbor-ny.gov, or myself at scmilews@syr.edu.
Sound Spectrum

Tune Into Your Local Tunes!

Sound Spectrum for 2/25/08 to 3/2/08

2-27-08
Funk’n Waffles
Open Mic Night  9pm

Syracuse Suds Factory
Live Jazz  6-9pm

2-28-08
Goldstein Auditorium Syracuse University
Ailey II

2-29-08
Shenanigan’s
Hard 2 Handle  10pm

Nino’s Sports Bar & Grill
Brass Inc.

3-1-08
!!Mezzanotte Lounge!!
Benevento Russo Duo  8pm !!

Syracuse Suds Factory
Dark Hollow  9:30pm

Patz On the River
DamDog    8pm

Jazz Central
Scholastic Jazz Jam
Love. Marco Benevento and Joe Russo love each other. On and off the stage it is clear. Never before has the world seen so much sound and so much love come from only two people. It sounds like a full rock band with a damn orchestra. This sh*t will hit you so hard! It’s a giant wall of sound. Though not your typical rock band configuration, their show is just as hard. The Duo consists of Marco Benevento on organ and Joe Russo on drums. These are dangerous musicians with a dangerous sound and show that you have got to see.

This is a band that I cannot speak highly enough about. Never before has a certain song or album caused me to cry, but the Duo’s album, “Best Reason to Buy the Sun,” has come closer than anything else I have heard. There is something truly special about their sound and their relationship on and off stage.

I guess the Benevento Russo Duo’s sound is hard rock with jazz and indie. I have problems describing it, but I know it’s damn big sound. It is non-vocal music, however, when I spoke to Joe Russo, he told me that they try to write vocal music without the vocals. Check out some of their clips on YouTube.com and check them out on the web at www.myspace.com/beneventorussoduocom and www.beneventorussoduo.com.

Here is the bottom line, put this show on your calendar and GO! If you have been itching to see some live music then you are going to want to see this, DON’T MISS IT! I love these guys, but I realize that there is no band liked by everyone, so if you don’t like them, then grab some more alcohol from the bar and hopefully you will have enjoyed the opening acts: Minutes Per Second and Gadabout.

What You Must Know:
Who: Benevento Russo Duo
Time: March 1st @ 9pm
Where: Mezzanotte Lounge
658 North Salina St. Syracuse, NY. 13208
Cost: $15 advance tickets
(Sound Garden & Hollerback Productions.com)
$ 17 Day of event
Under 21 is $20
WANTED:

Poems
Essays
Stories
Creative Writing
Photographs
Drawings
Paintings
Illustrations

See your work published in
ESF’s ONLY Creative Journal

Primary Deadline for submissions Monday 3/17

If you are interested please contact:

Daniel Liwicki: dmliwick@syr.edu
Jenna Boshart: jeboshar@syr.edu
Priscilla Hernandez: phernand@syr.edu
Rebecca Masters: rtmaster@syr.edu
PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)
Pay close attention to warnings you are given by those close to you. Their words will guide you through difficult and trying times. You might feel like you are being tested, but don't fear, the learning curve is in your favor and the world is in the palm of your hands. Drop old habits like a hot pocket!

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)
Maybe it's about time you finally reconsider accepting those offerings which in the past you have passed up? Over analyzing maybe? The time for new beginnings is now! Say bye-bye to what you have already experienced and except a new kind of flavor!

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)
Someone has been admiring you from afar - someone completely unexpected. This person is an acquaintance who you have looked to for guidance in the past. Don't fight the feelings that are nagging you, just let it happen.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)
So remember that certain stranger whom just so happen to appear in front of your eyes out of no where that one day? They are looking for you - right now - and it's worth it! Don't be too intimated when approached again. As a matter a fact, attempting to be the initiator of communication will bring you great fortune!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)
No one will get in the way of what you know right now. Abandon your preconceived notions and judgments. What you see as rigid standards may be disguising your apprehension to let someone in. Give this a try, test the waters, and then take the plunge. You have nothing to lose.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)
Waiting for others to make decision for you is a habit that needs to go. Maybe it's time to stop being a hermit and go in for the kill. Old habits will die fast once you give in to the possibilities of a new? It's ok to make mistakes, but it's even better to make good decisions.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)
You have been playing games lately, the kinds which are like playing hot potato with radioactive chemicals. Don't be dramatic, play your cards safely. Look into your heart and ground yourself with comfort. Options present themselves at seemingly opportune times but don't be rash.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)
You wouldn't be who you are without preposterous standards. Having them is a good thing, while assigning and accessing them on others is a difficult task. A task you are poor at. Self evaluation is a along overdue must. Bring out the softer side in you! We've all seen signs of its existence.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)
You are covered in skin. You are ready you are fine. Take in this new living on the edge lifestyle. It's a side of you that has always been there - hiding perhaps? Waiting for the right Mafosia to enter your life? What about your needs? No one will judge you - Pffft! Your never loose your nerve. No one gets to come.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 21)
Although emotions are not your forte, give it an honest try. Let yourself give in to that famous thing we all suffer from - love. Maybe you just want to call it 'like'... that's fine for now. In time your true feelings will make themselves clear. Debts will be paid off.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 22 - JANUARY 20)
Your most recent emotional risk will leave you hanging more than usual. Make fun of distance by maintaining contact with someone you keep thinking about. You will find that your efforts are well received and possibly the beginning of a new chapter! Career opportunities may keep you busy and therefore distracted from other pursuits.

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)
Check your bank account. The task at hand may be daunting but surely you will find the inspiration to commit to quality. The time to neglect loved ones is later. Save that for a time when you need the solitude and they will understand.
Club Meetings:

**Alchemists Chemistry Club**: 5pm, every other Tuesday, 139 Baker

**Alpha Phi Omega**: Chapter: 5pm, Sunday, Hall of Languages room 500; Eboard: 9 pm, Tuesday, Location TBD

**Alpha Xi Sigma**: 5pm, every other Wednesday, Moon Conference Room

**American Fisheries Society**: every other Thursday starting Jan. 25, 5pm, 251 Illick

**American Water Resource Association**, 5:30pm, Tuesdays, Marshall 209

**Baobab Society**: 5pm, Tuesday, 19 Moon Library

**Bioethics Society**: 5pm, Monday, 110 Moon Library

**Bob Marshall Club**: 5pm, Monday, Moon Conference Room

**Campus Crusade**: TBA

**Creative Minds**: Tuesdays 5pm in 11 Illick

**Empire Forester**: 5pm, Tuesday, Yearbook Office (B-19 Marshall Hall)

**Engineers without Borders**: 4:30 pm, every other Tuesday (9/11), Moon Library

**Forest Engineering Club**: 5pm, Monday, 437 Baker Lab

**Forestry Club/ Woodsmen Team**: Monday and Thursday, meet at Old Green House behind Bray at 6:45 pm, (going on to Lafayette Field Station) **Graduate Student Association**: TBA

**Green Campus Initiative**: Thursday, 7pm, Moon Room 19

**Habitat for Humanity**: TBA

**Juggling Club**: TBA

**Knothole**: 5pm, Tuesday, B-9A Marshall

**Mollet Club**: TBA

**Motivating People for Peace**: 5pm, ever other Tuesdays, Bray Rotunda

**NYPIRG**: 5 pm, Thursdays, 732 S. Crouse Ave-2nd Floor

**SEAC**: 7pm, Wednesday, 202 Hall of Languages

**Soccer Club**: Saturdays, women’s building second floor gym, 4-5:30

**Society of American Foresters**: 5:30pm, Monday, Marshall 213

**Society for Conservation Biology**: First and third Tuesday of every month, 6:30 pm, 111 Marshall

**SUOC TBA**

**Student Construction Association**: 5pm, every other Tuesday, 432 Baker

**Syracuse Animal Rights Organization (SARO)**: 6pm, Tuesday, 213B Huntington Beard Crouse (HBC)

**University Christian Fellowship**: 5:30 pm, Wednesday, 111 Marshall

**USA**: 4:30 pm, Wednesday, Nifkin Lounge

**Wildlife Society**: 5:00 pm, every other Thursday (starting Sept. 6), Illick 5

For this and more club and events information make sure to go to http://web.esf.edu/calendarstu.asp

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**NEXT ISSUE!**

WE HAD THE EXCLUSIVE BEHIND THE SCENES LOOK AT JACK HANNAH DURING HIS PRESENTATION AT GOLDSTEIN! READ ABOUT IT HERE FIRST!

TROUBLED? FEELING LOST? IN NEED OF GUIDANCE? NEXT WEEK WILL BE OUR DEBUTE HOROSCOPE SECTION. . . BROUGHT TO YOU BY A PAIR OF MAGICAL LADIES!

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For information on to requesting a private tutor, or to become a tutor,

Stop in the Academic Success Center (109 Moon Library), visit www.esf.edu/tutoring, call 470-4919, or e-mail tutoring@esf.edu
Looking for Additional Assistance with Education Expenses?

The Beverly Whaley Scholarship
Sponsored by the Women of the University Community
Available for Academic Year 2008-2009

Female students entering their sophomore, junior or senior year of undergraduate study at ESF are eligible for this $500 award. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit and financial need and preference may be given to a student from the Adirondack region of New York State.

Applications for the Beverly Whaley Scholarship must be completed by March 6, 2008 and are available in the ESF Development Office, 214 Bray Hall.