A Letter from the Editor:

Welcome Back!

I hope everyone has been keeping up with their New Year’s resolution(s). Up until this very moment I had forgot that I even made one. However, my one holiday wish seemed to come true, and that was having enough snow to get some use out of my season’s pass to Labrador Mountain. Now that the snow is finally here, it doesn’t want to stop! Maybe we’ll have a snow day…although I cannot recall ever hearing SU/ESF close down because of the weather. It would have to be something extremely dramatic, like a snow blizzard with 30 degrees below 0. Hmmm. Anyways, I am happy to say that the first Knothole meeting was awesome and it looks like you will all have some interesting articles to read for this semester. For now, enjoy some new updated information mixed in with recycled articles, poems, comics, book reviews etc. from last year that never made it into an issue but are nonetheless full of wonderful and creative stumpy ideas. Of course at ESF, recycled material seems to be a better way to go anyways…so you can’t blame us. So long, Farewell!

Sarah Pallo

Editor-In Chief
Lumberjacks and Lumberjills Take on Canada
ESF woodsmen compete in Montreal

Cara Stafford
Staff Writer

Who in their right mind takes a weekend to brave long hours on the road, obscure Quebec directions, and frigid conditions to cut a piece of wood in hopes of bringing home a trophy mug? Our very own ESF Woodsmen’s Team, of course! They got a quick start to their spring season on Jan. 27th when they attended a logger-sports competition hosted by McGill University in Canada. The 47th annual McGill Woodsmen Competition was held at the university’s Macdonald Campus in Montreal. This event was the first of three big spring competitions: Montreal, the Lumberjack Roundup (our home meet), and the Spring Meet, which is at Dartmouth this year.
Montreal served as a warm-up for the upcoming months of training for the Spring Meet in April, since there were only two weeks to re-group after winter break. The three ESF teams did well considering a relative lack of practice time and the sub-zero temperature. The Men’s A team sawed and chopped their way to an impressive fifth place among a pool of 16 teams, most of which were Canadian. Joe Tobias won for axe throwing and Ian Freeburg took first place in the meet-the-cut chainsaw event. Matt Marks and Ian Freeburg vertical-chopped their way to second place, and Doug Porter placed second in pole climb. The Men’s B team also performed strongly, placing 11th overall. The Women’s A team won the team crosscut competition and Laura Perrotta took first in axe throw, making the team fifth out of eight for the day. Despite technical difficulties, all three teams gave it their all in the snowshoe race. In the end, ESF was the top US school.

Our next competition will be the ESF Lumberjack Roundup, which will be on Saturday, March 31. The location is to be announced. There will be plenty of chili, chopping, Carhartts, and a cool raffle, so come support our Woodsmen! The Spring Meet, the biggest of the semester, will be held at Dartmouth College in late April. Interested in joining or just want to see what it’s all about? Practices are held Mondays and Thursdays (weather permitting) at the Lafayette Experiment Station on Lafayette Road. Meet behind the old greenhouse on campus (by Bray Hall) at 6:45pm to ride to practice at 7:00pm. If you want more info or to check if we’re practicing, email the President, Matt Marks, at mamarks@syr.edu.
Opinion

Kids Movies: Good Morals? Bad Morals? How do you decide?

Elizabeth J. Kaczynski

Today, one of the largest growing trends in children’s entertainment is the inclusion of jokes and subject material that it to say the least, a tad mature. Often times entertainment companies include the crude humor in an attempt to keep adults (i.e.: parents) entertained while watching a movie that is far more simple than the secret agent movie next door. But what is the crude humor teaching our children? Are we mixing messages that can lead to inappropriate decisions later in life?

The Holiday season is well known for being a big box-office weekend. Every year between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Americans flock to the movies to see a movie “together”. It’s one of our little cultural excuses for making up lost time. You haven’t seen your family in awhile, so you all go to dinner and a movie. But what movie do you see? How do you keep your 8-year-old brother, your uncle, and your preteen cousin entertained at the same time? The choice can be rather difficult, and many families decide on a movie that everyone can get through; your typical PG/PG-13 family comedy. The movie that is pretty good, guaranteed for a few laughs, and makes everybody happy. However, with younger family members present, are we really making good movie choices? And are these movies were seeing designed to teach young kids mature lessons before they are ready for them? A growing trend may suggest just this.

One of this summer’s biggest hits in the family movie category was Over the Hedge. A moderately cute movie, voiced by half of Hollywood and bursting with promise, surprisingly turned out to be so-so. The movie was intended for kids to teach them a valuable lesson in the dangers between human expansion and resource/habitat depletion. A good concept for children living in suburbia: there is more world out there beyond the concrete. The movie was pretty good at suggesting the dangers of pesticide use, the problems associated with the animals when forced to change their diet, and forest depletion. However, there are some things included that could have been left out. Crude, inappropriate humor unsuitable for young children.

Our next case, Thanksgiving 2006: Happy Feet. Another pretty good movie featuring a cast of musical Emperor penguins, featuring...you guessed it, the other half of Hollywood. This movie was a more active attempt to educate children about global warming, pollution, loss of food sources, and politics. Wait a minute – politics? Sure thing, and a whole load of incredibly inappropriate adult jokes including drunkenness and sexual overtones. An example? Penguin orgies.

Is this what we really want small children to see? Is this the reason why our younger sisters look like Vegas dancers? Small children pick up bits about their world all around them. They learn about the world from everything and everyone they come into contact with. While adult situations may keep older viewers entertained, the messages the content is sending to our children can be very inappropriate. Are we passing up good morals for a cheap laugh? And if we must, aren’t there any funny things out there in life other than alcohol or sex?

Educating the youth about important world issues is definitely important. Very important. But do we really want to ruin all the good messages we teach children with adult issues that they are too young to understand? Making appropriate decisions while...

The Economic Costs of Global Climate Destabilization

Joseph J. Licandrello

At the end of October 2006, a 16-month study commissioned by the British government and led by Sir Nicholas Stern, the chief of Britain’s economic service, concluded: “$6.98 trillion [would be] the cost to society of failing to start blunting global warming within a decade.” The good news is, if the world starts to take action right now, the cost of investment for reducing greenhouse emissions “can be limited to around 1% of global Gross Domestic Product each year.” The report states that the “risks of major disruption to economic and social activity [would be] on a scale similar to those associated with the great wars and the economic depression of the first half of the 20th century.”

Part of the solution to the problem of global climate destabilization is to incorporate these particular key elements into any future international frameworks: “emissions trading...international cooperation on product standards, [since they are] a powerful way to boost energy efficiency...curbing deforestation, [since] the loss of natural forests around the world contributes more to global emissions each year than the transport sector.” A failure to deal with this impending catastrophe will lead to a nightmare scenario, where “the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere could reach double its pre-industrial level as early as 2035.” This dramatic change could happen in our lifetimes, with a result that would mimic the climate of 14,000 years ago: “it is equivalent to the change in average temperatures from the last ice age to today.”

When I came to ESF, I was told to be proactive. Desperate times call for desperate measures.

On behalf of the students and faculty, I would like to invite President George W. Bush to visit the campus of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse, NY, to announce that he is going to quadruple the nation’s investment in the research and development of alternative and renewable climate-friendly energy, so that 90% of all energy comes from these sources (save for a 10% cushion for the operation of military hardware); and that he is going to announce a summit with China and India to sign the Kyoto Protocol, but with one minor change: that the treaty reflect the emission levels of 1970, not 1990.

By enlisting America, and the world, into an all-out war against the evil axis of melting glaciers and sea ice (which will lead to rising ocean levels and loss of drinking water), heavier and more frequent rain storms and flooding due to increased evaporation and cloud formation, and the breakdown of agriculture as-we-know-it worldwide due to shifting climate patterns, the legacy of President Bush will ring from the lips of grateful Americans in the same breath as Washington, Lincoln, Roosevelt, and Kennedy.

The end result of the Apollo-Manhattan Project (AMP) will be an alternative and renewable energy industry created and manufactured by Americans and all of the high-paying Boeing-like jobs that go with it. This industry could be the economic engine of America for the next 50 to 100 years. The world cannot afford for China and India to repeat the filthy American Industrial Revolution of the 19th and 20th centuries. Is there a better way for the United States to reverse its trade imbalance with the world, and the Chinese financing of its Treasury debt, than with the implementation of the AMP?

I’m sending a copy of this article to the White House.
The Best Kept Secret on Campus

Joseph J. Liciandrello
Contributing Writer

The backbone of academic life is writing: term papers, lab reports, literature reviews and the like. The Writing Center "is a place where students can get another perspective on their work. Many good writers stop in at any step of their paper," said Benette Whitmore, coordinator of the Writing Center for the past ten years. Students can either drop-in to the Writing Center or sign up in advance.

For the past 15 years, the Writing Center was located in 105 Moon Library, but over the summer, "the best kept secret at SUNY-ESF" moved into new digs in 109 Moon Library, adjacent to the Academic Success Center. The writing staff had grown and additional office space was needed. Now, with all of the tutoring apparatusies next to each other, an identity for learning has been created on campus.

The Writing Center is staffed by three graduate assistants and five undergraduate volunteers. Professor Whitmore believes that "this arrangement isn’t typical for most colleges, since many people are devoting their time. This college is special, and I feel that the campus is lucky to have such an outstanding group. The volunteers go above and beyond our expectations.” Many of the students who stop by the Writing Center are learning English as a second language. On Fridays from 11:00am to 1:00pm, the Conversation Group led by Tina Notas, meets in order for students to work on proactive conversation skills in a low-pressure environment. Takashi Kimishima, a senior at ESF, mentioned that the Writing Center “is very useful to me and the staff is very friendly, with a special thanks to Landon and Khris.”

When I asked graduate student Landon Vine, a writing tutor for the last two and a half years, to describe his experience of working in the Writing Center, he stated that it’s “a lot of work, yet it’s fun to have a student come in regularly and witness them grow as a writer over time. This is my last semester in the Writing Center, and it has been nice to contribute to this resource that is valuable to the campus community. In a lot of ways, we are a well-kept secret. There is so much help that we can give. It would be nice if we had more visibility. It’s free, it’s informal, yet it’s serious and we get the job done. Still, students come in, so we have a good reputation. It’s a strong writing center.”

Graduate student Khris Dodson explained his experience in the Writing Center this way: “It’s been good, but hard. It’s nice to work with a wide variety of people and writing skills. As a result, my writing has improved. ‘The more I help others, the more I help myself.’

Undergraduate Anna McCarthy declared that working in the Writing Center has been "a really good learning experience. By working with other people and seeing other styles of writing, it has helped me to critique my own writing. You meet new and interesting people working here.”

Finally, it’s possible for tutors to get academic credit, and it looks good on a résumé.
Almost Heaven
Spring Break in West Virginia

Mike Tripodi
Tripodial Law

John Denver said it best with his song Country Roads, but West Virginia is indeed a special place. Last year I had the distinct opportunity to head to the “mountain state” and spend a week discovering the majesty that is West Virginia with the other members of the Syracuse University Outing Club (SUOC).

Upon my arrival to the Thorn Spring cabins we were greeted by the other SUOCers both young and old who were planning a fun-filled week of caving, kayaking, hiking, climbing and just loafig around. Later on we went to the local history center named Ednas, where I started to see the magic that permeates this long-standing tradition. Upon reading the logbook that resides there, I found an interesting tale that started about 40 years ago in the back booth at Hungry Charlie’s (the predecessor to the modern day Chuck’s). Since then, hundreds of other people have endeavored on this adventure into the wilderness, each having added their own experience to this story.

The next day we left the cabins and went out to Seneca Rocks for rock climbing. Not being an avid climber, I went and hiked around to the top of the rocks instead. From that towering vantage you can see all of the surrounding valleys and the majority of the Monongahela National Forest. That alone made the $150 paid for the trip well worth it. That night back at the cabins, there was a reunion with many of the old SUOCers and ESFers that I have not seen in many years.

Eventually the week settled into an exciting pace, each day bringing new and different adventures, from exploring the many caves that abound to experiencing the local culture. There was always something to do, and the best part was that I could do what I wanted to do. I also met many new friends who I consider just about family to me now. At the end of the week I was able to write my own chapter in this never-ending story, which will be read by the many generations of SUOCers to come.

So, if you are interested in attending this years’ West Virginia Trip, there is an informational meeting this Tuesday, February 13th at 7:30pm in the Hall of Languages (Room 207). The cost for the trip is $150, which covers the cabins, transportation down and back and all the gear you will need. For more information feel free to e-mail Suoc@mailbox.syr.edu.

All You Need Is A Dream And A Goal
In Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Carlos Rosales-Zelaya
Layout Editor Trainee

On Saturday, January 20th, Syracuse University hosted their annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in the Carrier Dome. Everyone that was able to come was guaranteed a good time with music and a very inspirational message. The keynote speaker this year was Chris Abani, a Nigerian Associate professor of Creative Writing from the University of California. He began his speech with a joke that had everyone picturing a sunny day at the beach as a personal favor because he was feeling cold.

In Chris Abani’s words, “Dr. Luther King Jr. was not only from the U.S. but a gift to the whole world as well.” He was a man committed to the freedom of African Americans, but what people forget the most is that he was, also, a man that fought for all matters of discriminations at the same time. Not only did he fight for the equality of African Americans, but he also fought for the civil rights of all human beings as well, including gender and sexual orientation. In Mr. Abani’s speech, he mentioned many characteristics that pertained to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; how he was a special person but not a perfect one either, and that the difference between King and others was his decision to act and take initiative in his life. “He did what he did because good people sat and did nothing,” he pointed out. “We must take action,” said Chris Abani, “and we must believe in what love and passion can achieve.”

Today’s world is filled with people that practice hate, guilt, prejudice and many other negative views. Chris Abani’s advice towards this injustice was to not let difference between our selves trigger hatred towards one another. “Difference is not a reason to hate each other,” he said. Another good point he made was that “we must reject guilt, because we always reject people with guilt.” In order to stop being identified with these practices, we must begin to think for ourselves with freedom and not with propaganda because “perhaps we are not slogans, but just people, and we are not evil.”

In his personal opinion, he said that “a way to end racism is by discussing it; the same way ex-president Bill Clinton attempted to do by trying to create a National Racial Debate.” All Chris Abani wanted from everyone was to leave “believing in goodness and in what you can do to change the world.” He invited everyone to “walk that Martin Luther King walk between others.” You can have a deep effect in the world if you try, just as Dr. King did. Martin Luther King Jr. was a special person, but he was not any different than anyone else in the world. All he had was a dream and a goal, and that is all you need to begin. According to Mr. Abani, Dr. King never thought he would have such a profound effect on the world as he did. Anyone else can do the same with any present problem we face, and one never knows how it may positively change the course of someone’s life. At the end of the celebration, he left by making us pledge our love and passion to someone that we did not know, which was all Martin Luther King Jr. tried to do in his life.
Students Shape the Future of the ESF Campus

Alison Ward and the GCI Contributing Writers

About a year ago, the Green Campus Initiative – ESF’s campus-greening student group – proposed the idea of installing a no-mow zone on campus. The idea was to create an area that would not require lawn mowing. It was a humble suggestion that aimed to decrease campus energy consumption through reduced lawn maintenance.

Since then, the project has gained support of key campus institutions. Physical Plant, the Campus Master Planning Committee, University Police, and the faculty of Environmental and Forest Biology, all came to the table with their suggestions and concerns, in an effort to make this project a success. The faculty of Landscape Architecture used the no-mow zone idea and turned it into a project for the third year Landscape Architecture students. These students researched, designed, and proposed plans for where and how no-mow zones could be included in our campus.

Last fall, the Landscape Architecture students presented their design ideas to students and faculty. Dozens of design proposals hung on the walls, and several students gave detailed presentations of their concepts. It was evident that the collaboration of the ESF community and the hard work of the Landscape Architecture students and faculty have taken the no-mow zone to a new level. It has evolved into an opportunity to let the campus of ESF reflect the values of ESF.

Designs included outdoor classrooms, areas of woodland and meadow, rain gardens, nature trails, and many other exciting possibilities. In addition to decreasing energy consumption, many of these designs allow for a variety of educational vegetation, so that the very plants that students learn about in the classroom would be growing right here on campus.

The Landscape Architecture Department made the design proposals available for all students and faculty to review and consider last fall. The designs were displayed in the in the hallway on the third floor of Marshall Hall. Any comments, concerns or suggestions can be sent to the Green Campus Initiative at ESFGCI@yahoo.com.

Some Composting Updates From Your Friends at GCI

Julia Morse
Contributing Writer

The Freshmen of Brewster Boland, being the awesome people that they are, have started composting at the dorms. There is now a GCI compost bucket located on each floor, which is emptied daily into our larger campus bin by student volunteers. So, if you live on one of these floors, look for your compost bin before you *gasp* throw away that apple core! Just remember, we have a vegan compost pile here at ESF – No cheese or meat please.

If you live in another dorm and are jealous that BB gets to compost and you don’t, you should probably come to a GCI meeting!

Not in the dorms, but still wishing you could compost? Not so sure your landlord would appreciate a pile of rotting veggies in the backyard? Bring your compost to campus! Our new and improved compost bin is just begging to be filled with all of our compostable waste. You can leave your compost in one of the buckets around campus (basement of Moon, Nilkin, etc.) Or you can check out the big bin up next to the old ESF greenhouses between Bray Hall and the Oakwood Cemetery.

And now a few words on the science of compost… There are four main factors to making good compost – microbes, moisture, oxygen and maintaining the correct balance between carbon and nitrogen. Getting the right mix of microbes is easy – they’re everywhere – if you create a good habitat for them, they’ll thrive and decompose your pile in no time. As for moisture, a good compost pile should be about 50-60% water. A good way to check this, if you don’t mind getting a bit messy is to squeeze a handful of compost – if it drips, your right on target. The composition of a compost pile also influences its rate of decomposition. For faster results, you need both a source of carbon, such as wood chips or dried leaves, as well as a source of nitrogen such as grass clippings and vegetation or kitchen waste. The carbon/nitrogen ratio of the compost should be roughly 30/1. Too much nitrogen will cause the pile to become too hot, killing all of the indispensable microbes that do your decomposing. Too little will cause the pile to be too cold and decompose very slowly. Cornell University has created a web page explaining complicated equations for composters who need to create the conditions listed above and are looking to get optimal performance from their compost piles… The ordinary composter will get by just fine by making a pile, letting it sit, adding some leaves and turning the pile once in a while to aerate it. But… if mind boggling calculations are your thing (or you just want an informative site about compost) check out http://www.css.cornell.edu/compost/Composting_Homepage.html.

Looking for something new to do this semester? Come to a GCI meeting! Thursdays @ 7:00 pm in Nilkin Hallway on the third floor of Marshall Hall.
It seems as though alcohol is an escape for many college students. While a number of us choose not to drink and an even greater number of us drink in moderation, I feel as though the ones who drink in excess are the ones that draw the most attention. Is it the stories of crazy parties, random hook-ups, proud moments, not-so-proud moments, dangerous encounters, or a combination of several (or all) that widens the outsiders’ eyes and ears? To some people, binge drinking in college is looked upon as standard or even as a right of passage into adulthood. To others, binge drinking in college is seen as a growing problem that needs some serious attention. Whatever your stance is on the subject, Smashed is an awesome book that explores one woman’s journey through a drunken girlhood.

Bringing the subject close to home, Koren Zailckas writes not only about her early teen years in Massachusetts, but delves into her life story as a student at Syracuse University. She takes us for a bumpy ride along frat row, Marshall Street, and even some Euclid area house parties. She writes about fun and crazy times, and matches them with more than a few awful and scary moments. While reading the book, there were all too many instances where I thought to myself: Wow, that sounds familiar!? And, when I made my friend read the book during our travels through Europe, she would often look up at me and say things along the lines of: “Oh my God, did I ever tell you about the time that happened to me?” or “Shit, I’ve been down that road before.” Whether you are straight-edge or are in the process of attending weekly AA meetings, this book is a great read. It is inspirational as well as entertainingly funny as it is sad.

With winter break (and finally some time to breathe!) fast approaching, I encourage you to read this book. It’s an easy read, but the insight you may gain can be invaluable. If you are one of those people who thinks that you will cut down on drinking once you leave college, you may want to put this book at the top of your reading list. Zailckas not only lets us in on her worst of times, but also gives us a glimpse into what may be the beginning of her best times. Smashed quickly became one of my favorites and could easily become one of yours.
The Tip of the Iceberg

Conversations with a Turtle
By Liz Kaczynski

Swimming, diving
Through the underwater forest
Seeking, hiking
Summing and sliding

Floating, hunting
There for a moment
Kicking, breathing
Searching for something

Do you ever wonder?
Where you are?
What your doing?
Why the currents push you under?

Sleep on a log
In the sun all day
In the lake, In the stream
In my pond, In the bog

And when you see me
And your head pokes in
Do you know what I am?
Why I’ve come?
Where I’ve been?

And do you know,
That I, like you
Am loving your home
From inside my canoe

Hey Fans of Stumpy Feelings!
After a loong break stumpy feelings is back for your enjoyment!

Kristy is going to try to put it in the DO, but she is looking to change the title of the strip! Any Ideas, shoot her an e-mail at Klblakel@syr.edu
Lighthouse International is offering 2007 Scholarship Awards for students who are legally blind. Applications are available in the ESF Financial Aid Office or at www.lighthouse.org/scholarships. Letters of recommendation and an essay are required. Application deadline is March 2, 2007.

Spend your spring Break in West Virginia!

With SUOC for $150!!!!!!! it is the cheapest spring break on campus

Informational Meeting is February 13, 2007 at 7:30 in room 207 in the Hall of Languages.

Looking for Additional Assistance with Education Expenses?
The Beverly Whaley Scholarship
Sponsored by the Women of the University Community
Available for Academic Year 2007-2008

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 7, 2007 and are available in the ESF Development Office, 214 Bray Hall.
Syracuse University Outing Club Presents:

Banff Mountain Film Festival
Tuesday, February 20th 7pm
GRANT Auditorium
$6 Undergrad/ $10 General Public
Tickets at Schine Box Office or at EMS in Fayetteville
Club Meetings:

The Knothole Thursday at 8pm in B9 Marshall hall
Woodsmen Team meets every Monday and Thursday at 6:45pm at the green houses behind Bray hall
Society of American Foresters meets every Monday at 5:15 in 212 Marshall Hall
Syracuse University Outing Club meets every Tuesday at 7:30 in 207 Hall of Languages
Green Campus Initiative meets every Thursday at 7:00pm in Nifkin Lounge
Creative Minds meets Tuesdays @ 5pm @ Illick 11.
ESF Acapella meets most Saturdays @ 4pm in Nifkin lounge.
USA (Undergraduate Student Association) meets every Monday at 5:15pm in Nifkin Lounge.
Syracuse Animal Rights Organization: Thursdays, 11/30, 12/7, 7PM, Room 421, Hall of Languages

Get your weekly dose of vitamin BRAIN! Drop in at the ESF Peer Tutoring Sessions:

- Zoology: Mondays 6-8pm in 109 Moon
- Calculus: Tuesdays 5-7pm in 109 Moon
- General Chemistry II: Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm in 109 Moon
- English as a second language: TBA

For more information, to request 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