The President's Report

Bob Houseman
Iowa State University
The "purpose" for an organization is one of the most important arm-holds for establishment, and without this purpose set down clearly in the minds of all persons, an organization lacks reason for its own existence. Once we all become aware of this fact, and a purpose is determined, then the paths to progress and achievement can be more easily conquered. To those working closely with the club, this becomes quite clear in regards to our own activities, but to those that are new or unassociated with the group, further explanation is required.

The Forestry Club is often referred to as being a very unified group of people (in logger's terms—unsplit). We are also one of the closest and more active groups found on the ISU campus. This is largely attributed to the Club establishing within itself a place where people from all walks of life can come and join together in a common effort to share their own talents, learn from others, and be as expressive as they desire. Yes, our purpose is to promote both an inward and outward growth that for at least nine months of each year is never less than dynamic. (In fact, ISU Foresters are well known around the country for bringing this type of enthusiasm into their summer and permanent jobs.)

One hundred student members may not sound like many when you think of the student population at ISU, or maybe even your own home town, but put that many together into a close-knit, working organization that strives toward similar interests and goals and you have an explosively moving unit. This is what the ISU Forestry Club has been, is, and will continue to be.

There have been many students whose devotion to the club has required many hours away from their scholastic requirements, but the rewards attached to the social and human interaction have more than made up for a few lower grades. This, to me, is equally important in our four years of obtaining a college education, as is building a strong scholastic foundation. Personally, I have received from the members of the Forestry Club a tremendously warm and encouraging feeling regarding my position as President and representative for the Club.

I also wish to extend a commendation to the forestry faculty for their efforts at strengthening the communications between themselves and the students. We have one of the most unique forestry schools in the country because there exists this excellence of rapport, where the professors actually want to work with undergraduate students, rather than concentrate solely on research, and where a direct line of contact is maintained between the students and faculty through the club President. Within the College of Agriculture this remains a novelty shared by few other club organizations. Also, these efforts bring forth the personal touch of professionalism to our education and growth as budding foresters.

No, I have not neglected the club achievements of this year by any means, but to list them inclusively would require another few pages. However, let me add that financially, organizationally, and spiritually, these achievements were a result of hard work and excellent leadership on the part of our committee chairmen. Without their consistent leadership and creativity, the Club could not be at the level of success that it is today.

As you view the Ames Forester, keep in mind that what you read and see is the artistic overview of a very successful and wonderful year. Often, when a painting or drawing is completed and the artist puts aside his brush, the lines and figures all tie together to bring forth that very special meaning. Then other viewers come along and miss it completely, mostly because they are not aware of the artist's purpose.

I hope that this brief collection of thoughts will help bring to you our purpose and our inner drives so that the meaning of the Club's final art piece (Ames Forester) will not be lost.

Creative Club executives at work.

Speaking out at the Club meetings.

Foresters don't always study.