



Local, Historical, Print: Situating New Student Writers on Campus

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Introduction

This collaboration between a librarian and a writing instructor aimed to present the various forms, modes, and channels through which student writers share their voices on campus.

The project took place in two sections of Writing 105, the first in a required research & writing sequence most undergraduates take in their first year.

One instructional unit, *Analyzing Discourse and Community*, had students explore what their roles as writers on campus might be—as expressed in the various student publications, both historical and contemporary, circulated at SU.

Library Sessions

We planned sessions in the library to introduce students to the "dominant" discourses on campus (the *Daily Orange*, the *Onondagan*) as well as various "unofficial" student publications.



The Onondagan, 1944

We spent each class period browsing, reading, & noticing events, themes, links, & surprises among the materials.

Through interaction with these print materials, students worked out topics for their own writing and developed ideas of where they might locally engage as writers.

Students also encountered the tensions involved in access to campus histories and counter-histories, & the various ways these are represented in the library.

««*The Daily Orange* is itself available in a variety of formats.

Finding Focus

As we were observing and discussion the print materials, students were asked to identify local discourses, and phenomena, that resonated with their (brief) experience at SU. Many students were prompted towards questions by the the local advertisements

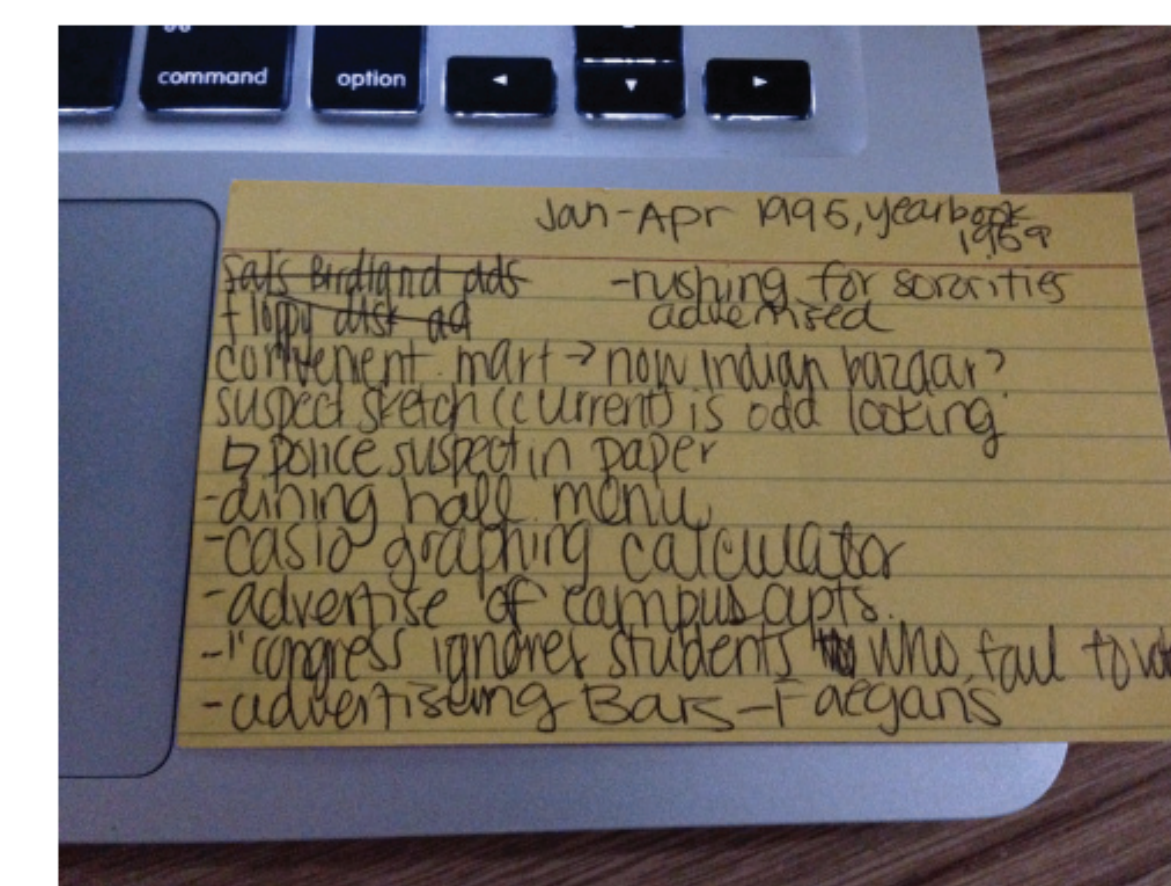


The Daily Orange, 1984

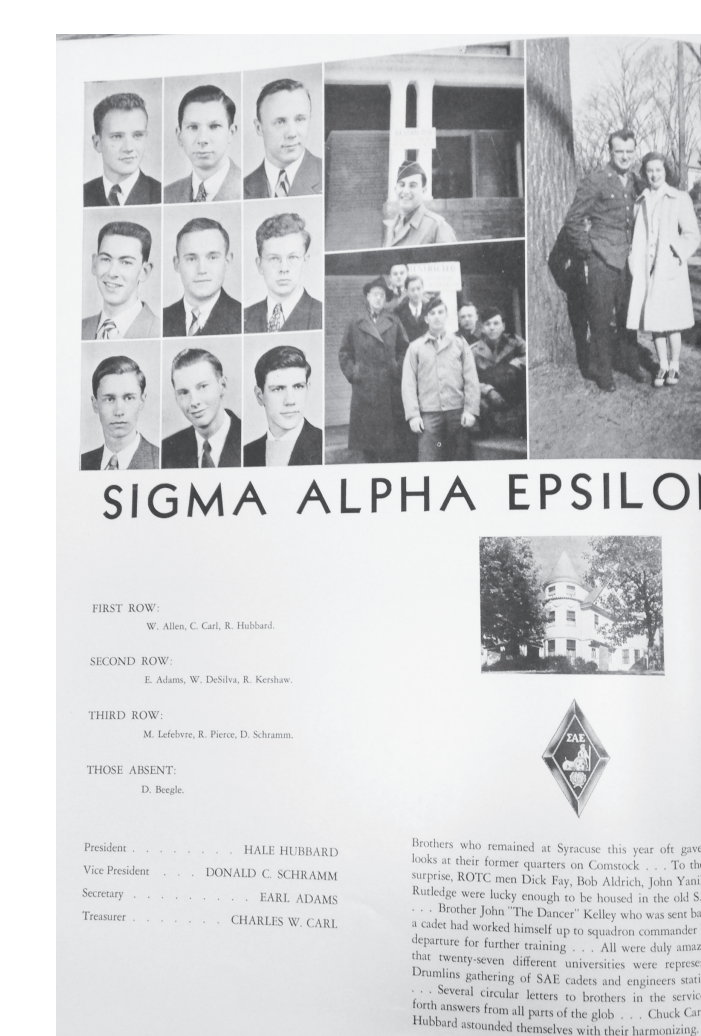
Some were drawn to the shifting Fraternity & Sorority imagery presented in the different eras, forms, and for different audiences.



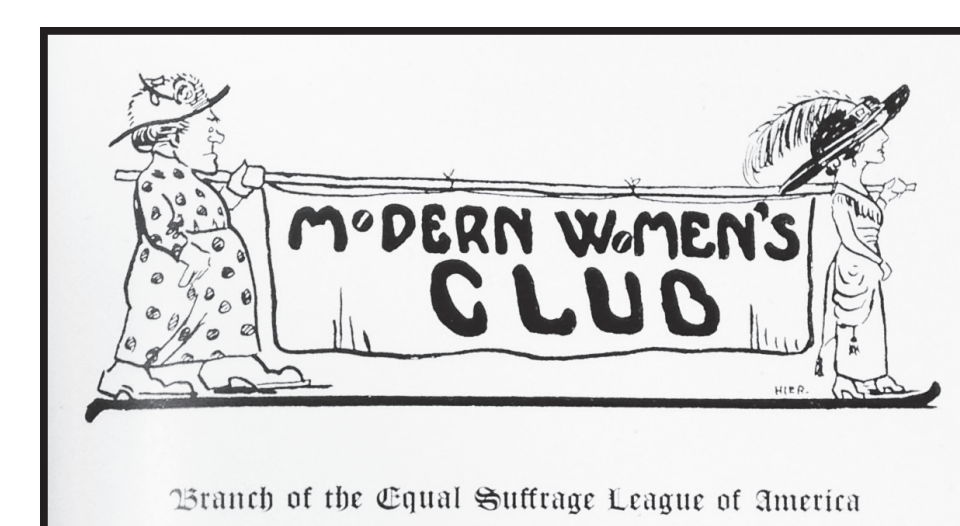
The Onondagan, 1914



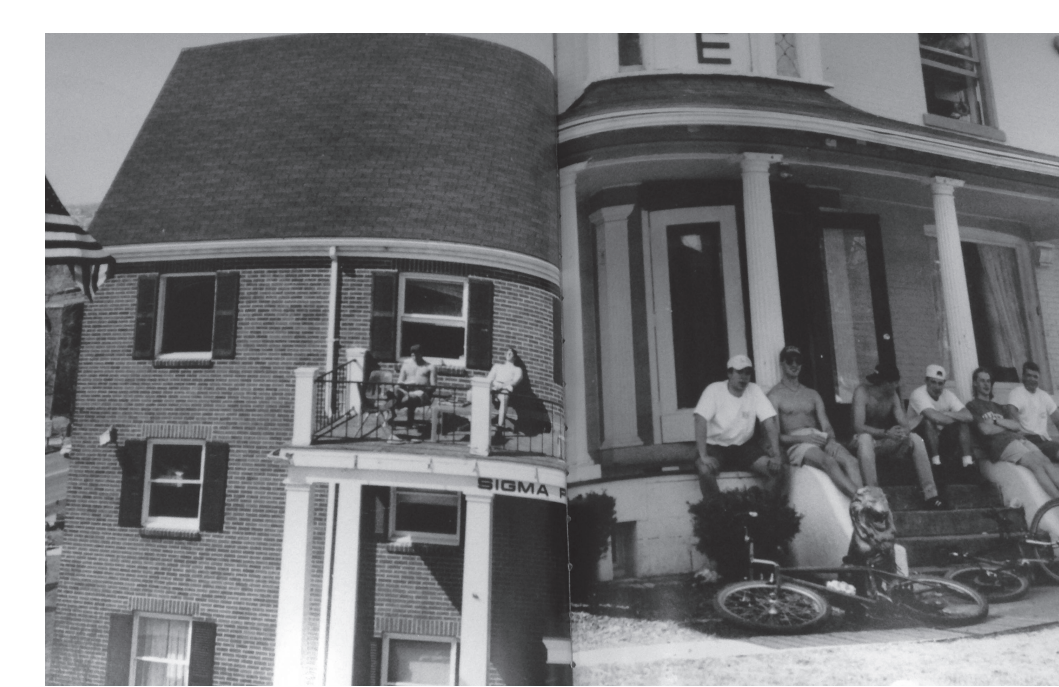
Student notes



The Onondagan, 1944



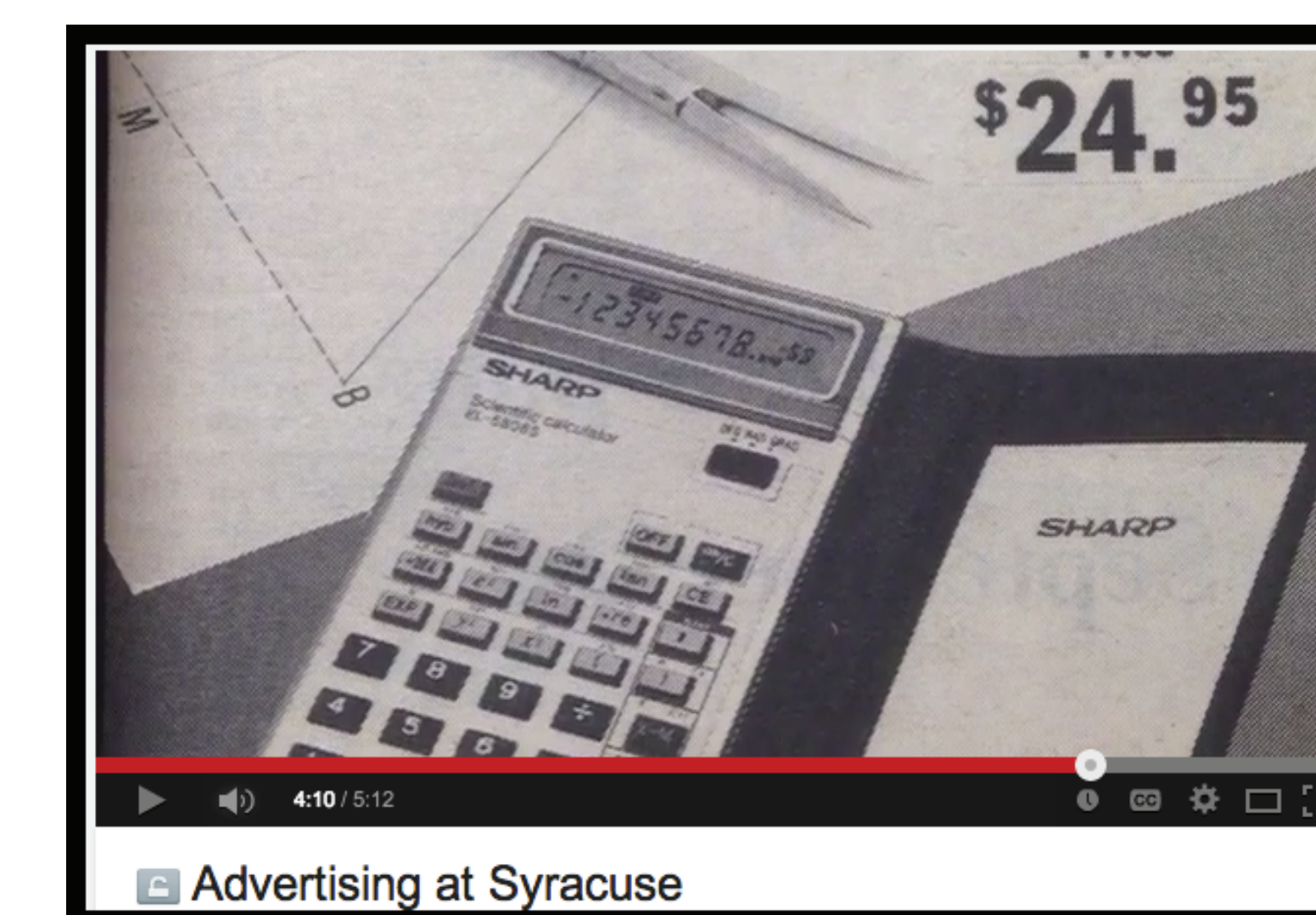
The Onondagan, 1914



The Onondagan, 1994

Student Work

Students found sustained attention to the material & contextual concerns of these publications critical in understanding how to identify gaps and connections among different discourses.



Student video: Advertising at Syracuse

A goal of the assignment was for students engage with issues of diversity and community, and investigate power and difference shape rhetorical acts. We hoped the historical materials would help students to make meaning out of difference, to grasp the complexity of issues and experiences, and to avoid the impulse to reject the unfamiliar.



Student Prezi: Greek Life: Real vs. Stereotypes

Triumphs & Challenges

This project taught us new ways to develop and focus student attention on locally situated writing in preparation for rhetorical, ecological work.

We were surprised by...

Students' ability to see connections or discrepancies--where attention is focused and where it is not--looking across these materials.

Students' understanding of the different purposes student writing serves on a campus like ours.

We struggled with...

Rather than sticking to the familiar (which many students did), some students were instead fascinated by the discordant photographs and advertisement rather than the contexts & issues they allude to.

Given the limited time and materials, students were unable to deeply dig into and explore particular issues during the library sessions. Few utilized the full compliment of tools available. In the future, we would curate the materials more heavily to better model tracing a narrative.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES Where to find *The Daily Orange* in the library

Depending on the date of the issues you're looking for, you have several options for locating back issues of the *Daily Orange*. If you can zero in on an important date or event you should be able to find at least one representation of it in the DO issues following that day.

Bound volumes of print issues, with advertisements
Bird-4th Floor, Oversize Flat; Call Number: LH1.58.59
These are the big bound books of old issues we looked at in class. They include advertisements, color images, and are browseable in order of issue publication date.

Current Stories back to mid-2000s with Reader Comments
<http://www.dailyorange.com/>
This is the general DO website, you can find stories by searching, but it is difficult to get a sense of news in context beyond the current week.

Text of the Daily Orange (no images) from 1997 - Present
via Lexis-Nexis: <http://goo.gl/3DmoZl>
Lexis-Nexis is one of our largest Newspaper Databases; you have to a little extra to limit to the DO. Enter search terms and type Daily Orange in the Or by Source Title box.

On Microfilm, 1903-2006
Bird-Microfilm, 3rd Floor; Call Number: Microfilm 4854
Microfilm includes images and advertisements in context, but they are only available in high-contrast black and white. Here's a video on how to use microfilm, but feel free to ask for help on the 3rd Floor: <http://goo.gl/vd6wM7>

Daily Orange Summer Supplement 1992-2001
Bird-4th Floor, Oversize Flat; Call Number: LH1.58.593
Bird-Microfilm, 3rd Floor; Microfilm 4855
Summer issues in print and microfilm.

Contact Patrick: pwill@su-ny.edu; 443-9520
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Get news and updates: librarian-blog.syr.edu/pwilliams/
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Session handout