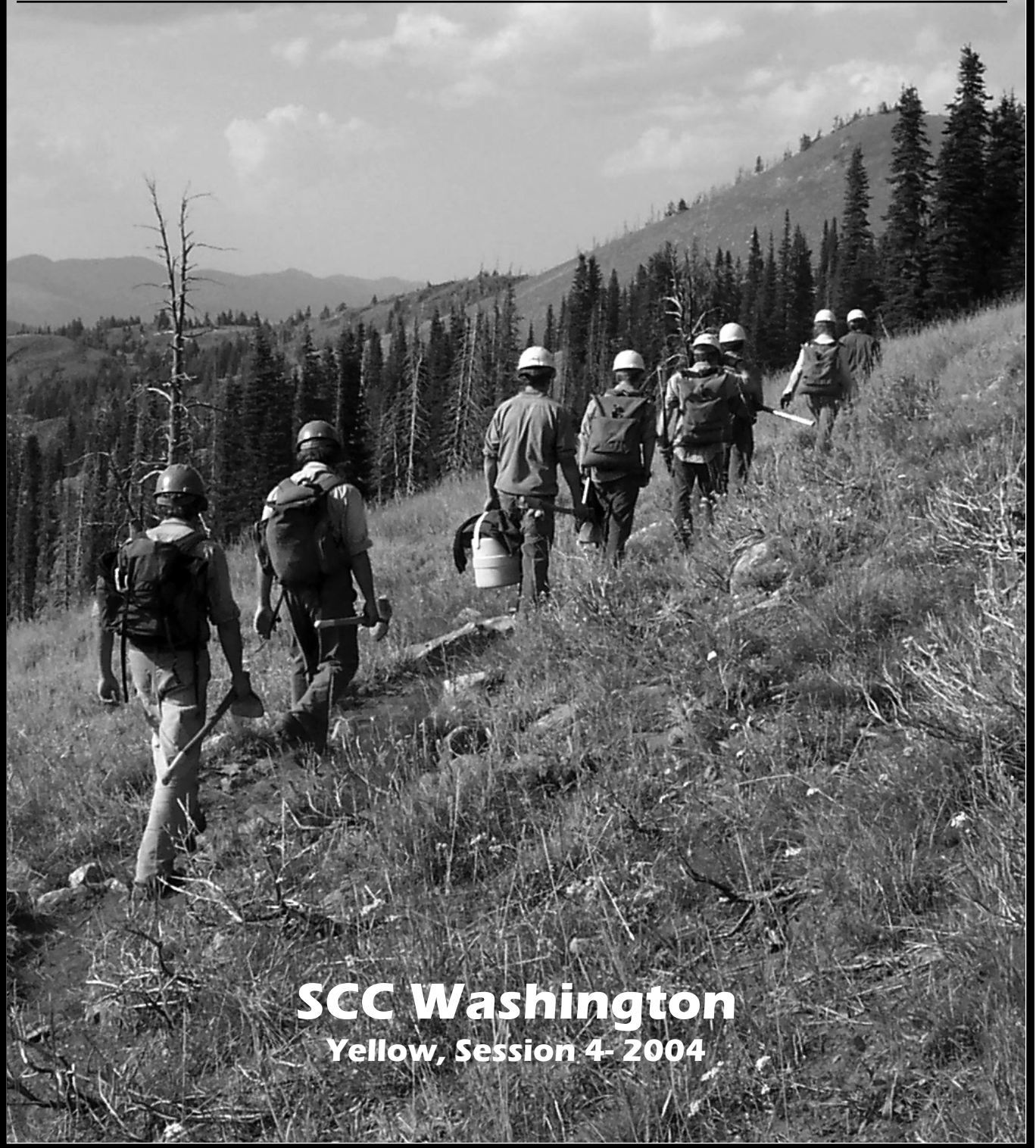




# Crew Journal



**SCC Washington**  
**Yellow, Session 4- 2004**



Hey Hey Hey! It's that time of year again. All the vans have been washed and vacuumed, all the tents have been patched, all the tools sharpened and put away, and we have finally caught up on all those short nights and long summer days of little rest and hard trail dawgin'! It's time once again to sit back, reflect on the season and start recounting the tales of adventure and hardship that you'll someday tell your grandkids. I hope this journal reminds you of the wicked hard days the awe inspiring vistas and the seemingly endless supply of pasta and trio-sauce. I hope that it takes you back to campfire stories and ice-cold creeks and that break in the rain that seemed like a holiday! We've typed out the scribbles lain down at the end of all those long days by worn out hands aching from swinging a tool and copied some of the dazzling images drawn up by the artists of the bunch. To anyone else who hasn't lived outside for over a month, done safety circle before dawn, done the push-up challenge, or chugged a gallon of vesper, these notes might not seem like much. But I hope that for those of you who know, that these entries can serve as a small key for unlocking memories that will stay with you for a lifetime. And I'm not just referring to memories of smelly vans, blistered feet and poison oak rashes. Sure that's all part of the gig, but it's the shared hardships that bring people together and forge memories and good friends, great achievements incredible places.

Thank you for taking on the adventure of NYC this season. With your commitment, courage and hard work NYC crews have left a lasting legacy. While you were slogging through the woods, huddling around the fire, seeking any type of moisture available, sharpening pulaskis, or finishing the last remnants of a too-large meal; up to twenty-one other crews were doing the same things across Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Northern California. The work completed by NYC crews went farther than ever before, pleased a record number of project sponsors, helped out the natural areas and communities in the Northwest, and, most importantly, . . . showed the general public that teens are responsible enough to complete a hard job with style!

As you embark on your next adventure, whatever it may be, remember the things you did here. Remember the challenges you faced and that nothing is impossible. All you need is a fistful of gorp, a PB&J and some good friends in your bump line. Make it happen!

Best Wishes,

Billy Scrafford



**National Forest or area that the work took place Malheur  
Ranger District Malheur  
Project Name- Sheep Creek Trail Relocation**

Week 1: Date

Monday: This weekend everyone met for the first time. Everyone went through a few rotations to find out what this is all about and finish getting everything together. Then we drove for Ever and tried (successfully) to set up camp before a thunder-storm hit. Then we ate PB & J and went to bed. Allyx M

Monday: This weekend we had our "Time Outs" as Paige called it. For 8 hours we were, well, most were, alone. We started work on Sunday, so we don't work on Friday. We ate Ramen.  
Ryan E.

Tuesday: We are in the Malheur National Forest digging new tread on the Sheep Creek Trail. So that people and perhaps their horses too can venture into this pretty forest without having to trip over rocks and logs! Laura

Wednesday: This week our crew has been bustin out new trail in the Malheur National Forest. We have been working well as a crew, and seem to be getting better. Since it is Thursday, or

basic goal for the week is to complete the last stretch of our trail, while still controlling the quality of our work. The week is almost over and soon we will be going to the weekend sight. I will be able to by some chocolate milk. Luke

Thursday: This week our crew learned how to cut new tread. We learned how to use a bump line efficiently. We learned what tools are which and how to use them. We had to overcome many problems. Our crew has become more together as on great big family, but will definitely become better. Ryan

Friday: Challenges our group faced this week were varied first we lost one of our crew members. That was hard for most of us. Not only did we loose a friend but we gained extra work hours. Although that was a downfall we all worked together and tried our hardest to complete our trail task. It taught us that we need everyone in our crew to complete things better and faster. Another challenge we had was attitude some of us became negative and it released negativity throughout everyone. It makes us not work as a good team so we got less done. Most people held in feelings. We did accomplish something out of it, change of attitude. We had a discussion and let out our emotions and issues so it brought us all back together like a family again, and the nest few days our happiness, and trail work improved. Paige W.

**National Forest or area that the work took place Ochoco**  
**Ranger District Paulina**  
**Project Name- Black Canyon Creek**

Week 2: Date

Monday: Friday we got done with work at around 11:30 we packed up and all then went to weekend site. Some people went to a ravine some people went to a park. On Sunday my crew hiked in 3 ½ miles camped out then hiked one more mile because we thought we needed to work over there but then we found out that we hiked back to our first campsite and that was Monday night. Yvonne P.

Tuesday: This week yellow crew is in Black Canyon. We are rehabilitating the Black Canyon Creek Trail. The trail has a lot of mucky spots and intruding plants, but yellow crew is fixing all that. We're making our drain ditches so armored that even the wild cows can walk through without mucking up the trail. Laura

Wednesday: In order to achieve something we need to know what it is we are trying to achieve. Goals are important for people to have because they help keep people on track and they give people something to look forward to. Everyone's goals are different, & sometimes the harder it takes to reach them, the more meaningful it is to achieve them. Our crew members all had similar and different goals for ourselves. Some people have overcome some already. Completing a goal can build character and confidence. Our crew as a whole has goals. Some of them are completing all our tasks we are getting paid to do, becoming like a family, growing stronger, better teamwork, and improvement for everything we do. It we all focus on the goals we need to complete we will be stronger, more confident, and we will reach points to where we set even higher goals for ourselves. We must never forget goals and making them, because if we did forget them we nay miss out on becoming better people, and we won't know our limits. Paige W.

Thursday: This week our crew learned a lot. We built awesome creek armors, we built rock walls to support the trails & we got to use new tools like weed whips and cross cuts. The weed whips were usually first to go. Some of us even learned that we could surpass what we thought our limits were. The End. Allyx

Friday: One of the hardest challenges our crew faced was working hard, and then walking the short distance to camp. That got harder to trek once we worked farther and farther away from the camp. We over came that challenge by encouraging our team mates. And to tell our selves that we could make it. We also accomplished a lot of work. We are proud of how our work will last for five to ten years, and tat the work will be shared by people and animals alike. Brandy L.

**National Forest or area that the work took place Wenatchee National Forest  
Ranger District Leavenworth  
Project Name- Little Grant**

Week 3: Date

Monday: This weekend our crew went up to Washington. The drive took about nearly eight hours. The long drive ended at Leavenworth where the rest of the crews were visiting. The rest of the weekend was good; we went to a lake and enjoyed our free time that we got. The weekend was short and soon enough we were back on the road, to couture the (cant' read) we were set out on. Luke O.

Tuesday: Yellow crew is about 40 min northwest of Leavenworth, Washington; we are on The Little Giant Trail. This is only the second day & I can tell that after 2 weeks of Brushing, the work May get monotonous. Hah! Our brushing skills will only be exceeded by our new found hiking ability. Our hike to & from work increases every day. Our team seems to defy gravity as the mountain gets steeper & steeper. Yet we charge on through this Beautiful Area, listening to the sound of moving water, panting breath, or animal calls. We all learned the fierceness of the wild kittens, moose, and monkeys in the woods. We have done a few drain dips but mostly "hike the brush." At camp, the foods been well, one pool party, & soon we will have a poetry reading mimicking the beat era. In conclusion, "I lop 2 branches in the morning, I lop 2 branches at night, I lop 2 branches in the afternoon, and it makes me feel alright..." Candy

Wednesday: I mentioned in another entry that goals are important. No lies about that. We all are trying to be a family we have succeeded in doing so. All of us laugh together, we got each others backs. Through thick and thin we will prevail as a team. I love my crew, they love me, & we all love each other. We spend our waking & sleeping hours together and we challenge each other and get along. We are now tight, in love, peaceful and dependent on each other. Indeed we are a family. We have more goals, like physical ones, & mental ones we have achieved some & soon to be achieving many. Our crew rocks and we will dominate in overcoming all of our goals. Paige W.

Thursday: Over the past week our crew has learned a lot about work technique and each other. We've had to be more technical in our brushing (watch that 10 foot corridor; saw it down to the ground!) and the hike up to the worksite is brutally steep in some places. On that note, we

learned a new addition to our name this week: “with tight butts.” However, we’ve also had to learn to persevere in other ways as we lose two crew members. It’s hard, but it seems to serve as a sort of evolutionary process for the crew as a whole; we are finally a tight, solid group and it can only get better from here on even if we have to work more hours. I think next week will be a good one. Justin M. (intro by Allyx)

Friday: This week we lost 2 of our crew members. One quit on Wednesday, her name is Brandy. She left at a really critical time for us because we were trying to get in a good amount of hours. Thursday Stephen quit. That was another challenge because we have to make up his and Brandy’s hours. We are accomplishing a lot by working for the maximum amount of time that we can. All of our hard work is paying off. The trail we worked on looks way better and it had a nice finished look. Today we hiked for about 7 miles. It was a strenuous hike and the last 2 ½ miles or so was up hill. It was a challenge to get to the top, but all of us made it and we were all happy when we finally reached our set destination. I’d like to say that our crew is awesome and we can accomplish any challenge that comes our way. Paige W.

**National Forest or area that the work took place – Wenatchee Nat’l Forest  
Ranger District- Levensworth  
Project Name-PCT Detour Boulder Creek Trail**

Week 4: Date

Monday: This weekend we had our “Time Outs” as Paige called it. For 8 hours we were, well, most were, alone. We started work on Sunday, so we don’t work on Friday. We ate Ramen.  
Ryan E.

Tuesday: We are at Boulder Pass trail this week in Wenatchee National Forest. We are having a good time. It is very beautiful here, especially the white River. It’s like a turquoise color. We are doing brushing. Lopping and sawing. Moving some rocks. We have some excellent loppers (ehem), and great sawyer. We had to restobe in the beginning of the week, and midway we got to our own stuff. We were all happy to see our accomplishments so far. The reason we have to do brushing is because there is overgrowth in the way of the trail in the winter it snows heavily. Some people with horses or just hikers might be in danger with snow making trees hang over because the snow may fall hard on them. Also, someone riding on a horse may not have enough upper room. We have talked with a lot of hikers and all of them are thankful to us for our work. And we are glad to make other people enjoy things more.  
Paige W.

Wednesday: Crews’ goals for this week? Our crew’s goals for this week are to have a positive mental attitude (PMA), by making animal noises, like cows, pigs, donkeys, roosters, yetis. Whales, monkeys, etc.) We do the noises every work day from around 8:00am to about 2:00pm. It is very uplifting and motivational. We also talk very much a lot and loudly, sometimes we yell for about 20 seconds. One other goal we have is to try to be working when break ends, instead of just getting up when break ends. By Yvonne P.

Wednesday: Today was a grand day. Our crew finished up our brushing, while Brenna and I busted out 125 feet at the new trail. It took a while to complete this task because only two of us were working on this project. After work we busted back to camp as quietly as possible to take everything down. After

camp was packed, we started down the trail to the van. The hike was about 6 miles., I enjoyed it. When we arrived we packed up the trailers, so we wouldn't have to do it in the morning. All in all, it was a great day. Luke O.

Friday: Our crew had dull saws and loppers because this was our second week in a row brushing. Another challenge was the hike out. The 7 mile hike included 3 miles of switchbacks, but no one on our crew was fazed – we all made it in good time. On Wednesday we decided to hike to the Pass after work. It took a little time to get there, but the view was gratifying. The bees in our kitchen were plentiful; this challenged many people's nerves. Our crew hiked out of the backcountry in 3 hours after work on Thursday – an awesome accomplishment. Laura

**National Forest or area that the work took place - Wenatchee  
Ranger District - Leavenworth  
Project Name- Indian Creek Trail**

Week 5: Date

Monday: We had to move our weekend site because of a level 3 evacuation notice. We, “the Blood Thirsty Hoard of Yellow Fire Breathing Dragons of Death and Destruction... with Tight Butts”, made awesome BBQ chicken with real mashed potatoes and salad. We had a fashion show. Luke was a cowboy, and Laura was an Indian. Ryan E.

Tuesday: This week we have a few projects. We built an awesome turnpike yesterday. Today we are brushing; we will brush a lot and make some reroutes. We are currently in Wenatchee National Forest in the North Cascade. GO CAS-CADES!!!!!! Allyx M.

Wednesday: Our crew's goals for this week are to enjoy our last week together as much as we can. We also want to prove to ourselves that all the weeks of work have paid off and we can do all our work in precision and excellence. So far it has been pouring raining this week. It has kinda brought the mood down, but we are still enjoying being with each other. Hopefully, all of us keep with us everything that we learned and experienced, when it is time to go. Altogether, we have reached many goals. We are just so super awesome! GO us! Paige W.

Thursday: Today was like a peanut butter & jelly sandwich: soggy but good. The rain lightened up, it merely sprinkles. It was clouded over, but we saw a good amount of blue in the sky. The morning was quiet, but soon enough we ere lopping and laughing, having a good ol' time. It was our last full day of work and everyone seems excited for the future.

TOMORROW: we work. We hike. We drive. We go home. It's awesome!... that I got to spend time with such amazing people! Candy V.

Friday: Week five has crept upon us this day and we have experienced/learned so much in the past five weeks. We've been through all the stages that NYC is known for (forming, storming, norming and performing), but for the most part I've never had a crew [that would be] so optimistic when it has rained, gotten cold and dreary. This crew has so many interesting and funny stories to tell to

their families, such as: Brenna and I being chased by a Mother cow, all the crazy animal noises this crew has made-monkey, wolf, yeti, whale, etc. Every time someone on this crew said something spontaneous or on the spot, everyone was laughing so hard. Those are the good times. This crew came a very long way. I remember that near the beginning of this session we were very uncommunicative, but now we know each other's ways of communicating and we can get through to each other much better. We definitely get on each other's nerves still to this day but it is only for a minute these days. Everyone gets into quitting the argument and it just blows away with the wind. We've accomplished so much this session, so much that I cannot explain it all. Sincerely, Yvonne P.

### ***My Most Challenging Day At NYC Was...***

The most challenging day for me here at NYC was the last week - Wednesday, trying to get out of my warm sleeping bag, put on wet cloths and work all day in the cold rain. But the days rewarded us with beautiful sun on Friday. Yvonne P.

I had a hard hike up some switchbacks. No biggie. Candy V.

Same here - those switchbacks sucked! Justin M.

No particular day sticks out as being hard; I guess the first day was just because I was nervous and didn't know anyone yet. Laura

It rained last Tuesday: I became wet. Luke O.

Hiking up the switchbacks with our packs was hard! Allyx M.

The very first hike. Yea, I was last and I was slow. But look now, I'm rad, I'm quick, I'm sly, and if you mess with me, I'll poke your eye. Paige W.

My most challenging day was our first Friday, trying to pack the van. Ryan E.

### *My Three Favorite NYC Experiences Were...*

Three favorite NYC experiences for me were being chased by a "mother protecting her baby" cow. Another would be backpacking (backcountry) in Ochoco National Forest. The landscaping was outstanding (like a desert) and working in the rain for 3 days straight. It was a memorable time. Yvonne P.

They occurred everyday: breakfast, lunch and dinner. Candy V.

- The Mud Fight
- Doing rockwork
- "Cockroaching"

Justin M.

- Being close to Rocky Mountains and moss all the time
  - Hiking mile after mile
- Lopping in the rain

Laura

- \* Backcountry living
- \* Time spent after work
- \* Each night, about 5 minutes before I went to sleep

Luke Orr

- \*Doing rockwork
- \*Solo time
- \*The amazing scenery

Allyx M.

LOPPING!!!! I am a professional lopper these days. Everyone knows that I dominate. I totally found my true love and passion. Oh, and the van rides. Especially when I drink my rock stars! I just know how sad everyone would be without me and my rock star drinking. I sing annoyingly and give wet willies! You know you want one!

Lastly, I love drinking water. JK! I liked spending quality time with my crew, being L.O.D., beating them up and getting dreads, so that I can be a ghetto hippie. Paige W.

- Seeing the rattle snake was sweet!
- Having 8 hours of chill out time and eating Salmon berries.

Being able to dry out next to the fire after a wet day at work. Thanks to Rusty!!

Ryan E.

*One Thing I Will Always Remember...*

I will always remember that politely speaking your mind is healthier for you than getting frustrated and angry. Yvonne P.

The freedom of relieving yourself in the rain. Candy V.

The Fashion Show Justin M

The names and properties of the plants I learned about. Laura

Working in the rain and enjoying it. Luke O.

The beauty of everything I saw Allyx M.

Remembering stuff takes a lot of mind power. I think stepping on a rattle snake will stick in my mind. The tree song that Candy and I made up. It is awesome not having to wash my hair. Peeing outside in the rain is wet. Paige W.

Being wet and not caring. Ryan E.

### ***From Now On I Will Always...***

I will always be patient and explain something to someone in a patient, "easy to understand" way. Yvonne P.

Keep from complaining. I also will only take a shower once or twice a week. Candice V.

Appreciate TP. Justin M.

Shower less and hike more. Laura

Try and break things apart, when thinking in my head. Luke O.

Appreciating showers, toilets and cafeteria food... Allyx M.

I'll never stop making people laugh, I'll drink rock stars, sleep outside, and most of all, I will always be a ghetto hippie and will keep talking to my awesome coworkers! Paige W.

Refrain from eating Top Ramen with trail spices, or jus eating Ramen altogether. Ryan E.

### ***At NYC I Learned...***

I learned from NYC when to have and when not to have patience, which was very hard for me. Another thing is ways to communicate to others in a fashion that everyone will get it - which is hard as well. And the importance of speaking up your mind (cautiously), when something is frustrating for me (like, when I need to say "do your dishes"): I need to say it instead of just getting frustrated and doing it myself. Yvonne P.

That there are some AmeriCorp programs that I would enjoy and that I should apply for some. Candy V.

Nothing sticks out in my mind. I've done all this stuff too many times before.  
Justin M.

I learned about job opportunities that I did not know existed - like AmeriCorp and trail crews. I also learned that I don't ever need to wash my face. I learned that working hard and being dirty is fun. Laura

I love the forest and the mountains. Luke O.

- How to cooperate and get along with 10 people for 5 weeks.
  - How to build a turnpike
- Lots of good jokes.

Allyx M.

I learned that bees aren't scary that much anymore. Laura can make cool things. Luke is mean and dangerous. Justin is good with words. Ryan had a cute laugh and can brighten my day. Yvonne can eat a lot. Candy is ward at sleep time. And Allyx looks like Helen (HAHA) and she is awesome for always sticking by my side. Paige.

I learned a lot! GORP means 'good old raisins and peanuts!' Ryan E.

