NSF AWARDS $120,433 to EVERGREEN ESSENTIA PROJECT...The National Science Foundation's Division of Pre-College Education in Science has awarded a $120,433 grant to Evergreen for continuation of Essentia, a project designed to provide new instructional approaches in the natural and social sciences. The Essentia project, originally entitled Environmental Studies for Urban Youth, began five years ago in Boulder, Colorado under sponsorship of the American Geological Institute. The project, including its director, Robert Samples, and four other staff members, moved to Evergreen last summer.

Created and conceived by classroom teachers, the project has been tested and utilized nationwide in classrooms from kindergarten through high school, and more than one million students have used Essentia-developed materials since the project began in 1968.

FIRST INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL PLANNED...The first International Computer Film Festival will be held at Evergreen March 7, 8, and 9, and will feature many of the major computer films and filmmakers from throughout the United States. Richard Speer, director of the festival, said the three-day event is free and open to the public. Afternoons will feature lectures and seminars by computer filmmakers, and evenings will feature three-hour film showings, with each night devoted to a different subfield of the medium. March 7 films will be educational; March 8, artistic; and March 9, technical/scientific.

Speer, a former Evergreen student, says computer films were first developed in the late 1950s and are defined as "any film which contains footage animated, generated or containing graphic material manipulated by a computer." He and Frankie Foster, an Evergreen student who is assisting with the festival, won a national film award for a five-minute artistic computer movie they made last year. The two initiated the three-day festival to "increase public awareness about the field of computer filmmaking and to dispel some of the myths surrounding computers in general."

"We also want to provide the first comprehensive forum for many of the computer films made in the past 15 years and to assemble and show the work of some of the major figures in the field," Speer adds.

EVERGREEN WINS $19,965 LEEP GRANT...The Region Ten Law Enforcement Assistance Agency has awarded a $19,965 supplemental grant to Evergreen. The grant, the second award to the college this year, is funded through the Law Enforcement Education Program, which is designed to encourage law enforcement personnel to further their education, and to attract college students to the field.

Evergreen has participated in the LEEP program for the past three years with an average enrollment of about 10 students. The college received a $5,500 grant for the 1973-74 academic year but the LEEP student enrollment nearly tripled --- to 28 in Winter Quarter, which includes a number of transfer students and in-service law enforcement personnel.

AMERICAN MUSICALS OFFERED TO OLYMPIA AUDIENCES...Two evenings of American musical theater will be presented to Olympia-area audiences February 23 and 25 by Evergreen students. Directed by Faculty Member William Winden, students will present three American operas in performances scheduled for 8 p.m. February 23 and 25 in Lecture Hall One. Both performances are free and open to the public.

Accompanied by Olympia pianist Rose Bailey, the students will perform "Hand of Bridge," a comedy by Samuel Barber; "Gallentry," a satirical musical on television soap opera by Douglas Moore; and Act I of "The Medium" an opera by Gian Carlos Menotti which tells the story of a fraudulent medium who begins to believe her own forecasts.
...OLYMPIA WOMAN NAMED INTERIM FINANCIAL AID COUNSELOR...Kathleen (Kay) Atwood, an Olympia woman, has been named interim financial aid counselor for the Evergreen Office of Financial Aid and Placement. The appointment, announced by FA&P Director Les Eldridge, is effective immediately and carries with it primary responsibility for working with students seeking financial aid. The position is funded only through June 30.

Ms. Atwood, who has served as an office assistant with FA&P since last July, is a graduate of Portland State University and North Thurston High School. Her work experience includes serving as a receptionist and business assistant for an Olympia dentist and as a clerk typist for Social and Health Services.

...VOCAL RECITAL FEATURES CENTRALIA TENOR...A leading Northwest tenor, Wayne Bloomingdale, will present a vocal recital February 21 at 8 p.m. in the main lobby of the Evergreen library. Bloomingdale, a faculty member at Centralia College, will perform works by Handel, Purcell, Scarlatti, Mozart, Dvorak, Brahams, Debussy and Bartok in the public concert, which is cosponsored by Evergreen and the Olympia Fine Arts Guild. He will be accompanied by Olympia pianist-teacher Dorothy Scott.

...EVERGREEN SOPHOMORE HEADS STATE YARC...Monica Schwinberg, a Richland sophomore at Evergreen, has recently been named president of the Washington State Youth Association for Retarded Children. The 20-year-old student began working with the retarded more than five years ago when she volunteered to work at a day care camp for retarded persons in the Tri-Cities. She has since been involved with mental health both as a student and a volunteer, and plans to become a social worker involved in the establishment of group homes for the mentally retarded.

For now, the former Candy Striper is concentrating her efforts on recruiting new members between the ages of 13 and 25 for YARC. "The mentally retarded need the help of young persons," she says. "They need their care and concern, and they need their efforts to increase public awareness about them and their problems." Anyone interested in working with Monica and YARC can contact her at 866-5002.