As much as she loves singing, Controller Karen Wynkoop says she doesn't sing in the shower, but thinks about memes. "Some of my best work solutions have come in the middle of the night or in the shower," says March's Employee of the Month, adding that Auxiliary Accountant Linda Brownell composes by sending her memes entitled "Thoughts for the Shower."

Whether tackling Evergreen's problems at 2 a.m. at home or at 2 p.m. behind her desk in the Business Office, Wynkoop's solutions have benefited the college since 1978 when she began work as an Accounting Assistant. She says she doesn't spend all her time thinking about Evergreen. On the way to work these days she turns her attention to the lyrics of "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy From Company B," "Sentimental Journey," and "Putting On The Ritz," all new additions to the Pointless Sisters' repertoire. "Being a member of the Sisters," she says, "is one of the biggest joys of my life right now. I love it when people who thought they knew all about me are surprised." If you haven't caught the comedy and excellent singing of the Sisters (right), be sure and do so on Super Saturday, June 8. Other non-work joys include Wynkoop's eight-year-old daughter Carrie Jo, husband Terry, singing in the church choir and playing marimba and piano. Dreams of the future include "going to grad school in women's studies, or taking time off to learn another musical instrument." We'd like to thank Karen for the harmony she's brought to Evergreen. Congratulations!
Fred McKay is the counselor at Quilcene High School, 71 miles north of Olympia on Hood Canal. Folder in hand, he greets Deborah Stansbury, Evergreen admissions counselor and coordinator of minority recruitment, and explaining that he has asked her to talk with a group of students in the school library. A town of 900, Quilcene sends 250 of its sprawling brick edifice by Highway 101, approximately 100 of whom are in high school. Of those, only 16 are seniors, but Stansbury is here anyway, having left her car's motor pool at 6:30 a.m. to make this 8:30 appointment.

She is not really alone, however, because the Admissions Office staff has paved the way for, and will follow up on, her trip. Sally Carlin, who answers phone calls and left Evergreen's motor pool at 6:30 a.m. to make this 8:30 appointment.

The students assemble slowly in the Quilcene school library. There are 17 of them, only some of whom will be members of the graduating class. With quiet authority, Stansbury gathers them around a table and invites each to tell what they are thinking of studying in college.

"Business administration, architecture, engineering, secretarial work..." The future occupations are uttered with varying degrees of hesitation and assurance. Nodding her head, Stansbury walks around the table handing out catalogs, viewbooks and prospective student cards as she listens to each student's half-formed dreams.

She begins her presentation with a quick run-through of Evergreen's admissions criteria and graduation requirements. "Now, it's very important, seniors," Stansbury says next, "to read the first 20 pages of this catalog when you get home." What she says next is a departure from any other presentation these students will hear. "It is possible to study many subjects at Evergreen like psychology, for instance," she says, "but don't look for the p's in this catalog."

Seventeen blank expressions. Not missing a beat, Stansbury asks the students to turn to page 32 of the catalog for a sample of what she's talking about.

Director of Admissions Arnaldo Rodriguez declares flatly that his present staff of three counselors and five clerical staff is "the best we've ever had." Laura Allen agrees things are good: "It sounds corny," says Allen, "but we're a team here, a family."

But there's a paradox at work in the Admissions Office, for even though morale is high and there's a "great satisfaction in seeing enrollment figures rise," the staff has to work all the harder. There have been 700 inquiries since January, and Fall Quarter inquiries, up 1,300 from a year ago, totaled 6,339. Multiply that by the five pieces in Admissions' mailing sense and you get 35,000 pieces of mail that have been handled already this year. Add in factors such as 50 to 75 visitors a month who need a campus tour and covering the office 9 hours every day, and the result is, according to Carlin, that "you can go home on Friday with a clean desk."

Something else you might not have realized is how much time Evergreen counselors spend on the road. Calculations by Laura Allen reveal that the team drove 24,729 motor pool miles Fall Quarter alone. They talk to thousands of high school, community college and returning students, as well as hundreds of people in professional networks across the state and region, functioning as Evergreen's ambassadors to the external world. "My overall goal is doing everything I can," says Kerlin, "to reach out to every student. I get the greatest pleasure in talking to students about Evergreen because invariably the light comes on and I see heads nodding at the end of a session."

"On page 32 you'll find Core Programs," says Deborah Stansbury to her Quilcene audience. "It says Core Programs are unique and they are. Take a look at the program, 'Human Development,' on the next page," she says. "You'll see this program is worth 48 credits in biology, sociology, anthropology, literature and psychology—that's how you begin psychology at Evergreen."

Stansbury gives more distinctions of Evergreen programs: field trips don't conflict with class time, assignments rarely overlap because they are coordinated by program faculty, and a 22-to-1 student-faculty ratio. "As a freshman at UCLA," she points out, "I was in a lecture with 750 other students. In Evergreen seminars, 22 students and one faculty member meet to discuss what they're studying. It makes a big difference, all the difference."

Lights on. Out of 17 students, several heads are nodding. Sparks kindled by her introduction to the concept of Evergreen. The students file out to the next class, but two young women remain behind. The first has already applied to several small colleges, but this is the first she's heard about Evergreen. "I'm so confused," says the second, who's also trying to decide where to go. "I know," Stansbury nods, "It's hard."

It's 9:30 a.m., and Stansbury heads for her car. It's times like these she remembers her high school counselor. Responsible for 550 kids, he would work with the top and the bottom, leaving the middle kids on their own. "I want students," Stansbury has been known to say, "to know what their options are."

She has appointments at tribal centers outside Port Angeles and in Neah Bay. Then a four-hour drive to Olympia and, after picking up her son, Matthew, she'll be home around 7:30 p.m. She pulls on to Highway 101 and turns north. The Evergreen Admissions team is on the road again. Lights on.