

## NO POLICE AT EVERGREEN

### History of Security

Since Evergreen has been in existence Security has gone through many changes. Security's initial duties were to protect buildings and property. This role has expanded to include protecting the Evergreen community and enforcing its laws. Presently, some Security personnel have commissions from the Thurston County Sheriff to perform limited duties of police officers. These include powers of arrest. In addition three officers were recently reclassified as police by the Higher Education Personnel Board. Security has also gone from a low to high profile operation. First, officers wore no uniforms. When the need for easy identification was recognized T-shirts, then blazers were worn. Now, Security has uniforms and is equipped with radios, patrol cars, hand cuffs and mace.

### DTF Investigation too Hasty

The issue of Security's role on campus has come up once again. It is being investigated by many people including a Disappearing Task Force charged by Dick Schwartz, Vice President of Business. In a memo, Dick asked the DTF to study five questions about Security's role on campus. Two major questions to be addressed were: Should Security become a Police Department and if so, should they have access to guns? The DTF must make a recommendation to Dick Schwartz by June 6. This recommendation will be reviewed by Dick and possibly used in his report to the Board of Trustees. The Board will discuss this issue during their next meeting on June 14.

The issue needs thorough consideration before a decision is made. The Security DTF is in the final phase of its investigation which involves input from the Evergreen community. Public forums have been scheduled for May 20, 23, 28, and a questionnaire printed which provides four options. Unfortunately, none of the options were adequately explained. The result is a rushed effort for input on an issue about which the community is inadequately informed. It is difficult to see how the DTF can make a well reasoned recommendation by June 6. This problem was recognized and a new questionnaire produced. One new option is for continued discussion during Fall quarter, 1985.

No Police Needed

Any change in Security's role on campus will have serious consequences. It must be understood there is a push for a police department armed with guns. This push has come from Security in an effort to gain a desired level of "professionalism." A Police Department would supposedly offer a greater level of safety to the community. Whether this is true must be seriously questioned. The question boils down to what are the security needs at Evergreen and how can they be fulfilled? Ideally, we need Security officers whose goals reflect the progressive attitudes of the Evergreen community.

Evergreen is a community based on positive interaction of all its members, including Security. The 1984-85 catalog claims that "Security is socially oriented and approaches its duties with a high degree of humanism." A police force, especially armed with guns, would not be consonant with Evergreen's philosophy. As a community largely working for peace and disarmament on a global scale we must avoid a policy of aggression to manage our internal affairs. Instead, we must explore options other than police authority and use of guns.

Bob Hornbein