

THE V.E.G., 1972-73

The V.E.G. has put together over the past year, what it considers under the circumstances to have been a rather remarkable series of exhibitions. Shows varied from local children's art to original prints by prominent European artists. One show in particular, featuring Judy Dater, a contemporary master of photography attracted interest from as far as Portland and Seattle. The group sincerely hopes that the coming year will be marked by a whole series of shows of similar stature.

At some point here, a pat on the back might be in order to the group members, who personally hung all the shows on our schedule, who dealt with the problems as they came, and who in some instances dipped into their own pockets to keep things going. Most, if not all of our success, came from their selfless investments of time and energy.

THE V.E.G., 1973-74

The board is looking towards the future with some real ambitions, and at one and the same time with some real concerns. At the moment, we are sponsoring in collaboration with the Washington State Arts Commission, a competition for a Washington artist to build a permanent piece of sculpture on our campus. The sculpture which will be financed in part by the college and in part by the Arts Commission will be built here by the artist with the assistance of Evergreen students. Simultaneously, we have started building towards an ambitious program of exhibitions for the coming year, a program we feel will prove its worth as a community resource, not just in the narrow sense of the immediate Evergreen Community, but with an eye towards building bridges to the wider constituency that exists beyond the boundaries of our campus.

Up to this point the board has been concerned with simple survival. Always, we have had to do the best job possible with practically non-existent resources and at best tenuous support. Now, that prospects of tangible support seem to exist, we feel that we are compelled to closely examine our own base of operations, and in a greater sense, our relationship to the college as a whole. We are actively seeking a wider community involvement with the group and its activities. We foresee closer cooperation with academic programs, and by the same token, there should be means for "plugging in" to other arts activities around the college. These are pressing concerns for the present V.E.G., and we expect they will be equally important to the new members who will succeed us in October. Bob McCauley is presently convening a D.T.F. that intends to focus in on the V.E.G. and its role within the community. The present group is whole-heartedly committed to active support of that D.T.F. and its objectives.

We have at the same time several long term objectives. The college at the time this is written, has no exhibition facilities. We have a long term need for both informal exhibition spaces around campus, and for a real gallery. It is a definite concern of the group that these sorts of facilities be developed as soon as humanly possible. Along the same lines, we feel there is a definite need to take shows off campus out into the world. This can be accomplished by putting together traveling shows here, which might tour the state under college sponsorship, or even more simply, by booking exhibitions through the college and showing them in public spaces in Olympia and surrounding areas. In the final analyses, our greatest investment is in a long term commitment towards quality, and the notion that the only worthwhile speculation is one that is backed with a determined effort to get the job done.