

January 13, 1972

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All Coordinators
Peter Robinson
Jack Webb
Peter Taylor
Al Wiedemann

FROM: Charles Teske

SUBJECT: An opening ceremony for Evergreen.

Several months ago a small group of us -- including Charles McCann, Herb Hadley, Trueman Schmidt, Merv Cadwallader and Donald Chan -- met to think about the need for some sort of ceremony to celebrate the opening of Evergreen. We came up with a number of ideas and finally arrived at consensus about the following general points.

- (1) Evergreen must devise a formal ceremony for the official dedication of the College, to include recognition of Charles J. McCann as its first president.
- (2) The ceremony should be held on a Friday in the spring of 1972, perhaps in April. (April 21 now seems the most probable date.)
- (3) The ceremony must contain a set of rituals appropriate to Evergreen; it must satisfy those on campus, the local community, and our formal acquaintances beyond the Olympia region; it should seize upon those elements in traditional academic ceremonies which are capable of imaginative development; it should be relatively inexpensive--all costs to be defensible in the eyes of our various constituencies.
- (4) It will be especially appropriate to invite Governor Evans to offer a brief address.
- (5) Planning might start with the conception of the event as a Renaissance fair.
- (6) The responsibility for devising elements of the ceremony should be delegated to groups already in being (such as--the music to Man and Art; external booths to Environmental Design; displays to Space, Time and Form; costume and choreography to The Play's the Thing, if offered; symbolic and historical details to Causality, Freedom and Chance; audio and video recording of the event to Communications and Intelligence).

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- (7) Any formal procession should be made up of Evergreen people--trustees, faculty, administrative staff, and students.
- (8) The brief central portion of the ceremony should take place in the lobby of the Library, the audience and most participants standing throughout.
- (9) The movement and placement of both active participants and audience members should be carefully arranged; simple choreography, costumes, and music should be emphasized over words, save for the remarks and address in the central portion; no religious invocation should be made.
- (10) The ceremony might progress in this order: (a) heraldic (brass) fanfare from a landing of the bell tower; (b) choreographed movement of active participants and guests from the mall into the Library lobby; (c) a musical selection; (d) dedicatory remarks to be spoken from the main landing of the large staircase (perhaps by Mrs. Tourtellotte introducing President McCann, President McCann introducing Governor Evans, Governor Evans making an address, and President McCann closing this portion); (e) another musical selection; (f) dispersal to an informal meal to be served from booths set up on the mall and along the sheltered exterior of the Library, perhaps accompanied by performances of madrigals, dances, etc., in keeping with the occasion; (g) heraldic closing of the ceremony.
- (11) Hospitality, guidance, and other arrangements for invited guests should be provided by student hosts and hostesses, appropriately costumed. These hosts and hostesses should take complete responsibility for their groups of guests, from sending of invitations through the departure of the guests from the campus after the ceremonies.
- (12) Besides a memorandum of instructions to be sent to all invited guests and other participants, a suitable program should be printed and distributed as a memento of the occasion.

To involve as many members of the Evergreen community as possible in the planning for this occasion, I ask each program and contracted studies grouping to identify one student representative to serve a planning task force -- to think about the contribution each group might make to the event. I shall also ask faculty and staff members to serve on the planning task force by reason of their interests, identify a program representative, and stand by for the announcement of the first task force meeting.

CBT:cas

cc: C. McCann
R. Barringer
J. Shoben
D. Clabaugh
H. Hadley
T. Schmidt
Deans
Directors