



Jane L. Jervis
President

Olympia, Washington 98505
(206) 866-6000, ext. 6100
TDD/V only: 866-6834

6/30/94 - Mailed to Bettina Blake, Vice
Chancellor of Academic Affairs
University of Minnesota - Morris

along with the **TWENTY YEARS OF MAKING
A DIFFERENCE** publication

Some Historical Perspective

Although nameless until 1968, the idea of a new college in Washington State first surfaced in 1964. Its originator was the Council of Presidents, which was composed of the presidents of the state's five public-supported universities and colleges.

A report issued by the Council in November, 1964, concluded that another college was needed to balance the geographical distribution of the existing institutions, especially since western Washington was growing at a more rapid rate than the rest of the state. With the University of Washington in Seattle and Western Washington State College in Bellingham, the Council noted, southwest Washington was the only region without a four-year public college.

Based on the Council's recommendations, the Washington State Legislature created the Temporary Advisory Council on Public Higher Education (TACPHE) in 1965. This group of legislators, educators and community leaders was charged with determining if and when a new college was needed, where it should be located and what kind of college it should be. Tackling the first question, TACPHE utilized the services of a consulting firm, Nelson Associates, Inc. of New York, to investigate the Council of Presidents' concern about state population growth and its impact on student demand for higher education.

Not blessed with a crystal ball, the consulting firm failed to foresee the economic recession and other trends that would hit the Pacific Northwest in the 1970s, reducing the number of college-bound students. Its report alarmed TACPHE with a prediction that, even allowing for enrollment increases at existing colleges, Washington's public and private institutions would be unable to admit nearly 17,000 students by 1975.

"At the earliest possible time," said Nelson Associates, "a new four-year college should be authorized." That college, the consulting firm concluded, should be prepared to enroll 10,000 students by 1975.

In October, 1966, TACPHE's final report to the Legislature carried the same recommendation, along with the proposal—after much debate among southwest Washingtonians—that the new college be located in Olympia. The 40th Legislature voted Evergreen into being on March 1, by adopting Chapter 47, Laws of 1967, to become effective on July 1 of that year.

Evergreen's enabling legislation stated that the college should be located within a 10-mile radius of Olympia on a site of at least 600 acres, making it the largest campus in the state. And so Evergreen became the first public four-year college created in Washington in the 20th Century.



The
Evergreen
State
College

July 1, 1994

Dear Colleen,

Congratulations and thanks
for your part in getting that
wonderful donation of wood and
artwork from the Burke
Museum. It's getting exciting,
isn't it? You must feel that parts
of yourself are being built into the
fabric - and now the decoration - of the
Longhouse. Thanks for all of us!

Jane



REUSED PAPER FROM THE
EVERGREEN RECYCLING PROJECT
EXT. 6782

to Colleen Ray



The Evergreen State College

Office of the President - L 3109

October 18, 1994

State Board of Education
ATTN: LCSC Presidential Search Committee
POBox 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0037 FAX: (208)334-2632

Dear Colleagues,

I wish to bring to your attention **Thomas L. Purce** as a candidate for President of Lewis-Clark State College. Dr. Purce was interim president of The Evergreen State College for two years, from 1990 to 1992, and currently serves as Executive Vice President of Evergreen, with responsibility for finance and administration.

Educated at Idaho State University, Dr. Purce has extensive experience in higher education and in public service. Mayor of Pocatello in the mid 1970's, he was later Administrator of the Division of General Services, Director of the Department of Administration, and Director of the Department of Health and Welfare for the state of Idaho. He was Director of Cooperative Education and Assistant Professor of Counselor Education at Idaho State and much later, after working as Chief Operating Officer for Power Engineers, Inc., in Hailey, Idaho, he was Director of the Research Park and Economic Development for Idaho State.

Dr. Purce came to The Evergreen State College in 1989 as Vice President for College Advancement. Shortly after he arrived, the President resigned amid a storm of controversy, and the Board of Trustees turned to Dr. Purce for the interim. He managed the interim with great skill, helped the institution to heal itself, and turned the presidency over to me in the summer of 1992 with grace and generosity. He has been a valuable member of my administrative team and a very good friend.

I have carefully reviewed the criteria you have outlined for the selection process, and I can say without hesitation that Dr. Purce meets and exceeds them all. You could hardly find a better candidate. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should need further information in considering his candidacy.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Jervis
President

JLJ/dkm:1018sbe

Olympia, Washington 98505
Telephone (206) 866-6000



The Evergreen State College

Office of the President - L 3109

October 17, 1994

Mr. Bill Parker
2108 Seventh Ave. SW
Puyallup, WA 98371

Dear Mr. Parker:

On September 27, 1994, you wrote Governor Lowry about your concerns with the academic program, "Where No One Has Gone Before," being offered at The Evergreen State College. Governor Lowry referred your letter to me for response.

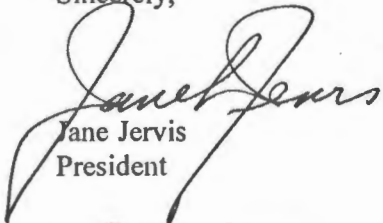
As you may know, Evergreen has a national reputation for being one of the top liberal arts colleges in the country. In fact, U.S. News and World Report recently named Evergreen as the number one public liberal arts college in the west. Critical thinking skills, collaborative learning, and a focus on real-world problems and solutions are fostered by our faculty and highly valued by employers in both the public and private sectors. This interdisciplinary model of teaching/learning is now being initiated by other educational institutions across the country as well.

"Where No One Has Gone Before" is similar to our other interdisciplinary programs. However, this one has received a great deal more attention in the last few weeks since it encompasses popular culture portrayed in the Star Trek series. This is not a course exclusively about the popular T.V. series but an interdisciplinary, full-time, team-taught exploration of current issues. Students will receive credit in general psychology, anthropology, artificial intelligence, literature, comparative cultural studies and American popular culture, and media studies. As a theme, and to provide a point of reference, Star Trek episodes will be used as one of many learning tools.

The other learning tools include weekly two-hour lectures based on general program themes, two-hour science lectures, three hours of seminar discussion on assigned reading, three hours in film screening and/or workshops, and another hour seminar about the screenings. In addition, each student is required to take another related class which meets for six hours per week.

If I can provide any further information on this program or any other offered at Evergreen, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jane Jervis
President

cc: Governor Lowry

Olympia, Washington 98505
Telephone (206) 866-6000



The Evergreen State College
Office of the President - L 3109

July 21, 1999

Mr. Brendan W. Williams, M.A., J.D.
1197 Mottman Road SW #1A
Tumwater, WA 98512

Dear Brendan,

I regret that it has taken until now to get back to you. Your expression of concern about this year's graduation ceremony was among the thousands of letters, E-mails and phone calls that came to my office in May and June.

The inclusion of Mumia Abu-Jamal's remarks in the ceremony was the result of a series of difficult decisions in a complex context. Those decisions were based on a careful consideration of Evergreen's educational principles. Nevertheless, like you, many people (both within Evergreen and outside) strongly disagreed with the conclusion we reached. We learned a great deal from this experience and in Evergreen fashion we are applying that learning to an evaluation of how we want to approach decisions about future graduation ceremonies.

I am enclosing some material that I hope responds to some of your questions, and that may also provide you with a rich context for the event and the circumstances that led up to it.

- A copy of a letter we recently sent to all Evergreen graduates (you may already have received this letter).
- An abbreviated version of the remarks I made at the ceremony.
- The complete text of our guest speaker's remarks (faculty member Stephanie Coontz).
- A transcript of Abu-Jamal's audio-taped remarks.

Your letter tells me you care deeply about important social issues and I am pleased to see that reflection of your Evergreen education. You also, no doubt, remember from being at Evergreen that it is possible to disagree passionately and still be part of an ongoing community.

Thank you for taking the time to let me know how important this was to you. I trust your Evergreen education will continue to serve you well.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Jervis
President

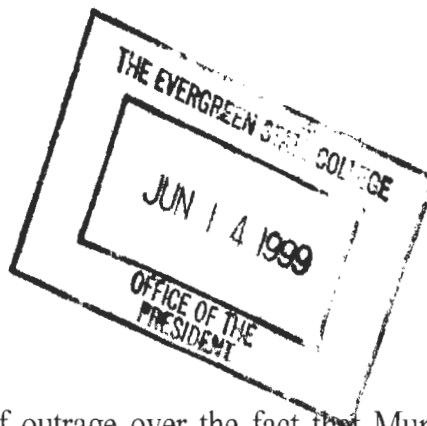
JLdkm:ajal/fin

ps I hope you will allow me to return your diploma to you

Olympia, Washington 98505
Telephone (360) 866-6000

June 11, 1999

President Jane Jervis
The Evergreen State College
2700 Evergreen Parkway N.W.
Olympia, WA 98505



Dear President Jervis:

I am writing to express my sense of outrage over the fact that Mumia Abu-Jamal is going to address the commencement ceremony for one of my alma maters, The Evergreen State College. It is disturbing enough that he is speaking despite the fact that only two students voted to invite him. However, perhaps this could be looked at as honoring the student democracy, however feeble, that exists at Evergreen. Accordingly, what has most troubled me is that rather than simply stating that you are respecting the right of students to make their choice, despite the laughable "mandate" that choice enjoys, you have actively endorsed Abu-Jamal's selection. For example, reporters in today's *Olympian* describe you as being "not sure whether Abu-Jamal shot and killed officer Daniel Faulkner in 1981." The unanimous Pennsylvania Supreme Court was "sure." See *Commonwealth v. Abu-Jamal*, 555 A.2d 846 (Pa. 1989). Indeed, a jury was sure beyond a reasonable doubt -- so sure, in fact, that they sentenced him to death. One can morally oppose the death penalty without engaging in the immoral act of pretending that murderers are innocent. Why even comment upon Abu-Jamal's culpability, unless you wanted to give further institutional encouragement to the conspiracy theorists who defend him?

Moreover, while I agree with the message behind your quote in that *Olympian* story that "[i]f you only listen to the people you agree with, you might as well talk only to yourself," there are a wide array of persons that I disagree with. During the course of a finite life, I must necessarily be selective about those among that group that I *do* listen to. Although your quote goes on to predict that in the exercise of such discretion, I "won't learn anything," I am reasonably confident that rational choices do not preclude enlightenment. Among those persons that I, and I think most people, choose not to listen to -- or at least honor with formal invitations to speak -- are criminals who do not accept responsibility for their acts. Who will Evergreen's next commencement speaker be: a convicted pedophile? Actually, that is not altogether fair -- my guess is that had Abu-Jamal killed a *child*, instead of a *police officer*, you would have figured out a way of vetoing this reprehensible invitation. Nor would a rapist have ever been acceptable. Unfortunately for Faulkner's widow, killing police officers is a politically correct offense at The Evergreen State College. Thus, the likes of Pete Bohmer, who fought bitterly against an effectual campus police force at Evergreen, will be stirred as they listen to their cop-killing hero while the world outside expresses its condemnation. Perhaps, in the future, Abu-Jamal's example will even inspire someone subject to arrest by your now-armed police officers.

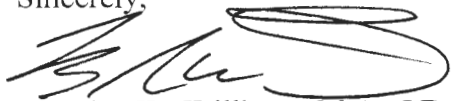
From all appearances, you are immune to the sentiments of those outside of your idyll on the Evergreen Parkway. Perhaps there is some possibility that I, as an Evergreen graduate, can convey to you the gravity of this matter. In the hope that this is so, please find attached my Evergreen diploma. You have dishonored it to the point that I cannot imagine again displaying it. How could I explain such a display to those classmates from my graduate criminal justice program who went on to become police officers? What would I say to those law school

Jane Jervis
June 11, 1999
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classmates of mine who are now deputy prosecutors? Would I say that while I personally respect their work, I am also proud of a college that is institutionally dedicated to second-guessing law enforcement and honoring murderers?

There comes a point where even a progressive-minded person such as myself can no longer look past the outrages tolerated at Evergreen in the name of "diversity" and still defend the institution as a whole. I have put up with a lot and still been a loyalist, as just a few examples will show. In 1991, for example, while lobbying the interests of Washington State University's student governments, I went out of my way to also defend Evergreen to state lawmakers who, in the wake of Pete Bohmer and others taking over the House Chamber at the outset of the Gulf War, scornfully disparaged the school as a Marxist enclave. I defended Evergreen then even though I had transferred to WSU in 1990 after Evergreen's first student government, a government that I and two other students had written the charter for, was replaced in a tempestuous meeting with a government structure based entirely upon ethnicity and gender – an unconstitutional change that, fortunately, the Board of Trustees ultimately rejected. I would return to Evergreen part-time to earn my B.A. in 1992 while working in Olympia full-time, although I did not attend my own graduation ceremony given that a leader of the 1990 student government coup, a woman who had expressly barred white people from the Evans Library office of her student organization, had been selected graduation speaker in a vote as dubious as that which brings Abu-Jamal to campus. Despite everything, I had never ceased to recommend Evergreen to prospective students that I thought would benefit from its unique learning environment. Now, at long last, I can no longer imagine sparing the energy to speak favorably of Evergreen, and that fact leaves me sadder than you could possibly imagine. No credible evidence counters the fact that Mumia Abu-Jamal shot Daniel Faulkner once in the back, and then, while Faulkner lay paralyzed on the ground, "shot him four more times at close range, once through the center of the face." *Abu-Jamal*, 555 A.2d at 848. In contrast, you, Jane Jervis, have simply shot my faith in The Evergreen State College. *Shame* on you.

Sincerely,



Brendan W. Williams, M.A., J.D.
1197 Mottman Rd. S.W. #1A
Tumwater, WA 98512

Attachment

cc: Board of Trustees