

CPE 7

**ISSUES DEALING WITH TESC'S SOCIAL SPACE AND ACTIVITIES;
& ATHLETICS**

The prevailing policy about social life at Evergreen began with President McCann in the December 12, 1968 Daily Olympian. He proposed that the college would eschew intercollegiate athletics and would not encourage fraternities and sororities. It is this very lack of "normal" social life found at other institutions of higher learning that the CPE addresses. On page 225 of the report:

K: Providing Intercollegiate Athletics

A limited range of intercollegiate athletic programs at Evergreen would be supported by many prospective students and by the larger community.

The subject of intercollegiate athletics at Evergreen is a sensitive one. Many of the present students and faculty have expressed themselves in opposition to the idea. These sentiments can be appreciated. At the same time, the topic emerged in so many instances as a factor that could be employed effectively by the college to broaden its appeal to a larger range of high school students and enhance its community relationships that it simply cannot be ignored here. The potential for involvement in sports that seem to be suited to the interests of students at Evergreen (e.g., soccer, tennis, swimming, track, etc.) is great, and these are all sports for which the College has or could utilize nearby facilities through an exchange arrangement with a nearby school.

Again, the area of intercollegiate athletics is an especially controversial one; but it could be explored productively by the college, and it has the rather clear potential for an effective approach to reducing the previous "town-gown" problem with the Olympia community and broadening the appeal of the institutions to many high school students, especially those for whom competitive sports are an important aspect of their college aspirations.

Recommendation 17:

It is recommended that Evergreen study the desirability and feasibility of engaging in a limited range of intercollegiate athletics as one means of expanding its appeal to graduating high school seniors and enhancing its relations with the Olympia community.

(Note: Since the CPE report was released, the decision to initiate an intercollegiate sports program at Evergreen has been formally approved by the Board of Trustees, this March. Formal competition in soccer and swimming is planned for next fall.)

L. Enhancing The Social Atmosphere on Campus

Students have expressed a need for places and events on campus for purposes of socializing.

A rather plaintive comment ventured by several of the current students who were interviewed concerned the social atmosphere on the campus. The subject is also a matter of concern among many high school students familiar with the College environment. It centers on the comparative isolation students attending Evergreen feel when they are on the campus, in the evenings especially, with no place nearby where they can meet and socialize with other students. Unlike most other institutions, Evergreen has no student union where students can gather, and relax, in an informal atmosphere. Almost every resident student interviewed stated a need for a coffee shop or a similar place on the campus, open in the evenings, for students to meet.

A related interest expressed almost as frequently was need for more events such as dances (many students said they would like to see a homecoming event and similar regular social events) on the campus.

As a general rule, Council reports do not involve considerations such as these. However, the need and the potential effect on students on the campus, as well as potential students now in high school appears to be so great that it is worthy of mention here.

There is another reason for doing so.... It relates to the impression that students enrolled in intensive interpersonal learning experiences, such as exist in Evergreen's coordinated studies programs, especially need opportunities to meet and interact with others who are not enrolled in these same programs. One effect of such programs is their capacity to reduce the size of the peer group to those students sharing that educational experience. The result is not only a geographic isolation from the town, but a psychological isolation from other students.

Recommendation 18:

It is recommended that Evergreen consider ways in which it can address the expressed concerns of students at the college for places and events on campus for purposes of socializing. This appears to be an especially pressing need as a means of release for students from the pressures of the college's educational program.

In regard to Recommendation 18 there have been 2 groups dealing with the remodeling of the CAB for social space-- Design Teams '77-'78 and '78-'79. The '78-'79 Design Team which used a \$40,000 budget, gave their final presentation to the Design Review Committee on November 15, 1978, and it was unanimously accepted.