Reflections in the Media Eye

Almost within a week of each other, banner stories about Evergreen appeared last November in the Vancouver (Wash.) Columbian, The Weekly of Seattle and the Van-Columbian, The Weekly of Tacoma. KCTS-TV was coincidently airing an "Evening Edition" segment about Evergreen and President Joseph Olander. A number of media stories were also generated by Evergreen's appearance in U.S. News and by November 19, when Vice President for Student Affairs Gail Martin traveled to Seattle to make a live appearance on KING radio's "Jim Althoff Show." The good news about Evergreen seemed to be everywhere.

It was not the first time that U.S. News had something good to report about the college. Two years ago the magazine rated Evergreen the "best regional liberal arts college in the west and midwest," based on a nationwide survey of college presidents.

This time, U.S. News also asked the presidents to name—without any list to choose from—an up-and-coming undergraduate college which is a model of excellence for the future. Most often mentioned were Alverno College of Wisconsin, Trinity University of Texas and Evergreen. U.S. News featured the top three as "academic pioneers...on education's leading edge." The Vancouver Columbian's feature on Evergreen filled the front page of a Sunday section, and then some. "I liked the more intimate classroom atmosphere and the personal attention from really good faculty members," the Columbian quoted 74 Evergreen graduate Dennis Heck at one point. A Vancouver native who is now chief clerk of the Washington State House of Representatives, Heck said, "I wanted to be challenged, to be in a demanding academic environment—and it is!"

The flurry of news coverage even conspired with the weather, or so it seemed. On Thursday, November 21, eight inches of snow blanched the Puget Sound area, closing the college for a four-day weekend. But, while the snow vacation ended shortly thereafter, Evergreen's media recognition continued through the holidays.

On December 29, the Los Angeles Times carried a story about President Olander's climb from near-illiteracy to a man whose present role as Evergreen's president. The story was reprinted widely, notably in the Olympian, Vancouver Columbian, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Minneapolis Star-Tribune and Washington Post. It also prompted an invitation for Olander to appear on Seattle on KING-TV's morning program, "Good Company." As Dennis Heck commented in the Columbian about his alma mater: "Its day has finally arrived."

November's chorus of media attention contained one voice that did not unsungly sing Evergreen's praises, but raised "some tough questions about the experiment on Mud Bay." That voice belonged to David Brewster, publisher and editor-in-chief of The Weekly, considered by many to be the preeminent newsmagazine of Seattle and the Northwest.

Entitled "Asking the Tougher Questions About Evergreen," Brewster's November 15 editorial was set in the broader context of state funding for higher education. While making many positive comments about the college, Brewster also stung Greeners on and off campus with such lines as:

- "The place seemed tired, not rejuvenated."
- "The students have to cope with a campus that is both outdated...and blighted (still no gym, a dreary student union, too few dorms). Campus life is dull."

By Mark Clemens and Keith Eisner Office of Information Services

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"He was only here for one day," was the comment of many. In a letter to The Weekly, Evergreen junior Tracy Renee Stefan wrote that Brewster "gave a very narrow, one-sided view of life at this college. I know; I've been a student here for three years and I love it!" Senior Ellen Peterson wrote that Brewster, too tired to ask really hard questions, should take a sabbatical, suggesting "Omaha would be a restful place."

But beneath the indignant reactions, there was a strong current of reflection brought about by The Weekly article.

On that note, the rest of this article records the introspective answers from around campus to several of the questions raised by The Weekly.

"I've been frustrated at times about programs not being as advanced as I wanted..."

Janine Thome, student

"Evergreen's program is front-loaded educationally, which means students get the best teachers right from the first year."

The Weekly.

Ostensibly a compliment, Brewster's observation about front-loading comes around to the back door when he quotes a faculty member about Evergreen becoming a high-quality community college. Is Evergreen lightweight on the flip side of its curriculum? Does front-loading deprive advanced students of advanced instruction?

"Like a lot of schools," says Stone Thomas, dean of student development, "we don't try to flunk out freshmen, but to energize them.

"Front-loading is a good thing," says Olander. "If Brewster wanted to be even-handed," says Thad Curtz, faculty member in literature, "he should've spent a day on another campus in a traditional freshman class of 500 people and a lecturer. We offer freshman education that was reserved for upper-division majors when I was a student at Yale."

"One of the consequences of our philosophy of undergraduate curric-ulum," says Martin, however, "is that it can divert resources from upper-division work. No college our size is going to be able to meet everyone's desires for advanced and specialized study in every field."

Provost Patrick Hill concurs: "There are many opportunities for juniors and seniors to do advanced work in group contracts, individual contracts and internships, but our faculty is not large enough to offer comprehensive advanced-level work," he points out.

"If we want to offer advanced organic chemistry or contemporary French philosophy, for example, then we need more chemists and philosophers."

"I think we have a lot of our strength up front," says Ken Dolbeaur, faculty member in political science who is currently on leave to do research for state government. "The one place you can be sure of doing interdisciplinary, coordi-nated studies that will be exciting is in the freshman and sophomore pro-grams," he says. "We create opportuni-ty in those programs for a quality of education and naturally it can't con-tinue at that level if students fall back into ordinary courses."

"As a faculty," Dolbeaur continues, "we may not be turning our imagina-tions and creativity to how we might do advanced work. It may get more mechanical than it needs to be."

"However," says Curtz, "there are many instances of advanced work that emerge at Evergreen because our inter-disciplinary structure brings together quite sophisticated expertise from different disciplines, where such unified content would be available at most colleges only by accident."

The prospect of that unique blend of advanced work is what keeps junior Janine Thome at Evergreen.

"When I came here, I told myself I wouldn't stay longer than two years and then I'd go somewhere else—like George Washington University—to get a 'solid' education in international politics. But here I am three-and-a-half years later and loving it. Sure," admits the political science student from Seat-tle, "I've been frustrated at times about programs not being as advanced as I wanted, but you learn how to take something from here and something from there. I'm taking my education in to my own hands and you can't beat that."

continued on page 2
"The greatest danger is rigidification."

Ken Dolbeare, faculty member

"We're not doing enough to encourage students to teach each other."

Bob Sluss, faculty member

"The Weekly"

"Evidently Brewster was in a seminar and that's what they're all about," comments Gail Martin. "Students learn a lot from each other, but it's often frustrating. It's very much like going to work in the 'real world.'"

"If we're at fault anywhere," claims Faculty Biologist Bob Sluss, "it's that we're not doing enough to encourage students to teach each other. It usually takes a seminar group a long time to quit addressing the faculty member and start talking to one another. After 12 years or so of performing for 'the teacher,' they don't need us to keep butting our heads in, but to let them learn to take charge."

"It's important for faculty not to set themselves up as authority figures in seminars," says Byron Youtz, faculty member in physics and former provost. "I'd love to speak out on my own ideas sometimes, but instead I try to wait patiently for a break in the discussion. Then I might point out my own ideas or perhaps make some suggestions if the group's headed in a poor direction. We still hold that students should become self-perpetuating and independent learners."

"Seminars provide our freshmen and sophomores with an experience and teaching format like they would get in graduate school or other colleges," says Academic Dean Barbara Smith. "At their best, our programs are something above and beyond. Students and faculty become involved in a real community of learning."

"A teacher cannot give me an education, I have to earn it," says senior Welton Nekota from Honolulu. "That's one of the reasons I believe, that we don't use titles here—no doctor or professor that. We know that all of us can teach each other."
Fisher First Unsoeld Speaker

by Keith Eisner, information specialist

Stenberg Begins Work With Alums First Women Faculty

After Seminar on America, Diversity Describes

Fisher First Unsoeld Speaker

by Elizabeth Diffendal, faculty member in anthropology

Diversity Describes

First Women Faculty

The dream of a Willi Unsoeld Seminar will become a reality on May 11-13 when Evergreen's first Unsoeld Fellow, Roger Fisher, an internationally-known scholar on the art of negotiation, will visit campus to work with alums, faculty and community members.

"I hope to excite students about the learning that goes on at Evergreen," says Fisher, who is a Williston Professor of Law at the Harvard University School of Law. "I want to give them new perspectives on the old cliche that different people have different views."

Fisher's appearance is the first presentation of the Unsoeld Seminar, which is now a permanent memorial to the ideals of Founding Faculty Member Willi Unsoeld, who died in 1979. The Seminar became a reality last summer when contributions of Evergreen alumni and friends, matched by grants from the Bullitt Foundation of Seattle and the Unsoeld Fund Committee, through nearly 9,000 applications for teaching positions at the Northwest's newest college. An 18-member planning faculty was hired first, followed by 35 other faculty who were to start teaching when the campus opened its doors in the fall of 1973.

In looking back at those years as part of an Evergreen course I am teaching this quarter, a panel of six of the first women faculty hired discussed their experiences as women at the college and their remembrances of women's issues at Evergreen during the early years.

The course, "Demist Life Concepts," was organized partly as a tribute to two of Evergreen's women faculty who have died in recent years. One was Mary Ellen Hillaire, who joined Evergreen in 1981 and was instrumental in shaping the "Human Behavior" faculty program. The second was Naomi Greenhut (a.k.a. Bonnie Alvarez), who came in the second year and taught in the school's first "Sex Roles" program in 1972-73 with Nancy Allen, Betty Ketter, Larry Elkins and Ron Woodbury.

No women were among the college's first academic administrators or 18-member planning faculty. However, ten women were among the 58 faculty hired to begin teaching in 1971-72. Of these original women hired, seven are still at the college 15 years later: Nancy Allen (comparative literature), Carolyn Dobbs (urban planning), Betty Eickstaedt and Ron Woodbury.

Greener Roots

The second in a series about the early culture of Evergreen drawn from Elizabeth Diffendal's doctoral research.
Alumni News

Join in the Fun
Evergreen alums who live around the country to represent their alma mater at College Fairs. Held in Kearney, Oregon, Arizona, Ohio and Hawaii to name a few locations, College Fairs attract interested students from high schools who are looking for the best college to attend. If you are interested in peer reader surveying, or perhaps joining a group of like-minded alums in your area, contact the registrar, Care of Annual Report, or (206) 966-6000 extension 6192.

Get Your Reward Now
Applicants to Evergreen have been so much in demand that we are offering a $500 reward. The applicants who submit final applications will receive a $500 reward. The reward will be mailed to the address on the application. The reward will be issued to the first person to apply for admission to Evergreen.

Central Americans Thank 85ers
Evergreen Class of 85 received letters of thanks for recent donations of $57 each made to two groups who are helping to rebuild Central America. The groups are: the Central American Association, Inc. and the Central American Association of Students. The letters were sent to the manager of the Multnomah County Expo Society in Portland, Oregon.

Get Your Program Together
Evergreen alumni have added a special twist to their regular reunions. The program is called "Get Your Program Together," and it is offered to alumni who are interested in organizing reunions of their individual alumni associations, or to anyone who has a school reunion.

Faculty Member Nancy Taylor notes that the "Get Your Program Together" program is regularly requested by students in the current program. Students frequently request information about how to organize an annual event in their school. Often, alumni are interested in helping to organize a reunion. Taylor also notes that she usually receives about 50 requests a year for information about how to organize a reunion.

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Faculty News

Arney Receives Fellowship for Book on Early Atomic Experts

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a grant to the Evergreen State College to support research for a book on early atomic experts. The grant is to be used by Professor William Arney to write a book on the first major cold war scientists who worked on the master of three degree programs in Washington State. The goal of the research is to identify and highlight the achievements of those early atomic experts.

Campus News

Board grows to Seven

David K. Y. Tang of Seattle and Allan M. Weinstein of Toronto are new trustees of the Evergreen State College. Tang is a professor at the University of British Columbia, while Weinstein is a professor at the University of Toronto. Both have made significant contributions to the field of science and education.

Good Grants News

Evergreen received recent grants from the National Science Foundation and the Washington State Economic Development Commission. The NSF grant will support research on renewable energy systems, while the EDC grant will fund a new program in business entrepreneurship.

Enrollment Hits New Highs

Evergreen’s new freshman class is the largest in the college’s history, with a 9% increase over the previous year. The number of students has grown to 2,500, up from 2,300 last year. The increase is attributed to the college’s strong reputation for excellence and its commitment to affordability.

Kickers Score Honors

Evergreen football player Mike Richards has been named to the All-Conference team. Richards led the team in sacks and was a key contributor to the team’s success.

Teacher Education Program Breaks New Ground

Evergreen’s new teacher preparation program is designed to meet the needs of prospective teachers in the state. The program emphasizes hands-on experience and collaboration with local schools.

Woodbury

Multi-cultural education isn’t the only loser to cutbacks at Evergreen. The college’s Community College Build Bridge program is also in jeopardy. The program, which is aimed at helping students transfer to four-year institutions, is facing a potential funding cut.

Arney

Correction

The Fall Review article that appeared in the September issue of the journal, which featured an interview with Professor William Arney, contained an error. Arney was quoted as saying that the college’s computer literacy program is a failure. Arney has since corrected this statement, stating that the program is actually doing quite well and is an important part of the college’s efforts to prepare students for a technology-driven society.

The Fall Review, Volume 2, Number 1, September 1998

[Note: The rest of the document contains various articles and columns that are not relevant to the main topic and are therefore not included in this natural text representation.]
Out of Africa, 1986

Editor's note: The letter reprinted below contains only half of the rich and thought-provoking experience of Ralph and Carol Mason, '78 and '75 graduates, respectively. The Masons ended their Nigerian sojourn in November and are now living in Central Washington.

Dear Brethren,

If ever we have been called upon to use such Evergreen skills as mellow flexibility, spontaneous creativity, broad-minded understanding and continual on-the-job study and personal growth, it has been in this assignment as missionaries for the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria.

The Church of the Brethren was delighted to find someone like Ralph, who is a builder, electrician, plumber, mechanic, well driller, refrigeration man, musician and draftsman. The church came to Garkida, Nigeria, 60 years ago and established schools, a hospital, a leprosarium, churches and a mission workshop as well as a rural health program with dispensaries and clinics, a well-drilling program (over 700 wells dug in the last four years) and a theological education system in an area about the size of Massachusetts.

Our first year in Nigeria we spent learning the national language— Hausa—greeting the shop in order and serving the ten 4-wheel-drive Land-Rover vehicles, six Peugeots, four Volkswagens, two Nissan vans, eight generators and nine water pumps and four mission station radios. We also made a home and a school for our boys (first and third grades), which turned out to be a school for about 20 kids in pre-school through second grade. Ralph teaches theory of mechanics to postsecondary students for two hours a day, and a first step toward a vision of what a high quality education in Nigeria might be. The second survey studied staff and trustees, and selected alumni, with planning for future trends. The second survey focused on the contents of the survey, what they thought Evergreen's current strengths are and, ideally, what they should be. The second survey studied the needs of southwest Washington, Evergreen's service area, through an analysis of existing demographic and economic data; and through personal interviews of more than 70 regional leaders about what resources their communities would need to manage future trends.

Completed in January, the two surveys are an assessment of Evergreen's internal and external strengths, and a first step toward a vision of what the future could hold. If the college puts as much energy into the Planning Council as it does "tough answers," it stands to benefit from another of Cope's characterizations of the strategic process: "It seeks to maximize the synergistic effects, i.e., making 1+1=2+2." On the verge of its sixteenth academic year next fall, Evergreen could make the equation read: 2+2=5 feet of evergreen.

As one of more than 12,000 ReView readers, you are invited to give your views and visions about the state of Evergreen today and its future. The Geoduck Questionnaire on page 7 also has space for you to respond to the "Rough Questions" and make the equation read: 2+2=5 feet of evergreen.
Geoduck Questionnaire

The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington 98505

Part One

Please fasten mailer with tape.

No Postage
Postage Will Be Paid By Addressee

Geoduck Questionnaire

Gooduck and State College
Olympia, Washington 98505

Close: 7/30/94 Postmark

Part Two

Please rate the BeVt « categorie

Exce
Phone-A-Thon ’86 Marks Tenth Anniversary

More than 150 volunteer callers—students, staff, faculty, trustees, Foundation board members and friends of Evergreen—will be calling more than 7,500 alumni and parents all over the country from February 5 to 28. The dollars raised during the tenth annual Phone-A-Thon will help the college provide scholarships, student research and special projects, faculty development, library acquisitions, guest lecturers and other important services that wouldn’t be possible without private donations.

Evergreen has come a long way since the first Phone-A-Thon in 1977, when a small group of volunteers raised $3,000 in pledges for The Evergreen State College Foundation. Last year, Phone-A-Thon pledges totaled more than $26,000. The target for the 13-night Phone-A-Thon ’86 is a record $27,500, which would be more than one-fifth of the Foundation’s overall Annual Fund goal of $125,000.

Look forward to hearing from one of our friendly callers during February and consider making a pledge to Evergreen.