



Remember this? The old book stand in front of Red Square was banned at the start of the school year. All we have left is this pixelated photo.

## BOOKSTORE BANS BOOKS? ...if they're not sold by the Bookstore

by CxPJ reporting service

In fall quarter of 2000, Evergreen student Sky Cosby began selling a few radical, underground books on campus. Shortly afterwards, he created a student originated study on opening an independent bookstore and drafting a business plan.

A couple years later, Cosby opened the doors to Last Word Books in downtown Olympia. Every quarter since its opening on May Day of 2002, Last Word Books has sold used books on topics ranging from anarchy and counterculture to administrative law and philosophy. Chances are, if you aren't a freshman and you've been on Red Square more than once, you have seen him or the Last Word stand.

However, when he arrived on campus this fall, ready to set up his table as he had done for almost ten years, Cosby was informed by Conference Services that he was no longer welcome on campus as a vendor and

would not be sold a permit. When he asked why, Conference Services said their hands were tied; a moratorium had been instituted over the summer banning book sales. Why did this happen, who was at the bottom of it, and is this the kind of treatment Evergreen alumni can expect from the campus?

### Instigating the ban

When someone asks *who is responsible for this*, it is remarkable how often one finds more pointed fingers than answers. Equally remarkable is how often those fingers form a circle, indicting everybody and nobody all at once. This case is no different.

When interviewed, Ken Danis, the new bookstore manager hired in June of last year, stated that John Hurley, Vice President for Finance and Administration, was the person who put the policy in place.

John Hurley stated that, while

it was he who approved the moratorium, it was the Space Management Committee that made the recommendation. Finally, Collin Orr, Director of Business Services and member of the Space Management Committee, closed the loop by claiming that Danis "was first to bring up the idea."

When Danis was asked if he himself was the person who instigated the idea of the ban, he responded, "Probably."

The answer to the question of who is responsible is: *D. All of the above.* The moratorium on outside vendors commenced through a memo describing a recommendation, prompted by Ken Danis, written by Collin Orr and the Space Management Committee, approved by John Hurley, and enforced by Conference Services.

The moratorium reads as follows: "Until the Space Scheduling and Usage Policy is approved, no vendors

will be allowed on campus that compete with any of the college's auxiliary services, for example, Bookstore, Copy Center."

While this language makes it seem like a temporary inconvenience, the current draft of the Space Scheduling and Usage Policy reads, "Commercial vendors cannot sell products or services sold by campus organizations including, but not limited to, food, books, and some clothing items."

When the smoke cleared after the moratorium was put into effect, only one outside business had lost their right to set up shop on Evergreen: Last Word Books.

### Last Word and the Library

In 2004, the Friends of the Evergreen Library began looking for someone to take over the selling of unwanted books to benefit the Library. Cosby and Last Word were the only ones

▶ **BOOKSTORE** continues on page 4

## Editorial: Y la lucha sigue...

by CxPJ Editorial Collective

Here or there, at the virtual offices of the Counter Point Journal (which are often someone's living room, a study room in the Library, a lounge area on campus, or whenever we run into one another), your humble CxPJ collective propounds stories to report on. As our mandate is to seek out stories of injustice, investigate the agendas of those in power, and to root out the hidden stories that would shock the public if they knew, we find that we never lack potential stories.

Injustice is everywhere. All sorts of parties are engaged in foul play and power plays. Everywhere you look, kindly, upright folk are getting screwed over.

Instead, what we lack is sufficient time and resources to investigate every single wrongdoing. We do what we can with what we have. It's vital to note, however, that these important stories existed before we published them. Some stories, such as the attack on Last Word Books, have been publicized elsewhere, though not to the extent that we provide here. But for as long as these injustices have existed, there have been people fighting back.

Our hope is not only to alert you to injustice, but to honor those who fight it, and to connect you with those who have been struggling, whether it's a couple dozen students demanding to see the proposed Student Code of Conduct or it's a visitor from another country who has to educate us on the destructive policies of our own government.

Is that a stretch? To connect the protests of a few smelly Greeners to the protest of Miguel Rivera (*see page 7*), who lost his brother in the anti-mining struggle in El Salvador? Or to "Zoya" (*page 6*), who lost her parents and who cannot use her real name or be photographed, or else she might be killed herself?

Indeed, it is a stretch. Then again, there's a reason why Zoya risked her life to speak at Evergreen. There's a reason why Manuel left his threatened community to address us. What do they know about us that many of us don't? Perhaps they recognize that we have the power to change this. That our collective voices can be louder than theirs, if we choose to speak out.

▶ **EDITORIAL** continues on page 3

## Oh, our lovely rights...

### STUDENTS TRY TO DECIPHER THE PROPOSED STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

by Anna Simonton & Tessa Wyllie de Echeverria

On November 4, students piled into a library classroom to voice their apprehensions to the Disappearing Task Force (DTF) in charge of revising the Student Code of Conduct. Many concerns were raised last spring when the first draft of the code was released to the students for public comment. Considering the level of attendance at the most recent meeting, students would like to take part in the review of the code more than once a year.

At the meeting, students raised concerns about the proposed revision of the Student Code of Conduct that was circulated last spring. Prevalent among the issues brought up was the ambiguous language used to describe what kind of off-campus behavior could result in punishment by the school. The DTF members

maintained that the effort to bring off-campus behavior under the jurisdiction of the school is intended to enable the administration to take action against students who commit sexual assault or other violence off campus. Students agreed that such situations should be addressed by the administration, but that the language was not specific enough to assuage their fear that the clause could extend to students known to have participated in other types of illegal activities, such as civil disobedience and other forms of activism.

Students were also concerned that the decision on whether to apply the code to a particular situation would be made on a case-by-case basis by one person: the vice president of student affairs.

This conversation was quickly diverted by DTF members Wendy

Endress and Andrea Seabert, both of whom work for the student affairs office.

As students raised their concerns, Wendy assured them that what they were referring to was part of the "old version" of the revised docu-

**Wendy Endress said that she wanted feedback from students, but not reactionary responses.**

ment. They now had a new version. Everyone perked up. Great, said the students, let's see it. But there wasn't a copy available. Wendy hadn't brought one.

The students asked if it was online. No, it won't be available there either. Wendy said that she wanted feedback from students, but not reactionary

responses. By "reactionary responses" she was referring to the huge outcry against several sections in the "old version" of the code revision last spring, and the thirty students who were now squeezed into a meeting that she hadn't expected anyone outside of the DTF to attend.

She also said that she had reservations about posting changes to the code online, because the committee goes back and forth on a lot of issues, and she didn't want to get a flood of responses about something that might get changed the next week anyway.

And finally, she said, sometimes the DTF makes tentative changes to the code without knowing fully where they stand on the matter, and she wants to be sure she can defend the changes before they are made available to public scrutiny. So basically, revise first, then figure out

some kind of justification, is standard operating procedure for this DTF.

Wendy's comments initiated a merry-go-round of talking that lasted the rest of the meeting. Students made suggestions about how to make revising the student code of conduct a more public process, and Wendy made the same three points over and over. Students paraphrased the suggestions, Wendy repeated her answers.

Students basically said that substantive changes to the code should be posted online as they are made, or the latest version should be posted monthly, something so students can know whether or not to keep pestering the DTF about the serious flaws in the revision of the code, or whether they've been amended.

▶ **CONDUCT** continues on page 5

# You're either with Finch, or you're with the swine flu

by Erin Finch

Much to-do has been made of the recently introduced H1N1 vaccine, with self-appointed voices-of-reason squawking from both left and right about the dangers of immunization. Depending on who you listen to, you will have heard that this shot is either an Obama administration conspiracy to control your mind, or a big-pharma conspiracy to riddle your body with mercury, give you Guillane-Barre syndrome, and charge you for the service.

If you've spent any time reading the myriad blog postings on the topic, the odds are good that you've heard both of these gems. Indeed, there's a good chance that you, whoever you are, agree with Bill Maher's twitter-posted formulation of this complex issue: "If u get a swine flu shot ur an idiot."

I am writing now to humbly present to you, dear reader, a third possibility. Yes, for just a few minutes, let us suspend our "ain't-gonna-trust-no-Washington-DC-smooth-talkin'" sensibilities and consider the possibility that the vaccine functions as it's supposed to, and that immunization saves lives.

First, let us be absolutely clear about the threat posed by the H1N1 influenza virus. This is not a "28 Days Later" apocalypse pandemic, but that does not mean that we can safely ignore it. The CDC estimates that from April through October 17—the first six months of the pandemic—22 million Americans have become ill from pandemic influenza, and between 63,000 and 153,000 have been hospitalized. Furthermore, according to CDC estimates released at the November 12 press briefing, roughly 3,900 people have died in the same period of time.

This figure is worthy of note considering the fact that the ordinary flu season hasn't even started yet.

"In typical seasonal flu we see disease from December to May. It's only November. Exactly what we will see as a full toll of illness from this pandemic is very difficult to say," said Doctor Anne Schuchat, Director, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, in the Nov. 12 press release.

At this point, the possible benefit of large-scale immunization should be clear: blunting the impact of a disease that has already claimed thousands of lives, and will almost certainly claim thousands more. The vaccine has been demonstrated to be highly effective against the H1N1 virus, so at this point the question is not whether lives will be saved, but how many?

"But what about the risks?" I hear a multitude of voices asking silently as I type this article. "What about mercury, and Guillain Barre syndrome?" "What about dystonia and autism?" "...and in 1976 more people died from the vaccine than the flu!"

Let us clear the air. Yes, there is a preservative that contains mercury, called thimerosal, in some of the doses of swine flu vaccine (the larger, multi-dose bottles will contain the chemical). No peer reviewed study has ever established a link between thimerosal and any negative health effects, but you can opt to receive a mercury-free dose if you are worried about it. Likewise, some doctors claim a link between autism and thimerosal in young children, but no studies have ever confirmed any such link.

Perhaps the least convincing evidence for the danger of vaccination is the case of Desiree Jennings, the young woman who reportedly developed dystonia from a flu shot.

First, this is the seasonal, not the H1N1 vaccine that we are talking about, and second, if Jennings got dystonia from a flu shot, she's the first to do so. And when I say "first to

do so," keep in mind that about 100 million Americans get the seasonal flu shot every year. Neurologists familiar with the case say that Jennings almost certainly did not have a physiological condition, but some kind of psychogenic disorder (which are known to appear and disappear with startling rapidity). Jennings' subsequent miraculous recovery seems to support this diagnosis, as physical, toxin-induced damage to the brain does not simply "get better."

Last, but by no means least, let us consider Guillain Barre syndrome and the 1976 vaccination "fiasco." Yes, about thirty people died from Guillain Barre after receiving the influenza vaccine. Roughly 500 total cases of GBS were reported after the vaccination of more than 40 million Americans. Roughly 500 cases were reported before the vaccination as well, but let us ignore this fact for a moment and focus on the more important issue. Even if a causal relationship were established (it hasn't been), and even if this modern H1N1 vaccine is as dangerous as the 1976 version (it isn't), there are still several thousand dead folks that ought to be remembered in our decision making.

At this point, it is prudent to remember that vaccination is about society, not the individual. I don't care if you're scared of what the shot might do to you. That's not what this is about. What kind of wildly inflated sense of entitlement have we developed as a culture, that we can complain about the way in which we cure diseases?

Vaccines are for the protection of society, the benefit for the individual is tangential. A certain number of people have to chip in for the rest.

Today, I was immunized against H1N1. Nobody is going to get swine flu from me.

Get the shot. The life you save may not just be your own.

Support Counter Point —  
contactus@counterpointjournal.org  
Buy an ad!

Size	Amount
1/2 page (10" x 8")	\$150
1/4 page (4" x 6")	\$75
1/8 page (4" x 4")	\$60
(4" x 2.5")	\$35
business card size	\$25

Pricing guide reflects prices for one month. We can design your add for an extra \$25.

Bulk discount:  
Pay for two months of advertisement and get the third advertisement half price.

Pay for seven months of advertisement and get the eighth and ninth month free.

10% discount for all nonprofit organizations and student groups

5% discounts for business owners who are Evergreen alumni

# CxPJ

The CxPJ is a collective of Evergreen community members who decided to form a monthly alternative press for marginalized voices.

We are always accepting submissions of articles with an emphasis on timely, relevant, and local issues. We specifically seek submissions that are well researched or include interviews or comments from those who are involved or affected by the issue being discussed. We also accept photography, poetry, art, and other creative works.

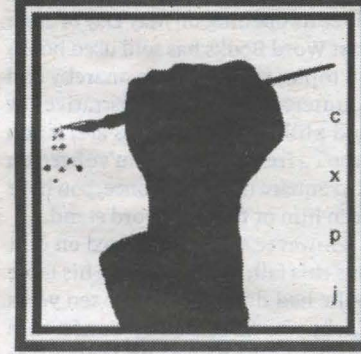
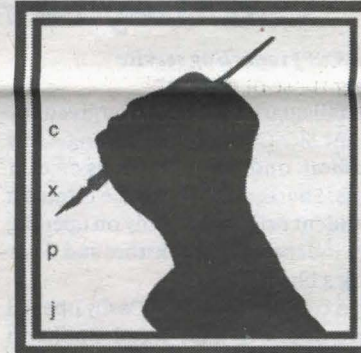
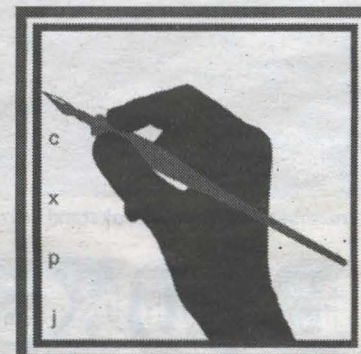
To submit original work, send it to [submissions@counterpointjournal.org](mailto:submissions@counterpointjournal.org). Due to the War on Christmas, we will not be publishing a December issue.

The next issue will come out on January 11, 2009. **The deadline for submissions for the January issue is January 4.**

The editorial collective reserves the right to question, edit, or not publish any content it receives. The collective will make every attempt to consult the author(s) in regards to any changes proposed.

Weekly CxPJ meetings are at 6 pm on Thursdays, in the Library underground.

The Counter Point Journal is also available online at [www.counterpointjournal.org](http://www.counterpointjournal.org).

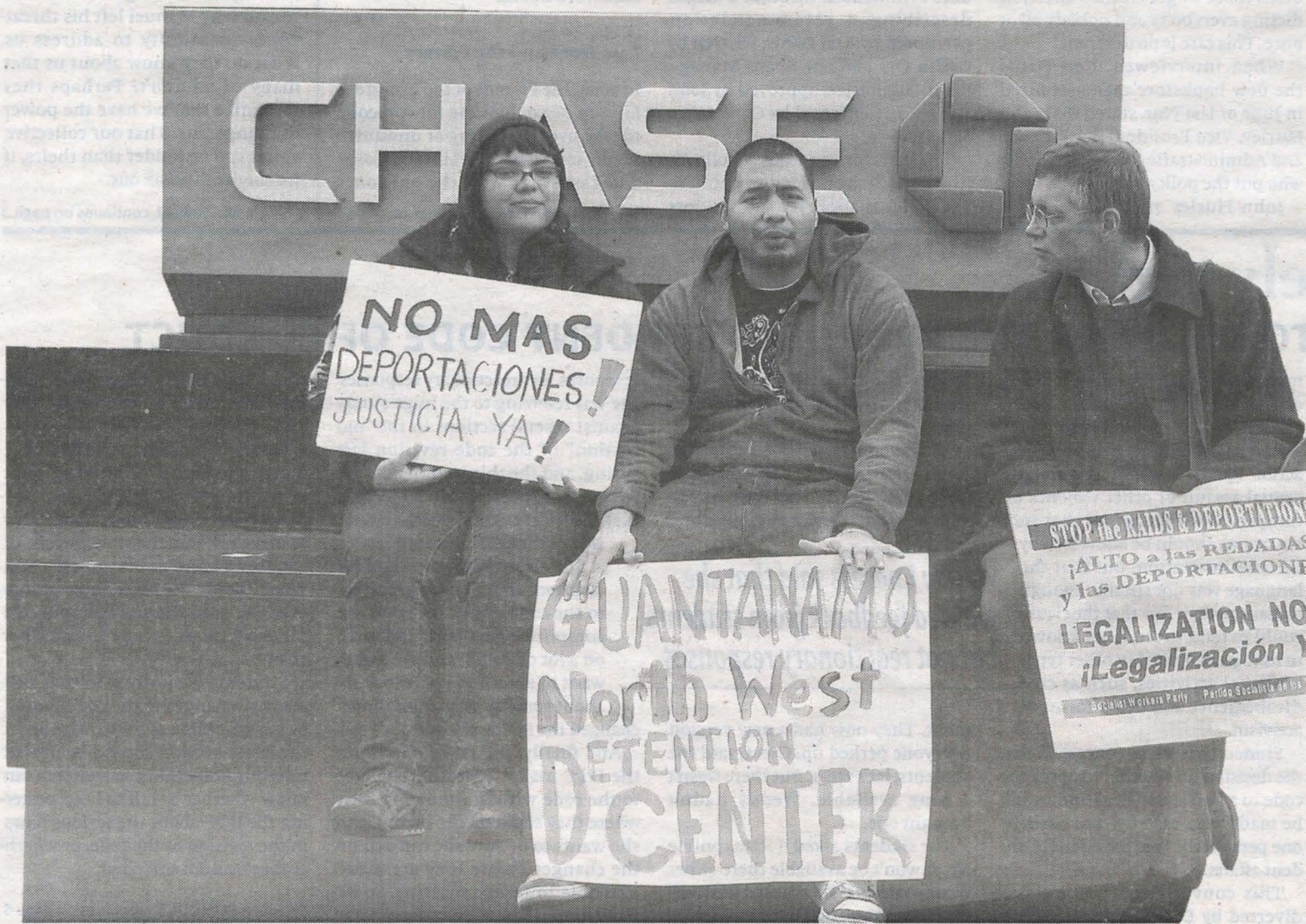


CxPJ logos by Lamise Al-Shawahin

On Nov. 14, demonstrators, including several Olympians, held a vigil at the Northwest Regional Detention Center, followed by a downtown Tacoma march to the offices of Washington Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, all in solidarity with immigrant rights. (Photo by Marlene White)

**Fall Quarter Self Evaluation Workshops hosted by the Writing Center**  
Wondering how to start your first self evaluation? Trying to catch up on the last three? Bring your questions to one of our self-evaluation workshops:  
Week 9: Monday 11/30, 6:30 pm in PRIMETIME (in A dorm)  
Thursday 12/3, 2:00pm in LIB2310 (inside Writing Center)  
Week 10: Monday 12/7, 6:30pm in PRIMETIME (in A dorm)  
Thursday 12/10, 2:00pm in LIB2310 (inside Writing Center)  
Please stop by the Writing Center for more information! You can reach us at (360) 867-6420.

**Looking for a short-term, meaningful job?**  
The Geoduck Union needs poll workers for the upcoming special initiative elections! Sit with a laptop and encourage students to vote! Get paid \$9/hour! We'll be hiring people during week 8, to work various shifts Mon-Fri of weeks 9 and 10. Email [afsimonton@gmail.com](mailto:afsimonton@gmail.com) for more information. Type "Poll Worker" in the subject line.



## Labor Center attacked by right-wing loonies backed by Evergreen goonies

*Kick out Evergreen's Labor Center and award Rush Limbaugh the Nobel Peace Prize! Sound silly? The Evergreen administration doesn't think so.*

by **Charlie Hicks**

In this period of declining budgets, we are all witnessing a renewed attack on our public services. From declining Social Security and welfare benefits, to a 28% increase in tuition costs, conservative interests are using financial crisis for their familiar goals of defunding public services.

Although a national problem, these issues are occurring on a local level as well, including attacks on our own campus. In a clear example of a private-partisan group with self-acknowledged conservative goals attempting to dismantle public services, the Labor Center has been subjected to an auditing of not only their financial records, but their ethical record as well.

In June 2008, a right-wing group with its headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri called Landmark Legal Foundation: The Ronald Reagan Legal Center sent a letter to the Washington State Auditor, calling for an investigation of the services provided by The Evergreen State College Labor Center. With this letter, Evergreen's Labor Center was placed among the ranks of Labor Centers across the country, including those of the University of Massachusetts, Florida International University, University of Michigan, UC Berkeley, UCLA, and Indiana University, to come under attack by Landmark Foundation.

Along with nominating Rush Limbaugh (a member of their Board of Directors) for a 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, Landmark Foundation also champions such right-wing business interests as climate change denial by providing a database of federal grants to environmental groups in order to facilitate financial-defunding attacks on these groups, and a concerted campaign against the public teachers union, the National Education Association, which is the largest professional association and largest labor union left in the country.

Busting up the NEA coincides with another of Landmark's pet goals, replacing public education with a voucher system.

Given its clearly partisan agenda, the Washington State Auditor informed the administration of the Evergreen State College that an audit would not be necessary and that Evergreen could respond to this provocation as they saw fit. However,

Les Purce felt it prudent to open his own audit of the Labor Center, with assurances that the audit was financial in nature only, to which the Labor Center openly agreed. The Labor Center stated it was quite willing to allow examination of its finances in order to locate and correct any discrepancies.

With the auditing process under way, the Evergreen Administration then switched gears and decided that the audit would examine not only the Labor Center's finances, but their ethics and mission statement as well. The Administration's appointed auditor proceeded to produce a report that closely mirrored the same partisan accusations of Landmark Foundation. Throughout this process, Les Purce has participated in no meetings with the Labor Center and has relegated discussion of their concerns to e-mails, with no input

**The Evergreen Administration then switched gears and decided that the audit would examine not only the Labor Center's finances, but their ethics and mission statement as well.**

accepted in the auditing process from the Labor Center.

The interests of a right-wing lawyer's group from Missouri could result in the loss of the Labor Center from the Evergreen campus. The Labor Center's work of educating people about their right to organize—such as immigrant laborers, whose lives and families are trampled upon by exploitative working conditions and sub-subsistence pay, and educational programs for women workers—provide long-term solutions to inequities by educating people on helping themselves through organizing.

This back-handed attack by Landmark Foundation is not only an intrusion into the affairs of our campus community, but is a concerted attack on working people of Washington State as a whole.

While the auditing process is well under way, and Landmark Foundation's right-wing agenda has been adopted by our own Administration, the crucial services which the Labor Center provides have not been forced from our community yet.

A Faculty Meeting is scheduled for December 9, from 1-3 p.m. in SEM II B1105. Students who disagree with the influence and intimidation this private, conservative interest group is exerting on our campus should attend and voice their support for the Labor Center.

The *Counter Point Journal* will be bringing further information on this situation in our next issue.

## Bored of Trustees



by **Tessa Wyllie de Echeverria**

On November 11, the Evergreen Board of Trustees met from 9 AM until 3 PM. At 2:30, the board opened up for public comment. The public comment time is short and at the end of a six hour meeting. This creates a small window in which students can address concerns to the board.

The Board of Trustees has almost total control over the school's long-term policy and plans. However, many on the board are not involved with Evergreen, nor do they have a deep understanding about Evergreen culture and student history.

It is important to maintain the student spirit and the general enduring philosophy of Evergreen. These board members don't know what is going on at Evergreen; they come to campus once per quarter and sit in the president's boardroom, making decisions about the path of Evergreen without fully understanding the path we are on. The Board of Trustees' agenda is put together by Art Costantino and Dr. Thomas L. (Les) Purce, and only at public comment can other campus members enter into the debate.

During the Nov. 11 public comment time, someone gave a presentation to the board on the removal of barriers to access. He covered the lack of consideration and the work towards making Evergreen a more accessible campus for all

community members. The board members sat there, slightly moving their heads as to appear deep in thought.

Next, the Geoduck Union made a statement about the Diversity and Equity Standing Committee and the President's Diversity Fund. The Union found many faults with the progress report—mainly that the college is not making any progress. The progress report discussed programs Evergreen has had in place for a while and focused only on race and first generation college students. Below is the statement made to the Board:

**One campus community member asked the board to "at least look interested."**

*As the Board of Trustees faces a progress report on the President's Diversity Fund and its efforts for an increased recognition and awareness of diversity issues and multiculturalism in Evergreen communities, the Geoduck Union would like to advocate for those students who feel that progress is lacking. Working towards a space in which anti-oppression and diversity are active topics of conversation is difficult, and the Diversity Fund faces more challenges in working towards this than a congratulatory tone provides.*

*There are actions that can be taken for Evergreen this year that can pro-*

*duce a concrete, positive change for transgender individuals, those with disabilities, and students with low-income status; to not work towards an increase in gender neutral bathrooms, increased access to services on campuses, and reduction in prohibitive tuition costs is to do a disservice to all Evergreen students.*

*The Geoduck Union has a challenge for the President's Diversity Fund: to listen to the student body, and to take action—not only in the form of dialogue and conferences, but in real, tangible changes. We challenge the Fund to become involved with at least 5 projects this year that reflect this commitment to anti-oppression, our diverse student body, and bettering Evergreen in tangible ways. This will require increased student input, and this will require Evergreen to reflect not only on where it has been able to take positive steps towards diversity, but also to where we have been stepping backwards.*

While sitting in the room I felt the statement falling on deaf ears. During the next talk by another member of the campus community, who also expressed concern with the lack of diversity, the presenter asked the board to "at least look interested." So while there is a space to address the Board of Trustees, a single student will have a challenging time getting the Board to listen and change a policy. After all, the Board of Trustees is there to stamp off on good PR for the school.

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In other news, the Counter Point Journal is now a registered student organization (RSO). How will this affect our content? It won't. We intended to challenge authority, inform the public, advocate for the oppressed, and empower the community as before. We will continue to do so as a student group. Based on past experience, we are indeed concerned that outside parties may try to divert us or delegitimize us, and they may try to do so through

our new connections with Student Activities. There are, after all, many ways to silence an opposition—the best ways being indirect. Why run someone down with a car when you can just engage the wheels of bureaucracy to roll over the person, back and forth?

We chose to become a registered student organization in hopes that it would allow us to be more effective in what we do. But we run the risk of becoming mired in bu-

reaucracy, of making compromises that initially seemed innocuous, or else of cozying up to authority and becoming too content with our content, recognizing that the RSO status provides us with the kind of stability that can make us complacent. God (or Whoever) knows that has happened before. We will try to prevent that from happening, and we hope that with your help, we will not forget why we exist.

## Faculty Union establishes Solidarity Scholarship

By **CxPJ Reporting Service**

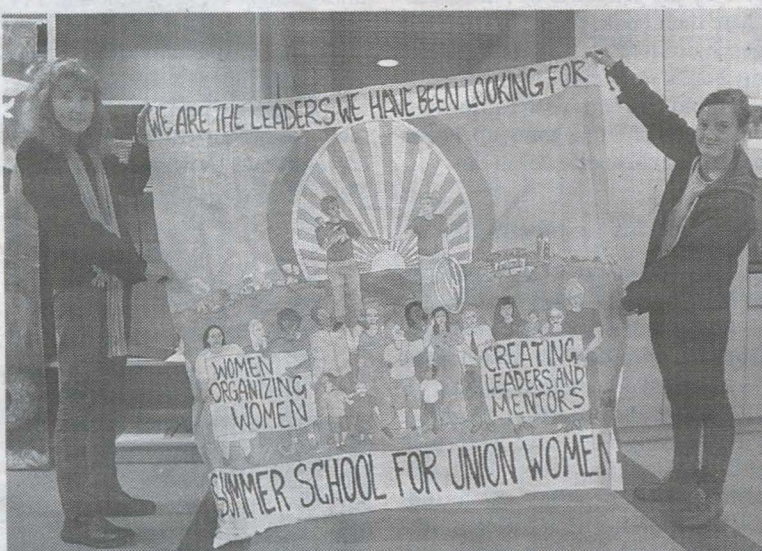
At their meeting on Nov. 13, the United Faculty of Evergreen enacted a proposal to create a scholarship to offset the recent tuition hike. The proposal was brought forward by Anita Lenges, a professor for the Masters in Education program, and Joe Tougas, Professor of Philosophy. The scholarship, entitled the Evergreen Faculty Union Solidarity Scholarship, is a needs-based scholarship for \$850, the exact amount that tuition was raised for resident undergraduates.

The Evergreen Faculty Union

Solidarity Scholarship will be available to 3rd or 4th year students beginning in the 2010–11 academic year and is funded entirely by faculty members. A sheet was passed around where faculty could submit their 1% yearly salary increase to the scholarship fund. As of Nov. 13, 8 scholarships have been created, though the final amount will not be tallied for a while. If 50 faculty members donate their 1% salary increase, 32 scholarships will be created. "This is about providing the real help students need to stay in school," said Tougas.

The tuition was raised by 14% for

resident undergraduate students last year and, according to the 2 year budget plan the Board of Trustees voted on, will be raised again by 14% this year. Since the tuition increase applied to all current students as opposed to only incoming students, those who came here during an economic recession expecting a set price are now put into the position where they either pay more or drop out. "Many faculty members had this idea as soon as we heard about the tuition increases," said Tougas. "We'll continue as long as the faculty is willing to donate."



The Labor Center hosts an annual Summer School for Union Women and Community Activists. "Women organizing women"? How deplorable! (Photo by Liliana Hudgens)

▶ **BOOKSTORE** continued from page 1

who would take the job. Last Word would take the books—sometimes 50 boxes at a time—sort, categorize, list, and sell them either in the store or online. “I doubled their profit almost instantly,” said Cosby.

When Liza Rognas, Evergreen faculty reference librarian and the liaison between Last Word Books and the reference librarian group, heard about the ban, she told the CxPJ, “I don’t like it. I think that the relationship between Last Word Books and the Library serves the college very well. Former Evergreen students are generating a few thousand dollars a year that goes straight to collection development at the Library. It has been a real holistic, long-term arrangement.”

The relationship between Cosby and the Library doesn’t exist solely for business. “Sky brings back books taken from the Library all the time that students tried to sell at Last Word Books.”

**Why only Last Word Books?**

Every response from the administration for why they kept returning to the rationale of no competition on campus, but their idea of what constitutes competition was vague at best. For instance, one commercial vendor has—since the moratorium was implemented—been coming to campus to sell Obama shirts and mugs, even though shirts and mugs are sold at the Bookstore.

According to Orr, this is acceptable because the Bookstore’s own shirts and mugs are “logoed” with the Evergreen name. Since this private vendor doesn’t sell shirts and mugs with EVERGREEN emblazoned on them, they are not considered competition. This should be compared to the rationale behind why Last Word is considered competition.

When on campus, Cosby and Last Word sold between 95% and 100% used books and refused to carry any textbooks or assigned reading for Evergreen classes. “When students wanted to buy their class books, I directed them to the Bookstore,” said Cosby. “I would love to see the Bookstore stay open.” While this would appear to be a clear example of not only non-competition but willful cooperation and even advocacy, the individuals involved in crafting the new policy and who were interviewed here felt otherwise.

“They sell the same types of books we sell here,” said Danis. “I’ve walked down there and looked at his stand and seen the same types of books there.” No one who didn’t stand to benefit from the expulsion of Last Word Books shared Danis’ observation. “Oh, sure there was a difference,” said Liza Rognas. “Yeah, I saw a big difference. They had a much broader selection, used books, philosophy, and a lot of books for the Left.”

**Examples, please?**

“They sell mushroom books, and we sell mushroom books,” said all three

administrators I interviewed, as if this example was the one they settled on as a group to be the case-winning argument. This, despite that the variety of literature encompassed by the category “Mushroom Books” is vastly different between the two operations. The Bookstore has mushroom books on foraging and identifying wild edible mushrooms in the Pacific Northwest, while Last Word carries how-to guides on growing psilocybin and other hallucinogenic mushrooms.

**One reason for the ban, cited by three officials: “They sell mushroom books, and we sell mushroom books.”**

It’s doubtful whether someone who wants to learn how to grow mushrooms because they want a cheap, organic and fun way to watch the moon melt will think, “You know what? Forget this. I just want to find a portobello in the woods.”

Another example is environmentalist literature. While the Bookstore may carry a book discussing the pros and cons of cap-and-trade policy or other market solutions to climate change, Last Word carries books like *Ecodefense*, an explanatory guide on how to safely carry out various monkeywrenching missions, such as disabling or destroying large destructive machinery and spiking trees—in other words, as Danis nonchalantly replied, “terrorism books.”

Terrorism books? That’s right, terrorism books. Danis went on to say, “I don’t know if [Last Word] is carrying *The Anarchist Cookbook*, which is a book we don’t carry.” We asked Collin Orr where our copy of *The Anarchist Cookbook* was. “Why wouldn’t we sell *The Anarchist Cookbook*?” Orr said. “If a professor says it’s a class book, we would sell it.”

Liza Rognas laughed at Danis’ comment, saying, “Terrorism books? Of course Sky sells terrorism books. Guess what? We’ve got terrorism books on our stacks.” Sure enough, *The Anarchist Cookbook*, filed under the subjects ANARCHISM, DRUG ABUSE, EXPLOSIVES, FIREARMS, and COOKERY (HASHISH), is call number HX844.P68 at the Evergreen Library. There’s also a copy in the reference stacks, in case the other copy is checked out and you need a recipe for napalm and a good Molotov cocktail in a hurry.

**In a place where there’s so much resistance from the administration to kick off Bank of America or divest from companies that profit from military occupations, banning a local business operated by former and current Evergreen students completely contradicts the founding principles of this college.**

**Free speech**

The fact that Last Word Books was the only vendor removed from campus, the nature of the administration’s response to inquiries about it, and the policies of what will and will not be available to students on Evergreen begin to bring this to light as an issue of free speech. “This clearly isn’t a policy of just protecting the



Sky Cosby with just a fraction of the books he sells to benefit the Friends of the Evergreen Library.

Bookstore,” states one Evergreen student. “This is obviously directed at silencing Last Word Books.”

The history of Evergreen over the past decade has been aimed at silencing and marginalizing any form of dissent and student power on campus. From the Evergreen Police acquiring handguns in fall 1999 despite massive student opposition, to responses to the 2008 Valentine’s and May Day riots, to the formation of the new Student Code of Conduct DTF and the attempted prosecution of those involved in the Israeli checkpoint street theater protest on Red Square last year, the ban of Last Word Books is one of the latest efforts in a continuing trend.

Contrasting Last Word Books’ consensus-run process, we asked Danis if student workers at the Bookstore had a vote in how the Bookstore is run. Danis summed up the way the process works at Evergreen succinctly: “This is not a democracy.”

**Student response**

When asked if he would consider reversing the vendor ban if students demanded that Last Word return to campus, Danis responded, “No one’s come and talked to me.” As of this publication, two stories have been published through the *Cooper Point Journal*—both in favor of Last Word returning to campus—and Cosby was interviewed by John Ford on KAOS about the ban.

Students interviewed were upset upon hearing about the ban and were overwhelmingly in favor of Cosby and Last Word returning to campus. “It was a good connection with

the campus and brought awareness of the local Olympia community and locally-owned businesses,” said one student who volunteered at a bookshop in Austin, Texas over the summer. “I lived on campus, and it was difficult at times to leave. I bought books like *Manifestos on the Future of Food and Seed* and *How Nonviolence Protects the State* from Last Word. At the same time, I bought things from the Bookstore, too. Book fans are going to be book fans regardless.”

There are other ways students are registering their displeasure with the moratorium. The program “Political Economy and Social Movements” has considered a boycott of the Bookstore, with the idea of purchasing all their books through Last Word as a show of solidarity. The measure, brought up and voted on by students and backed by faculty, ended up purchasing 20 books from Last Word directly and around 10 from the book store. Showing that giant corporations pose more of a threat than any local business, the rest of the students opted to purchase their books online or from bigger chain stores. “I would love to buy my books from Last Word,” one student told me. “But with tuition and other costs of living going up, I need to find the cheapest books I can.”

**The effect this has on campus**

In a place where there’s so much resistance from the administration to kick off Bank of America or divest from companies that profit from the criminal occupations of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Palestine, banning a local business operated by former and current Evergreen students completely contradicts the founding principles of this college. “It’s a surface-level sham,” Cosby stated flatly. “I’ve always sought to bridge the gap between the Olympia com-

munity and the Evergreen Campus.” Rognas agreed. “I think the hardest part about this is the effect this has on the relationship that the college has had with the outer community. To have that shut down willfully is sad.” What was once a thriving connection with downtown Olympia is now all but non-existent. But Cosby has new plans. “I’ve been thinking about opening up a reading room on Red Square or in the Library building. Not selling books—just a place where students can hang out and read. I just want to be there one to two days a quarter to provide the service that I do.”

In the end, everyone I interviewed discussed what students wanted. Some of those discussions were obviously covers; some of them were deep and heartfelt. “It seems like they’ve [the Bookstore] always missed the opportunity to draw people in,” said a staff member in Student Activities. “They’re continuing to alienate their clientele: the students.”

Rognas commented, “Last Word understands Evergreen students because they were Evergreen students.” Cosby, sitting outside Caffé Vita with a tattered copy of a Vonnegut novel and cigarette, summed it up best: “I’ve got my finger on the pulse of Evergreen, and I know what they want... They want to read radical books.”

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**Beware of the book**



Students want to know how they should conduct themselves in response to the proposed Student Code of Conduct at the Nov. 4 DTF meeting.

#### ► CONDUCT continued from page 1

Wendy reiterated her reasons for not wanting to do this and said that in December, when they have a final draft, students will get to see it and voice their feedback, which the DTF will then consider. Students didn't like this idea, because "final draft" sounds, well, final. They doubted how much their feedback would really be considered at that point.

The meeting ended with these issues unresolved. However, a student filed a public records request to obtain the "new version" of the revised code of conduct, which prompted Wendy Endress to post the damn thing online.

One thing this episode brings to light is the difference between representation and power. Reserving seats for students on DTFs and committees is better than keeping students out of Evergreen's decision-making processes altogether. But when it comes down to it, these positions are filled by students who are expected to do little more than offer their token opinions. If the administration is already headed in one direction, it isn't likely that these individual students will be able to turn them around.

Our student reps generally do a good job within the limits of their position, working to make change through compromises and lengthy discussions with other committee members. But compare this process with that of occupying the DTF meeting and filing a public records request, an action that resulted in at least one student demand being met immediately.

We interviewed Ray Campbell, one of the student representatives on the Student Code of Conduct DTF, to find out how much clout the "student voice," has on this issue.

Ray told us that the board was "a pretty level playing field now that there are so many student representatives." The students on the DTF went through the Geoduck Union interview process and were recommended by interview panels to serve on the committee.

It is very important that there are a number of students serving on this committee, but there also needs to be more of a dialogue with the wider student community. When asked whether the DTF was working to make this happen, Ray's response was that "they are trying, but at the same time they don't want [the

dered how the committee planned to address student concerns. Right now, "the main way that the DTF is looking for student input is through meetings that they hold once a year, and they get student input, take that back and rework the draft. They will do that three or four times before the conduct code is solidified."

This made us wonder whether last year's concerns have been considered. Ray informed us about some recent changes made in the code: In last Wednesday's meeting, the committee "made a change to the jurisdiction piece. We redacted the term 'property,'" and next week, "we are going to take a look at the 'adjacent' part." These both fall under Section Three: "Jurisdiction of the Code." This section concerns what rights the college has to pursue actions against students for things that happen off campus. These changes only scratch the surface of the problems with this section of the code.

Many concerns coming from the student body address the power of the vice president of student affairs in applying the new code. When queried, Ray explained that the committee "addressed some of those concerns at last week's meetings." We wondered if the changes really made a difference and he responded, "I think the result is it's just sounding better, but the thought behind changing the term was to make it seem more balanced."

When going over the standards for students' conduct, Section Four of the code, Ray pointed out a few issues he has with the language. The third term punishes the failure to be truthful and forthcoming, which "seems like it is a slight problem with the Fifth Amendment." Ray assured us that "truthful and forthcoming"

*With the understanding that the committee was not looking for weekly input from students, we wondered how the committee planned to address student concerns.*

meetings] open to twenty or thirty students each week...the majority of student input they are looking to get from student representatives."

As Ray went on to say, it is the job of student appointees to be the voice of student opinion. When we inquired if there was an open meeting or another way for representatives to hear from the larger student body, he replied, "It is not exactly organized that way, but I certainly hope to do that," and went on to discuss how he would like to work with other student appointees to work on gathering more student participation.

With the understanding that the committee was not looking for weekly input from students, we won-

will be brought up, at least if I have any say in it," and that "you should be able to remain silent even if the police stop you." This definitely seems like a basic right under the Fifth Amendment. Reading on only two items down, number five prohibits "failure to comply with the directions of members of the college community." Ray said—and we couldn't agree more—that "just because you are a community member doesn't give you the official capacity to do that."

Item ten prohibits the possession of firearms or weapons. Makes sense until you read the last part of that item, which includes, "realistic replica of such instrument, which might reasonably threaten or cause fear or alarm to others." Interesting, what falls under "realistic," a toy gun with a red point? Raymond believes that, "we can probably remove the realistic replica part be-

cause it is covered in the sounding of a false alarm." His reference is to item twelve: "intentional sounding of a false alarm."

We took a look at the back of the code under Section Eleven: Corrective Action. Last spring, and again at the November 4 meeting, students raised concerns about the power of the college to revoke degrees. At the time, Andrea Seabert said this had been redacted from the code.

However while reading the code, we found that the last item in the Corrective Action section was still the revocation of admission or degree, with no time limit of how long after you get your degree that it can be revoked. Ray stated that he, "will have to talk to Andi Seabert about that one". To that we responded that maybe Andi should read her code a little more closely.

## Your Geoduck Union: A status report

by Tessa Wyllie de Echeverria

The Geoduck Union is the Union for the Evergreen student body, working on campus-wide policies that affect the student body, and tackling individual issues students may be having with any part of campus life. The role of the GU is to assert student power and advocate for students.

Formed three years ago, the Geoduck Union is building the foundation for more student power on campus. The Union has facilitated the Nightline bus service, campaigned against rifles for the police, and placed student on campus policy committees. The GU continues to work on many different projects, and is always open to new issues for students to bring to the Union.

This year the GU created an interview process for students seeking positions on campus committees. The first interviews were held on October 27. Turnout from the student body was high, and many committee positions were filled, allowing for student opinion to be heard during campus policymaking. Key committees that now have student voices are the Police Services Community Review Board (PSCR), the Student Conduct Code DTF, and the Food Committee.

Along with placing students on committees, the Geoduck Union passed a bylaw that allows the Union to mediate conflict between students, other members of committees, and members of the campus community. This is a way to ensure student voices are not silenced, keep students feeling safe, and maintain accountability with students serving on committees.

Last year a DTF formed to rewrite the Student Conduct Code. During week 9 of spring quarter, the committee released the proposed new Student Conduct Code for community debate. Many members of the student body had issues with the new conduct code and its effect on student power. Under the rewritten code, most decisions are left solely to the vice president of student affairs. Furthermore, the revised code infringes heavily on the First and Fifth Amendment rights of the US Constitution.

Along with these changes, the code also extended its jurisdiction to regulate actions committed by students while off campus.

Due to its widespread implications on students' behavior, The Geoduck Union is working to make

the process of revising the code more open to the student body. The Union is also working to educate the campus community about what is changing in this policy and how it will affect the lives of all students. At the last Geoduck Union meeting, an official statement on the revised conduct code was issued and a number of students went to the conduct code meeting to inform the committee of student interest.

The Geoduck Union and the Clean Energy Committee (CEC) are holding a winter ballot to vote on a proposal by the CEC, as well as on special initiatives put forth by the GU. This is the first winter election for the Geoduck Union.

When asked why the Clean Energy Committee is working on the ballot, the committee responded with these points of interest:

We are proposing to add a new student position to the CEC who will work on Climate Action Plan (CAP) projects. The CAP is a list of strategies with a timeline for Evergreen to achieve its sustainability commitment of waste free and carbon neutral by 2020. More information about the CAP is online at [blogs.evergreen.edu/sustainability/our-climate-action-plan](http://blogs.evergreen.edu/sustainability/our-climate-action-plan). This position would allow direct student involvement with campus-wide clean energy projects. The new member will initially serve on the Biomass Gasification research committee, and work on other projects as they arise. They will also participate in regular CEC functions including deciding on grant proposals and planning events. The compensation for this position will be \$358 a quarter.

The current Clean Energy Initiative restricts the purchase of green power to the Pacific Northwest. This is great, because it helps to develop the local economy by creating clean energy infrastructure. If the initiative was expanded to include all of the United States, we could reduce the national carbon footprint by supporting clean energy in places where coal is the main source of energy. In other words, we would reduce more carbon emissions with the same amount of money if we were to purchase renewable energy from coal intensive regions. The CEC wants the students to decide what is more valuable: global carbon

► GEODUCK UNION continues on page 8

COMPETITION?



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# RAWA in Olympia

AFGHAN WOMEN CAN SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, THANK YOU VERY MUCH

by Anna Simonton

The SEM II lecture room was packed with students, faculty, and Evergreen community members. Every seat was taken; people stood against the walls and sat in the aisles. Everyone waited with excited apprehension for a speaker whose name they did not know.

Zoya is her assumed name. She doesn't reveal her true identity because she is wanted by fundamentalist warlords and others who have a stake in keeping power out of the hands of the people in Afghanistan. She is a member of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), and she travels the world speaking out against the US occupation of her country. On October 27, she came to Evergreen.

She didn't speak much about her personal life, though she has written a book about it (*Zoya's Story: An Afghan Woman's Struggle for Freedom*). Her parents were both members of RAWA. They were disappeared when Zoya was young, but RAWA adopted her, and she has worked with them ever since. The history of the organization is as incredible as the story of Zoya's life. Founded in 1977 by an Afghan woman named Meena, RAWA has provided critical services to the women and children of Afghanistan with the goal of advancing women's rights and democracy.

In Pakistan, where many Afghans live in refugee camps, RAWA has established a free hospital, mobile medical teams that provide free treatment, nine orphanages, fifteen primary schools, many literacy classes for women, and financial services that help women generate income by making crafts, raising fish or chickens, and cooking.

RAWA also provides these services in Afghanistan, which is much more dangerous. In Afghanistan the schools are all home-based and classes are held in secret. They have mobile health teams operating in eight provinces where they treat women and children who can't af-

ford healthcare, as well as wounded men. They make loans and help women start small businesses. They distribute food to the many families who have been impoverished by the violence and destruction of the occupation, and they evacuate families from battlefields to relocate them in safer areas.

On top of directly serving the needs of the people of Afghanistan, RAWA provides human rights orga-

**RAWA does all of this in secret, using the names of other organizations, with no funding from governments or NGOs.**

nizations with reports, news outlets with press releases, and produces a bilingual women's magazine, CDs of political songs, and pamphlets and brochures. They organize demonstrations and speaking tours to spread their message. They do all of this in secret, using the names of other organizations, with no funding from governments or NGOs.

The members of RAWA do this incredible work despite the risk it poses to their own personal safety. Zoya's parents were not the only activists who have been killed; Meena, RAWA's founder was murdered in 1987 by KGB operatives in collaboration with a Pakistani drug lord, and other RAWA members have disappeared over the years. Still, RAWA has persevered, through the Soviet War of the '80s, the civil wars and rule of the Taliban in the '90s, and now under the US occupation. This latest chapter was Zoya's focus when she spoke at Evergreen, dispelling some of the predominant misconceptions about the occupation of Afghanistan.

The War in Afghanistan, as it is more commonly called, has always had more American public support than the War in Iraq. This is due to two widely held beliefs: 1) War may not be a great option for the people of Afghanistan, but it's better than the Taliban, and 2) Eradicating the

Taliban has liberated Afghan women. Zoya began by partially agreeing with these ideas. "Afghanistan is free," she said, "free for drug lords, rapists, and warlords." She then explained why Afghanistan is not free for everyone else.

When the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan ended in 1989, the country fell into a state of civil war, with various warlords vying for power. In 1996 the Taliban formed and created a government that took control of Afghanistan. Warlords who had previously been fighting each other joined forces, creating the Northern Alliance in an effort to oust the Taliban. The people of Afghanistan suffered, both under the warlords that ruled parts of the country between 1989 and 1996, as well as under the Taliban's oppressive government.

But in the US war against the Taliban, the Northern Alliance has been made an ally, even though the Alliance is made up of drug lords and warlords who are responsible for the same human rights violations—rapes, killings, torture—that the

**Members of the Northern Alliance constitute the new government, and under their watch, criminals are free to do as they please.**

Taliban perpetrated.

Members of the Northern Alliance constitute the new government, and under their watch, criminals are free to do as they please. Zoya told of a girl who was gang-raped by eight men. Three of them were police officers, so none of them were tried. Another girl was gang-raped by thirteen men. They were members of the Northern Alliance, so the president pardoned them. Even men who do not hold such positions do not fear retribution from the US-backed government, so domestic violence has been steadily increasing.

The US government calls it a victory that girls are now allowed to go to school. The problem is that no

one sends their daughters to school because they risk being abducted or raped. The US government celebrates that women are no longer legally required to wear the burqa, but 90% of Afghani women still do, fearing the violent consequences of showing their face in public. Zoya's message is that the laws have only changed in name, and that's not enough: "In a country where there is no law, and no implementation of law, how can we expect a drastic change in the well-being of women?"

During the Q&A session, Zoya was asked what would happen if the occupying troops were simply to leave. Don't they offer some protection? Wouldn't things fall into chaos? She answered that the troops protect only 10% of the people in Afghanistan—government officials, UN workers, and rich businessmen. Those people would no longer have protection from the Taliban if the troops left. For the other 90% of the people in Afghanistan, things can't get worse. There is no protection as it is.

As long as foreign troops are in Afghanistan, Zoya stated, their mission should be to "disarm the Northern Alliance and disempower war criminals." She emphasized that the US should instead be supporting grassroots democratic movements. "Americans don't know about the democratic

organizations. They are very small and weak and under pressure from Taliban and other fundamentalists." But they do exist. There have been demonstrations in the University of Kabul, and the work that RAWA does with funding only from individual donors is evidence of how much could be accomplished with support from the US and other governments.

But ultimately, Zoya thinks the troops should just leave. She echoed the sentiment that RAWA's website eloquently presents: "RAWA believes that freedom and democracy can't be donated; it is the duty of the people of a country to fight and achieve these values. Under the US-supported government, the sworn enemies

of human rights, democracy and secularism have gripped their claws over our country and attempt to restore their religious fascism on our people.

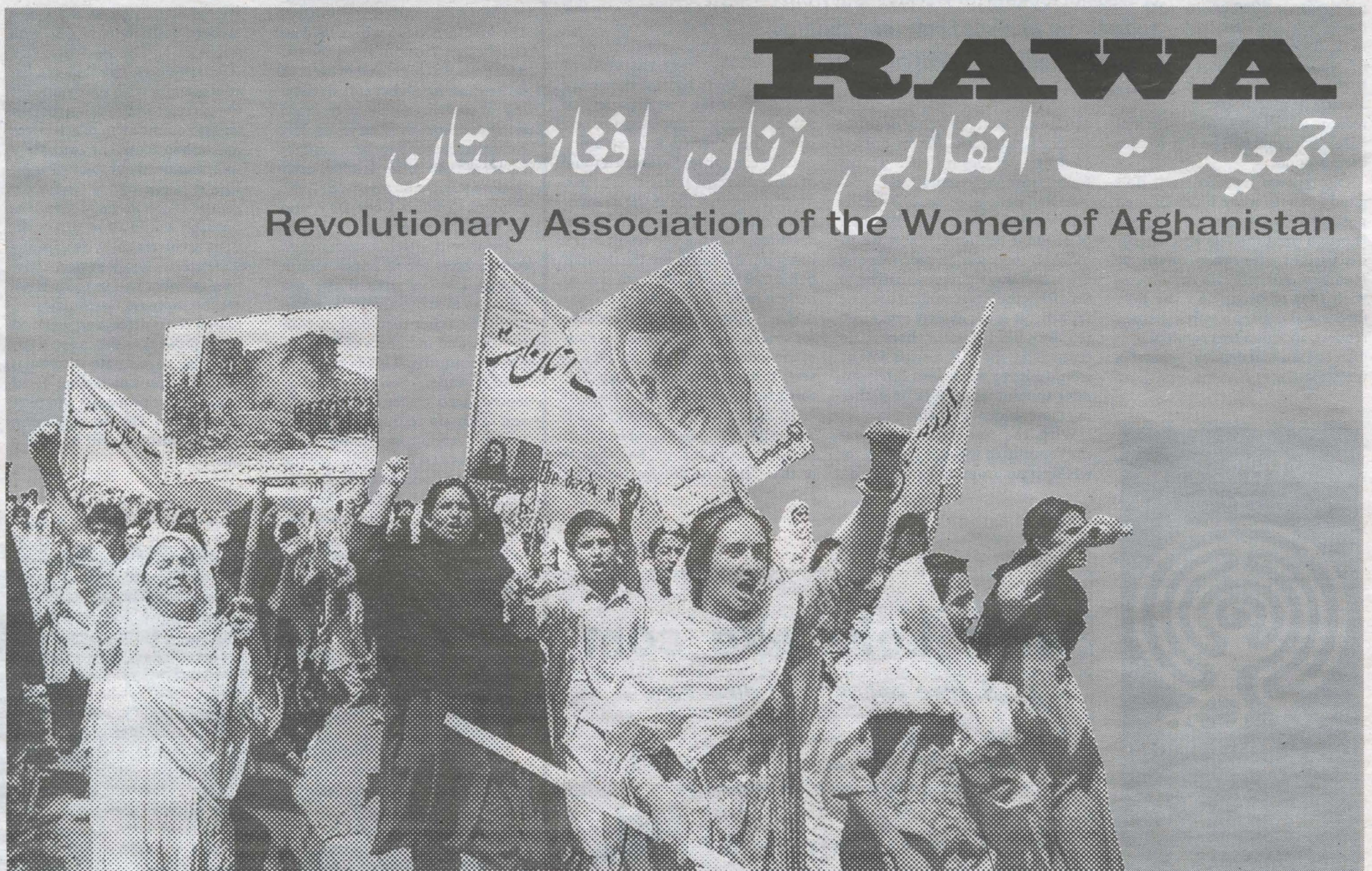
"Whenever fundamentalists exist as a military and political force in our injured land, the problem of Afghanistan will not be solved. Today RAWA's mission for women's rights is far from over and we have to work hard for establishment of an independent, free, democratic and secular Afghanistan. We need the solidarity and support of all people around the world."

This statement and Zoya's words affirm that solidarity, not military aggression, is the way to truly support people in their struggle for freedom. Unfortunately, since Zoya's visit to Evergreen, President Obama is considering an increase of up to 40,000 more troops in Afghanistan. Now, more than ever, those Americans who have insight into the reality of the situation in Afghanistan also have a responsibility to disseminate that information, to talk to relatives and friends in an effort to correct the misconception that Afghanistan is "The Good War."

You can make a difference when the winter holidays come around by asking a family member to make a donation to RAWA as a gift to you. The Afghan Women's Mission is RAWA's California-based sister organization. The money you donate to the Afghan Women's Mission will go straight to RAWA. You can find them online at <http://afghanwomensmission.org/index.php>

If you are interested in getting involved on campus, the Mideast Solidarity Project meets in the Student Activities Office area every Wednesday at 3pm. MSP brought Zoya here to speak, and is continually working on projects to raise consciousness and educate our community about the Middle East.

Anna Simonton is a member of the Mideast Solidarity Project.



# RAWA

جمعیت انقلابی زنان افغانستان

Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan

# Pacific Rim to El Salvador: What's yours is mined

by Anna Simonton

For years Pacific Rim, a mining company based in Vancouver, Canada, has been pushing to reopen the El Doardo mine in El Salvador against the will of the people and their government. Now the company is suing the Salvadoran government for \$77 million.

On October 21st, the Committee In Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) hosted Miguel Rivera, an activist from El Salvador, who spoke about the struggle to assert the rights of the people over those of the corporation. Rivera is the founder and current vice president of the Association of Friends of San Isidro (ASIC).

Rivera is from the town of San Isidro in the region called the Cabañas, where Pacific Rim acquired the El Dorado mine site in 2002 and began an intrusive exploration process to determine the amount of gold and silver in the hills.

In 2004, the company applied to the Salvadoran government to have their exploration license converted to an exploitation license (yes, it's actually called an *exploitation* license) but was denied because of widespread opposition to the mining project.



A mural for slain community leader and anti-mining activist Marcelo Rivera was painted on the side of a community library in San Isidro.

Pacific Rim ignored the concerns of the Salvadoran people and their government, and reopened the Canadian company's dormant subsidiary in Nevada in order to take advantage of Article 10 under the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), which allowed them to sue the government of El Salvador for \$77 million dollars for "profit infringement."

Now the two parties are in arbi-

tration under the World Bank. The money that El Salvador risks losing is money badly needed for public services and government programs. If the Salvadoran government is forced to pay Pacific Rim, it will be a punishment for nothing more than doing what governments are supposed to do—protect the rights and interests of the people who elect them.

Why isn't it in the interest of the people to have a new gold mine in the Cabañas? Pacific Rim argues, of course, that the mine will create jobs for the people who live in this rural area. However, according to CISPES, the gold mining industry contributes only .04% to El Salvador's GDP, while Pacific Rim's website details their plans for taking away 43.6 million dollars in "free cash flow," which is an estimate based on the price of gold as set at \$400 per ounce. Currently the price of gold is \$1,000 per ounce.

Besides contributing little to the Salvadoran economy, the El Dorado mining project would cost the people of El Salvador a great deal in health and environmental degradation. In 2005 a hydrogeologist conducted a technical review of Pacific Rim's Environmental Impact Assessment and concluded that the study lacked important data and testing. A study cosponsored by two Salvadoran groups—a Catholic organization and an environmental NGO—found that Pacific Rim's open pit mining process would contaminate local water supplies with mercury, cyanide, arsenic, zinc, and aluminum.

Probably the most astounding report to come out of the many studies that have been conducted to disprove Pacific Rim's promise of "green mining" is that the process would use over 200,000 gallons of water a day—the same amount that one Salvadoran family uses in twenty years.

Members of the communities located near the El Dorado mine site have seen firsthand the results of this kind of waste and pollution. The Environmental Committee of the Cabañas organized a tour of the San Martin gold mine in neighboring Honduras. People from the Cabañas visited the communities near the mine and met people suffering from rashes and skin disorders caused by the pollution of their water supply.



Miguel Rivera, who spoke at Evergreen, continues the work he previously did with his slain brother Marcelo—exposing the destructive designs of the Vancouver-based Pacific Rim mining company on his community.

Miguel Rivera spoke about this at Evergreen, noting that Pacific Rim countered these testimonies by saying that the Hondurans did not have rashes because of polluted water, but because they were dirty.

This racist assertion can't explain what Salvadorans on the tour learned next: that the Honduran government conducted a study that found the residents of this area to have dangerously high levels of arsenic and other chemicals in their blood.

Equally disturbing was the fact the ten rivers in the region have dried up as a result of the mine's water usage. This information has extreme implications for the people of El Salvador, where 30% of the rural population lacks access to clean water.

Water contamination would affect not only the health of the people, but would also impact agriculture and threaten food security.

None of these things have happened yet in the Cabañas, but even with the El Dorado mine unopened, Pacific Rim's presence has wreaked havoc among the communities there.

Activists opposing the mining project have been threatened, attacked, and killed. Miguel Rivera spoke about his brother, Marcelo, who was working as a legal representative of the ASIC, and was a member of the Board of the National Roundtable Against Metallic Mining in El Salvador.

Last June, Marcelo disappeared. A few weeks later, his mutilated body

**Last June, Miguel's brother Marcelo disappeared. A few weeks later, his mutilated body was found at the bottom of a well on the outskirts of town. Lying on the ground nearby was a military manual on forced disappearances.**

was found at the bottom of a well on the outskirts of town. Lying on the ground nearby was a military manual on forced disappearances. Despite this evidence, the right-wing Salvadoran attorney general maintains that Marcelo was last seen with drug dealers, and that his murder was the result of a drunken altercation.

You can watch a short documentary about Marcelo's murder and the ongoing battle with Pacific Rim at [www.jamiemoffett.com/marcelorivera](http://www.jamiemoffett.com/marcelorivera).

CISPES encourages folks to call Tom Shrake, president and CEO of Pacific Rim, and tell him to withdraw the lawsuit against El Salvador. You can reach him at (888) 775-7097.

## Luis Rodríguez visits Evergreen

by Rebecca Wyllie de Echeverria



Luis Rodríguez, a longtime activist who works predominantly with youth around issues of violence and incarceration, came to Evergreen during week five of fall quarter. He was brought by MEChA, Gateways for Incarcerated Youth, and several other generous sponsors. Luis is the author of many books, including poetry, novels and autobiographical works. Through his writing and lectures, he argues that creativity can positively influence people of all ages to find purpose within their lives and build community by becoming engaged in their creative process. He spoke at both the Evergreen and Tacoma campuses, with several academic programs, and went with the Gateways program on their weekly trips to Green Hill and Maple Lane. I would elaborate on Luis' ideas, but I think his poetry imparts them much more extensively than this paragraph. You can learn more about his projects and read his blog at [luisrodriguez.com/blog](http://luisrodriguez.com/blog).

### The Concrete River

by Luis J. Rodríguez

We sink into the dust,  
Baba and me,  
Beneath brush of prickly leaves;  
Ivy strangling trees—singing  
Our last rites of locura.  
Homeboys. Worshipping God-fumes  
Out of spray cans.

Our backs press up against  
A corrugated steel fence  
Along the dried banks  
Of a concrete river.  
Spray-painted outpourings  
On walls offer a chaos  
Of color for the eyes.

Home for now. Hidden in weeds.  
Furnished with stained mattresses  
And plastic milk crates.  
Wood planks thrust into  
thick branches  
serve as roof.  
The door is a torn cloth curtain  
(knock before entering).  
Home for now, sandwiched  
In between the maddening days.

We aim spray into paper bags.  
Suckle them. Take deep breaths.  
An echo of steel-sounds grates the sky.  
Home for now. Along an urban-  
spawned  
Stream of muck, we gargle in  
The technicolor synthesized madness.

This river, this concrete river,  
Becomes a steaming, bubbling  
Snake of water, pouring over  
Nightmares of wakefulness;  
Pouring out a rush of birds;  
A flow of clear liquid  
On a cloudless day.  
Not like the black oil stains we lie in,  
Not like the factory air engulfing  
us; Not this plastic death in a can.

Sun rays dance on the surface.  
Gray fish fidget below the sheen.  
And us looking like Huckleberry  
Finns/  
Tom Sawyers, with stick fishing poles,  
As dew drips off low branches  
As if it were earth's breast milk.

Oh, we should be novas of our born  
days.  
We should be scraping wet dirt  
with callused toes.  
We should be flowering petals  
playing ball.  
Soon water/fish/dew wane into  
A pulsating whiteness.  
I enter a tunnel of circles,  
Swimming to a glare of lights.  
Family and friends beckon me.

I want to be there,  
In perpetual dreaming;  
In the din of exquisite screams.  
I want to know this mother-comfort  
Surging through me.

I am a sliver of blazing ember  
entering a womb of brightness.  
I am a hovering spectre shedding  
scarred flesh.

I am a clown sneaking out of a  
painted  
mouth in the sky.

I am your son, amá, seeking  
the security of shadows,  
fleeing weary eyes  
bursting brown behind  
a sewing machine.

I am your brother, the one you  
threw off rooftops, tore into  
with rage—the one you visited,  
a rag of a boy, lying  
in a hospital bed, ruptured.

I am friend of books, prey of cops,  
lover of the barrio women  
selling hamburgers and tacos  
at the P&G Burger Stand.

I welcome this heavy shroud.  
I want to be buried in it—  
To be sculptured marble  
In craftier hands.

Soon an electrified hum sinks teeth  
Into brain—then claws  
Surround me, pull at me,  
Back to the dust, to the concrete  
river.

Let me go!—to stay entangled  
In this mesh of barbed serenity!  
But over me is a face,  
Mouth breathing back life.  
I feel the gush of air,  
The pebbles and debris beneath me.  
"Give me the bag, man," I slur.  
"No way! You died, man," Baba said.  
"You stopped breathing and died."  
"I have to go back!...you don't  
understand..."

I try to get up, to reach the sky.  
Oh, for the lights—for this whore  
of a Sun,  
To blind me. To entice me to burn.  
Come back! Let me swing in delight  
To the haunting knell,  
To pierce colors of virgin skies.  
Not here, along a concrete river,  
But there—licked by tongues of  
flame!

Poem reprinted with permission.

Over 1000 people attended the funeral of Marcelo Rivera. Marcelo was possibly tortured for days before being killed. The banner states "Marcelo lives and the struggle continues."



► **GEODUCK UNION** continued from page 5

reduction or supporting the local economy.

The current fee structure states that 90% of the Clean Energy fee must be directed towards the purchase of green power, and that 10% will be reserved as grant money for on-campus renewable energy projects. Because of the lowered price of green power and greater energy efficiency on campus, Evergreen only requires 57% of the fee to offset the electricity used on campus. The remaining amount is set aside to be used for on-campus clean energy projects, but it does not state who has the authority to decide how the money will be spent. To make sure that this money is spent with students in mind, we are proposing to change the wording of the initiative to state that the remaining funds after the purchase of green power be redirected to the CEC for allocation. With full access to the remaining funds, we would like to broaden our scope of eligible projects to support resource conservation projects, a clean energy graduate fellowship, and a large-scale community event (the Clean Energy Fair).

In spring 2009, the student body voted to hold quarterly elections. By holding more elections, the student body as a whole can be polled about campus issues and keep policies more updated through student input. Get out and vote—polls will be open during weeks nine and ten.

Below are the official statements the Geoduck Union has made this year. If you have an issue with something on campus, connect with the Geoduck Union, and we will work together towards empowering students, [geoduckunion2010@gmail.com](mailto:geoduckunion2010@gmail.com).

**GU Statement on Gateways for Incarcerated Youth**

November 11, 2009

Gateways is a unique program that is becoming nationally known for its work and methods and is an important part of Evergreen community. The Geoduck union supports the efforts of the Gateways program and a 50% tuition reduction for the incarcerated students in Gateways. The tuition reduction would help to demonstrate Evergreen's commitment to diversity and support for learning across significant differences. The incarcerated students are predominantly students of color, low-income, and first-generation college students. For example, last year the college classes at Maple Lane and Green Hill were composed of nearly 70% students of color, 75% first generation college students, and over 80% poor and working class students.

As the Student union we endorse this tuition reduction and the continued growth of the Gateways program, which is an important part of the Evergreen community, history and student life.

**GU Interim Report: Student Conduct Code**

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Below citations to the proposed Student Code of Conduct refer to an earlier draft. Although the concerns remain, the cited passages have moved under different headings, indicated in brackets.]

November 4, 2009

On May 22, 2009, the Geoduck Union informed the Student Conduct Code DTF regarding our concerns with their revision to several sections of the proposed code, including the expansion of jurisdiction (Sec. III A) [now III.2]. Although some off campus situations may require enforcement of the code, we continue to oppose the consolidation of these judgments to a single administrative position.

"The Vice President for Student Af-

fairs shall decide whether the Code shall be applied to conduct occurring off campus, on a case by case basis, in his/her sole discretion."

We recommend that the Code define, explicitly, the sole instances in which the Code may be applied beyond College premises. We believe that our values of health and safety would be best served through explicit descriptions of off-campus situations where enforcement of the Code may benefit the expression of those values.

The Geoduck Union also informed the Student Conduct Code DTF regarding several prohibitions of behavior (Sec III B) [now IV.2/5] Many of the restrictions threaten the right of students to acts of civil disobedience, which the Union defends as critical for a free society and any learning environment. We recommend the addition of language that explicitly grants students the freedom to engage in civil disobedience and prohibits the existence and/or enforcement of any part or parts of the Code to limit or restrict any student's right to engage in such activities including but not limited to the inhibition of the school's 'means of production.' Below are specific sections of the proposed Code that are in conflict with our recommendations.

1. Obstruction or disruption of learning, teaching, research, administration, freedom of speech and movement, the adjudicative process, public service functions or College-sponsored activities on or off campus.
5. Failure to comply with directions of College officials or emergency response personnel acting in performance of their duties which includes failure to identify oneself to these persons when requested to do so.
17. Refusal to desist from prohibited conduct.
18. Failure to respond to any notice

to appear for a meeting or hearing as part of the student conduct process and failure to comply with an imposed sanction or any agreement made during the adjudicative process.

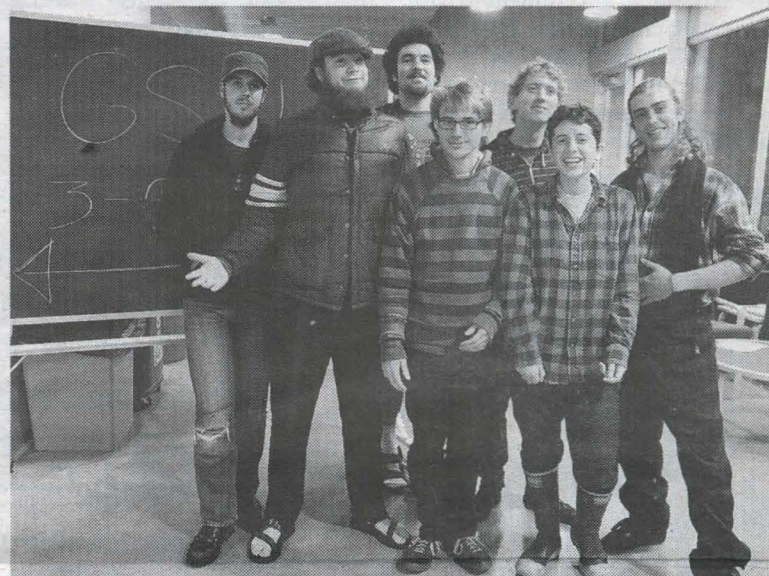
23. Alleged violation of federal, state or local law and/or conviction of a felony or misdemeanor under circumstances where it is reasonable to conclude that the presence of the person at the College would constitute a danger to health, personal safety, or property or where the offense occurred on College premises or at College-sponsored activities.

24. Failing to intervene with or knowingly assisting another person to violate the Code. The Union also finds the following parts of the Code (from Sec III B) [now IV.3] in need of revision or deletion due to problem of enforcement or lack of accordance with state or federal law. The Union defends the right of students to refrain from self-incrimination during any College investigation, hearing, or process.

3. Failure to be truthful and forthcoming to the College or a College official. This includes but is not limited to making false charges against another member of the community, providing misinformation in application for admission, to gain employment, or to avoid determination of facts in a College investigation, hearing, or process.

9. Possessing firearms or weapons on campus; unauthorized use, possession or storage of any explosives, dangerous chemicals or substances; or possession and/or use of any instrument designed to cause harm which threatens or might reasonably cause fear or alarm to others.

The Geoduck Union will continue to aid and engage the Student Conduct Code DTF in its efforts to revise the Code and will continue to make comments during the revision process.



Seven of the 14 Geoduck Union representatives celebrate after screwing in a light bulb. Just kidding! (Photo by Liliana Hudgens)

# Who's in charge here?

A guide to the centers of campus power for the social climber

September 8, 2009

## The Evergreen State College

