

NEWS

The Evergreen State College
Olympia, Washington 98505

for immediate release
February 7, 1974

for additional information
Judy Annis, 866-6128

BELLEVUE JUNIOR OFFERS SENATE TESTIMONY

She's enrolled in an academic program called "Power and Decision Making in American Society," but this quarter she's been studying that topic first hand as a witness before two different State Senate Committees.

Chris Meserve, a 20-year-old Bellevue junior at The Evergreen State College, has been described by her faculty sponsor as "The state authority" on the laws governing charitable contributions. She spent last Winter Quarter working for passage of the Charitable Contributions Act while serving an internship in the Office of the Governor and the past summer working with the Division of Professional Licensing of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The act, which requires charitable organizations to register with the Division of Professional Licensing and report how much of the funds they raise go to charities, to their own organizations, and to professional fund raisers, did not go into effect until January 1 of this year, Miss Meserve reports. "Many of the organizations affected by it just don't want to register, so they've offered amendments to the original bill which would weaken its affect," she said.

The Washington Commission on Consumer Interest asked Miss Meserve to testify against those amendments before the Senate Constitution and Elections Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee. She reports that so far, the amendments which would weaken the bill have failed. But, she adds, the amendment she helped author, which would

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exempt religious organizations from registering if they were soliticing funds for religious purposes, has moved from one Senate Committee.

The Bellevue three-year Evergreen doesn't expect to be called for additional testimony. But it's likely lawmakers have not seen the last of the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Meserve of 2443 129th S.E. She's studying political science, and the 1971 graduate of Newport High School says she hopes to attend law school.