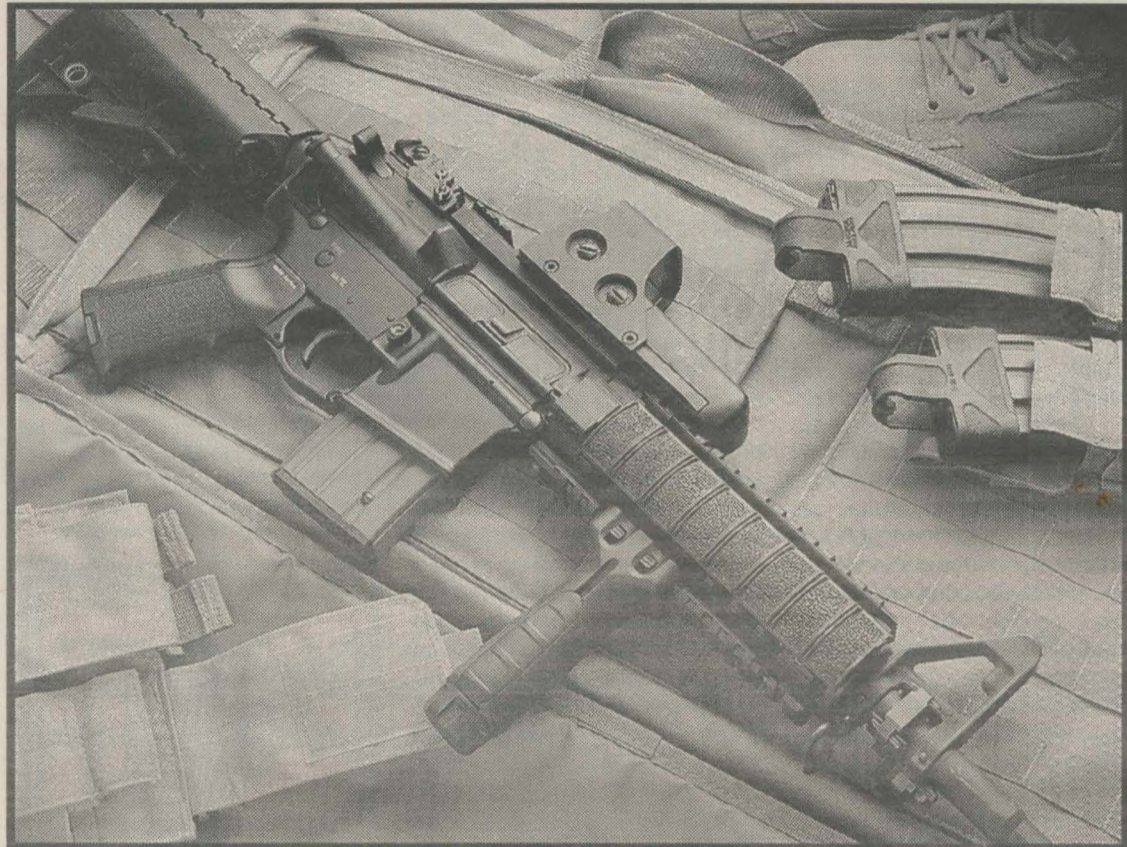


# Counter Point Journal

Issue 1 — April 2009

FREE

In this premiere issue:  
**Guns**  
**Palestine/Israel**  
**Feminism...and more!**



The Evergreen State College is a concrete jungle. Student Activities is like Fallujah, only more privileged. That's why Campus Police need AR-15s. It's the next best thing to Blackwater. See pages 4 and 6 for stories about guns and cops at Evergreen.

## This is not the Cooper Point Journal - God, no

by the CxPJ Collective

"There is no such thing as a neutral education process. Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate the integration of generations into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity to it, or it becomes the 'practice of freedom', the means by which men and women deal critically with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world."

—Paulo Freire

About four weeks ago, a few of us came together with the intent to begin a monthly newspaper directed towards the Evergreen State College. To some, this might sound bizarre given the existence of a fully funded weekly newspaper at the college, but let us explain our reasoning.

All of us have contributed to the Cooper Point Journal in some form previously, but we felt that there are major problems with the newspaper that could not be resolved by merely submitting regularly ourselves. We had to ask ourselves, what does media do and who is it for?

We're probably not alone in our general feeling of "blah" towards the CPJ, at least when it doesn't make us bloodcurdlingly angry. And while it's easy to hammer other people's work, in the process of creating this paper we've definitely developed greater appreciation for the work involved in media and for what one can only suspect are some of the issues CPJ staff face on a regular basis. For instance:

1. When pursuing a story, it's much easier to just get the information from a professional adminis-

trator and be done with it instead of speaking to students and staff to track down important elements that could change the whole course of the story.

2. Maintaining a regular publication is a tremendous amount of work.

3. Soliciting articles is not nearly so easy as just making the medium available.

4. Probably most important, finding relevant and interesting stories requires a lot of investment and creativity.

Be that as it may, having an issue be particularly difficult doesn't relieve our responsibility to it. Media remains a major source of education about the events that affect our lives, and on these terms our current media is lacking.

At best, we could stress the limitations that lead CPJ journalists along the easy path of neatly wrapped stories from Art Constantino, Andrea Seabert and Ed Sorger among many other administrators whose job it is to confine the realm of debate and facilitate the regular development of what has become the "business of education."

At worst, there's been an intentional project of selecting "safe" writing while making it difficult for critical journalism to appear. The CPJ has rejected important, well-written articles about issues that obviously interest students (see Phan's article below). Its method of administrative reporting, parrotting campus professionals, falls short and does not do justice to the

▶ EDITORS continues on page 6

## How to lie and libel for the CPJ

Why did the Cooper Point Journal knowingly publish a fake quote by Martin Luther King? Why will it not publish a correction to its reference to a nonexistent anti-Semitic Jordanian law? Why does it allow personal attacks against individuals and not allow the attacked to respond? These questions must be posed in light of the CPJ's mishandling of a "controversial" subject.

by Phan Nguyen

### Censorship for the sake of "inclusion"?

In the April 9 issue of the CPJ, Editor-in-Chief Jason Slotkin stated that the CPJ would "not be accepting opinion articles about the Israel/Palestine conflict for the remainder [sic] of the quarter." Slotkin provided a vague and peculiar rationale: "[T]his decision is in the interest of productive and inclusive discourse in the CPJ."

Thus the CPJ was claiming to promote inclusive discourse by excluding articles on a particular subject. Moreover, Slotkin was not rejecting the subject because of its irrelevance to the campus community. Slotkin noted that "[t]he Israel/Palestinian conflict is something many students feel passionately about. Many students have strong personal and cultural ties to this region and its citizens." The CPJ was banning opinion pieces on Palestine-Israel precisely because the editorial staff believed "students feel passionately about" it.

To understand how the CPJ reached this decision requires an accounting of events that transpired in the last weeks of the Winter 2009 quarter. From this, we can see how the CPJ staff exercised poor judgment, made contradictory interpretations of their policies, and attempted to deal with their errors not by correcting the errors but by sweeping them under the rug.

### The background

On Feb. 26, the CPJ published an article written by me entitled "Introducing Evergreen's Own Little 'Israel Lobby.'" In the article, I reported that a new campus student group, SIIA Shalom, had received outside funding to disseminate pro-Israel

propaganda as part of a multi-million dollar campaign to dominate discourse on the Palestine-Israel conflict on college campuses.

The following week, two members of SIIA Shalom, Noah Milstein and Russel Katz, responded in the CPJ with their own articles. Milstein compared my article to anti-Semitic "blood libel" and "The Protocols of Zion." Milstein falsely claimed that I was referring to a "Jewish cabal" and a "Zionist conspiracy." Although his article was headlined a "response" to my article, it made no direct references to my article other than claiming that a Hebrew/English dictionary would not equate the word "hasbara" with "propaganda" (I have identified at least four dictionaries that do).

I prepared a response for the CPJ, pointing out a number of deliberate falsehoods in the Milstein and Katz articles. Besides noting that I had never mentioned a "Jewish cabal" or a "Zionist conspiracy," I pointed out that Milstein was wrong in claiming that "in Jordan it is illegal for a Jew to hold citizenship." There has never been any such law in Jordan. I also pointed out that SIIA Shalom's website was full of such falsehoods, even reciting fake quotes from Martin Luther King, Jr.

Editor-in-Chief Jason Slotkin asked me to revise my article, stating that it was "a very direct rebuttal to Noah [Milstein]'s article," which would supposedly violate the CPJ's policy of not publishing letters that "do not advance a discussion or argument but serve to generate or feed a squabble."

I revised my article to indicate that Katz and Milstein's arguments were representative of common pro-Israel arguments. Slotkin replied by email stating that the article would need further revision, claiming that

it "seems to point more at the validity of Katz and Milstein [sic] for having their beliefs and their motives as opposed to facts the behind their beliefs." Slotkin stated that he was not asking for a "change of content or argument, but who the argument is directed at."

I responded by email, asking Slotkin how I could adhere to CPJ policies and still "make the following points:

- The idea that "in Jordan it is illegal for a Jew to hold citizenship" is absolutely false.

- The idea that Israel invented leaflet drops to warn people to flee or die is absolutely false.

- Martin Luther King never made the statements that he is quoted as saying on the SIIA Shalom website.

- You can't justify Israeli military actions in the name of feminism or queer solidarity.

Please let me know.  
Thanks.

-Phan

Slotkin never replied. The CPJ didn't publish my article for its March 12 issue but instead published a second letter by Russel Katz that employed one of the fake quotes by Martin Luther King. That is, rather than printing an article that revealed that SIIA Shalom was propagating fake quotes from Martin Luther King, the CPJ instead printed one of the fake quotes from Martin Luther King as truth. (see page 5 for details)

Moreover, Katz's article made a personal attack against Anna-Marie Murano, coordinator of the Mideast Solidarity Project (MSP, formerly SESAME). In the CPJ, Katz claimed that Murano's proposal for a Hate-Free Campus (which Katz incorrectly

called a "hate free zone") meant that:

material judged to be offensive would be officially censored. These are strong statements from an individual who refuses to meet with SIIA Shalom and won't engage in any kind of conversation on the matter.

Katz made two serious misrepresentations: 1) The text of the Hate-Free Campus makes no references to censorship and in fact expresses a commitment to honoring free speech. 2) Even though no member of SIIA Shalom has ever approached Murano, she had previously informed a friend of SIIA Shalom coordinator Noah Milstein that she wanted to meet with Milstein.

Additionally, Katz suggested that Murano spoke of a "Jewish conspiracy" (placing the term in quotes) at the March 4 Geoduck Student Union meeting, which was blatantly false. There was never anything remotely referencing a "Jewish conspiracy" at the March 4 GSU meeting.

### Feelings trump facts

On March 13, Murano and I met

### Cooper Point Journal—Quality Control Department

| Fit to print   | Not fit to print  |
|--|---|
| Fake quotes from Martin Luther King (3/12/09)  | Correction to fake quotes from Martin Luther King   |
| Reference to a fake anti-Semitic Jordanian law (3/5/09)  | Correction to the fake anti-Semitic Jordanian law   |
| Responding to a prior article by utilizing straw man arguments, misattributions, name-calling, and false claims of anti-Semitism (3/5/09, 3/12/09) | Responding to a prior article by quoting directly from the article and proving that the claims are wrong. |
| Personal attacks based on false claims (3/5/09, 3/12/09)   | Correction to the personal attacks by the person who was attacked   |
| Opinion articles such as "Stop Bitching, Bitches" (1/29/09), "Fuck You, Chicken McNuggets" (3/12/09), and "Why Can't I Blow My Dog?" (6/5/08)      | Opinion articles on Palestine-Israel  |



# Protecting patriarchy: a symptom of internalized sexism

by Anna-Marie Murano

On April 6, 2009 the CPJ chose to run an opinion piece by Erica Hayes, a self-proclaimed "feminist," called "Dear Evergreen Feminists." The opinion piece was published in response to "Women Targeted during Political Actions" by myself and featured the story of Shelbi Chew. Both Chew and I wanted an opportunity to respond to Hayes' article, but because the Cooper Point Journal editorial policy doesn't allow for direct responses, clarifications, corrections, or fact checking, the below article would not have been published by the CPJ.

The article "Women Targeted during Political Actions" (Cooper Point Journal, March 12, 2009) revealed the stories of women harassed on the Evergreen campus and in the Olympia community. The article specified three incidents where women were being targeted: while participating in the Gaza solidarity die in, handing out pamphlets about the rifles on campus, and incarcerated following the Women's Action at the Port of Olympia in Nov. 2007. The women spoke out without shame about the harassment and abuse they have endured for being politically involved.

This kind of public witness can be upsetting, as it was to the author of the opinion piece "Dear Evergreen Feminists" (CPJ, April 9, 2009) published in response to the article.

In "Dear Evergreen Feminists" the author, Erica Hayes, decides to take the side of her "mild mannered" male-bodied friend who called one of the women handing out pamphlets for Alive! an "anarchist idiot cunt," instead of supporting the women who come forward with their stories of sexualized harassment. Shelbi Chew, the woman who was verbally attacked by the "mild mannered" friend, was talking with a group of three other men who were interrupting and talking over her before Hayes' friend approached. He had no context for what was happening before he approached Chew, told her, "Shut up! You're talking way too much," and called her by the sexist slur, "anarchist idiot cunt," which defined Chew by her anatomy in the most degrading terms. His hands were clenched; he was shaking and behaved in a physically intimidating manner by leaning into Chew as he screamed at her. How can this not be considered silencing?

Incidents such as these are considered bias incidents. The Evergreen State College defines a bias incident as "conduct, speech or expression that is motivated by bias based on perceived race, color, religion, ethnic/national origin, gender expression, sex, age, disability or sexual orientation identities." The college states it has "zero tolerance" for bias incidents such as the one Chew was

subjected to.

Hayes thinks that Greener feminists should expect to be called cunts and degraded as long as they don't act nice. She continues her rant by blaming feminists for their own oppression, focusing on Chew, and says they are "stupid," "raving lunatic[s]," "immature," and "irrational." All these words reaffirm stereotypes about women.

Another story from "Women Targeted for Political Actions" occurred in November 2007 following the Olympia Port Protest's Women's Action, in which female inmates were stripped in front of male guards. In Hayes' response, she assumes the women are guilty of a crime, without trial or jury, and deserve having their breasts exposed in front of male guards. No acknowledgement is made that the City of Olympia violated its own procedures when they forced the women to strip. The law clearly states that inmates are allowed to wear one layer and undergarments, but some of the women arrested for the Women's Action during the Port Protests in November of 2007 were forced to wear transparent undershirts which exposed their breasts. In the same way she blames Chew for her harassment, the author disassociates herself from victims of the criminal justice system by assuming that she would never be arrested for her convictions or a crime she did not commit.

**Men with power never gave up oppressing because we were well behaved. Niceness didn't end slavery, give us the right to vote, or pass sexual harassment laws.**

Whether man or woman, gender-queer, trans or intersexed, people do not deserve the abuse that occurs within the prison industrial complex. When target genders or non-gendered people are imprisoned, they suffer greater incidents of sexualized assault, harassment and abuse at the hands of guards, including the abuse that occurred at the City of Olympia Jail. Currently, the Washington State Department of Corrections is dealing with rape and assault of women in epidemic proportions at three prisons – the Washington State Corrections Center for Women in Purdy, Pine Lodge Prison, and Mission Creek Prison.

In "Dear Evergreen Feminists" Hayes claims that women who bring up abuse and harassment are "whining." Rather, it is courageous to come forward despite the risk of being subjected to further trauma, as are rape survivors when their stories are not believed or when they are told they deserve what they get and need to toughen up and act



like men. Claims of women whining reaffirm the patriarchal values of blaming the victim, silencing of women, gender-queer, trans and intersexed people when they complain about abuse and harassment, and supporting a male-centered normative culture. It is Hayes' expectation that women should act macho when faced with oppression, but when people take up the space normally occupied by men, they are punished for it. Once again the survivor is blamed for speaking out against patriarchy's manifestation in their lives. "Feminine" qualities are dismissed as less valuable, and Hayes tells women to act like real feminists who can take the shit shoveled on them.

Are we to believe that women deserve what they get, whether it is being stripped in front of male guards in jail or called a cunt for supposedly talking too much? By repeating this myth, Hayes is able to blame the victim for their own victimhood and distance herself from the realities of what it means to be a woman in this society. Being a target means you are vulnerable to sexual harassment and attack, that language is frequently used to sexually degrade you, and the decisions you make are inevitably influenced by your lack of power in the society. It also means that when you survive this reality – instead of denying it – and turn to your community for support, you become stronger.

In the article, Hayes also states that it is the self-assumed job of a feminist to appeal to men's sensibilities. But a feminist's job is not to make equality soft and cozy for those who oppress them. Men with power never gave up oppressing because we were well behaved. Niceness didn't end slavery, give us the right to vote, or pass sexual harassment laws. The job of a feminist is

to stand up for your fellow feminists, despite what your male-bodied friends will think about you – even if he was a 'feminist' who then decided he preferred his privilege and power to being held accountable.

In her article, Hayes distances herself from other feminists because she is embarrassed by their behavior. For Hayes, their behavior gives feminists on campus a bad name. The assumption is that there is only one kind of feminism. But sexism and patriarchy oppresses all people who are not male identified and male-bodied, such as gender-queer, intersexed, trans, and women. Feminisms take many different forms where oppression intersects – such as race, sexual identity, and class – and some forms of feminism also challenge the concept of gender and hierarchy. But what happens to a person when they internalize the oppression they face instead of resist it?

When women internalize sexism, the oppression from the outside world is turned inward. They can blame themselves for their own subjugation, and blame others for their victimhood and survival. Shelbi Chew, Erica Hayes, and myself all experience sexism in our lives based on our gender. How we choose to respond to patriarchy – the rule of men over other genders and non-gendered people – is to either fight it, build community, and stand by our fellow survivors – or benefit by protecting patriarchy.

For women who go through the process of internalizing the sexism they face in their lives, it is not driven by some deep-seated hatred of other women. It comes from a recognizable denial and reality-based fear of gender-based violence perpetrated by men and perpetuated by those who justify blaming the victim.

# CxPJ

"This is the least annoying thing that I've seen at Evergreen."

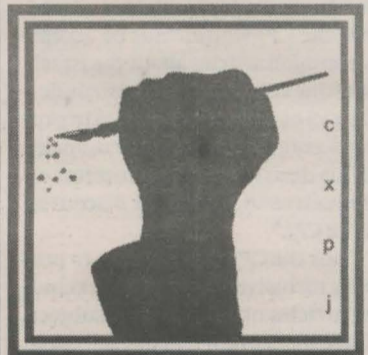
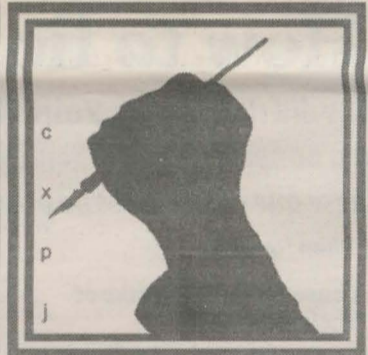
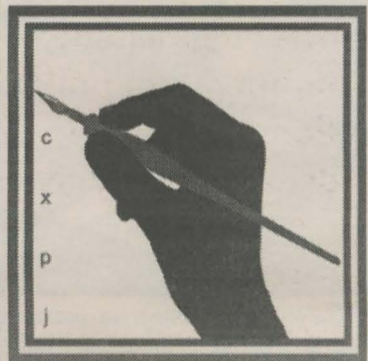
—Sabrina Wilbert

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, specifically those 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 [tesc.counter.point@gmail.com](mailto:tesc.counter.point@gmail.com). The deadline for submissions to be considered for the May issue is May 8.

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.



▶ CPJ continued from page 1

arguments. It is easier to make personal attacks than it is to respond to personal attacks. And it is easier to write about felling a Chicken McNugget than it is to write about an Evergreen student, Rachel Corrie, who was killed by Israel.

Let's apply these findings to the incident just mentioned: Noah Milstein's Mar. 5 article was headlined a "RESPONSE" to my Feb. 26 article. Yet it consisted of straw man arguments, while falsely suggesting that I had written about a "Jewish cabal" and a "Zionist conspiracy," and that my arguments were comparable to anti-Semitic "blood libel" and "The Protocols of Zion." This was permissible by CPJ standards because these accusations did not respond to anything I actually wrote. The claim that "in Jordan it is illegal for a Jew to hold citizenship," was also permissible, despite being a blatant lie. Meanwhile, when I attempted to

reply that I did not believe in a "Jewish cabal" or a "Zionist conspiracy," and that it is not illegal for Jews to be Jordanian citizens, Slotkin stated that my article could not be printed because it was "a very direct rebuttal" and thus would not "advance a discussion or argument." Slotkin claimed that I was inappropriately addressing the "validity of Katz and Milstein for having their beliefs and their motives as opposed to facts the [sic] behind their beliefs."

The argument is peculiar. When I wrote that it is not "illegal for a Jew to hold citizenship," I was stating a fact, which refuted a falsehood published in the CPJ. Whether Milstein was honest in his beliefs and whether his motives were pure do not change the fact that it is not "illegal for a Jew to hold citizenship."

By this interpretation, Milstein was "advanc[ing] discussion or argument" by inventing new falsehoods,

while my arguments were too mired in age-old facts. What would cause Slotkin to advance such illogical interpretations of policy? His only response, which was similar to his Apr 9 CPJ announcement, was that the Palestine-Israel conflict was an issue that many people felt strongly about and to which many people had personal connections. That is, what mattered more than the facts were people's feelings. If I were allowed to report the facts, then Slotkin would have to endure the complaints of Milstein and Katz.

Thus, Slotkin, as the CPJ's editor-in-chief, had discovered a truth that editors in the greater mainstream media have already discovered: the intensity of complaints takes precedence over the veracity of complaints. When it comes to reporting on Palestine/Israel, how people feel about the message matters more than the truth of the message.

And just like the greater mainstream, Slotkin's response was to damn journalistic integrity and cop out. For the CPJ, copping out meant publishing no more opinion pieces on Palestine-Israel. Compared to broaching the subject of Palestine-Israel, publishing a trivial piece such as "Fuck You, Chicken McNuggets" constituted a feel-good human interest story that required no active engagement by the editors, and that was what the editors wanted.

Slotkin disingenuously claimed that the CPJ editors "spent hours working with contributors on both sides of the issue." If so, the "hours" would have been with Milstein and Katz, as they did not spend hours with myself, Murano, or Lamise Shawahin, who had written a personal reflection about Palestine. A public records request for correspondence between the CPJ and SHIA Shalom was hampered when the CPJ em-

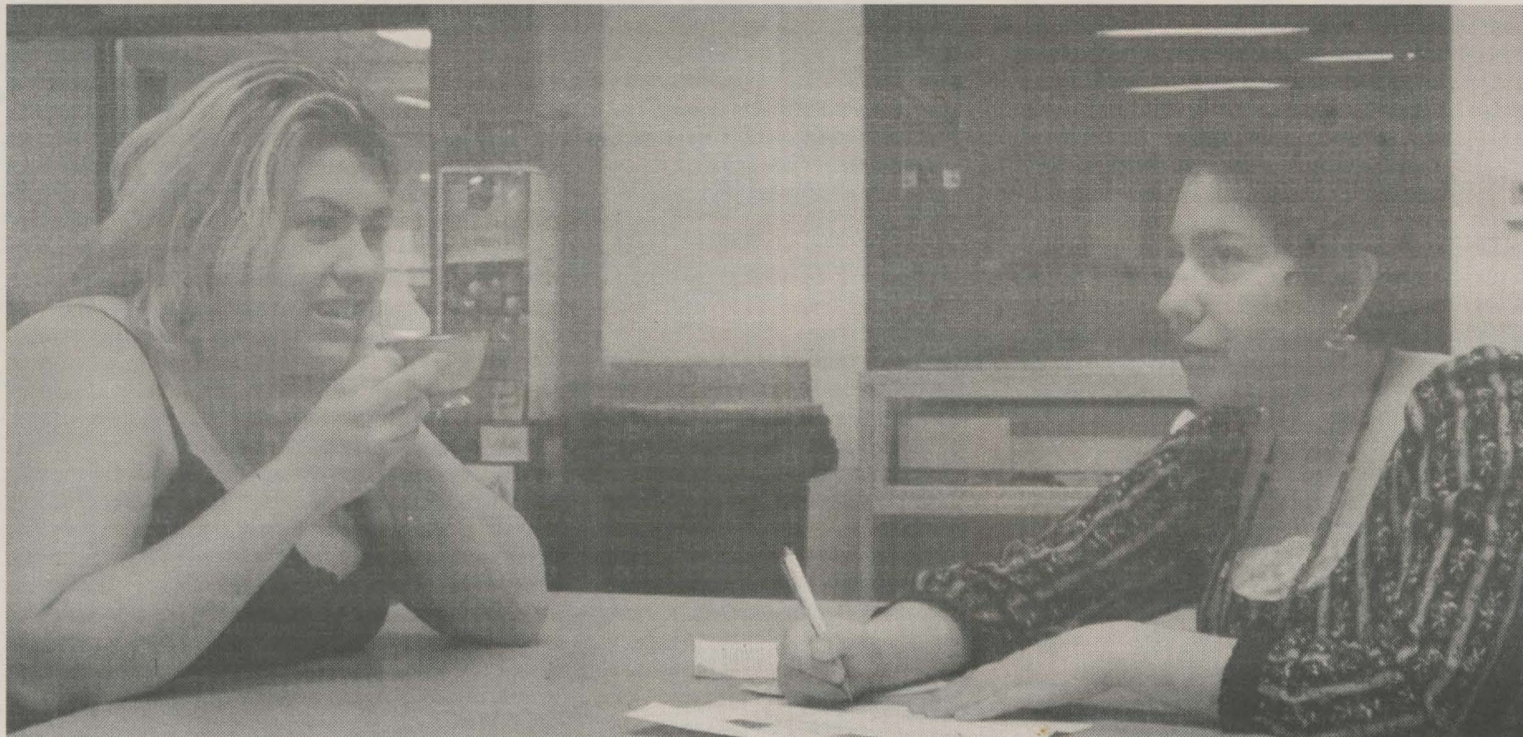
ployed legal assistance, making it difficult to uncover exactly how and why the CPJ catered to SHIA Shalom.

We only know the outcome. The CPJ left behind a trail of printed falsehoods and personal attacks, and now prefers to stay silent on Palestine-Israel than live up to basic journalistic standards by printing corrections and apologies and honoring a commitment to report the truth.

Such is the impetus for an alternative paper like this, the *Counter Point Journal* (or CxPJ). However, the CxPJ's existence does not abrogate the responsibility of the CPJ. Hopefully this paper's existence will serve to prod and remind the CPJ of its purported duties. We remain in wait for corrections and apologies from the *Cooper Point Journal*.



# Building a student movement: Perspective from an Alive! organizer



Kate Savkovich (right) and KTeEO plot the revolution over a cup of tea. (Photo by Anna-Marie Murano)

**“The biggest issue with this is the difference between having ‘community-oriented’ policing and simply having a community – not policing themselves, but escorting themselves, protecting themselves, performing all of these functions the police in this ‘community oriented model’ say they’re here to do – is that they have this power that was never democratically given to them; the people of Evergreen did not say they want these police.” —Kate Savkovich**

by C. V. Rotondo

The group of students that was to become Alive! was initially organized by “word of mouth,” according to student organizer Kate Savkovich. The first three meetings were composed of student group representatives from the Women’s Resource Center (WRC), Mideast Solidarity Project (MSP, formerly SESAME), the Geoduck Student Union (GSU), and Men Can Stop Rape, among others.

Those initial meetings were organized, advertised, and facilitated by women of the WRC, which, according to Savkovich, “was significant because female-bodied and/or woman-identified people felt fear for the ramifications of this proposal [the police services proposal to purchase AR-15 assault rifles, helmets, and body armor]. They started organizing around it, because they knew it could have direct effects on them.”

Since those initial meetings, the group has grown to include students outside of registered student organizations (RSOs), including “a lot of male allies,” though women continue to lead the group’s work. The most recent meeting, in which a banner was painted (to later hang from the clock tower throughout week one) was attended solely by women.

Women’s leadership coupled with widening participation in Alive! has given rise to the stance that “regardless of whether the majority of the campus are for or against [the proposal], this is not the most important factor. People of color, female-bodied and/or woman-identified people, and queer people on campus, due to systemic, institutional forces, will be the most affected and their voices should be given more weight.” Internal discussion of quantitative versus qualitative analysis of the rifle proposal and its potential affects upon the campus community continues within the group and serves to guide their organizing.

Framed within this evolving analysis, Alive! organizers seek to “unite everyone on campus who’s against (the proposal),” drawing upon the diverse array of students within the group itself for inspiration. “We demonstrate the potential, as RSO representatives, for student groups to unify based around an issue that

can bring together people of color, women, really everyone on campus,” says Savkovich. The organizers hope to bring everyone on campus together around distinct goals: oppose the current police services proposal to acquire rifles, helmets, body armor and training, pursue the demilitarization of campus, and democratize campus decision-making.

To these points Savkovich adds that “creating alternatives is a big part of the project.” Given the group’s awareness of the prevalence and limitations of “anti-campaigns,” they support proactive alternatives to the rifle proposal and policing in general, such as a student-run escort service and more funding and accessibility at campus health and counseling centers. Promoting such alternatives is one way in which the group problematizes the role of campus police.

“Ideally, we don’t want [the police] to be the ones dealing with [sexual assault] either...the framework in which this has come up makes it seem as if we want them here, if we’re not careful...” says Savkovich. “In the alternatives that we’ve been promoting, none of them have been giving more money to the police so that they can prevent sexual violence; they have all been student or Evergreen services that aren’t the police, providing more support to students.”

While there are members of the group that support eliminating campus police entirely and replacing them with student-run alternatives, the group did not make it an organizing tenet of this campaign. As Savkovich explains, “I think the reason we decided to not explicitly do that now is so that we could bring together a broader range of people on campus, like people who are opposed to the rifles but might not be in favor of complete abolition of police. We’re going to take it issue by issue.”

Savkovich was nonetheless critical of the role of campus police forces and skeptical of the idea that their “community-oriented” approach and unique position make them less repressive than their counterparts in the Olympia or Thurston County Police Departments. “Just because you know them on a first name basis, doesn’t mean that they’re not going

to profile your friends.”

She continues, “Where there are large swaths of the community that do not feel safe with cops on campus, that vision statement (of community-oriented policing) is not possible.” According to Savkovich, the group is critical both of the “community-oriented” style of policing espoused by Evergreen Police Services as well as the accountability model represented by the Police Services Community Review Board (PSCRB).

Regarding the PSCRB’s ability to hold campus police accountable and represent student voices, Savkovich believes “...it comes down to who’s calling the shots within the PSCRB. Just because there’s this makeup of students, faculty and staff within the PSCRB doesn’t mean that all of these voices are being heard and equally valued. Voices are being pushed aside and some of those are students.”

In Savkovich’s view, “a lot of what we [Alive!] do is making groups accountable on campus.” These groups have included police services, the members of the PSCRB, students, and administrators. The lack of a collective statement regarding the proposal from campus staff made them less central to Alive!’s strategy.

Yet Savkovich was clear that “bridging the dichotomy” between students and staff is a focal point for the group’s energies. “It doesn’t make me happy to know that there are people on campus who are unhappy with the thought that we don’t want guns.” With staff communications in the works, the major focus of Alive!’s organizing has been amongst students, administrators and police.

When asked about how people were receiving the group’s message and work, Savkovich responded, “The administration has dodged it. We’ve heard support from individuals in the faculty union, though the Union has yet to release their official statement.” In order to build unity among the differing groups and individuals questioning, critical of, or opposing the proposal, Alive! combines its support for alternatives with a dynamic critique of the prevailing discourse. “I’ve heard about this ‘silent majority’ but we have been at all of the forums and meetings and until these people show up

or make a banner saying ‘vote yes’ we haven’t seen much organized opposition.” Reframing discussion and critiquing arguments such as the “silent majority” have become the pillars and most challenging elements of the group’s campaign.

“We’re simultaneously trying to come up with alternatives to active shooter protocol and reframe the issue,” says Savkovich, “We’re trying to use sexual assault prevention, or anything that students say is an issue, to direct action. It was the police that put the active shooter on the table as the number one issue...it’s not a non-issue, but it’s a fear-based tactic to get this proposal passed.”

Associations with members of Alive! with certain positions or actions, as well as the nature of their work, has brought them into relationship with the argument of being unnecessarily “anti-cop,” or perpetuating an “us versus them” dichotomy.

About both, Savkovich had this to say: “No one has come to us and directly said that [we’re anti-cop]. I think that the ‘us versus them’ dichotomy is inherent, it exists, and we’re not trying to downplay that.” To address that “inherent dichotomy,” Alive! is not only opposing the current proposal for rifles, or even just demanding more police accountability, but has the broader, more holistic goal in mind of extending direct democracy.

“The part of our mission statement about democratizing decision making on campus, the part I’m most interested in, is figuring out how the people that attend this campus and work on this campus have say over what goes on because we’re the ones that are going to be affected by it.”

The group considers the dual issues of the rifle proposal and the current economic depression with subsequent budget cuts within this broader framework. “We definitely think that it’s ridiculous that this is even being considered in the time of a budget crunch and are aware of the way that this issue is distracting from the greater budget as a whole.”

Part of this democratizing strategy is Savkovich’s criticism of how democracy operates in the context of the Police Services Community Review Board. “At the last PSCRB

meeting I was at they were talking about all of the people that they are accountable to and they really make a big deal out of being accountable to many more people than just the students, such as the Board of Trustees and the State and on and on, but all of these people are not involved in the direct democracy of our campus.”

The criticism is rooted in an analysis of the power dynamics on the Board. “On top of this to me is Art Costantino, who’s going to have the final say on it and is also (a non-voting member) of the PSCRB, so he definitely gets to push his agenda.” Police Chief Ed Sorger is also a non-voting member of the PSCRB. These considerations and critiques of power dynamics extend throughout campus, with a particular need to address the accountability of campus media.

When asked about the role of the *Cooper Point Journal* in the contestations over rifles on campus, Savkovich replied, “It’s been reporting on the Forums and definitely has not represented the students. Even in regards to getting to all sides, most articles I read have only gotten one side; it’s typically the administration, or a representative from the PSCRB who’s not a student. I can’t remember a time that I’ve read a quote from a student about the rifle proposal...”

Furthermore, she says, “There’s never been a reporter that’s come to an Alive! meeting. Generally, CPJ reporters mimic the opinions of the administration and the police’s side has definitely been better represented in the CPJ.” Savkovich considers the ramifications of these concerns on the work of a group like Alive!. “The effect has been a campus, as far as the student newspaper goes, that hasn’t been well-informed on the rifle issue and I think that’s why we have been organizing on our own, because we can’t rely on them.”

She concluded with the role of student media in Alive!’s work. “I think having a newspaper that would represent our voice would be a great way to get our message out to the general campus and since we haven’t had that, it’s been easy for there to be misrepresentation of the stance against the rifle proposal.”



# Active-shooter response plan and campus history: A brief history of Evergreen police.

by Andrew Sernatinger

*"...all great world-historic facts and personages appear, so to speak, twice. ...the first time as a tragedy, the second time as a farce."*

The 2008–2009 school year has created yet another legitimization crisis for the Evergreen Police. Announced around the same time as the school's budget cuts, the Active-Shooter Response Plan, or the Rifle Proposal as it's come to be known, purports to protect the college from the threat of an armed shooter intending to attack Evergreen students, staff and faculty. The proposal recommends purchasing high-powered AR-15 assault rifles, body armor and helmets, a sum total of \$10,000, and training Police Services in active-shooter tactics at a recurring cost of \$2000.

Seemingly missing from this debate is a sense of the history of how Police Services came to be at the college and their relationship to the students, staff and faculty. Regardless of a person's position on the matter, the best solution cannot arise without understanding the history of and connections between the rifle proposal and a proposal created nearly fifteen years ago to arm what was then Public Safety.

The rifle proposal was first introduced to the public when Police Services Community Review Board (PSCRB) faculty members Michael Vavrus and Terry Setter delivered it to the Geoduck Student Union in December (the week before winter break), along with the message that Vice President of Student Affairs Art Constantino expected a resolution from the GSU in January.

Following the announcement, former Lacey and current Evergreen Chief of Police, Ed Sorger, along with Evergreen Officer Tim Marron and a Thurston County Officer, gave presentations to both the Faculty Meeting and the Geoduck Student Union. Since then there have been regular invitations to various professionals in order to convince the campus community of the necessity of further arming campus police.

As of now, neither Constantino, Police Services nor the PSCRB as a whole have invited any experts to speak in favor of alternatives to the existing rifle proposal, and the multiple community forums sponsored by the college have given preference to Police Services over other agencies who have significant information for the best decision to be made.

Some critiques of the Rifle Proposal include Constantino's pressure on the GSU to come to a decision without satisfactory campus input, unequal attention to a low-priority threat (active shooters) while what is widely regarded as a major threat (sexual violence) remains unaccounted for, the absence of any student representatives to the PSCRB until February, confusion over where money for the proposal will come from, and hostility to the notion of inflating the Police Budget as the campus is forced to cut 12.5% of its services.

Despite historical and statistical analyses, such as one published in the CPJ by Billie Burlock, Police Services insists that active-shooters are a major threat, and if acquired rifles will remain secured at police services and in patrol cars. Further, Sorger and others have assured the campus that the proposal is a one-time affair and will not change the relationship between students and officers, which for Police Services' part is committed to their statement of "community policing".

This story sounds a lot like another.

In fall of 1995, Thurston County Undersheriff, Neil McClanahan, acting as Interim Director for what was then Evergreen Public Safety, submitted a formal proposal to arm Public Safety with pistols. In his patent attempt to create community dialog, Art Constantino organized multiple forums to discuss the proposal, all the while insisting that there could be serious legal ramifications if the proposal was not adopted.

Campus reaction to this proposal was widely negative. Many attended forums to voice their disapproval of the proposal

and anti-arming signs were posted around the campus. Shortly after the first forums, Community Action Group at Evergreen (CAGE) formed to oppose the proposal. CAGE gathered a 1200 signature petition condemning the arming, and soon after organized a sizable protest on Red Square.

In winter of 1996, Art Constantino submitted his own formal recommendation to arm Public Safety, which was followed soon after by a recommendation to the Board of Trustees by then-Evergreen President Jane Jervis. During the spring quarter, the Board of Trustees sponsored yet another set of community forums and then voted to recommend a limited arming of public safety; "limited" at the time meant that campus officers would only carry pistols in lock boxes stored in their cars, to be carried on their persons between 6pm and 8am or while a significant distance away from their vehicles. Students returning in fall quarter of 1996–1997 were disappointed to meet our modern Evergreen Police Services.

The years following the arming of Public Safety, transforming them into Police Services, illustrate some alarming trends. That first year of Police Services (1996–1997), with their limited arming, powers of citation and arrest, also came with allegations of sexual harassment. Secretaries working for police services issued complaints that, to our knowledge, were never resolved.

During the 1998–1999 school year, one officer was forced to resign after jokingly drawing his pistol on a female custodian and on a male student employee. On October 22nd, 2002, as many may already know, police conducted raids on small-time student marijuana dealers in T and K dorms in housing. Officers Perez and Adkins served search warrants to students in their housing apartments, pistols drawn, with the authorization of Art Constantino and then-Police Services Chief Steve Huntsberry. A student-informer was said to be essential in the operation.

Days after the event, a drunk student attempted to flee from an officer after throwing a bottle. The officer proceeded to mace the student and leave him untreated for half an hour as he writhed in pain. A community forum was organized to discuss the raids, macing, and general police presence at Evergreen.

2002–2003 is also the year that a recommendation was made to arm police with their pistols 24/7, in place of the limited arming. Vicky Peltzer, chief of police for the University of Washington, was invited to Evergreen as a consultant for another community forum on the issue. Peltzer recommended 24/7 arming of campus police. The PSCRB then voted to recommend full-time arming, and in May, Evergreen President Les Purce made a decision to rewrite police procedure for full-time arming.

For those who have not been present the past two years, these issues are reminiscent of recent experiences. Last year, in the 2007–2008 session, a drunk student was tased as he attempted to run away from an officer; an officer tased a naked youth tripping on LSD; students of color issued a public complaint that they were being racially profiled in connection to the case of the "Anarchist Tagger". Probably the greatest police controversy in Evergreen history arose after a dead prez show. (That subject has been taxed, but readers should watch the Hip Hop Congress's investigation of the matter: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J\\_74VEfgsXA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_74VEfgsXA))

Many striking connections appear in the relationship between arming police and violence enacted upon students and staff. It would, of course, be foolish to make the claim that there is direct causation between the events described, but it would be more foolish to dismiss any relationship whatsoever. Community members are repeatedly reassured that these issues are one-time affairs, yet it appears that 1995 was the tragedy and we're witnessing the farce.

Special thanks to Chris Dixon for information on this article.

## 1995-1996 SCHOOL YEAR

Thurston County Undersheriff and Interim Director for Evergreen Public Safety, Neil McClanahan, formally proposes pistols for "Public Safety."

Multiple "community forums" are organized to discuss arming.

Art Constantino, Vice President of Student Affairs, stresses legal ramifications of having unarmed "safety officers."

WINTER QUARTER: Art Constantino follows McClanahan's example with a formal recommendation for arming.

Community Action Group at Evergreen (CAGE), a coalition of students, parents, faculty and other community members, organizes a petition opposed to arming with 1200 signatures as well as a Red Square protest.

Following community forums, TESC President Jane Jervis delivers a recommendation for arming Public Safety to the Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees organizes another forum, CAGE organizing rallies countless individuals to vocalize dissent.

Board of Trustees votes to recommend "limited arming" of Public Safety. Community responds with a sit-in that blocks entrance to the Library Loop.

## 1996-1997 SCHOOL YEAR

Students return to find "safety officers" in polo shirts replaced by police with SWAT-style uniforms and patrol cars.

Complaints mount regarding use of excessive force as well as allegations of officers' sexual harassment towards secretaries. Nothing is resolved.

## 1998-1999

A female custodian goes public with the allegation that a male Police Services officer had jokingly pulled a gun on her while she was working one night. Later, a male student employee from Parking Services accuses the same officer of jokingly drawing his pistol at him. Officer is forced to resign as a result.

## 2002-2003

October 23rd, 2002: police, using a student informant, conduct raids on marijuana dealers in T and K dorms. Raids are led by officers Perez and Adkins, guns drawn. Federal search warrants are issued, authorized by then-Police Chief Steve Huntsberry and VP of Student Affairs Art Constantino.

Within days, police mace a drunk student who, after tossing an empty bottle, tried to run away from an officer. Student goes untreated for about half an hour before paramedics arrive.

A community forum is organized to discuss maced students and the role of police on campus. Regardless, the Deadly Force Review Board concludes that police drawing weapons in raid was justifiable.

Issue of carrying pistols 24-hours a day is raised after "malicious threats" towards students

Vicky Peltzer, chief of police for the University of Washington, comes to Evergreen as a consultant for another community forum on the issue. Peltzer recommends 24/7 arming of campus police.

Police Services Community Review Board (PSCRB) holds multiple forums to discuss full-time arming. PSCRB recommends full-time arming.

May 2003: TESC President Les Purce makes final decision to rewrite campus police procedure to allow for 24/7 arming.

Evergreen police remain armed at all times, foregoing the original "limiting arming" between 6 pm and 8 am (or as officers are away from their vehicles).

## 2007-2008

A student stopped for underage drinking is tased as he attempts to run away

Days later, an officer tases a naked youth tripping on LSD in housing. Officers order bystanders to hold the student to the ground as he tased him four times.

Students of color complain of racial profiling as police investigate the case of the "Anarchist Tagger" February 14 Dead Prez show.

February: Les Purce holds a "community forum," delivering a lecture with the explicit claim that there will be no discussion and all musical events are cancelled.

Administration tells police services to "look into" SDS in their investigation of the events of Feb. 14.

Phyllis Lane cancels an SDS-sponsored event featuring former members of the Black Panther Party slated to discuss police racism.

Tez Stair (RA), Jake Mixon (former-GSU member) and others give names to police to help them make arrests and press criminal charges on Evergreen students.

## 2008-2009

December: Faculty Michael Vavrus and Terry Setter announce to the Geoduck Student Union announce that they have been commissioned to review a High-Powered Rifle proposal, allegedly as part of an "Active-Shooter Response Plan"; no students are on the PSCRB at this time. First time students have heard of this.

Vavrus and Setter inform the GSU that they would like a decision on the proposal by January.

Vavrus states he is uncomfortable with a rushed decision, and suggests the possibility of a longer GSU deliberation, a campus-wide vote, and/or a PSCRB vote.

GSU holds forum at HCC.

Former Lacey and current Evergreen Chief of Police Ed Sorger, Evergreen Officer Tim Marron and a Thurston County officer give active-shooter response presentations at the GSU and faculty meeting, suggesting the purchase of high-powered, semi-automatic assault rifles (AR-15s), as well as yearly training with the weapons for campus officers.

Cost estimates are presented as \$10,000 for rifles, ammunition, and body armor, and a recurring cost of \$2000 per year for training and ammunition.

Response at both meetings is overwhelmingly negative.

January: GSU student forum. Upwards of 200 students attend. Feedback is resoundingly negative.

Days later, PSCRB hold a public forum. Response is again decidedly negative.

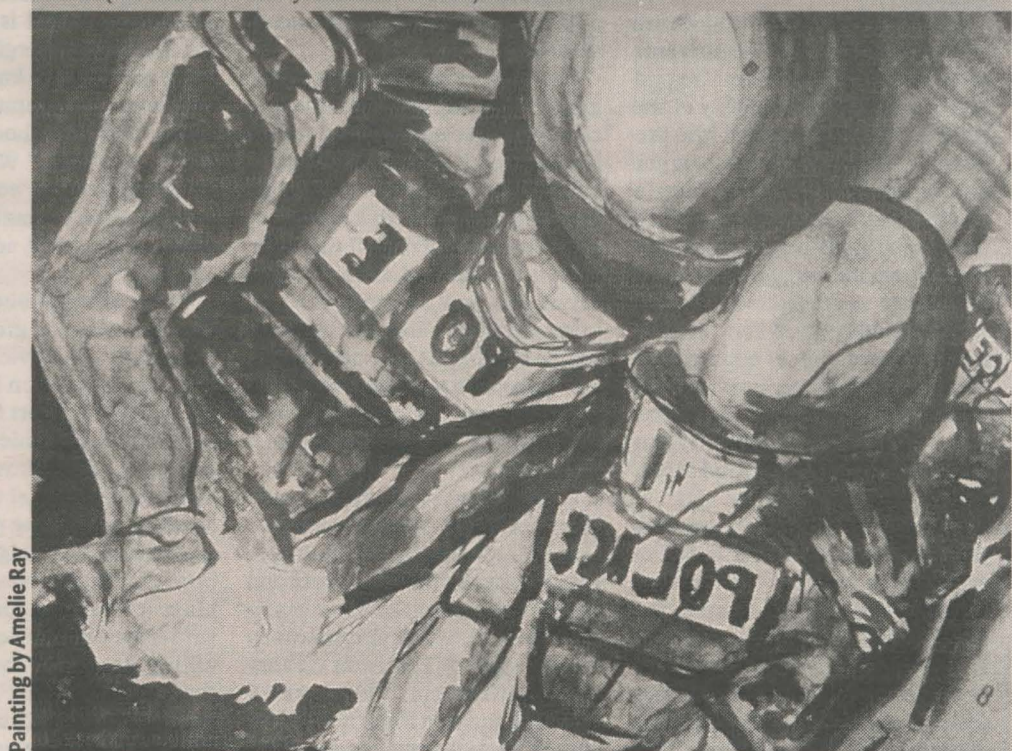
More forums are held.

March: PSCRB sponsors a campus wide survey online.

April: Survey results held by administration, PSCRB refuses to disclose information to students. Three GSU-appointed student members of the PSCRB are told that if they disclose results of survey, they will not be able to vote on the issue.

April: PSCRB holds another forum; Art Constantino brings the Assistant to the Attorney General to present the legal liabilities if the campus does not have rifles.

Constantino stresses liabilities, Assistant to the Attorney General admits there is little to no liability to the college.



Painting by Amelie Ray



# The “other” Martin Luther King: Anatomy of a hoax perpetuated by the CPJ

A sidebar to the story on page 1

Martin Luther King was falsely quoted on page 11 of the March 12 *Cooper Point Journal*. In an article ironically titled “Zionism Threatened by Misconceptions,” Russel Katz of the pro-Israel student group SIIA Shalom wrote the following:

*Responding to a question at Harvard University in 1968, Martin Luther King said, “When people criticize Zionists they mean Jews, you are talking anti-Semitism.”*

The implication is that it is anti-Semitic to criticize the actions of the state of Israel because Martin Luther King says so. Katz did not cite a source for this information. Disproving this quote requires proving a negative, which is inherently more difficult than it is to make an unsubstantiated claim, as Katz does.

Although the CPJ’s editor-in-chief claims that the quote’s veracity is merely “inconclusive” (which still wouldn’t explain why he allowed it to be printed as simple fact), I will demonstrate that the quote is highly unlikely or – as it is described by Katz and others – virtually impossible to have been made.

The date and location do not check out

Katz claims that King made this statement “at Harvard University in 1968.” Since King was killed on April 4, 1968, that leaves only three possible months in which the quote might have been made. A thorough research of newspaper archives and King biographies reveals no appearance at Harvard or in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1968. King did accept an invitation to speak at Harvard’s “Class Day” ceremony for June 1968, but he was killed before then.

Moreover, an article in the *Harvard Crimson* published soon after King’s death reveals that “King was last in Cambridge almost exactly a year ago – April 23, 1967.” (Emphasis added)

The original source of the alleged King quote is an essay by Seymour Martin Lipset, first published in the Dec. 1969 issue of the British journal, *Encounter*. Lipset claims he heard King say these words in Cambridge “[s]hortly before he was assassinated.”

Lipset sets the scene as “a dinner which was given for [King] in Cambridge,” with “Negro students at Harvard and other parts of the Boston area,” and which lasted “well over an hour-and-a-half.” King was supposedly in the area for a “fund-raising mission” in Boston.

If indeed Lipset was referring to King’s appearance at Cambridge, April 23, 1967, then it was not “[s]hortly before he was assassinated.” Moreover King had not come to “Boston on a fund-raising mission.” He had arrived in the area for two separate engagements. At 2:45 pm that day, King gave a press conference at Christ Church Parish House in Cambridge, to kick off the “Vietnam Summer” anti-war campaign with Benjamin Spock and Robert Scheer of *Ramparts* magazine. Afterwards, King held a private meeting with “two dozen top strategists of the New Left,” (which would certainly not include Lipset), where he was encouraged to run for president. At 7:30 pm, King gave a speech, entitled “The Other America,” in Boston at Ford Hall Forum.

Following that trip, King did make at least three more trips to Boston in 1967: in early August to be with his hospitalized father, and on Oct. 19 and 27 to help organize and appear in a SCLC concert with Harry Belafonte and Aretha Franklin. However, there are no known records of engagements in Cambridge

after April 23, 1967, and certainly not “[s]hortly before he was assassinated” in 1968.

There are no actual transcripts to confirm King’s words

Not only does Lipset fail to provide the exact date and location where King supposedly uttered the words, there are no known transcripts or audio-visual material that documents the alleged King quote. Thus the only source for the King quote is Lipset’s recollection. Is it reliable?

Lipset is an unreliable reporter

Lipset’s essay in *Encounter* was entitled “The Socialism of Fools: The Left, the Jews & Israel.” Although Lipset was a renowned political sociologist, the essay employed little scientific or academic analysis, relying instead on conjecture, generalizations, and deliberate misinformation, in order to serve Lipset’s strong pro-Israel bias. One example is Lipset’s depiction of Noam Chomsky.

Lipset’s *Encounter* article claimed that Chomsky “was a long time member of ‘Hashomer Hatzair,’ the left-wing Zionist youth movement, which prided itself on its Marxism-Leninism, and its loyalty to Communist ideals.” Lipset also claimed that Chomsky and journalist I.F. Stone “are today committed supporters of the international revolutionary left, a commitment which currently involves defining the Al Fatah terrorists as ‘left-wing guerrillas,’ and Israel as ‘a collaborator with imperialism,’ if not worse.”

Chomsky responded by stating, “All of this is complete fabrication.” In several writings, Chomsky said, “The alleged quotations do not exist.... Neither Stone nor I have ever written anything expressing the commitment Lipset attributes to us (without reference), though it is easy enough to find explicit refutations of these views.”

Regarding Chomsky’s alleged involvement with Hashomer Hatzair: “I was never a member of Hashomer Hatzair, precisely because I was opposed to its various Stalinist and Trotskyist tendencies. But, as Lipset knows, a little red-baiting is always helpful in a pinch.”

In subsequent printings of Lipset’s article, Lipset revised his attack on Chomsky. He removed the false claim of Chomsky’s membership in Hashomer Hatzair. And instead of attributing the references of “left-wing” Fatah and “imperialist collaborator” Israel directly to Chomsky and Stone, Lipset reworded the claim:

*[Chomsky and Stone] are today committed supporters of the international revolutionary left. And that left currently defines the Al Fatah terrorists as “left-wing guerrillas,” and Israel as “a collaborator with imperialism,” if not worse.*

Thus, the quoted phrases remained, but instead of attributing the terms directly to Chomsky and Stone, Lipset resorted to guilt by association, whereby Chomsky and Stone were members of an inscrutable “international revolutionary left,” which was collectively responsible for the quoted phrases.

Unfortunately (or conveniently) Martin Luther King was not alive to refute any misquotations that Lipset attributed to him. Nevertheless, the King quote eventually disappeared in later versions of the article.

Later reprintings of the article omit the King quote

Ignoring minor stylistic changes, there are at least three different ver-

sions of Lipset’s article:

1. Original version as printed in *Encounter* magazine (Dec. 1969)
2. Same as original version, but some false accusations against Chomsky are gone (early 1970)
3. Same as #2, but entire reference to Martin Luther King, including the King quote, is gone (later 1970 and 1988)



The third version, which removes the references to Martin Luther King, is the version used in both the second (1970) and third (1988) revised editions of Lipset’s anthology, *Revolution and Counterrevolution*. There is no explanation why the King quote was removed.

However, it should be noted that skepticism of the King quote occurred from the start. In early 1970 Chomsky himself called the King quote an “absurdity” and expressed skepticism, noting that Lipset merely “claims to have heard” the quote.

King’s recorded views toward Israel differ greatly from the quote

Finally, we must compare this alleged statement by King to other statements he made. Despite thousands of documented speeches and writings, King made very few public references to the Arab–Israeli conflict in his lifetime. The earliest recorded statement that I know occurred after the Suez Crisis of 1956–57.

In 1956, Israel, Britain, and France had hatched a plot to militarily seize control of the Suez Canal from Egypt. Although the plan worked, world sentiment and pressure from the Eisenhower administration forced the three aggressor parties to withdraw. In this context, King delivered a sermon on April 7, 1957 entitled “The Birth of a New Nation,” that was clearly critical of western imperialism and Israel:

*[British Prime Minister Anthony Eden] decided to rise up and march his armies with the forces of Israel and France into Egypt. And there they confronted their doom, because they were revolting against world opinion. Egypt, a little country. Egypt, a country with no military power. They could have easily defeated Egypt. But they did not realize that they were fighting more than Egypt. They were attacking world opinion, they were fighting the whole Asian-African bloc, which is the bloc that now thinks and moves and determines the course of the history of the world.*

This statement thus corroborates the authenticity of a letter sent from King to his friend and former classmate, James Beshai in Egypt. In the letter, dated Jan. 7, 1957, and available on the internet at <http://qumsiyeh.org/martinlutherking>, King wrote:

*I have been keeping up with the situation in Egypt, and as you know this is one of the most important issues in the world today. It will determine whether we will live in peace or whether we will*

*die in war. Naturally my sympathies are with Egypt, rather than with the Western Colonial and imperial powers.*

King remained largely quiet on the Arab–Israel conflict until the later 1960s. Jewish American support for Israel rose during and after the time of the June 1967 War, while African-American activist groups such as the SNCC and the Black Panther Party

erenced in an article of questionable veracity, while not referenced in later editions of that same article.

King has long been misrepresented and misquoted by pro-Israel parties

The quote cited by Russel Katz in the CPJ is just one of many questionable King quotes propagated by pro-Israel parties on the internet. One of the most ridiculous passages comes from an essay entitled “Letter to an Anti-Zionist Friend,” supposedly written by King. In it, “King” proclaims:

*“...I say, let the truth ring forth from the high mountain tops, let it echo through the valleys of God’s green earth: When people criticize Zionism, they mean Jews – this is God’s own truth.”*

This is clearly a parody of King’s oratorical flourishes. According to internet legend, “Letter to an Anti-Zionist Friend” was first published in the *Saturday Review* in August 1967 and later reprinted in the King anthology, *This I Believe: Selections from the Writings of Dr. Martin Luther King*. However, no such anthology exists, and the article appears nowhere in the four weekly issues of *Saturday Review* from August 1967.

In January 26, 2005, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon even quoted from the fake “Letter to an Anti-Zionist Friend” before the Knesset.

Excerpts from the fake “Letter to an Anti-Zionist Friend” also appear on the website of Evergreen’s pro-Israel group, SIIA Shalom.

The hoax was known to all parties

Russel Katz of SIIA Shalom first presented the false quotes on the student group’s website, where he attributes his source to the website of Pamela Geller. Geller, a right-wing Ann Coulter wannabe, promotes conspiracy theories on her website, such as the idea that President Obama is secretly an Arab Muslim with “not a genetic drop of” genuine African blood, and who heads an “antisemitic administration.” That alone makes the content of her website suspect.

Interestingly, Geller’s blog entry on Martin Luther King is amended to clarify that the quotes from Martin Luther King are a “hoax.” Geller’s website quotes another right-wing source as follows:

*“I looked more carefully at this and made some changes, stand corrected.... it would seem that the letter indeed was a hoax But [sic] the most important parts attributed to King were accurate. Below are a few quotes by King on this topic”*

Katz copied and pasted the statement onto his own blog entry on SIIA Shalom, beginning with the words “Below are a few quotes by King on this topic,” while intentionally omitting references to the hoax in the sentence that preceded it.

CPJ editor-in-chief Jason Slotkin was aware of the problematic King quotes two days before publishing Katz’s article with the fake King quote. Slotkin claimed the accuracy of the quote was “inconclusive,” even though the only suggestion to truth is that one person claims to have heard King say it, but couldn’t specify when or where he heard it and couldn’t get other quotes correct. Rather than being “inconclusive,” the quote is hearsay at best, and more likely plain false. Slotkin could have prefaced the quote with, “According to Seymour Martin Lipset,” which he didn’t do. Since then, Slotkin has refused to run a correction out of fear that he would receive complaints from SIIA Shalom, the very instigators of the Martin Luther King hoax at Evergreen.



# GUNS, STUDENTS, A SURVEY AND A BOARD

## The Police Services Community Review Board in perspective

by C.V. Rotondo

One of the more tangible contributions of the Geoduck Student Union (GSU) this year has been appointing student representatives to the Police Services Community Review Board (PSCRB). Sky Cohen, Tasha Glen and Aaron Lee all went through the process of interview and approval by the Union in order to become the students' voting representatives, alongside faculty and staff, on the Board.

Since arriving on the Board, the students, in tandem with non-student members have focused their attention on the issue of Evergreen Police Services (EPS) proposal to acquire AR-15 assault rifles, body armor, helmets and training. Cohen and Glen were eager to share their insight and experiences with the larger campus community; we began with what the PSCRB is designed to do.

"The literature says a system of checks and balances in conversation with what EPS is doing on campus, especially regarding the proposal. It also says it's designed to give students, faculty, and staff a say regarding potential infractions and power dynamics. But it only has the power to recommend," says Glen. "It presents the illusion of checks and balances; a semblance of power," elaborated Cohen. Expanding upon the potential of the PSCRB Glen explains that "the PSCRB doesn't have to wait for a proposal from EPS, it can bring its own proposals forward. The police don't necessarily control the dialogue." In light of these assessments, Cohen and Glen went on to consider their role as student representatives.

According to Cohen, the adequacy of student representation is not solely dependent upon numbers. "We have to have some sort of balance. Art and others may disregard student voices, but it wouldn't change with more students." Glen expands, "Just with the case of

numbers, it's adequate. But they don't stick to the consensus model they supposedly have; student proposals are often disregarded or brought to a majority vote." When asked about this comment, voting PSCRB member Andrea Seabert replied, "We've only had a couple of votes: whether to have comments or not on the rifle survey, two or three questions on that survey and next meeting times."

Cohen elaborated on the issue of representation and equity on the Board saying, "On occasion they, especially Tim Markus and Michael Vavrus, listen to students." Tim Markus is the PSCRB chair and Michael Vavrus is a voting faculty representative.

Glen was more specific in her criticisms of the Board's internal dynamics. "It's more non-voting members, by which I mean Art Costantino and Ed Sorger, who undermine student opinion." Art Costantino is the vice president of student affairs at Evergreen and Ed Sorger is the chief of EPS. Regarding the students' criticisms, Seabert concluded, "I'm grateful for the feedback so I can be more attentive in future meetings. I don't want to disregard their experiences; it wasn't my perception, but I don't sit in their shoes." The students had further observations on the non-voting membership of the board, including Sorger and police officer Tim Marron.

According to Cohen, Sorger is often fingering his walkie-talkie during meetings and looks "physically uncomfortable" during discussions of the rifles. Glen noted that Marron winks across the table. Beyond these observations, the students offered insights into the evolution of the Board's response to the proposal to acquire rifles. "Delay tactics got students on the Board in the past," says Glen, and that to forego a recommendation on the proposal has been a strategy since its release. Regarding the current campus-wide

survey however, the students don't agree on the benefit of delay.

"Two weeks [before releasing survey results] is a delay tactic, and it has been voiced multiple times," they both agree. Glen added, "When students voiced concern [with the delay], it was disregarded." They went on to say that they have the results of the survey and will release it in the face of "excessive censorship."

Glen also said that she was glad for the public records request recently filed to acquire the survey results and added that Seabert had suggested censoring the results.

Seabert explains her perspective on the survey by saying, "My goal had been for the Board to look at the information first and to make a determination of when and how to release it." She added that she "always assumed it would go out," and doesn't "think there are any secrets in it." The discussion of the survey brought up a piece of historical information that had recently been revealed to the students by another PSCRB member.

According to Glen and Cohen, when the rifle proposal first came to the PSCRB in late spring of last school year (according to Tracey Johnson, who takes notes for the Board, Ed Sorger first gave background and reason for the request at their October 27th meeting), at a time when there were no students on the Board, member Andrea Seabert proposed passing it "then and there," and following up with public forums to inform the campus of the decision.

It was intentional delaying and regular reassertion of the issue on the part of certain Board members that managed to get the decision out to the public and hold forums to generate input from the campus. Regarding this, Seabert replied, "I don't think I ever made that proposal," stressing that it was difficult to recall exactly when and at what meeting this occurred. She added that she has been uncertain of her

role on the Board — either representing herself or as representing the staff on campus and that she has been "all over the place" on a "variety of information" regarding the proposal. She concluded, "I've always been in a place of wanting as much information as possible so we can make the best recommendation to Art."

The conversation with Glen and Cohen was concluded with a discussion of student media on campus and what they desire of a productive, student-oriented paper. For Glen, a student paper should get "alternative voices heard and present a variety of voices rather than one voice, and should approach the people directly involved."

Cohen had specific critiques of the practices of the *Cooper Point Journal* (CPJ) to add to the discussion. "The CPJ has refused to print more articles on the issue of Israel-Palestine. The CPJ gained credibility this past quarter by publishing both sides; articles in defense of Israel's actions and those combating pro-Israelist propaganda."

It's unfortunate that the CPJ editors became uncomfortable with the subject and reverted back to publishing overly simplistic, apolitical articles and made the CPJ an invalid means of student dissent."

According to Glen, students need "an effective tool for cultivating a dialogue, not censoring one perspective and not overly fostering another. Even if it is submission based, reporters should be sent to cover alternative viewpoints."

Cohen wanted to explicitly state that students should contact him with questions or comments; to let him know if their voice is not being represented by the students on the Board. He stressed that, "Even though we have our perspectives, we are student representatives and I hope to represent that entirely, even views not my own." Sky can be contacted at [sky.cohen@gmail.com](mailto:sky.cohen@gmail.com).

▶ EDITORS continued from page 1

multiplicity of perspectives, much less organized dissent.

But honestly, the *Cooper Point Journal* is a distraction.

It's with this understanding that we've decided that rather than complain (though our complaints are certainly valid) we'd like to just do our own thing. As such, the *Cooper Point* aims to provide a space for those who are participating in and are most affected by events to speak for themselves.

We mean to engage and report on students, staff, and faculty who give life to the campus through social movements, organizations, committees, boards and other channels. We seek to bring the work being done in our community to the attention of all community members, stressing research and interview-based reporting. This creates the kind of media we would most like to see.

*Cooper Point* is simultaneously for us — we who have seen our perspectives misrepresented, marginalized, or silenced completely by present media outlets — as well as for those whom we interview, those we challenge, and those who read. Our intent is entirely constructive, while the critical elements serve as a jump-off point to begin our discussion.

Additionally, we believe a main purpose of the media is to act as a check against the powers that be, whether it's a pervasive and hostile state regime or the administrators of The Evergreen State College. When the press fails in this aspect, it transforms from an instrument of liberation and social change to a mouthpiece of oppression and status quo.

A wholly free, democratically-run and easily accessible press fosters the growth of grassroots social movements and helps those with the least institutional power use their voice. This view helps fuel our commitment to getting this paper off the ground and break-up the de facto monopoly that the *Cooper Point Journal* holds on local press. If nothing else can be said, competing press can only raise the standard of journalism.

The scope of our first issue is limited and the interviews and research that we've done our best to gather is not completely comprehensive, but it is certainly a step in the right direction. That is to say, we took the time to pursue investigative journalism, to tell our stories and have had the patience and good will to try and present them in a manner that is productive and lends itself to further the cause of justice and student power.

We came with an ambition to cover the stories currently lacking from our public discourse and have arrived at a significant watermark with the publication you're currently reading. We are pleased to present the first issue of the *Cooper Point Journal*

—The *Cooper Point* Editorial Collective

## Out of Gaza invasion, TESC Divest emerges

by Nicholas Dehning

The tactics of boycott and divestment have been around for a long time, but using these tactics against an entire country has its roots in Apartheid South Africa. In November 1962, the UN called for imposing economic and other sanctions on South Africa in Resolution 1761. It was non-binding, of course, and the special committee against apartheid it created was itself boycotted by all western nations. In 1977, students at universities began to push hard for complete divestment from South Africa and companies with major interests there. The first college to successfully divest was Hampshire College in Massachusetts. Then, in 1986, Congress overrode a veto laid down by Ronald Reagan and passed the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act. This act banned new US investment in South Africa, sales to their police or military, and providing bank loans. It also prohibited specific trade including agriculture, steel, textiles, iron, uranium, and the products of state-owned corporations.

Now there is a movement to dismantle Israeli apartheid using that same tactic. In 2005, over 170 Palestinian civil organizations issued a call to boycott Israel until it abides by international law. On February 7th, 2009, Hampshire College proved that history repeats itself by becoming the first US University to divest from Israel.

Here at Evergreen, some refuse to be mute on this issue. TESC Divest is and comprised of Evergreen students, staff, alumni, and community members, are working to make Evergreen uphold its commitment

to social responsibility by divesting from Israel. Two campaigns are active right now.

The first is a campaign for Evergreen to become a "CAT-free zone" by boycotting Caterpillar on campus for their involvement in knowingly selling specially armored D9 and D10 bulldozers to the Israeli military for destroying Palestinian homes and clearing land for the illegal Israeli separation wall. For those who recall, it was one of these Caterpillar bulldozers that crushed Evergreen student and Olympia peace activist Rachel Corrie in Rafah, Palestine on March 16, 2003 as she stood in front of a Palestinian home attempting to prevent its demolition. A petition circulating around campus calling for Evergreen to publicly boycott Caterpillar already has hundreds of signatures.

The second campaign demands the Evergreen Foundation make its

list of investments fully transparent and remove their investments in Israel or companies that benefit from Israel's violations of human rights and international law.

Both of these campaigns are part of the broader boycott, divest, sanctions (BDS) movement that has already begun to yield tangible results. *The Jerusalem Post*, in a report sandwiched between ads for boutique rentals in Tel Aviv and Shurat HaDin — a weeklong "pilgrimage" billed as the "Ultimate Mission to Israel" and featuring "trials of real Hamas militants" and briefings by commanders of the Shin Bet — found that, "21 percent of local exporters report that they are facing problems in selling Israeli goods because of an anti-Israel boycott." In addition to this, the Hang Up on Motorola campaign organized by the US Campaign to End the Occupation recently declared a victory when

Motorola met one of the campaign's demands. Motorola Israel Ltd., entirely owned by Motorola USA, sold its Government Electronics Department to Aeronautics Defense Systems, an Israeli military contractor. This means that Motorola will no longer be providing bomb fuses to the Israeli military.

On a less optimistic note, President Obama is expected to ask for \$2.775 billion in weapons aid for Israel to be included in the 2010 budget. That choice works out, on average, to \$17.75 that every American citizen will pay in tax dollars to help keep the apartheid state of Israel armed to the teeth and Gaza and the West Bank occupied.

If you want to get involved on campus, the Mideast Solidarity Project's meetings at 2pm every Wednesday in CAB 320 or e-mail Nicholas at [dehnic26@evergreen.edu](mailto:dehnic26@evergreen.edu).



Caterpillar products come in many flavors. From a generator in a shed in the Mods at Evergreen (left)...to a weapon sold for death and destruction in Palestine.





Pro se defendants and attorneys of the Oly 26 at the Thurston County Courthouse, April 10. (Photo by Lamise Shawahin)

## Court proceedings continue for Oly 26

by Lamise Shawahin

The “Oly 26,” arrested at the Port of Olympia for nonviolent anti-war protests on Nov. 13, 2007, received notification for charges being brought against them for alleged misdemeanors in Nov. 2008, only after the *Olympian* website posted a news flash that the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney had filed charges against the 26 activists. The *Olympian* proceeded to print their names and ages well before any of the activists knew they there were charges being

brought against them.

Many of those involved in the protests are current or former members of the Evergreen community; all but one of the 26 being charged are women.

On the night of Nov. 13, 2007 those involved in the actions were subjected to harsh sexist, homophobic, and racist remarks that continued in the comments section on the *Olympian*'s website. Hiding behind internet personas, commenters made remarks against the Oly 26 as well as the Evergreen com-

munity, and which devolved from threats to get some of the women fired from their jobs into outright death threats. The *Olympian* has since removed all comments and now requires online viewers to register before leaving any comments on any of the articles.

The latest hearing for the Oly 26 was on April 10; a motion brought by the defense to dismiss the case was denied. The next hearing will be on Friday, April 17 at 2pm in the Thurston County Courthouse.

# A justification for the humanities during inhumane times

by Nicky Tiso

A friend's recent rant, of the more eloquent sort, called into question the purpose of teaching humanities (literature, arts, philosophy) in an institutionalized, academic setting (i.e. Evergreen) and generally implicated the value of college itself in his hostility. Understandable, given he's a Plato/Nietzsche junkie as fit to graduate as he is to be unemployed. Long have I heard my passion for writing could lead to three things: teaching, journalism, or, with talent and luck, a career built on my art (though never have I been encouraged by more worldly and weighted adults to bank on this.) Lucky for me, these all sound like pretty good options, but I can imagine the despair upon seeing your literary niche, in the real world (aside from the aforementioned roles if they don't strike your fancy) translate to a barista at Borders or a librarian. Hence his attack that the four-years of liberal conditioning he just received were good for only one thing: helping him “understand his own uselessness.”

This disjunction, between what we find so valuable (the study of death, for example, or an analysis of Henry James' use of windows in *What Maisie Knew*) and its inability to pay the rent (if only landlords accepted monthly anagrammatic poems!) would be the “uselessness of our use” he's referring to. I'm interested in putting my uselessness to good use, with an inherent respect for the negative role I've chosen, that poetic ability to move amongst society without partiality, understanding the enslavement that comes with definition.

The elusive spontaneity our displacement provokes strikes me as its justification; that our forms of exchange and relation exist in extra-capital terms. The irony being that often, at the college level, the ability to take this view depends on parental/governmental financial leverage to elevate oneself above issues of rent to metaphysical concerns. But let's not burden ourselves with middle-class guilt here, suffice to say privilege itself is not bad; wasting it is. To question privilege is to already be privileged enough to wonder if such privilege is worth it. And does this question not already, paradoxically, comically, answer itself?

The humanities teach us the most important thing we can learn: what it means to be a human being. This is not something that can be numerically quantified or applied merrily to a culture built around outsourced labor, Overseas Contingency Operations, and spectacles like the OctoMom, hence its “uselessness,” but that's what makes it an essential resource to keep us as ethical, self-conscious beings and not TV-cronies who think because Blackwater changed its name to Xe it's no longer murderous. So long as the humanities are “useless,” they're safe from being co-opted as an instrument or accessory to a system of exploitation and injustice (and so are we.)

I agree with my friend's inference, though, that the humanities should have a willingness to engage other departments and the world and not be, as he says, “little

more than a souped-up reimagining of ye olde aristocratic practice of sending rich kids away to be properly socialized for successful drawing-room discussions.” This critique stems from a fundamental misunderstanding of what we mean by useless. Stanley Fish, the tacitly conservative, eminent literary scholar who trashes the legitimacy of his own field in a really roundabout way, defines it as such:

*To the question 'of what use are the humanities?', the only honest answer is none whatsoever. And it is an answer that brings honor to its subject. Justification, after all, confers value on an activity from a perspective outside its performance. An activity that cannot be justified is an activity that refuses to regard itself as instrumental to some larger good. The humanities are their own good. There is nothing more to say, and anything that is said...diminishes the object of its supposed praise.*

Here we need to make an integral distinction between uselessness, in the eyes of American empire (and comfortable apathetics like Fish), and uselessness as a radical category and oppositional space to act within. Fish, as a defendant

**So long as the humanities are “useless,” they're safe from being co-opted as an instrument or accessory to a system of exploitation and injustice (and so are we.)**

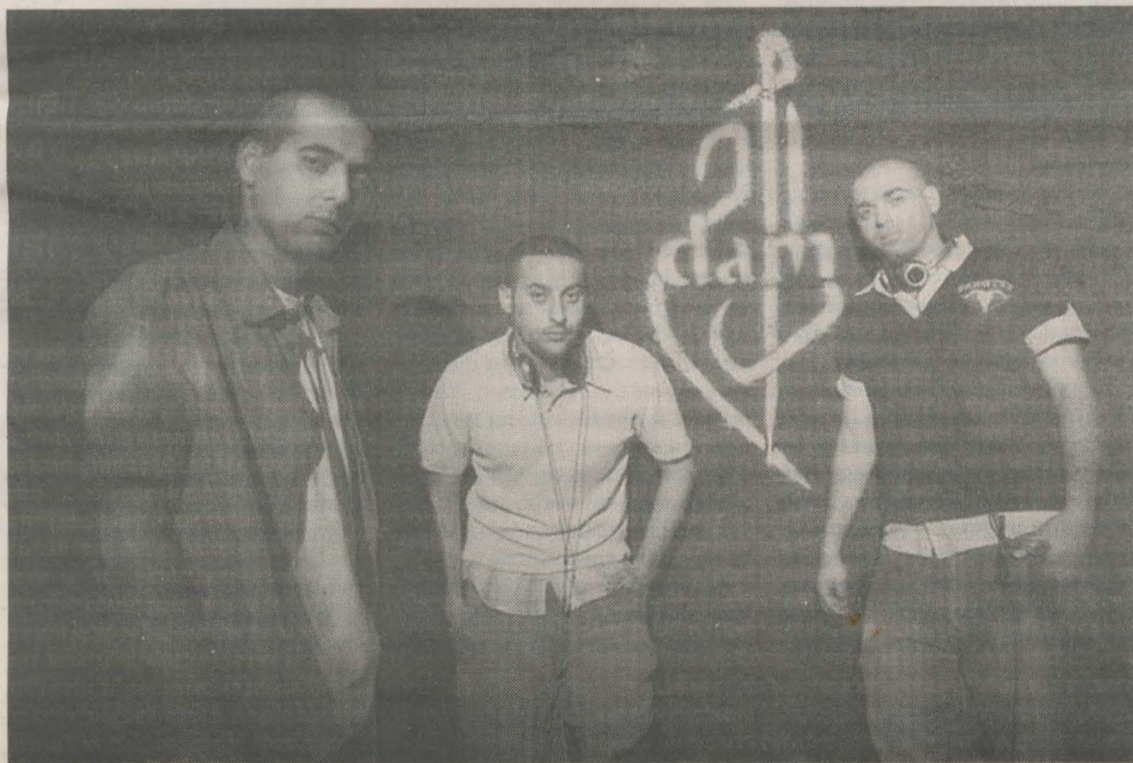
of the reclusive nature of academics, uses uselessness to cleave a separation between college and society, making for an apolitical notion of learning that is quite simply right-wing. Contrarily, I'm advocating an active and mobile kind of uselessness; uselessness as a strategy, as a form of opposition that thrives on invisibil-

ity rather than typical modes of confrontation.

Since the State is abstract (power is produced through culture, no one is accountable) there's no point fighting cops or protesting, aside from releasing stress; the infinitesimal incarnations of power in the form of authority figures are not the problem, they are merely “doing their job,” which is to say their intent is not to oppress us for the sheer pleasure of it (while that may be part of it) but to make a living like the rest of us. They are the “emptyheaded shit-for-brains who've inherited the keys to all the armories and prisons,” not the masterminds of tyranny.

Far from hopeless, this abstraction points to our advantage, as theorist Hakim Bey explains: because the State “takes its abstractions for realities” it creates a “margin of error” within which we can come into existence as free beings that “the State cannot recognize because History has no definition of [us].” It is within these “cracks and vacancies” in-between the totalizing grid of society that we, the poets, humanitarians, free-thinkers and unemployed intellectuals may band together and form our own space of unmediated creativity.

To be a philosopher is to be a rebel, forcing oneself to the clandestine, wandering, inexplicable. As Bey concludes, in the vein of Nietzsche, “as power disappears, the will to power must be disappearance.” To be useless/invisible/unemployed/cast-out, in this way, is not a catastrophe but a liberation. Baristas today, bootleggers tomorrow?



## DAM to play benefit concert in Olympia

by Lamise Shawahin

Palestinian rap group DAM (Da Arabian MCs) will be stopping in Olympia on their US tour on Tuesday, April 21st. DAM is the first and the most well known hip hop group to emerge from Palestine. They are composed of Tamer Nafar, 27, his younger brother Suhell, 23, and Mahmud Jreri, 24. The group has been performing together since the late 90s.

Their music is a combination of Arabic rhythms, Middle Eastern melodies and African-American influenced Hip Hop. DAM's lyrics focus on the continued occupation of Palestine and the realities of living under such conditions. Their lyrics have been discussed in various programs at The Evergreen State College and are taught in many schools in Palestine. DAM is one of the Palestinian Hip Hop groups that were featured in Jackie Reem Salloum's recent documentary *Slingshot Hip Hop* that premiered at the Sundance

film festival last year and was shown during the 6th Annual Middle East Film Festival at Evergreen.

DAM's appearance will mark the second Palestinian Hip Hop show this year in Olympia. In January, Mohammed Al Farra from the Palestinian Hip Hop group PR and Sabreena Da Witch, a solo performer, came to Olympia to do a benefit show for Gaza. Their performance was preceded directly by a screening of *Slingshot Hip Hop* at The Evergreen State College sponsored by the Mideast Solidarity Project, formerly known as SESAME. The performance entitled “Hip Hop Healers for Gaza,” and raised both awareness and over \$1400 to be sent directly to families living in Gaza affected by Israel's brutal assault that began in late December.

DAM's stop in Olympia will be a benefit show at the Capitol Theater for the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural Project which is a project of the Rachel Corrie Foundation. The mural is planned to be one of the

biggest in the world that deals with the occupation of Palestine. The Rachel Corrie Foundation's website reports, “the mural project is a recognition of the relationships that exist between the people of Olympia, Washington, the people of Rafah, Palestine and with all who struggle and work for justice.” They hope that “the mural will provide visibility to strengthen the movement for social change in Palestine, the US and the world.” Tickets can be purchased at Rainy Day Records, [buyolympia.com](http://buyolympia.com), or at the door.

The group will also perform in Seattle the following night (April 22nd) at the University of Washington in Seattle. The show is being hosted by Students for Justice in Palestine. Opening acts will include Gabriel Teodros, Canary Sing and DJ WD4D. The performance is expected to sell out. Tickets are sold in advance at the HUB ticket office on the UW campus, as well as one hour before showtime.



## What Do Flags Say About A People?



The Israeli flag was inspired by the tallit (the prayer shawl with blue stripes worn by Jews during prayer) as a symbol. The star, the shield of David, is a common symbol of the People of Israel from Biblical times. The flag was adopted officially on October 28, 1948.



The Hezbollah flag shows an AK-47 above the whole globe. Inspired by the success of the Iranian Revolution, the party has tried to transform Lebanon's multi-religious state into an Iranian-style Islamic state.

blueStarPR  
The Jewish PR Firm  
www.bluestarpr.com

### What does this poster say about the people who designed it and the people who distribute it?

Pictured above is a flyer created by the pro-Israel advocacy group BlueStarPR – one of many such flyers distributed throughout the Evergreen campus in winter quarter. One of the many flaws of this juxtaposition is that the Hezbollah flag does not represent a “people,” but rather an organization that was originally formed as a militia to resist Israel's military occupation of Lebanon. The actual Lebanese flag depicts a cedar tree. But even then, one cannot generalize that all Lebanese are cedar tree-huggers.

If you still find it difficult to identify the racist component in this flyer, imagine a picture of a cute white kid in front of Old Glory, juxtaposed with a picture of an armed young black African with the flag of Mozambique, which happens to be the only national flag that depicts an AK-47. Should we then generalize that black Africans are violent gun-toting savages and white folks are peace-loving peacelovers?

If the old South African flag had a peace symbol on it, would that have made apartheid any nicer?

## JEWS AGAINST THE OCCUPATION FORMS IN OLYMPIA

by Andrew Sernatinger

This last year, probably more than others, has really put Israel and the occupied territories on our minds. The same day as the Obama-Biden victory, a military operation carried out by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) signaled the end of the already-dismal ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

In December, the IDF began an attack on Palestine that lasted for weeks, killed 1,400 and destroyed hospitals and schools. Continuing this year in March, American activist Tristan Anderson was shot in the head with a tear gas canister while in the West Bank, and just recently in April, Benjamin Netanyahu formed a coalition government with Avigdor Lieberman's ultranationalist Beiteinu party.

It's under these circumstances that Jews Against the Occupation (JATO), a group of students and community members, formed at

Evergreen campus and in the Olympia community. Founders Rachael Hamblin, Matt Lester, Kate Schiffman and Robert Gordon organized the group for both political and cultural reasons.

“The point of our group is to create a distinction between having Jewish background or identity and support for the state of Israel, because since 1967 the two have been intentionally conflated,” said Matt Lester.

“There's an assumption that there's only one Jewish perspective on Palestine,” added Hamblin, “we want to let Jewish people talk about their feelings openly without having their identities compromised because they don't support Israel.”

The group coalesced in part as a response to posters put up by SIIA Shalom, Evergreen's Zionist group, during the height of the assault on Gaza. Both Lester and Schiffman attended Zionist meetings to gauge the group's willingness to

discuss critical perspectives on Israel/Palestine and Jewish culture. “...it became clear that there was little to no interest in challenging the policies of the state of Israel and the development of Zionism. Most meetings were simply about trying to showcase Israel's achievements and the threat of ‘Islamofascism,’” said Lester.

SIIA Shalom posters later drew some controversy as Geoduck Union representative Christopher Rotondo went on record as saying he took down posters that he felt were racist and helped to normalize the occupation of Palestine.

One poster provided by BlueStarPR, an Israeli lobby organization that gives money and materials to SIIA Shalom, compares flags and pictures of Arab women intended to look threatening with docile Israeli women (see above). Criticism of the group's posters or the occupation of Palestine (with comparison to apartheid by South Africans)

has been rebuked by SIIA Shalom with charges of anti-Semitism.

“I think it's bullshit,” Hamblin said. “Judaism and Israel are two separate things. [Criticizing the state of Israel] feels very similar to hearing that you're un-American for not supporting the war in Iraq.”

Lester added, “The current discourse and framing of the conflict has made people back off of the issue [of Palestine]...and part of what we want to do is to remove our exclusive entitlement as Jews to the topic. Everyone in the US has a right to the topic because of our strategic political and military support for the occupation. People need to know that being silent or ignoring the occupation makes them complicit in the largest open-air prison in the world, among other injustices created and carried out by the Israeli government.”

When asked about the group's long-term goal, Lester said, “We need to get away from the NGO idea

that we as Jews can solve the conflict. ‘We’ are not going to liberate ‘them’. Palestinians will ultimately take their freedom, and our job is just to take down the barriers that makes their struggle for liberation incredibly difficult.”

Both Lester and Hamblin emphasized education and dialog for the group. “This group is not just for Jewish people who are firm in their conviction that they're not supportive of Israel. This group is also for people who are interested in learning about Jewish perspectives on Israel,” Hamblin said.

Olympia's Jews Against the Occupation reflects the rising tide of Jewish organizations in solidarity with the people of Palestine. One such organization, the International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, is comprised of groups from the United States, Canada, Europe, India and Latin America. Olympia JATO meets Tuesdays at 4pm in the Evergreen CAB.

## Anyone willing to debate?

by Tessa & Rebecca Wyllie de Echeverria

Recently on campus there has been an informal debate over the Israel/Palestine conflict. Both major viewpoints have utilized campus common space to try a bring awareness of the conflict to the greater student body. Two clubs have predominantly been participating in the discourse, MSP (Mideast Solidarity Project, formerly SESAME) and SIIA Shalom. The information about this debate has been presented in lectures, on flyers, and by tabling and window displays in the CAB. MSP also staged a die-in to bring attention to the Palestinian casualties during Israel's recent siege on Gaza. During the die-in students in the CAB asked about the Israel–Palestine conflict. Showing that knowledge of the issue was not necessarily widespread. Opinion pieces from both groups have appeared in the *Counter Point Journal*, which has included some name-calling and statements that were not backed up with facts or citation. This lack of knowledge is an indication to many that more information needs to be provided to the student body.

However, it is hard to fully understand an issue when both sides don't have the same space and resources to present their views. Fact checking and developing direct responses to points is time consuming and it is difficult to respond to all the questions that opinion pieces engender. For this reason, MSP posed the idea of a debate to give voice to both sides and help students more fully understand the roots of the conflict.

MSP contacted SIIA Shalom about hold-

ing a debate to bring to light the issues surrounding the Palestine–Israel conflict.

The idea is to hold a formal debate that would establish and maintain equal space for educating people about both sides of the Israel/Palestine issue, including the role of the US policy in the conflict. When MSP originally contacted SIIA Shalom, they responded with a list of conditions to be met in order for the debate to take place. MSP agreed to meet and talk over the details. Following the agreement, MSP representatives attended a SIIA Shalom meeting to discuss logistics of the debate. However, SIIA Shalom voted not to participate in the educational debate. As MSP still thinks that a debate would be a healthy course of action, we are currently looking for someone who would represent the Zionist or pro-Israel view of the conflict.

If this debate could move forward both sides would have a chance to directly respond to ideas and thoughts from the opposing views. By debating, both sides can find common ground and recognize places where understanding and apology are needed. A structured debate on the Israel/Palestine issue would allow students to hear all sides and make up their own minds based on equal informational access.

This is an invite to anyone interested in participating to contact me so that the debate can move forward. You can reach me through e-mail at [tess.wyllie@gmail.com](mailto:tess.wyllie@gmail.com) or stop by the MSP (formerly SESAME) office in CAB 320 on Wednesday afternoons. Please only contact me or stop by if you are actually interested in debating this issue.

### Hate-Free Campus Statement

During winter quarter of 2009 there has been an increase in anti-Arab, Iranian and Muslim propaganda on the Evergreen campus. Mass produced fliers appeared promoting stereotypes of Middle Easterners and Muslims as being misogynistic, homophobic and having little value for their children's lives. These thinly disguised attempts to dehumanize Muslims and people of Middle Eastern descent affects all people of color on campus and promotes hostility toward communities we are either members of or work in solidarity with.

As students at The Evergreen State College, we commit ourselves to actively work to challenge the promotion of stereotypes in image and word that target people of color on campus. Whether in our classrooms, homes or families, hate and fear of the other is learned and must be unlearned in order to fully respect and recognize one another as human. Those of us of European descent need to learn how otherness has been taught to us, how it is manifest in their lives and our personal responsibility to change.

Although hate hurts, we embrace everyone's right to freedom of speech. However, we also embrace our right to question the motivations of the use of stereotypes to promote divisiveness and otherness in our communities.

Our attempts to create a Hate Free Campus will raise awareness of the pain that stereotypes and hate speech can cause in our community, especially those recently targeted, our Middle Eastern and Muslim brothers and sisters.

We welcome your support and participation.

We, the undersigned, will actively and vocally oppose the targeting of an individual or group based on their age, disability, religion, ethnicity, social class, sexual orientation, indigenous background, national origin, or gender.

## Sign on to Hate-Free Campus

by Hate-Free Campus Coalition

Hate-Free Campus came about because of the emergence of anti-Muslim propaganda on campus in January of 2009. The posters that initiated the response of Hate Free Campus were put out by a PR firm called BlueStarPR whose purported aim is to “Humanize perceptions of Israel.” Disappointingly, some of the fliers and posters used in the PR campaign dehumanize Arabs, Iranians and Muslims, which are already targeted populations, especially since 9/11.

Posters such as those depicting a woman dressed in Giba and Hijab holding a child and an AK-47 were especially alarming to people of Middle Eastern descent who repre-

sent a small minority of Evergreen students (see above).

Because this kind of propaganda can serve to vilify an entire people, students came together to act, in a small yet significant way, to make it known that hate does not have a place at Evergreen.

Unfortunately, as with any campaign challenging hate, rumors began spreading that the coalition aimed to curtail people's First Amendment rights. In truth, the statement itself specifically calls for the respect of freedom of speech and does not endorse the removal of offensive fliers.

After discussions with various student organizations and community members, the original statement was revised to be inclusive of

all populations targeted for hate crimes and speech. This includes targeting of an individual or group based on their ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, class, disability, age, indigenous background, and/or immigrant status. Many of those working on the statement fit into one or more of the above categories.

If you are so inclined, please sign the Hate-Free Campus statement to the left and drop it off in the box in front of the Library. The statements will eventually be displayed publicly, demonstrating the amount of people in Evergreen's community committed to taking the first steps in creating a campus free of hate.



### Israel? Palestine? What the Heck?!

Get your questions answered

Thursday, April 23, noon  
SEM 2, C1105

Sponsored by Mideast Solidarity Project  
(yes, formerly known as SESAME)

PRINTED NAME AND SIGNATURE

PHONE NUMBER OR E-MAIL