



Counter Point Journal

Vol. 2, Issue 1 - Oct 2009

FREE



EVERGREEN IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY RADAR

- During the **2008 Evergreen graduation**, Olympia police officers had their helmets ready in case of a riot at Evergreen.
- At **Fort Lewis**, an Army intelligence report referenced the 2008 SDS sit-in outside Vice President Art Costantino's office.
- Emails from **Tescrier** are found in the possession of the Olympia Police and Thurston County Sherriffs, forwarded by Evergreen Police Director Ed Sorger.
- These revelations all surfaced through the same public records request that outed a Fort Lewis personnel as spying on activist groups in Olympia and Tacoma.

by Phan Nguyen

In July, a local discovery made national news when "John Jacob," a participant in Olympia and Tacoma activists groups, was revealed to be John J. Towery II, an infiltrator employed by the US Army. Brendan Dunn, a former member of Olympia's Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), had made a public records request to the City of Olympia for communications concerning SDS, anarchists, and the IWW. The resultant records, coupled with investigative work, led to Towery's outing, which in turn raised issues about a likely violation of the Posse Comitatus Act, which prohibits

the US military from engaging in civilian law enforcement actions. What has been less publicized, however, are the portions of the records that deal with The Evergreen State College.

From Tescrier to the Olympia and Thurston Police

The public records produced by Dunn's request uncovered some emails originally sent to the Evergreen email announcement list, "Tescrier," which were then forwarded by Evergreen Police Director Ed Sorger to commanders and chiefs in the Olympia Police Department (OPD) and the Thurston County

Sherriffs Office (TCSO).

Since none of the forwarded emails mentioned anything illegal, I asked Sorger how he determined whether a Tescrier posting was worthy of forwarding to outside police agencies.

According to Sorger, "The only thing I would share with local jurisdictions [from Tescrier] is if there's going to be a concern over a gathering in a particular place that could cause some traffic concerns or things of that nature where, as a law enforcement agency, we would share that." Sorger indicated that such information sharing was reciprocal. "It's not really intelligence. It's public

information. It's just a head's up, so they're prepared to deal with a group of people in a particular location. Not riot stuff, not protest, so much as having enough officers available to detour traffic or whatever needs to be done. Those are the only kinds of things I have shared at all with local law enforcement."

I asked Sorger about one email to Tescrier that he had forwarded to outside police. It was an email invitation to an SDS meeting in the third floor pit of the Campus Activities Building. The email, originally sent by then-student Brendan Dunn on November 1, 2007, stated that SDS was "having an emergency meeting tonight to discuss responses that the community can have to the further militarization of our port."

Sorger forwarded the post to various commanders and chiefs of OPD and TCSO with the preface: "Just FYI for now—I will keep you posted on other information as I receive it."

► PUBLIC RECORDS continues on page 4

We're back!

by CxPJ Editorial Collective

When the *Counter Point Journal* (CxPJ) began publication in spring 2009, the feedback was overwhelmingly positive. However, we did get some negative responses. Some people thought we shouldn't criticize the *Cooper Point Journal* (CPJ). Some questioned whether the college needed another newspaper. Some people demanded we justify ourselves. One pedant scolded us that "Counter Point" is one word. (Sure, and "Newsweek" is really two words. The point is?)

Though we're not averse to constructive criticism—and we know we have a lot to learn—the majority of complaints had less to do with our content or process than with our very existence. That's the status quo for ya. People are very dependent on the status quo as a frame of reference and feel threatened when things don't conform to that status quo. (For a much more serious example, see Tenzin's article below.) The CPJ exists as part of the status quo, and therefore its legitimacy is unquestioned. The *Counter Point*, as a newcomer, was treated as an intruder and judged with unique scrutiny. "We don't need another newspaper." "Why don't you just work with the CPJ?" "Why do you have to be so contrarian?"

We created the CxPJ exactly because we weren't being served by the status quo, and we weren't alone.

Beginning in the spring 2009, the CPJ banned all opinion articles relating to the Palestine-Israel conflict. Their abstract rationale made no sense. According to Editor-in-Chief Jason Slotkin, the censorship was implemented for the sake of "inclusive discourse." (You can read all about it in our April 2009 issue, at counterpointjournal.org) Even worse, Slotkin refused to print corrections to bold factual errors printed in the CPJ, including a fake quote by Martin Luther King.

The CxPJ formed in spring quarter 2009 after a number of us Evergreen community members expressed discontent with our interactions with the CPJ. Aside from our discontent, we shared an additional trait: We were all activists. Thus, rather than lament or whine about the CPJ, we did something about it. One month

► EDITORIAL continues on page 2

Expecting safety in restrooms is presuming too much at Evergreen

by Tenzin Mingyur Paldron

I wanted to address this issue in spring 2009, back when this incident occurred, but in contacting the *Cooper Point Journal*, I found I would be given 800 words to relate the event and the official proceedings (which involved letters addressed to Vice Presidents Art Costantino and John Hurley, and which had gone without a response for over two months by the time I decided to write this article in late May). It was not enough space for the article, and I knew I couldn't trim it down and still explain things adequately. The other choice offered was to break the article in two and publish it in consecutive issues. I was also unwilling to do this. It's been a very busy year, so it's taken me until now to get this article published for the start of fall quarter.

I have chosen to write about my experience and the irresponsibility of the school in the form of a public article in hopes of getting a mature, professional, and decent response from an institution I graduated from in 2008—an institution I currently represent in various aspects of my life, including in the museums,

galleries, and schools which have chosen to screen my documentary work—work produced as a student here. For whatever discomfort or embarrassment I feel associating with Evergreen at present, I can only guess that it must be beyond embarrassing for Art Costantino, John Hurley, and others in the administration to ignore my requests for a constructive, open resolution to the incident I describe here.

I visited Evergreen in mid-February. I was on the first floor of the Library building, where I was waiting for my friends to finish some errands. I needed to use a restroom during this time. The way I look happens to confuse people sometimes—other times, they just assume I'm one of many things: a straight guy, a gay looking girl, or a gay man. Often people don't know which one of those to choose, or I make them uncomfortable because of my appearance, and that's when things usually go wrong.

I would like to state that at no point in my dealings with Evergreen staff members—and in particular with Civil Rights Officer Nicole

Ack—did someone ask me what my gender identity was, nor did I state one.

Given the fact that I look like a man to most people, or a very queer-looking female, restrooms are a frequent place of discomfort for me. I usually use women's restrooms because I have always felt male restrooms to be sources of more potential violence. However, almost always when using the women's restroom—since my teens and more frequently

At no point in my dealings with Evergreen staff members—and in particular with Civil Rights Officer Nicole Ack—did someone ask me what my gender identity was, nor did I state one.

every year—I encounter some kind of problem. Usually this involves stares or words of some kind; sometimes, aggressive body language and confrontations. On this particular day, at Evergreen, I chose the wom-

en's room.

Upon entering the women's room, I heard voices, so I immediately left, without anyone seeing me. I entered the men's and found it empty. Relieved, I entered a stall and closed it. A few seconds after I started using the toilet, I heard someone enter. I tensed a little, but knew I'd be fine, and that I'd just wait for the person to leave. Oddly, I didn't hear him make any noises indicating that he was using the facilities himself, and a couple moments later I felt a presence outside the stall door.

"Next time, use the right restroom," the voice from outside the stall said.

The tone was unfriendly, and I experienced a menacing anger coming toward me. The man paused for a moment, then left.

I exited the restroom shortly afterward and luckily found my girlfriend waiting outside for me. I asked her if she had seen the man who exited, and she had. She thought it was strange because he had literally run out the door and around the corner. I told her what happened, and that's when this experience of restroom intimidation

really changed for me. It turned out she knew who he was, that he was a staff member in one of the first floor departments. This change is significant, because never in my experience of restroom intimidation have I ever been in a vicinity that I frequent and experience the harassment coming from a person based in the same location. It is only because of this unique aspect of the incident that I had any power to address it. In the vast majority of restroom harassment cases, the target never has such a chance.

I did not live in Olympia, so I commuted from Seattle via bus a week later to meet with Evergreen's civil rights officer and give my report. She later met with the staff member in question, and he corroborated my story, except that he said he had used the restroom.

Two weeks after I wrote an initial letter to Art Costantino detailing the entire incident—and following several communications with Nicole Ack, and after Ack filed her "report" of the incident—I wrote a final letter to Costantino, Ack, and John Hurley, abridged below:

► RESTROOMS continues on page 6

Econvergence review

Noam Chomsky: Why the elites are succeeding in their "failure"

by Tara O'Rourke

Econvergence, a conference addressing the current political, economical, and environmental problems, brought together Pacific Northwest activists in Portland, from Oct. 2-4. The keynote speaker was the ubiquitous Noam Chomsky, his presence exciting the sold-out audience and even bringing the man who introduced him, American University economics professor Robin Hahnel, to tears. For a man who is eight decades old, Chomsky resonated with authority during his speech, though he used humor to ease the density of information he presented.

A main theme that ran throughout Chomsky's lecture was the fact that even though our economy has crashed, even though Obama is doubling the amount of troops currently in Afghanistan, even though our world is suffering a food crisis leaving over one billion fellow humans suffering from hunger and malnutrition, all of these events have factored into the success of the leaders in control of our national and international economic policies.

The first step to achieving a situation like this is to strip away democracy and power from the people as covertly as possible in order to give the government legitimacy. This is evident in universities across the nation. Looking back at history, it can be observed that students tend to grasp and promote democracy through protests, marches, advocacy campaigns, etc.

For the first time in Evergreen history, there is more funding coming from the student body than the State, making it less of a public institution.

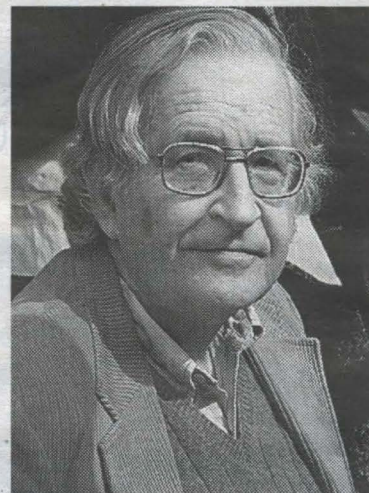
However, The Evergreen State College raised its tuition by 14% this year and was not the only college in the United States to do so. For the first time in Evergreen history, there is more funding coming from the student body than the State, making it less of a public institution. As education becomes less accessible, especially for those with a lower socio-economic status, fewer people have the opportunity to take part in

higher education and the revolutionary activities that have historically been a part of that experience.

Another tactic that makes it possible for the elite to benefit from the suffering of others, Chomsky noted, is keeping the public as "spectators" and engineering consent from the masses. What Chomsky referred to as the "democratic deficit" (the gap between public opinion and public policy) grows further each year, as we become less and less informed and our government broadcasts superfluous crap through our mainstream media. It isn't a coincidence that President Barack Obama won the Advertising Age's

"Marketer of the Year" award in 2008 for his presidential campaign (followed by Nike and Coors respectively).

Maybe we really should "Hope" to "Change." To do this, the masses have to utilize their rights. But our population is fragmented—"atomized," was Chomsky's word—by the barrage of pop-culture and pseudo-politics that aims to whitewash our memory of this country's history of



collective organizing and the victories collective power has won. He emphasized the importance of reclaiming this history and putting it to new use in organizing against those who benefit from the crises that plague the rest of us.

Read more reports from the Econvergence Conference at counterpointjournal.org.

Newsflash! Evergreen student goes to Glenn Beck rally in Seattle with mom!

Find out what happens in the Counter Point Journal online! www.counterpointjournal.org



09.26.2009

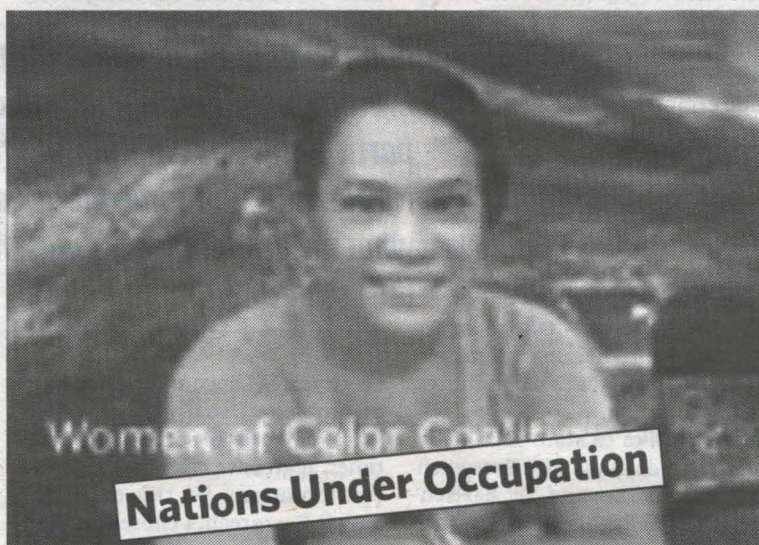
Summertime Fun Facts:

On September 11, 2009, The Washington Department of Financial Institutions closed down Venture Bank, based out of Lacey, WA. The FDIC took the institution into receivership and sold it to First-Citizens Bank and Trust company of Raleigh, NC. Venture Bank had taken large losses on with Collateralized Debt Obligations and stock in Fannie Mae & Freddy Mac.

In the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report, released September 8, 2009, the United States was ranked as the second most competitive economy in the world. This is the first time the US was not first in the ranking, which was created in 2004.

The UK's Office of National Statistics released a report showing that Mohammad, or a variant spelling (eg Muhammad) is the most popular name for baby boys in London. Daniel is the second-most popular name. London joins the European cities of Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, and Oslo, where Mohammad has already established itself as the most popular name for newborn boys.

(Less white space than the CPJ!)



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10% discount for all nonprofit organizations and student groups

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CxPJ

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

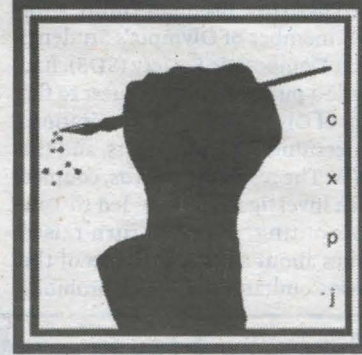
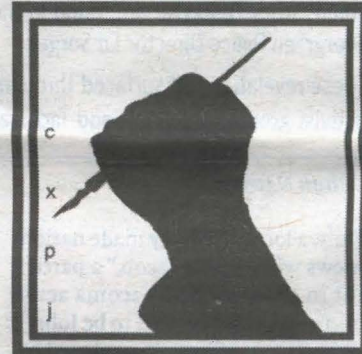
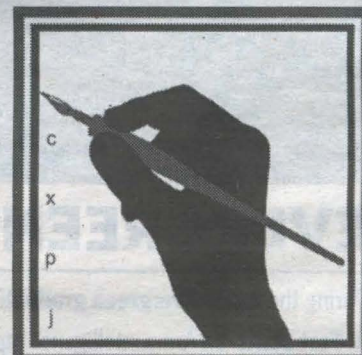
We are always accepting submissions of articles with an emphasis on timely, relevant, and local issues. We specifically seek submissions that are well researched or include interviews or comments from those who are involved or affected by the issue being discussed. We also accept photography, poetry,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

To submit original work, send it to submissions@counterpointjournal.org. Our next issue will come out on November 11, 2009. **The deadline for submissions for the November issue is November 4.**

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

The Counter Point Journal is also available online at cxpj.wordpress.com

This issue was funded by donations and a few ads. Thanks!



CxPJ logos by Lamise Al-Shawahin

CORRECTIONS

Well, this is the first issue of the school year, so we have nothing to correct yet. However, we'd like to take this time to issue a correction on behalf of the Cooper Point Journal.

A video of the Student Activities Fair on the CPJ website featured Tara O'Rourke, who stated directly to the camera that she was representing the "Nations Under Occupation" student group. However, a caption superimposed on the video stated that she represented the "Women of Color Coalition." It's possible she was the only visible woman of color featured on the video, but she does not represent the Women of Color Coalition.

Art's Power Grab

by Tessa Wyllie de Echeverria

The student body is a diverse community, so who has the right to speak on their behalf?

With a new school year just beginning each student must find their place at Evergreen, their power in the community and figure out what Evergreen needs to do for them. After all Evergreen, like any college, is there for the students.

With classes just starting up and people settling back into their lives, it is easy forget about community issues. However, if we let things slip away our community will be formed without student voice.

One of the most important ways students can work in the Evergreen system for student interest is by joining a campus committee. There are many committees, from the Student Conduct Code to the Campus Land Use committee that affect all parts of campus life. Each group in the Evergreen community gets a seat on these committees to improve conditions for that faction, be they faculty, staff or students.

The issue this year is who has the right to appoint students to committees. Art Costantino seems to be throwing his weight around and thinking that he should make those appointments.

I ask, if he is a not a student and has not been elected by students to represent them, then how can he pick who gets to speak for the student population?

The students should have the right to appoint their own representation to any and all committees. Only the next few weeks of power plays will see who decides student voice, so make your voice heard. You can do this by running for a committee and make sure to inform Art that you won't stand for anything less than students picking student representation for their interests.

One can always reach Art Costantino at his office on campus, 3rd floor of the Library, room number 3009, by phone (360) 867-6296 or e-mail costanta@evergreen.edu. Let your voices be heard!!!

▶ EDITORIAL continued from page 1

later, we distributed our very first issue of the Counter Point Journal. At 8-pages, issue one of the CxPJ contained 30% more content than the 20-page CPJ printed the previous week (in terms of word count), and we did it at a fraction of the CPJ's budget and resources. Two more issues followed before the end of the 2008-9 school year.

Within that timespan, we faced financial and bureaucratic hurdles while attempting to work under the existing structure overseen by Student Activities, which proved near-impossible. We were threatened with defunding and pressured to work under the college's Student Communications Media policy — the same policy that granted the CPJ sole legitimacy while failing to hold it accountable. We couldn't effectively challenge the campus authorities while working under their terms. So now we've gone independent. Our source of funding is donations, and more recently ad sales.

One of the articles in the first issue of CxPJ stated, "Hopefully

this paper's existence will serve to prod and remind the CPJ of its purported duties." We regret that this has not happened. Instead, the CPJ tried to justify its actions. It responded to our criticisms in a column entitled "CPSay." Unfortunately, CP didn't say much. It didn't cite any of our criticisms directly (or even reference our paper) and tried to justify its arbitrary policies with abstractions. Near the end of the 2009 school year, a single 16-page issue of the CPJ spent eight pages advertising itself in huge full-page ads and giant gray boxes, pleading for submissions.

The CPJ often claims that if you don't like what you see in its pages, then submit something. We know it's not that simple, and we won't make that claim with our paper. We won't pretend that we can please everyone. But if you don't like what you see here, and you can't submit something to us, we can help you start your own paper.

Why read the CxPJ? A historical affirmation

by Rebecca Wyllie de Echeverria

As mentioned in several of our articles and editorial statements, the *Counter Point* is partly a direct challenge to the *Cooper Point Journal's* lack of reporting on Evergreens administration in a responsible way.

However, it turns out the Counter Point Collective was not the first group of students that has noticed a resonance between the *Cooper Point Journal* and our ever diligent administrators. A trip to the archives turns up three alternative student papers, *The Crapper Point Journal*, *The Evergreen Free Press*, and *The Paper*, that were sparked, at least partly in response to the CPJ.

The most sustained effort, *The Evergreen Free Press* ran from 1988 to 1994. In the third issue, one of the collective members, under the byline "Goodman," published a narrative about why they started an alternative paper, which reads surprisingly like ours.

It seems the editor in chief of the CPJ in 1988 was "being accused of general incompetence as an editor and not printing political views he didn't agree with." The other staff member of the CPJ and some Evergreen community members attempted to get him fired, but alas the Communications Board ruled that there were not sufficient grounds to remove him from office.

The papers advisor at the time, Susan Finkel, was described as "conservative by mainstream journalism standards." She was apparently in cahoots with the Communications Board and angled for more power by suggesting that she be in charge of the hiring and firing of the editor who made all executive decisions about the CPJ.

In a stunning familiar episode, students who asked for change in the CPJ were told by Finkel to "start their own paper." So they did. After producing their first issue, they asked the S&A board for funding, and they did get the money—mainly, Goodman asserts, because Finkel lobbied for them, so they would cause no more ruckus in the CPJ office.

The *Evergreen Free Press* thrived for years and ran articles on suspect issues such as the Board of Trustees, the failure of Disappearing Task Forces at Evergreen, budget cut, and police accountability. Or as some could argue, everything the CPJ deemed too controversial. They were supported by a wide array of students and groups, including MEChA, the Wilderness Center, and KAOS.

A brief look through the years reveal several complaints from people who the CPJ refused to publish. One student wrote a letter to the *Free Press* stating that he had published cartoons for the CPJ for several month, which had been "subject to a series of insults by the CPJ administration." The Editor in Chief finally refused to print his work because he "talked about things that people don't like to talk about... and there are reasons why people don't like to talk about them."

Perhaps the topics discussed in the *Free Press* and the *Counter Point* make some people uncomfortable, but the thought behind both these papers is to ferment discomfort and agitate debates which give potential for positive change on campus.



The Crapper Point Journal

This issue's theme: The Misery of Existence...

Vol. 1, Number 1

The Evergreen State College

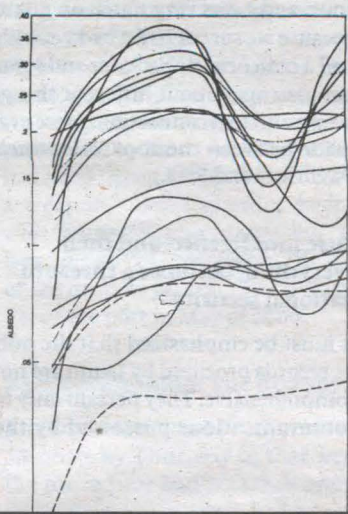
December 12, 1985

Enrollment: The Problem That Won't Go Away

by Laboe Quince

Despite another decline in enrollment this fall, and lagging applications for winter quarter, school officials are still confident that those trends can be reversed and the college can be saved. According to Registrar Allen Walker "slightly over 600" students have signed up for winter classes, about 125 fewer than winter 1984. Historically, TESC enrollment figures drop around 10 percent from winter to spring quarter. Walker says if enrollment is over 525 students for this spring "we'll be right about on target for where our previous enrollments indicated."

Admissions director Dixy Lee Ray reports that 43 new students have been accepted for next fall, about ten more than last year at this time. Ray claims that's because of the decision to make Thursdays "Free Igloo Bar Day"—all students upon presentation of their validated ID cards, receive a free ice cream bar (vanilla ice cream surrounded by dark creamy chocolate) each



An Interview with Ed Edwards Of the Juvenile Socialist Alliance

by B. Zimmerman

One of the major political forces on campus this year is the Juvenile Socialist Alliance (JSA). The group increased its membership significantly (from four last year to nine at present) and has even started holding bi-monthly meetings to inform students of the party's views on national and international affairs. Chairperson of the organization is Ed Edwards, a third-year student from Palm Springs, California, long a center of radical political activity. Short, stocky, and meticulously neat, Ed most closely resembles a mobile computer in speech and gesture. I interviewed him in party headquarters, a small broom closet in the basement of the library building.

When I arrived Ed was working on the next issue of "The Fanatic," the JSA's monthly newspaper. This month's headlines—"Outdoor Ed Zionist Front". The office is decorated with colorful posters supporting such varied causes as baby seals, Croatian independence, the Cuban revolution, and 67 imprisoned Chinese Trotskyites. There is an old

were no injuries, but the blaze resulted in \$50 worth of property damage, mostly to cleaning equipment. With this problem out of the way we decided to concentrate all our energy on the issue of bathing caps. On Saturday, April the fifth, four of us entered the men's locker room, with the intention of staying there until Dan Evan's agreed to meet with us. We were there an hour when several reactionaries from the Rec center staff, after refusing our requests for change for a dollar (with which to call Evans on the pay phone), locked us in the sauna. We were inside five hours and denied food and water. They only let us out after Don started losing consciousness, thereby putting an end to their plans of leaving us there overnight. Still we considered our action successful, particularly after the expulsion from the school of the people responsible for our incarceration.

BZ: Now that you had established your group as a powerful force that

THE EVERGREEN FREE-PRESS

WELCOME to PRIVATE ENTERPRISE VILLAGE The Evergreen State College

JULY * 1988

TENDER AND PRIVATE SLUSHINGTON, D.C.

100

GEO-VOICE
Placebo Land Review
CPJ, FreePress!,
HOLY COW!!

Donations made by these student groups made this issue possible:
Asian Pacific Coalition
E.R.C.
Evergreen Indian Center
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L/GRC
MECHA
Organic Farm
Parent Center

► PUBLIC RECORDS continues from page 1

When asked why he forwarded an email about a student group meeting on campus, he replied, "It would be to apprise Olympia police that there's an organization meeting that is going to discuss protest possibilities in Olympia. It's simply a heads-up to let them know that there's some coordination going on in regards to a military shipment coming into the Port. But nobody from my office would have attended it. And I don't know of anybody from any other jurisdiction that would come

From Art Costantino's hallway to the Army

In spring 2008, SDS's status as an Evergreen student group was revoked, which the administration claimed stemmed from a violation of the campus's newly instituted policies. SDS protested this move by establishing a sit-in outside of Vice President Art Costantino's office. Although the sit-in did make some local news outside of Evergreen, it was nevertheless surprising to find that the Army was

information before or after the event I would greatly appreciate it. I have been designated the lead for all Intel matters for the Democratic National Convention for US Capitol Police."

OPD Lt. Jim Pryde responded, "I don't have any intel on this event for you at this time," but referred Pecher to Ed Sorger. When I asked Sorger about his interactions with Pecher, Sorger responded, "I vaguely remember that, but I didn't have anything to contribute." However, a later email by Pecher confirmed that

program that was funded by the Dept. of Homeland Security and privately managed by the American Trucking Associations. The Highway Watch report, which was exposed by Wikileaks, referenced the conference in the context of an anarchist network whose decentralization made it comparable to "most terror networks" and thus "more difficult to disrupt." The report also expressed amazement that childcare was available at the Evergreen conference.

From Evergreen Graduation to potential riot situation

The day before the June 2008 Evergreen graduation, Sorger emailed OPD, TCSO, and WSP with a "heads up." Sorger reported, "There is a slight possibility that we could have a problem at Graduation because issues are still not resolved with the student group, SDS and they may want to make some sort of a statement. We will not be engaging them unless their demonstration interferes with graduation processes. I have forwarded maps to your agencies indicating Command Post Areas. Please review them just in case we have an incident."

Although WSP and TCSO's responses are unknown, OPD Commander Tor Bjornstad told his sergeants to "Be sure your folks have their helmets on board," indicating a possibility of a riot situation.

SDS did not disrupt graduation, and in fact the conflict between SDS and the Evergreen administration was resolved the night before graduation. Sorger now states that he didn't have any specific information regarding a potential SDS disruption of graduation, but he felt it was prudent to be cautious. "It seemed that some sort of a statement—common sense to me as the Police Services director would be, 'You know what? Why not make a statement during a time on the heels of a sit-in, on the heels of the riot thing that happened, you know? So why not be prepared and try to keep your ducks all in a row, so to speak, in case something unknown occurred... I was really nervous, and I was very much on guard because we sort of had a bad year. We had a police car tipped over and some people angry about different things going on.'" (No connections were ever made between the 2008 Valentine's Day "riot" and SDS.)

Fuse intelligence, and then everything becomes a threat to national security

It must be emphasized that the public records procured by Dunn are not comprehensive. They pertain only to communications possessed by the

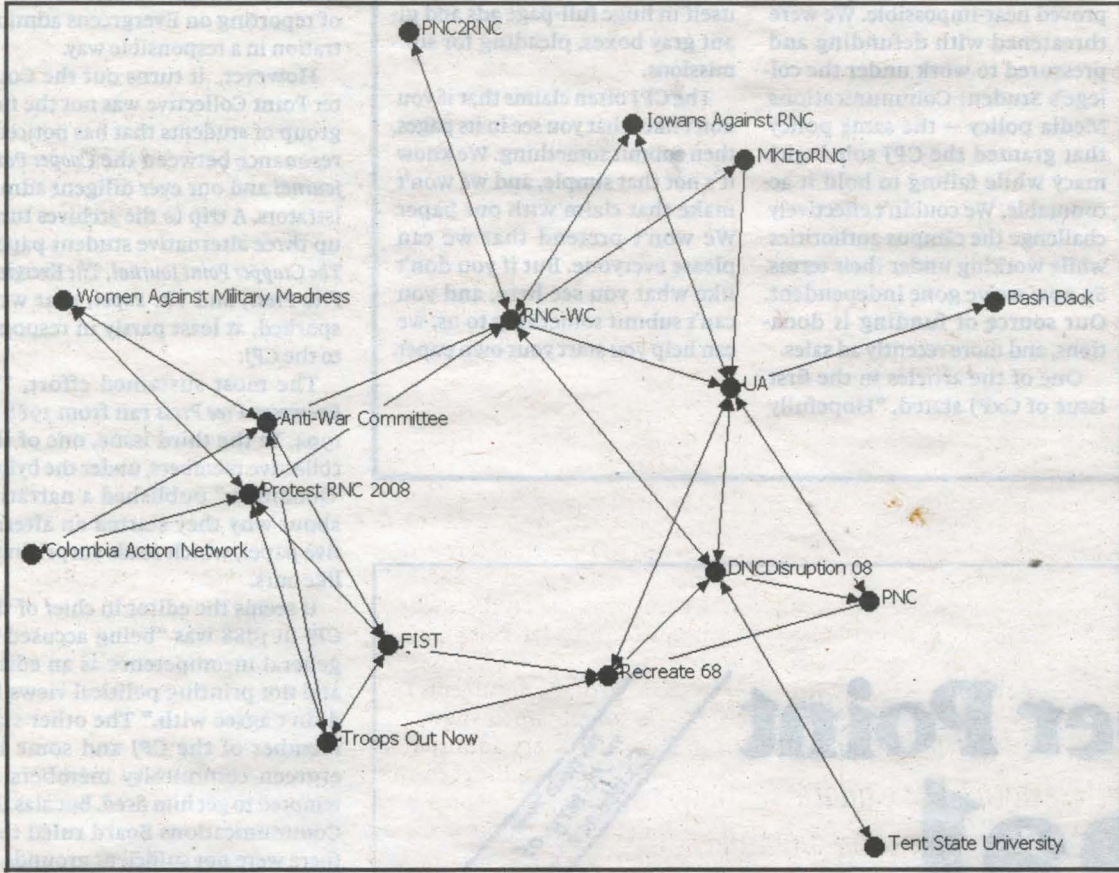
City of Olympia that reference SDS, anarchists, and the IWW. As Dunn has commented, "This is just the tip of the iceberg." Much more has not surfaced, and what has been released is severely redacted. Through other methods, activists have learned of other emails forwarded by Evergreen Police from Tesccrier. They are also aware that the City of Olympia possesses a list of names of people who lawfully participated in antiwar protests. Fort Lewis has its own list that it uses to bar activists from army grounds, even barring immediate relatives of Fort Lewis employees if those relatives have engaged in prominent antiwar actions. Many names on the lists are people who have not engaged in illegal activity, or who might have only dabbled in antiwar protests temporarily.

Homeland Security meetings in Tacoma apprise attendees of threats ranging from white supremacist groups to Latin American drug gangs to Women in Black. And as much as the Evergreen community should be aware that it is being watched, Tacoma Homeland Security meetings are more often occupied with suspicious "Middle Eastern-looking" males—which is presumably a tautology in national security matters—or, in one instance, an individual described as "a Middle Eastern male (Ethiopian)."

The intelligence reports produced by governmental agencies are not always intelligent, nor are they much to report. One last illustrative instance:

In early March 2007, the 4/2 Stryker Brigade moved its equipment out through the Port of Tacoma for eventual deployment to Iraq as part of George Bush's troop "surge." Concurrently, Manuel Williams, Homeland Security advisor for the Port of Tacoma's Maritime Intelligence Support Team (MIST), issued regular intelligence updates on antiwar activity.

One such intel update was sent to various personnel of Fort Lewis, Dept. of Homeland Security, Tacoma Police, and the Coast Guard, and also sent to John Towery and to a mysterious spy known as "jaamtoo4@gmail.com." The intel consisted of a single sentence: "Drew Hendrix" [sic] partner in crime, Phan Nguyen of the Evergreen crowd, has just issued a request for transportation to the POT." As ominous as the intel report sounded, it was a starchy way to indicate that on March 3, 2007, I was looking for a ride to Tacoma.



The anarchist "terror network," according to Highway Watch

in because of it. So all it is a head's up that they're meeting to discuss how they're going to respond to this military shipment. That's all it is. It's nothing any deeper than that."

Sorger added, "Keep in mind that Tesctalk/Tesccrier is public. And in fact, people from other jurisdictions have access to that, too. It's not an in-house/in-campus type of communication. It also goes way outside our boundaries here at the college, so it's accessible by anybody in the public. I want to make that clear."

In fact, both Tesctalk and Tesccrier are campus-only lists that require an Evergreen email address to subscribe. They are also accessible through the web to subscribers only (Although this is easy to circumvent, it would still require deliberate circumvention). In response to this, Sorger stated, "Keep in mind that several police officers are students here, and they see these things. I do. So there's a very good chance that if they see something that would be of importance to local law enforcement, they would forward information. If I did [forward Tesccrier messages], it would only be information pertaining to the law enforcement network for an awareness issue, which I have a duty to do as a law enforcement officer. I'm just doing my job."

"I don't see anything that I've ever emailed as being anything extremely sensitive that would cause any issues with any of our students, as far as impacting their ability to have expression of freedom and the right to free speech—that kind of issue."

"I don't know of any obvious concerns on my part."

However, Dunn disagrees. "When Sorger forwards information to the police about political organizing and students on campus that aren't posing any threat, it's clearly targeting us for political reasons and an obvious infringement on free speech. We shouldn't have to fear having anything about us being sent to the police."

"Ed Sorger is a case in point that our rights are not being protected."

apprised of the sit-in as well. A threat assessment report prepared by Fort Lewis Force Protector Thomas Rudd from July 30, 2008 stated that several activists protesting the 4/2 Stryker Brigade equipment movement at the Port of Tacoma were "linked to the recent sit in at Evergreen State College." Rudd does not explain how the Army would know who had been involved in the sit-in or even why the Army would care about the sit-in outside Costantino's office.

A "Threat Assessment Update" by Rudd from November 2007 also referenced a die-in "at Evergreen State College," to occur "either at the Campus Activities Building or Red Square" in response to the movement of 3/2 Stryker Brigade materiel from the Port of Olympia.

In late October 2008, equipment from the 4/25 Brigade was being shipped from the Port of Tacoma to the US Army National Training Center in southern California, in preparation for eventual deployment to Afghanistan. The materiel movement occurred under the radar of PMR activists. Nevertheless, Army personnel kept track of the northwest activist community in case they got involved. Daily reports from the Army included an Oct. 18, 2008 "threat update" that the "Peace Works conference continues at Evergreen College today and tomorrow." The Peace Works conference is a conference sponsored by the Rachel Corrie Foundation.

From an Evergreen conference to the US Senate Capitol Police

In February 9, 2009 Olympia SDS organized a one-day conference to prepare for protests at the Democratic and Republican national conventions. The conference, entitled the Northwest DNC/RNC Resistance Conference, was held at Evergreen. Three weeks before the conference, Andrew Pecher of the US Senate Capitol Police—Intelligence Investigations Section contacted the Olympia Police Department and the Washington State Patrol and requested, "If you can provide me with any additional

Sorger and Pecher did have a discussion. Two weeks after the Evergreen conference, Pecher emailed Sorger to follow up: "I am just dropping [sic] in to see if you had a [sic] problems with the below action that we had talked about a few weeks ago. Any information that you have would be helpful."

When asked if he replied to Pecher's later email, Sorger said, "I could have. I don't recall. I don't know if I even replied that I didn't have any information."

According to Brendan Dunn, Evergreen Police actually approached staff at Student Activities to inquire about SDS's involvement in DNC/RNC demonstrations. This occurred around the time that Pecher would have made initial contact with Sorger.

The Northwest DNC/RNC Resistance Conference was also referenced in a report by Highway Watch, a now-defunct "anti-terrorism" pro-

Advertisement for Last Word Books. The ad features a large stylized tree logo with a maze-like interior. Text includes: "freedom of speech human rights equality advancements in literacy", "Last Word Books 211 E. 4th Ave Olympia 98501 www.lastwordbooks.org", "Radical Independent Pacific Northwest Booksellers", and "a de-escalation and regulation of governments and corporations" (vertical text on the left) and "education towards a self-aware and self-sufficient populace" (vertical text on the right). At the bottom, it says "protection and restoration of our natural, global government".

Spies in Olympia: The bigger picture

FROM "EDMUND-DOT-BOB" TO JOHN TOWERY TO THE SURVEILLANCE-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

by Anna Simonton

If you were gone over the summer or if you're new to Evergreen, you may not have heard about the biggest scandal to hit the activist community this year: a military spy was discovered to have infiltrated Olympia Port Militarization Resistance (PMR) as well as other organizations that are comprised largely of Evergreen students. News outlets have already covered this story, but this article will attempt to catch up the folks who haven't heard, and also place our spy in the broader context of the burgeoning Surveillance-Industrial Complex.

Background on the spy

In July it was confirmed that "John Jacob," an Olympia activist, was actually John Towery, a civilian employee of Fort Lewis Force Protection, a group of military and civilian employees who provide on-base law enforcement and security. The revelation came as a result of a public records request conducted by Brendan Maslauskas Dunn on behalf of the Industrial Workers of the World. Dunn requested that the City of Olympia provide him with any documents concerning anarchists, anarchism, Students for a Democratic Society, or the IWW.

The documents Dunn received included hundreds of emails from Ft. Lewis Force Protector Thomas Rudd to members of the Tacoma Police Department, the Olympia Police Department, and other military personnel. The emails covered various topics, but prevalent among them were "threat assessments" detailing the plans of groups such as PMR and Students for a Democratic Society. PMR is a group that has organized blockades to make it harder for the military to use the ports of Olympia, Tacoma, and Gray's Harbor to ship soldiers and equipment to Iraq. At times when PMR was planning direct actions, Rudd would send threat assessments at one or two hour intervals, often including information about what was going on inside PMR's meetings, information that could only have been sent to him by someone present at the meetings.

Dunn examined these documents along with other activists including Drew Hendricks, who keeps a personal database of information on local law enforcement officers. Hendricks recognized most of the recipients of the forwarded emails, but there was one name that he had not seen before: John Towery.

Hendricks searched Towery's name on the internet and found a match in Spanaway, which they knew to be the hometown of their friend and fellow activist who they knew as John Jacob. They searched further, and found that John Towery was a member of a motorcycle club called the Iron Butt Association. Hendricks and Dunn recalled that John Jacob's motorcycle had something about "Iron Butt" on its license plate.

John J. Towery II, aka John Jacob, not keepin' it real.



When he started getting involved in activist groups in 2007, "John Jacob" had informed Hendricks that he was a civilian employee at Fort Lewis. However, he claimed to be an anarchist and wanted to use his knowledge of the military base to help PMR. Hendricks made it clear that he was only interested in open source, non-classified information and began a tentative partnership with "John Jacob." Gradually the unlikely activist gained Hendricks' trust and friendship and was made an administrator of the PMR listserv, giving him the names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of many Olympia activists.

Now Hendricks and Dunn were highly suspicious of their friend. Someone went to John Towery's residence in Spanaway and saw John Jacob there, confirming that the two were in fact the same person.

Dunn confronted Towery who admitted that for two years he spied on the group and passed information on to an intelligence network composed of dozens of law enforcement agencies including Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, Joint Terrorism Task Force, FBI, Department of Homeland Security, the Army at Fort Lewis, and Olympia and Tacoma police. Towery also told Dunn that there are other informants still embedded in PMR.

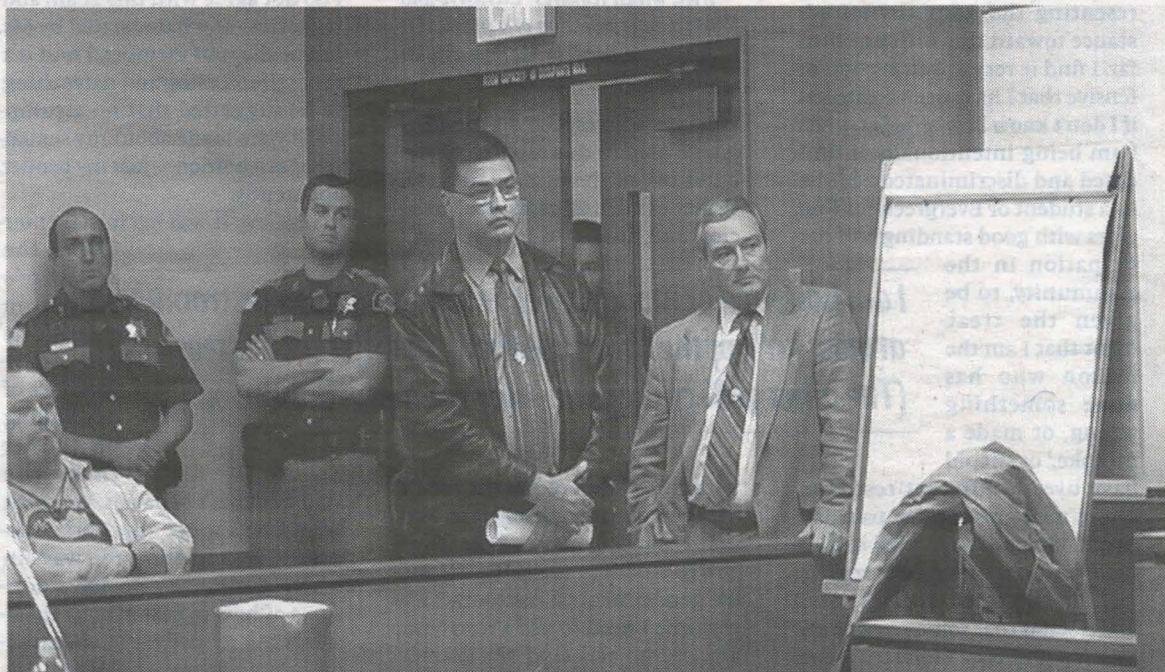
The idea of a military spy collecting information on local activists is not only unsettling, it is illegal. The Posse Comitatus Act of 1878 is a federal law that prohibits the military from acting in a law enforcement capacity (which includes surveillance) against civilians. This is more than a legal technicality, the law is part of the foundation of democracy in this country. Without it, we could find ourselves subject to martial law, with no legal recourse available, at the whim of a disgruntled politician or general.

While Dunn and Hendricks were shocked that their close friend turned out to be a spy, the fact that PMR was under surveillance was not news. The first discovery of police infiltration into PMR occurred in 2007 during a trial in which twenty-two activists, known as the Oly22, were prosecuted by Thurston County. Two had been charged with "riot without a weapon," and the other twenty with "second degree trespassing" for lying down near the gate of the Port of Olympia to protest the military's use of the port in May of 2006.

Back-background: The first spy

The trial began on Monday, March 26, 2007. By Thursday of that week, the prosecutor had breached one of the pretrial agreements, had an emotional breakdown, and a police witness had claimed, despite evidence to the contrary, to have no memory of videotaped footage of the protest, which had been destroyed before the defense could see it. It was obvious to everyone that the prosecution did not have a strong case, and that they were calling unreliable witnesses.

In the middle of the trial Detective Mike Hirte and the Thurston County Chief Jim Chamberlain stepped into the courtroom and handed a paper to the prosecutor, who immediately called for a recess. The prosecutor showed the paper to the defense lawyer, who recognized the document as a jury analysis spreadsheet that had been sent to the defense team's listserv. The prosecutor went on to claim to the judge that an anonymous person had notified him of the existence of the document. He had approached the chief of police who assigned Hirte to investigate. Hirte supposedly found the document posted on an unspecified website. If this were true, it would constitute



Thurston County Sheriff's Detective Mike Hirte, center, flanked by TCSO Chief Jim Chamberlain, both made a surprise appearance at the "Oly 22" trial in Thurston County District Court, March 29, 2007. Hirte is believed to be "edmund.bob@gmail.com," who spied on Olympia activist lists at least since January 2006.

a breach of the pretrial agreements, as juror information was not to be made public.

The defense team was sure that the document had not left the listserv and certainly was not posted on the web. They inspected the list of e-mails that were subscribed to the listserv and for the first time noticed

They inspected the list of e-mails that were subscribed to the listserv and for the first time noticed two addresses they did not recognize: jaamtoo4@gmail.com and edmund.bob@gmail.com.

two addresses they did not recognize: jaamtoo4@gmail.com and edmund.bob@gmail.com. They found out that "Jaam" had gotten on the listserv the previous month, shortly after PMR announced plans for the March 2007 Port of Tacoma Protest. The e-mail had been added to every other listserv on Riseup.net, the main e-mail and listserv provider for activists in Olympia, and the site that housed the defense team's listserv. Jaam had joined all the lists at the same time, including listservs for projects that had never materialized and that had no other subscribers.

Apparently edmund.bob had existed on various Olympia Riseup listservs at least since January 2006, but had only gotten on the defense listserv the day before Mike Hirte presented the jury analysis to the prosecutor in court. It seemed to the defense that Jaam was a law enforcement official who had infiltrated the Riseup listserv system and alerted the prosecution about the analysis, which led Hirte to then hack the listserv as well. When the defense accused Hirte of being edmund.bob he said, "My name is not edmund-dot-bob, at all."

The prosecution pushed for a mistrial, which the judge granted. If there could be any remaining doubt that the prosecution was fishing for a mistrial and breaching lawyer-client confidentiality in order to create one, minutes from a Homeland Security meeting in Tacoma confirm that the prosecution and law enforcement agencies were communicating about the possibility of a mistrial. On March 29, 2007 at 2pm, the same day and time that the activists in court were accusing Mike Hirte of being edmund.bob, Homeland Security and the Tacoma police were in a meeting in which a Captain Strickland said, "The trials involving the protestors arrested during the Olympia protest [are] taking place in Olympia. There [is] a possibility of jury tampering, as a list of the jury members' names was posted on a

website."

Why did the Homeland Security officials and the Tacoma police know about the mistrial before it happened? And why are these entities concerned with activists arrested by Thurston County? Here is where we link back to the Towery discovery, to examine the broader context of his spying.

What the documents that Dunn obtained show, and what Towery admitted, is that the intelligence that military spies collect does not remain within the army, nor does intelligence collected by police remain within their department. Rather, Towery was one small part of a huge information-sharing network of law enforcement agencies enabled by a relatively recent phenomenon—the advent and proliferation of fusion centers.

Fusion centers?

The "threat assessments" that Thomas Rudd sent to military and police personnel based on information that Towery was feeding him from PMR meetings was also forwarded to an agency called the Washington Joint Analytical Center, a fusion center in Seattle. When the Olympian requested the city to provide copies of e-mails from WAJAC, the entire text of the documents they received was redacted. All that was left for us to read were the titles of the blackened paragraphs such as "Civil Disturbance," and "Activists Leave their Mark."

According to Mike German of the ACLU, fusion centers are "multi-jurisdictional intelligence centers that involve state, local, and federal law enforcement, as well as other government entities...but also involve oftentimes the military and private companies." All of these different agencies provide intelligence to the fusion center, where computers scan all the data to pick out the supposedly noteworthy stuff, which analysts use to write intelligence reports.

A report by the ACLU that German co-authored called "What's Wrong with Fusion Centers?" describes how after 9/11 growing pressure for states to have a larger role in counterterrorism compelled the FBI to expand their Joint Terrorism Task Force programs to share more intelligence with state and local police. However, secrecy rules still made it hard for state and local police to share intelligence with each other. Another force driving the creation of these centers is the growing trend of "intelligence-led policing," which utilizes individuals' information to search for "suspicious activity," like scanning library records to see who has checked out books about the

Middle East.

Fusion centers developed across the country fairly independently of one another to address these desires and trends in law enforcement communities. However, the federal government quickly jumped on the bandwagon and now plays a major role in the development of fusion centers by providing personnel, guidance, training, and funding—as of 2006 the Department of Homeland Security alone had provided fusion centers with over \$380 million in federal funds. That figure has surely grown, seeing as there were forty-two fusion centers in 2007, fifty-eight in 2008, and now there are seventy-two nationwide.

Another way fusion centers have changed since their advent is called "mission creep." Because the centers developed without any regulatory framework, their original mission of counterterrorism quickly expanded to encompass an "all crimes, all hazards" policy. Officials say this was partly because a broader mission statement would allow centers to apply for more grants, and in larger part was due to the difficulty of getting local law enforcement to put effort into fighting terrorism without the benefit of using the centers' resources to tackle "crime and hazards" in their own towns and counties. Unfortunately "crimes and hazards," must be synonymous with political expression and activism, judging by the frequency with which fusion centers have targeted political groups.

The ACLU report identified five major problems that these fusion centers present: ambiguous lines of authority, private sector participation, military participation, data mining, and excessive secrecy. These problems have already manifested in Washington and on the Evergreen campus.

Ambiguous lines of authority

Because federal, state, and local law enforcement together constitute fusion centers, it isn't clear who controls the centers or whose rules and regulations guide their conduct. There is evidence that participating agencies use this structure to evade oversight by "policy shopping," or picking which set of laws best fits their needs. For example, in some states, privacy laws are stricter than federal laws, while in others they are less so. Through a fusion center, the FBI could access information about citizens from a local law enforcement agency functioning under lax state privacy laws, without actually "hosting" information that would be illegal for them to obtain under federal law. This process fails to produce documentation that would otherwise

▶ **RESTROOMS** continued from page 6

I am shocked and saddened by the decision made by Evergreen's civil rights officer, Nicole Ack, representing the Administration's stance toward this incident thus far. I find it very upsetting and offensive that I have been treated as if I don't know how to judge when I am being intentionally intimidated and discriminated against. As a student of Evergreen for four years with good standing and participation in the community, to be given the treatment that I am the person who has done something wrong, or made a 'mistake,' or should have used a different restroom causes me a great deal of pain and upset. I have always tried to be a person who shows others respect and can be treated with respect. I understand that some parts of my identity and how I look leave me vulnerable not only to discrimination but also to a choice, conscious or not, of not being understood as a complete human being, or given the respect a human being deserves.

You have no idea the pain this causes me. I did not expect much disciplinary action toward the staff member who was clearly acting in an intimidating and discriminatory way toward me, nor did I expect him to admit his intent, which was extremely clear to me, and I feel to any person, a professional or student, gay or straight, who knows how to treat a human being, and who has some basic knowledge of local culture, and therefore, the culture of the student body (as well as staff). But I am shocked by the civil rights officer's finding of no violation of the campus code of conduct, and at the prospect that other administrative staff would support such a finding.

Beyond the personal pain and upset this has caused me so far, the negative consequences it has for the safety and respect given the queer community at Evergreen, and anyone whose gender is visibly "questionable," is serious and far-reaching.

In quoting the first part of the conclusion of the report filed by Ms. Ack:

Complainant states that "... I am visibly gay/queer looking, and pass as a male half the time. Sometimes I use the men's restroom to avoid being hassled in the women's." Complainant chose not to use the women's restroom or the easily accessible gender neutral restroom, but instead presumed that either the men's or women's was appropriate, which

characterization clearly differs from that used, for example, by the San Francisco Unified School District, which requires "exclusive and consistent assertion of a particular gender identity" to use a particular sex-designated restroom.

I feel very disrespected by the language used in this report and the handling of the case by the civil rights officer. It casts the suspicion and doubt on me, in that I

I am harassed or made to feel uncomfortable in restrooms at least 50% of the time I use them, to different degrees (The other 50% of the time, they're empty, thank God).

"presumed" that either the men's or women's was appropriate, and that I "chose not to use the women's restroom or the easily accessible gender neutral restroom." Every time I need to use a restroom, am I to go and find the gender neutral restroom, so that I don't bother people who don't know how to handle how I look without saying something antagonistic or intimidating? I needed to relieve myself, and the restroom facilities were there on the first floor (unlike the single stall/gender neutral restroom, which is by Media Services on the second floor). [Update: I learned over the summer that Evergreen has another single-stall restroom on the first floor—something I did not know, as an alumni.]

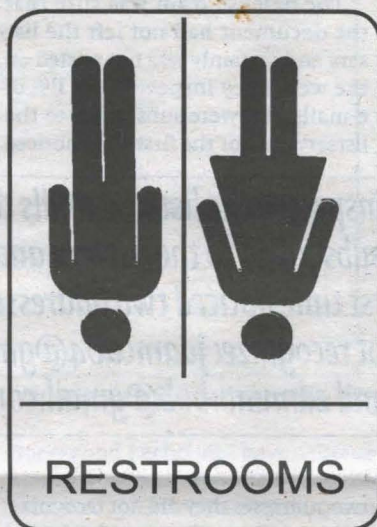
I never "presume" any bathroom, besides a single stall, is ever "appropriate." I am harassed or made to feel uncomfortable in restrooms at least 50% of the time I

I encourage the campus community to ask the college to work on developing a very clear restroom policy that treats its minority students with respect, rather than with suspicion and blame.

use them, to different degrees (the other 50% of the time, they're empty, thank God). The statement in the San Francisco Unified School District that Nicole Ack used to support her comments of myself as having made the mistake (implying I caused the issue to begin with, and should have just gone to relieve myself in a private setting, where I wouldn't have bothered anyone by my usage of the bathroom) is one I find interesting. How is she aware of any "exclusive and consistent assertion of a particular gender identity" on my part? And moreover, whether or not I have such an exclusive and consistent assertion that she may deem satisfactory, how does that change how that makes this staff member's behavior toward me permissible or not? How is he to know what particular gender identity I exclusively identify with? It still goes back to

his own "perception" of me as "female," and therefore making his actions towards me permissible. I do not agree with this at all, and regardless of what is stated by Ms. Ack or the staff member, I find it a very self-excusing and naïve thing to be suggested that no assumptions were made about my sexuality or orientation—just my gender, apparently.

I believe it was my initial entering of the women's restroom that Nicole Ack is relying much of her finding on (rather than the staff member's behavior, as I think would be a more appropriate focus). It is saddening the ways in which a minority person's decisions of how to best protect themselves can so easily lead to entrapment by an irresponsible second or third-party. The civil rights officer has not mentioned in her report or seemed to have investigated how the staff member saw me enter the women's room and then go into the men's. Walking from his office, I don't know how he could have



witnessed that entire process and entered only after I had gotten inside a stall and started using it, unless he had stopped to watch me.

Outside of all of that, it is very clear that the staff member entered the men's room and spoke to me in a way that was intentionally harassing and intimidating. He wanted me to "use the right restroom." He wasn't thinking I'd made a mistake—he said to me, in a voice that was not a conversational tone or any sort of friendly or neutral tone, "Next time, use the right restroom." He knew I was fully aware of what restroom I was in, and he wanted to let me know that he was not okay with my decision. That is directly intimidating (though he made the statement from behind my closed stall door so I could not see him), and a severe act of discrimination.

The officer also declined to add in her ending statement the staff member's promise to her that he wouldn't do the same thing again

(also why not, if it is not problematic behavior?). In a phone conversation with me (in which she tried to deny the problems of the incident) she said the staff member said instead that he would not use the restroom if he saw someone fitting my description going into the restroom, as he wouldn't want to make any mistake in his interaction with them. I told her I found this troubling, as a fear on his part of making a mistake in an interaction sounded extremely questionable to me, and revealing of his feelings around people who "look like me." This staff member is uncomfortable around queer looking people using the same restroom as him (and I have a feeling this is not limited to gender questionable looking people, but probably visibly gay men as well), and chose to act on that discomfort by coming into the men's room to put me in my proper place (which was outside of "his" restroom.) That is not a mistake; that is not a friendly question or notice; that is discriminatory and intimidating, an act with clear undertones of gender violence.

I respect this college very much for the opportunities I have found as a student and as an artist. But I will not accept the decision made by the campus civil rights officer. I hope a more appropriate decision is made by whomever appropriate.

I encourage the campus community to ask the college to work on developing a very clear restroom policy that treats its minority students with respect, rather than with suspicion and blame. Alongside this work, I strongly advocate all staff and faculty having the opportunity for private workshops that deal with gender diversity. I am not seeking any type of retribution or "restorative justice"—the stakes are much greater than a single individual or resolution. The campus has a problem. It has a problem among its staff and its students—a problem among those who are uncomfortable (and sometimes this uncomfortable-ness can grow into anger and violence) around others in the campus community whose gender confuses them. This problem is not going to be solved by the cowardly, unprofessional, and inappropriate response given thus far by Nicole Ack and Art Costantino. It is not going to "go away" by referencing some code from San Francisco. Doesn't Evergreen know how to think for itself? Or is gayness or queerness so alien to it that it needs to look at some other policy and use it as an excuse for not addressing a truly problematic incident, and not even bother responding to the "complainant," an Evergreen alumni and recipient of numerous Evergreen honors.

The Evergreen community needs to put pressure on those in a position of power to make significant and lasting changes in policy. It furthermore needs to provide an atmosphere in which staff and faculty in particular can share their feelings and learn how to work with the cultural backgrounds of its campus members. Because gender, like many other things, is a manifested identity as well as something that holds a cultural understanding unique to differing groups of people. The change needs to start with Evergreen employees—it needs to be known that students don't have to fear homophobic and genderphobic behavior from members of the College.

I will not be involved in the proceedings from this point forth, as I moved to the Bay Area in late May and have been building a life there. But I wish the campus luck in developing a mature model of dealing with incidents like this—because I assure you, they will keep occurring, and will only get worse if not addressed in a healthy manner.

NOT THAT YOU CARE, BUT...

NATIONAL NEWS

Exploding wealth gap got you down? Buy a country!

The Forbes 400, a list of the 400 wealthiest people in America, was published for 2009 on September 30th. Their combined net worth this year amounted to \$1.27 trillion dollars. Their wealth is so unrestrained that a news article detailing what countries they could purchase was the front of Yahoo!'s homepage early Monday morning.

In a chillingly exuberant fashion, the author of the piece details how stunningly opulent a few members of the 400 are by making statements like, "Bill Gates... has a personal balance sheet larger than the Gross Domestic Product of 140 countries," and showing pictures of their smiling faces next to maps of the countries whose economies they dwarf.

Out of the 50 wealthiest individuals, five are women and only one is a person of color. The other headline of the day on Yahoo! News was the winner of the annual potato chip tasting contest.

Troops in Now?

October 7th marked the 8 years since the US invasion of Afghanistan. Much of the world's response was to hold protests, rallies and demonstrations. The case was no different in Olympia, where the group People for Liberation through Education and Action organized a rally marching through west side streets and took up over a city block in length. The reaction in Washington D.C., even with 61 anti-war protesters arrested and mass demonstrations, was a sharp contrast on the day.

President Obama ruled out any significant withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan in a bipartisan congressional meeting. Press secretary Robert Gibbs commented that the troop withdrawal was no longer "on the table." The option left very much on the table, however, was sending an additional 40,000 troops to the country which already is the unwelcome home of over 100,000 foreign soldiers. Congress, specifically Senate majority leader Harry Reid, has responded to this move by announcing that, "Whatever decision you [Pres. Obama] make, we'll support it."

Ouch! My Civil Liberties!

Over 200 protesters were arrested during the G20 protests in Pittsburgh at the end of last September. This included one activist arrested for using Twitter to inform demonstrators where police were telling the crowd to disperse and how they could leave safely. The particular activist, Elliot Madison, was pulled from his hotel room along with pictures of Karl Marx, V. I. Lenin, and a slingshot.

Riot police are under heavy criticism for the use of sound cannons, a large device which emits an ear-piercing pitch at an extremely high volume, on protesters as well as wrongful arrests and other forms of brutality. Over 40 law enforcement agencies were on hand in Pittsburgh for the G20 summit

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The invisible hand of the Really Really Free Market digs in! (Photo by Nik Nerburn)

The Really Really Free Market

The most radical swap meet in the Northwest

by Nik Nerburn

On the morning of Sunday, September 27, a slew of bleary-eyed shoppers descended on downtown Olympia, searching for sales and deals like any good American with orders to stimulate the economy. They were shocked and awed, however, when they stumbled upon a living experiment in anarchy blossoming in the beautiful, green grass of Sylvester Park: the Olympia Really Really Free Market!

While the Olympia meet has a group of people that procure permits and do all the dirty work of pasting up flyers, the Really Really Free Market is non-hierarchical and decentralized. The meeting place is specified, and then it's up to you!

People bring things they need to get rid of and stumble upon the treasures of others. The whole event had the feeling of a swap meet or flea market, except with one big difference: The usual voices haggling over minute price differences and sellers trying to undercut each other were nowhere to be heard. Instead, there were only gasps and frantic phone calls made to friends. "You've got to get down here. Oh my god, there's so much good stuff, and everything is free!"

A small child picks up a stuffed

animal from a blanket on the ground and hands it to a slobbering dog. "This is for the doggie!" he announces to his mother, who smiles.

A man in a cowboy hat walks up with several boxes, announces he's moving to Guatemala and has no need for anything in his house.

A mother pushing a stroller and tugging along a reluctant child

cians on the lawn, playing a drum kit, guitars, banjos, djembes and harmonicas.

The Olympia 'Free Market was a rousing success for a few different reasons.

First, by all appearances, none of the people at the free market were significantly wealthier or more affluent than anybody else. Some gave a lot, and some gave a little. Still, everybody contributed what they could and left with a new pile of goodies. It was a living, modern potlatch, and everybody took it upon themselves to redistribute their wealth. Some folks brought more than others, but nobody was keeping score or making tallies.

Second, while it showed how people can naturally embrace disorganization, and it represents a simple step toward a more self-determining community. It was not about pushing any political agenda or ideology. No pamphlets were shoved into the hands of visitors, and there were no rousing speeches. Rather, it naturally asserted a political philosophy that we can all agree on—that real communities are created from the bottom-up, not imposed on us from the top-down by politicians and legislators.

The whole event had the feeling of a swap meet or flea market, except with one big difference: The usual voices haggling over minute price differences and sellers trying to undercut each other were nowhere to be heard.

makes her way over to the vegan buffet. "We were just on our way home from church," she says as she dishes up a plate for herself and her children. "And we just think this is the greatest thing ever!" All to the sounds of a rotating cast of musi-

► SPIES continued from page 5

be subject to the Freedom of Information Act, leaving citizens with no recourse for finding out what these agencies are doing.

While the federal authorities maintain that they are not in charge of these centers, the ACLU report points out that many fusion centers are located within federal workspace. In fact, the Washington Joint Analytical Center is housed in an office on the same floor as the FBI office in Seattle. At a congressional hearing in 2007, a Department of Homeland Security official could not give a straight answer on who runs fusion centers. Instead he felt it sufficient to say, "fusion centers are in charge of fusion centers."

Private sector participation

Fusion Centers are working on involving private companies in intelligence gathering and law enforcement in a number of ways. One strategy is to facilitate the contracting out of law enforcement services to private companies. This is happening here, in Washington. A 1,525 page, confidential document titled "Washington Joint Analytical Center Seattle Private Intelligence Outsourcing," was posted on Wikileaks this year.

The document details a process of hiring private entities to gather intelligence on behalf of the Washington State Patrol. Pricing, proposals, background checks, and contracts are all included in the document.

The problem with outsourcing law enforcement to private contractors is that private companies are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Good luck defending yourself in court when you can't access the evidence criminalizing you because it was gathered by a company instead of a police officer.

In 2006 the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security created a report that set forth guidelines on systematizing the growth of fusion centers in accordance with the federal government's vision. Included in the guidelines is a six-page list of potential types of information fusion centers could glean in partnership with the private sector. The various sources of information and intelligence includes: food and water production facilities; grocery stores and restaurants; banks, credit com-

A Department of Homeland Security official could not give a straight answer on who runs fusion centers. Instead he felt it sufficient to say, "Fusion centers are in charge of fusion centers."

panies, and investment firms; preschools, daycare centers, universities, primary and secondary schools, and "other educational entities providing information on suspicious activity"; fire and emergency medical services;

utility, electric, and oil companies; the gaming industry, sporting facilities, amusement parks, cruise lines, hotels, resorts, and convention centers; defense contractors and military entities; apartment facilities and facility management companies; malls and retail stores; state and child welfare entities; the postal service and private shipping companies; and public and private transport entities, including airlines. And that's hardly the whole list.

What these guidelines propose, and what is already being developed, is a Surveillance-Industrial Complex in which everything you do, from buying groceries to getting in trouble at school, can be logged in a system in which data-mining technology is used to sort through the details of millions of lives to pull out the things that seem "suspicious." If you are flagged, the system can build a detailed portrait of your life to serve as a reference for surveillance and action against you.

If you think nothing you do is suspicious, that this isn't a threat to people who aren't doing anything wrong, take a look at this CxPJ issue's interview with Ed Sorger, head of Evergreen's campus security. Sorger has been forwarding TESSCrier announcements to the Olympia Police Department, who may have passed them up the chain of command to WAJAC, and Sorger received e-mails

from WAJAC along with the army and local police. And again, John Towery was a part of this system and the people he was spying on weren't doing anything "wrong" or "suspicious" unless nonviolent protest fits those descriptions.

Data mining

What the ACLU report has to say about data mining, the process in which a computer scrolls through a sea of data to pick out the "suspicious" fish, reveals the real intent of these fusion centers. The report includes some hypothetical numbers that illustrate how data-mining is

Good luck defending yourself in court when you can't access the evidence criminalizing you because it was gathered by a company instead of a police officer.

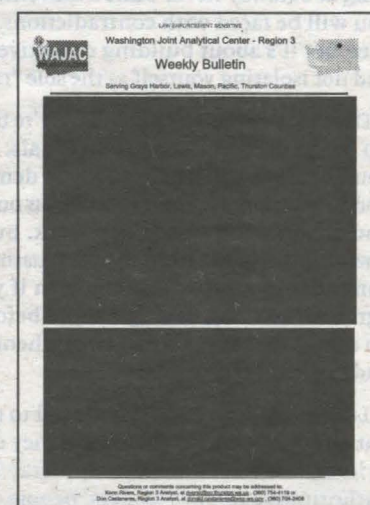
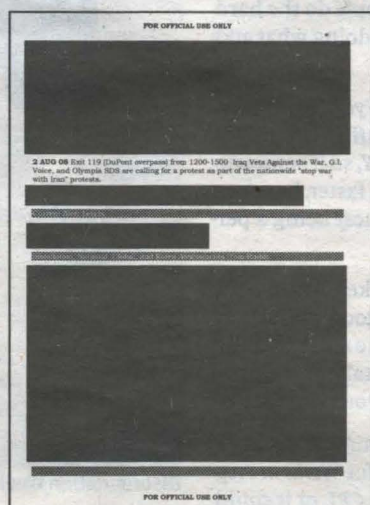
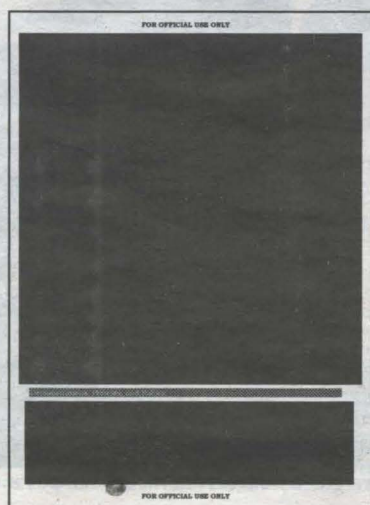
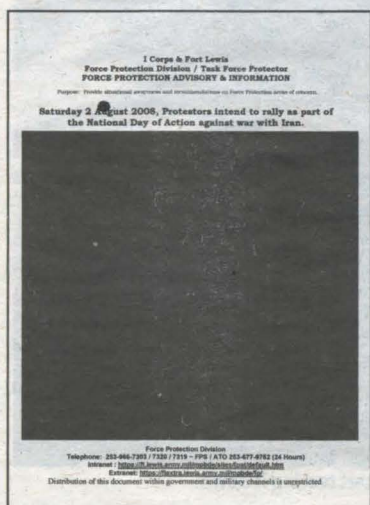
counter-productive in catching terrorists. If we have a computer system that is 99% accurate—which no system is—that is scanning information about a population in which there are 300,000,000 non-terrorists, and 1,000 terrorists, the number of terrorists that will be caught is 990, and the number of innocent people who will be "caught" is 3,000,000, because of that 1% inaccuracy rate. Imagine a system that is only 80% accurate.

Either fusion centers are run by idiots or this system is not designed

to catch terrorists. The Department of Justice's guidelines for fusion centers state that one of the goals of fusion centers is to protect the nation's "critical infrastructure." When we consider that 85% of this infrastructure is privately owned, in light of everything else we know, it is clear that fusion centers do not exist to catch terrorists or criminals, but to repress anyone who poses a threat to corporate America, whether that means unions, activists, organizers, artists, or just people who don't buy into the status quo, who have a vision for progressive social change. We've already seen the effects in our own community, with the repression of the anti-war activists and the basic breach of trust by our own campus police who are supposed to protect us.

This all paints a very dark picture, but we have to remember that when the authorities spy on, arrest, or intimidate certain groups or individuals, it isn't about persecuting them as much as it is an example to everyone else. What they hope is that by intimidating some of us, they intimidate us all, and make us think twice about that protest we were going to plan or that article we were going to write. With the Surveillance-Industrial Complex continuously growing and looming closer, we have to remember the critical importance of not being afraid: it's the first way to fight back.

Public records provided by the City of Olympia were slightly redacted.



Approve REF. 71

Preserve the Domestic Partnership Law

WASHINGTON FAMILIES STANDING TOGETHER

wafst.org

VOTE NO INITIATIVE 1033

No on 1033, yes on 71

by Tessa R. Wyllie de Echeverria

The school year has started and Evergreen students have returned to Olympia. It's easy to get caught up in your classes, seeing old friends and settling into new homes, but we can't forget that we belong to a greater community. This November, Olympia city council elections and state wide ballots are coming out. The Olympia city council affects Evergreen students and the greater community Evergreen is a part of which makes it important to research candidates and vote. There are a number of initiatives on this year's ballot to watch out for.

Initiatives on the ballot

I-1033

CxPJ Vote: NO!

Initiatives like I-1033 have been put on ballots across the country and in some states have passed. This initiative would freeze state budgets at their current level, along with the budget cuts we saw last year and tuition hikes. Enacting this bill would keep the state struggling with the same small budget it had this year when so many people experienced a tremendous loss of jobs, income, and social services.

The potential outcome is evident in other states, such as Colorado, that passed a similar initiative that harmed public schools greatly. The tuition hikes and lost services at Evergreen approved by the Board of Trustees at the end of last school year would stay in effect. This means a continual tuition hike of 14% every year with no talk of bringing back any of the services cut from campus. The passing of this initiative would not only harm our school and limit who is able to attend Evergreen in the future, but cuts deeply into the well being of citizens across the state. Small bills like this

can make a huge impact. The budget of the state directly affects every student at Evergreen we must stand up to initiatives that harm our community.

Referendum 71

CxPJ Vote: YES!

This is an important law working on domestic partnership rights for gay couples. Initially a LGBT rights bill on its way to the legislature, the conservative group Protect Marriage Washington petitioned and got the initiative to be put up for a statewide referendum vote. The measure legalizes domestic partnerships and accords them with all the rights of marriage but retains the title "domestic partnership" instead of "marriage" even though the referendum, if passed, accords both the same institutional make-up.

A yes vote on this measure is a vote towards equality and an affirmation of basic human dignity and rights for the over 12,000 registered domestic partnerships in Washington state. Polls showed the general public voting yes, but only by a narrow margin. Since Washington State courts have already voted against the measure and the state legislature has been blocked from passing the bill, a state-wide referendum is the last way to pass this extremely important measure. Even if you do so for no other reason, register and vote for of this measure.

The last day to register in person to vote in the November elections is October 26th. You can register at your local Department of Licensing. Ballots are mailed out and the last day to vote in the general election is November 3rd. More information can be found under Elections and Voter Information on Thurston County's website.

To the young activist/organizer

by Andrew Sernatinger

Evergreen tends to run in about three year activist cycles. It's a fairly observable phenomenon that a group of students will show up either as freshpersons or transfers, learn about issues together, start to work on common projects and then form a cadre, affinity group, collective or whatever you'd like to call it.

Those people come to their own after a while of learning about the issues, seeing how Evergreen works and developing organizing skills. But at some point, that group will phase out and take their knowledge with them. A new group will start at the beginning and there'll be a gap of time where activism reaches a low point.

So this is for you, the young activist/organizer, coming to a new place and wanting to get involved. In the spirit of multigenerational movement building, I'd like to share some tips and guidelines to help you be successful in the work you want to do.

Personal stuff

1. While you're likely learning about privilege, imperialism, orientalism, anarchism or whatever else, take some time to chew and digest that information before getting dogmatic and decrying every injustice to prove that you know your shit. Its heavy stuff, for sure, but ask yourself does calling people "liberal" build movements or does it alienate people? Not saying there isn't overlap, but just think about it.

2. Remember that politics isn't about purity. Scoffing at people for wearing Nikes or shopping at Safeway never built a movement. Yes, you will be faced with contradictions, but remember it's about building collective power and not isolating yourself as the sole "radical."

3. Develop your collective skills. We're brought up to do everything as individuals, and as young people demanding radical democracy and revolution, we need to work on ourselves and experiment with group work. Building a working organization means trusting your comrades in group decisions even if you disagree sometimes, asking people before you do things that affect them, strengthening "us" and not just "you".

4. Leadership isn't bad. People need to take initiative and support each other as they develop as leaders. It's not immediately hierarchical or authoritative to have leaders, people with vi-

sion that have done some work to get the ball rolling.

5. Take care of yourself (and each other). Often young activists put themselves in emotionally intense situations, and if they don't talk it out or do something to decompress, they can burn out quickly. That's really not what anyone needs. So remember that sometimes it's okay *not* to show up if you need the night to collect yourself. Watch your favorite stupid movie, have a beer, do some knitting, etc.

Strategy

1. Do your homework. Get the information that's available, analyze the situation and develop your course of action from there. See if someone hasn't started a similar project before you and build on what they did. Go to people's offices and literally just ask them what's going on, most of them are really helpful and they're not out to get you. Websites are a good place to figure out whom to talk to, and if you get it wrong you can ask who the best person would be.

2. Figure out what you want and what it looks like. If you don't have a clear idea, whatever work you do will be confused and will have a harder time moving forward. Try to develop a set of strategic demands and adjust them as you go.

3. Divide and rotate your labor. There's this myth that anti-oppression means that "everyone will do everything," and experience tells us this isn't true and it doesn't work. Often informal structures appear where a few strong personalities dictate and other people do the hard work. Just be clear about who's doing what and revisit it.

4. Use the resources available to you. Evergreen and Olympia have a lot of stuff to offer. You don't have to do everything DIY, so if someone can help you get what you need faster, be smart and use it! (Public records request being a personal favorite.)

5. Create a campaign that makes sense. Militancy does not always equal good politics or strategy. It may not seem like the most "radical" thing to create institutions or talk to administrators, but what's effective in your situation?

6. Have a public outreach campaign. It could be as simple as writing an article for *Works in Progress*, *Counter Point Journal*, or the *CPJ*, or it could

be a more personal door-knocking campaign. The more people know what you're doing and why, the less opposition you'll face. Make sure you have something to give people if they want to know about what you're doing—a flyer or program or something.

7. Reflect! A comrade said to me once, "You

know the cops write reports after actions. Why don't we?" We need to have honest reflections on the work we do so that we can improve and win. Why did you choose this campaign? What worked and what didn't? Whether it's for you or for a group, reflection has to happen.



Disorientation Week: Evergreen students returned to campus and start tearing it down.