

The Evergreen State College

October 15, 1981

TO: Rebecca Wright
Affirmative Action Officer

FROM: Joye Hardiman JH
Member of the Faculty

I have read over the material you gave me during the Third World meeting with Dan Evans on Wednesday, October 7, 1981. My skepticism still remains. All the material was based on, was a written version of the Rainbow Training given by the Seattle Public Schools. I attended that workshop as part of my research on inter-cultural pedagogy several years ago and while it was a fun workshop, it did not deal with the problem. The problem being that a great many White people do not value, like, or know themselves. (It is not their fault. It's part of the Americanization process which exalts homogeneity and sameness). And it seems to me if people can't recognize and respect their own culture, and it's diversity, how can they recognize and respect someone else?

Margaret Mead in speaking with David Hurst Thomas, Chairman of the American Museum of Natural History, Department of Anthropology in response to his request on how to best prepare himself for doing face to face field work in another culture, did not repeat the standard aphorism about learning the languages or memorizing the relevant literature and famous people, but instead said: "Get your humanity well in hand before you go off cluttering up some other culture with your own inexperience."

I think the most effective thing you can do as a White woman in your position, is to organize a conference around "whiteness." How marvelous it would be to get pivotal people from various campus cliches to speak about what it was like to grow up as a Jew in America, or what is valuable about WASP consciousness, or what is midwestern sensitivity, or the cultural background of vigor or the non-verbals of old boyism, etc. I think it would be great. I would come.

cc: Stone Thomas
Thomas Ybarra
York Wong
Dan Evans
Third World Community