

NEWS RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

(SPECIAL FOR LEWIS COUNTY OUTLETS)

Dick Nichols (753-3125, Olympia)

April 15, 1972

The Evergreen State College

A group of twelve students and a faculty member from the Individual In America study program at The Evergreen State College will conduct a special academic project in the Lewis County city of Chehalis, starting April 19 and running through May 19.

"The sole purpose of the project is to give the students some strong familiarity with life in an American town, basically by talking to residents from all walks of life within the community," faculty member Bill Aldridge explained. "By doing so we hope to give the students a better awareness of the people and processes of an American community and, in turn, help acquaint the residents with the students doing the project work. We really believe this can help build some bridges between people as well as serving academic purposes."

Aldridge emphasized that all information gained by the students will be treated confidentially and in a professional manner.

"We hope that students will be able to talk with a large number of citizens in Chehalis, including the mayor, city council members, business owners, teachers, persons from minority groups, householders, welfare recipients, etc.," Aldridge said. "We plan to call ahead and make appointments to the extent possible while also conducting interviews in public places--along city streets, in laundromats and various other locations."

The project, according to Aldridge, is part of the year-long Individual in America Coordinated Studies Program. The first two quarters of the program were devoted to studies about the Nature of Man and Personal Identity. The Spring Quarter section is concerned with the question of Social Identity, during which students are attempting to get ^{an} in-depth look at life in modern America. Aldridge's study group is one of seven in the program, all of which are now doing field work.

"If the residents of Chehalis are willing to talk freely with students, the experience and information gained should be very helpful in the students' development of a realistic view of life in today's world," Aldridge said.

"Students will be asking for information regarding the history of Chehalis, how decisions are made to build the many beautiful parks in the town, what life is like for the aged, the

businessman, the poor, the wage earner, the housewife, etc. Chehalis was picked in part because we felt that residents of a town which calls itself 'The Friendly City' would be most willing to talk freely with our students.

"To the extent that assumption is correct, this project will be exciting and valuable. We just hope that people will feel at ease, be open, and engage in a free exchange of information."

Aldridge said students will either commute between Olympia and Chehalis or, if suitable arrangements can be made for accommodations, try to live in the community during the study. In either case, students will spend their days in field work and their evenings in seminars where they can exchange information and talk about their experiences.

A member of Evergreen's planning faculty, Aldridge came to the new college in September, 1970 from Oregon State University, where he had been an Associate Professor of Education. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's of education at OSU and a doctorate in education from the University of Oregon.

Student members of the community study project in Chehalis include John Holmes of Mount Vernon; Maryanne Lewis ~~of~~ of Everett; Cathy Burnstead of Bellevue; Jody Skinner of Mercer Island; Doug Wold of Salem, Oregon; Doug Swan of Vancouver, Washington; Shelly McKillip of Spokane; Allan Marson of Leavenworth; Perri Bigelow of Seattle; Marsali Hansen of Olympia; Rob ~~Hone~~ Hone of Bellevue; and ~~Ingrid~~ ^{Reamey} Ingrid ~~of~~ of Kent.

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April 14, 1972

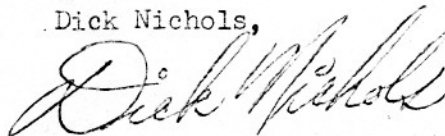
The attached news item (excuse the typing, but it was done at the 11th hour and without benefit of secretarial touch-up) serves two purposes:

1. As a news story, which I hope will interest you.
2. And most important (from our standpoint) is some advance notice to residents of Chehalis that this project is about to start. It is perfectly legitimate, has absolutely no purpose other than the one stated and will in no way amount to an invasion of privacy or attempt to bother people. It's simply an academic project and one we hope will be useful to both our students and the City of Chehalis.

I would appreciate your running this prior to April 19. Feel free to check with me (753-3125, office; 943-4074, home) for answers to any questions you may have. In addition, the concerned faculty member, Bill Aldridge, will be glad to cooperate with you in any way he can (753-3951, office; 943-4681, home), including a visit with you, an interview, etc.

Thanks, in advance, for your cooperation.

Dick Nichols,



Director of Information Services and Publications,

The Evergreen State College

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