

KEY NOTES



Volume 9, Issue 2

Winter 2008

Winter Drop In Hours

Stacia	Monday	3-5
Dawn	Tuesday	4-6
Stacy	Thursday	3-5

Day of Absence Day of Presence

CHEAP EATS

KEY students recommend:

Old School Pizzeria
 108 Franklin St NE
 Olympia, WA
 360-786-9640
East Coast style pizza by the slice from \$1.95 - \$2.55 for most

Asian Deli
 2423 Harrison Ave NW
 Olympia, WA
 2 spring rolls **or** 5 egg rolls for \$2.50

King Solomon's Reef
 212 4th Ave
 Olympia, WA
 360-357-5552
Huge breakfast for \$2.99 M-F from 6-8am

Far East Restaurant
 218 4th Ave W
 Olympia, WA
 360-786-0333
Rice Bowls \$4.95 – big enough for two

California Burritos
 Truck parked in lot next to Asian Deli on Harrison
 360-786-9640
Everything (tacos, burritos, etc.) under \$5

New Moon Cafe
 113 4th Ave W
 Olympia, WA
 360-357-3452
Ova, lacto, vegan-friendly, vegetarian options; prices from cheap to moderate.

Quality Burrito
 113 4th Ave W
 Olympia, WA
 360-357-3452
Locally-owned CO-OP, everything under \$7

Many of you may have heard these phrases and seen the colorful posters around campus and many of you may be wondering what exactly it all means. This article was borrowed from the First Peoples' Advising website to give you some explanation. For detailed information you can always stop into the First Peoples' Advising office (located in SASS, Seminar I Annex F) or check out the website provided at the bottom of the article.

The Evergreen State College has long supported the community events, *Day of Absence* and *Day of Presence*. **This year, *Day of Absence* is scheduled for Friday, February 8th, 2008 and *Day of Presence* is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13th, 2008.**

The observance of this two-day event was created to explore and celebrate issues of diversity, culture and community at Evergreen. Although many of us focus on issues of diversity each and every day, we invite the entire community to collaboratively reflect on these issues for two days each year when we observe the Day of Absence and Day of Presence

History of the Day of Absence and the Day of Presence Celebrations

These events are designed to discuss relevant cultural community issues. Although the spirit of the programming is a constant, for us to be a stronger community, the methods are varied. In the past we have had:

- workshops -guest speakers -films -plays -readings -concerts-comedians -campus forums – dancers-artists -panel discussions-week long activities

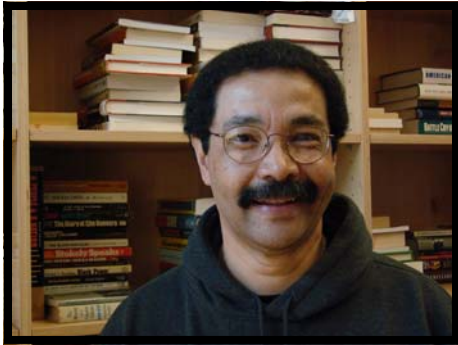
The Day of Absence was originally a unity dinner celebrated by our African American faculty in the mid 70's. It grew to become an opportunity for all students, staff and faculty of color to gather off-campus for an educational and community-building retreat.

In the mid 90's, the Day of Presence was added by students and staff of color in order to reunite the college community and honor diversity and unity as a whole campus and represents the unification of our community.

On the Day of Absence, while students and staff of color are off campus, typically, a group of white students and staff plan educational workshops and invite guest speakers to campus to work on issues of multiculturalism from an ally perspective.

For a full schedule of events see the First Peoples' Advising website at <http://www2.evergreen.edu/doadop/schedule-of-events-0>

Meet Evergreen Faculty Chico Herbison...



November 27...to Chico Herbison, a new Evergreen faculty member, noticing that was the date on the faculty job posting was something of a sign that this was where he was meant to be. What's so special about that date? Well, it happens to be the birthday of both Jimi Hendrix and Bruce Lee, and for an individual who is African American and Asian American, and interested in music and martial arts like Chico, this seemed a good omen. Add to that the fact that he wanted to relocate to Washington and work at a small liberal arts college where teaching is the main focus, and well, it was a job he just had to apply for.

It was not Chico's lifelong ambition to be a teacher; in fact, he admits he had a tendency to not want to be in the spotlight or call attention to himself. He had even made something of a career out of avoiding any speeches he had to give in school. And, like many KEY students, he felt much of the same insecurity about being a first generation college student. Was he capable of succeeding? Did he belong? His parents had not attended college—his Japanese mother left school in junior high as this was during WWII and she had other tasks to attend to, and his stepfather went into the army after high school to join the military, like many African Americans at the time. They did, however, see the value of a bachelor's degree, that it might afford Chico more opportunity for employment later on and encouraged him in this pursuit.

When Chico started college at the University of Kansas, he was pre-med and in the ROTC, planning to become a career army physician. Soon after though, Vietnam changed his plans and he dropped out of ROTC, not without some fear as his stepfather was a military man and had fought in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. As it turned out, his stepfather was okay with his choice as going to Vietnam had changed him

and his view of the military. He had more trouble with Chico switching majors from pre-med to humanities—what could someone do with that kind of degree? But Chico could no longer see paying for medical school without the military's assistance and he was not interested in that route anymore. Instead, he delved into subjects that had always interested him but that he had spent little time on previously, and ended up with a triple major in English, American Studies and East Asian Studies.

After graduation, Chico worked in a variety of fields, and fondly remembers the days when he managed an Italian restaurant, at the same time teaching music and martial arts. Although he was enjoying himself, he found he began to miss school and so he decided to go back for a master's degree in American Studies, something his parents did not really understand or encourage. The bachelor's had made sense, but more school? Nevertheless, he persisted and received his master's but realized he was still unsure about teaching, so he decided to go to work rather than pursue the PhD. He landed his second full time job (the restaurant being his first) working as Assistant Director for a TRiO Student Support Services program (like KEY), something he did for 5 years. He came to love the population he served and vowed that if he ever taught, it would be this population. His experience of folks in academic departments when he was pursuing his master's was that they were serious and competitive, and he found he was drawn to the warmth of the TRiO folks, their interpersonal relationships, their focus on the common goal of the students' best interests, and their ability to have fun while they did this important work.

When the nature of the work at this program changed because of some of the director's decisions, he moved into the admissions arena, focusing on minority recruitment. In the process of doing this work Chico found that he learned a great deal about the inner workings of the campus and of student affairs in particular. So while this wasn't really his field of choice, there were benefits to doing this job and Chico found he was at least still able to work with his target population. He then moved on to doing the same work for graduate admissions and while there, requested the opportunity to write a grant for a McNair program, which is like KEY but assists the same student population with the attainment of PhD's. Well, guess what?

Continued on next page.....

Chico cont.....

He got the grant and became the program's director—and he decided that maybe he should not just talk about it with others but should get his own PhD as well. He ended up receiving all of his degrees from the same institution, the University of Kansas, which is not something he generally recommends, but for Chico, family comes first and he chose to stay in Kansas as long as his parents were still alive. This was the right choice for him.

So, Chico obtained a tenure track faculty position at the University of Kansas in African American Studies in the late 90's. What he discovered in this position was that this was not the best road for him because he had to sacrifice his students to do the researching and publishing required by a large university. It was so different from his TRiO work, but his mentors in his PhD program had emphasized working at a research university--that was the ultimate prize at that time--and so he hadn't entertained other options initially. He stayed in that position until 2005 to be near family but after his parents' deaths, felt he could pursue other opportunities. And so the serendipitous job announcement of November 27 that brought him to Evergreen and the chance to teach in a place where teaching is the focus. He is happy to be here even as he's dealing with a relentlessly busy schedule and the learning curve that Evergreen presents. He is currently teaching *Colonialism and Decolonization* and in spring will be teaching with Joye Hardiman in the program *African and African Diasporic Storytelling Traditions*.

Please welcome Chico if you see him on campus. He is a strong supporter of TRiO and would enjoy meeting you. For him, TRiO is a kind of extended family, and family comes first. Perhaps you'll even have the chance to work with him in one of his programs.

Article written by Stacia Lewis



Financial Aid and Scholarships: A New Year = A New FAFSA

Now is the time to prepare for 2008-2009 financial aid. Don't get behind in the timeline for priority funding. Here is what your timeline should look like:



•**January – Prepare** for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Pull together tax information and request your pin number from www.pin.ed.gov. If you still have your pin from last year, you can use it again. Remind your folks to pull together their tax information as well.

“Yikes, but what if our taxes are not done?”

No problem, you can estimate your taxes and complete the FAFSA with the estimated numbers. Just make sure your taxes are done and ready to hand in to the Financial Aid Office before the March 15 priority deadline. If you are completing the FAFSA using the paper mail-in application, you must mail your application in the month of January to ensure you meet the priority deadline.

FAFSA PDQ- February is the month to **complete** your FAFSA, and you will need to do that Pretty Darn Quick (PDQ). In order to make the financial aid **PRIORITY DEADLINE**, you will want to complete your FAFSA application in February. We have scheduled time to work with you on completing your FAFSA.

Drop in to KEY offices anytime between 1 and 4 pm on both Wednesday, January 23rd and Thursday, January 31st and we will help you through the process.

•**February** – Remember folks the **TESC scholarship** deadline (**February 1**) is approaching quickly! We know time is tight at the beginning of the quarter, but a couple hours now may really pay off. For example, the **KEY Scholarship/Tuition Waiver** covers all of your tuition for a year (about \$4,590) and only requires a one-page essay. If you do the math, you receive about \$9.18 a word for that scholarship, and only **KEY** students can apply! Check in with your **KEY Advisor** soon, so we can help you get moving on this.

•**March 15** – Is the priority deadline for financial aid. You will need to have your **completed** and correct FAFSA submission in to Evergreen by this date in order to receive priority funding. If you were selected for verification, you may also need to submit signed copies of your tax forms prior to this date.

•**May or June** – You will receive next year's financial aid award letter and notification of any scholarships awarded. This will also be the time to let Financial Aid know if you are planning on attending summer quarter of the current year.

If you have any questions about your financial aid and the FAFSA, please contact your KEY advisor.

Don't miss the Final Events of the quarter

Thinking of going abroad to enrich your education? Then this workshop can benefit you. Michael will talk about funding opportunities and how to make travel a reality for you.



Week 8

Wednesday

2/27/08

Study Abroad Workshop

With Michael Clifthorne;

Coordinator of International Programs and Services

SEM II A2109 3:00-4:30 pm

A cappella fans, this is your event! Fill your ears with harmony in every style imaginable-jazz, folk, barbershop, gospel, vocal percussion. Then, vote for your favorite. A panel of judges picks the top three groups and the first place winners move on to national competition. The Coats, national champions, return as special guest host and guest artist. And... Radio personality Smilin' Jay of Mixx 96.1 returns with his own amazing vocal range to emcee this year's event.



Week 9

Saturday

3/8/08

Harmony Sweepstakes

A Cappella Festival*

The Washington Center for the Performing Arts 7:30 pm

*KEY has a limited number of tickets for this event and requires a \$10 cash only deposit. Deposits will be refunded when you pick up the ticket. To sign up for this event, you must contact KEY SSS now to get on the list

Notes from a KEY student....

Coming to Evergreen was one way for me to achieve my goal. I am able to take reduced loads, while still getting a full education. My mother says that you should learn something new everyday and being here at Evergreen, you learn many things each day. I have met some amazing people. From my first program with Dr. Elizabeth Williamson, who became my scholastic mentor, through mythology with Dr. Andrew Reece, I have had an enlightening journey. From each program, lesson, lecture, seminar I try to take all that I can. I have also met some amazing students, people that I will carry in my heart for all the years to come. KEY has been one of the main reasons for my success here at Evergreen. They have helped me in numerous ways. They inspire me, console me, enlighten me, and make me a better person.

Being a student is tough. Papers, lectures, and seminars take up most of our days and nights. Being a working student is something beyond tough. Students who are able to juggle work, school, friends, and family are my idols. I am a typical/not so typical student here at Evergreen. I chose Evergreen for its openness and liberalism. Being a student with medical problems is sort of like a labyrinth. The center of the labyrinth is my degree and of course classes and life are the twists and turns needed to reach the center. Through my entire scholastic career I have been trying to maintain an optimistic attitude no matter what has been thrown in my path. I wanted an education that I could mold to my needs. I have Fibromyalgia which really hinders many aspects of my life. Like most students (with or without problems) I work. I would say that a vast percentage of students work. I work on campus AND off campus. Since students are only allowed 19 hours a week, I need to supplement my income with retail work. I have found that many retail shops are much more willing to work around students schedules.

Any who, I am sure that many students have found jobs off campus and can relate. Every quarter I find new ways in order to help organize my life. So far I have figured out how to schedule tasks, assignments, papers, and classes. The one thing I have not figured out: How to keep my room clean longer than a DAY!! If anyone has any tips (other than put things away) I would LOVE to hear about them.



I wanted to share my story to inspire others. To let people know that no matter the circumstances you are never alone.

Marisa Foster