

Industrial Workers of the World South Sound General Education Union Press Release for the  
January 2019 Information Picket

Evergreen will enter a new budget cycle this year. To compensate for a rather meager decline in enrollment, the administration has cut over 20 positions during the summer of 2018 that were primarily in the arts. During that same Summer, they purged the costume shop and color processor at Photoland, yet the school seems to have enough money to upgrade their library book dropoff bin and numerous toilets on campus. In the midst of this “budget crisis,” the school is also prioritizing its funds toward hiring another police officer rather than maintaining the art and political economy programs on campus, the latter program having for years been flagged under “top priority” for a new faculty hire. We see these decisions as part of larger series of cuts happening on campus to change the school for the worse, such as the “temporary” closing of the pool. We find this to be an insulting and undemocratic use of the budget.

The school is calling for people to address their concerns through bureaucratic bodies; we know from history that bureaucracy never won any meaningful change for the working class. We remember that the first minimum wage law in the United States was not attained through intensive lobbying, but rather by the Bread and Roses strike that our union organized in 1912. We remember that Social Security was not won by the goodwill of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, but rather from the intensive 1934 strike wave where cities such as Minneapolis, Toledo, and San Francisco were completely shut down by their working class who were demanding a better life. We remember that the Flaming Eggplant was not won by the board of trustees decision to finally listen to one of the Geoduck Student Union’s toothless referendums, rather it was the organization of students providing, from the get go, an alternative food service from Aramark, and the working class solidarity of the faculty and staff which lead the college to allowing the Flaming Eggplant to exist. Considering the evidence that history has provided, we call students, faculty, and staff to unite as a working class to struggle for the needed change via direct action and mass organization.

Because the administration has not yet conceded to our demands, we organized an information picket line at the Red Square of the Evergreen State College on Thursday, January 17th from 3-5 pm. The picket was organized to spread information about our demands and to demonstrate to the Evergreen administration that the working class on the Olympia campus, and in the community, are not happy with the current direction of the school. We will continue action until the demands are met.

**We Students, Faculty, And Staff Demand:**

- The immediate end of the hiring process of another campus police officer.
- The immediate hiring of two full time positions, one in Political Economy and one in the Art programs that were recently cut this Summer of 2018, particularly in either theatre or photography.

