

First woman army officer graduates

She's close to Ph.D., wants to "change system from inside"

By MARY FORAN
Of the Emerald

The University Army ROTC will commission its first woman officer, Ann Thrasher, Sunday.

"She's a real competitor," says Lt. Col. James Helbing, military science professor. "She ranks very highly in the group. It's nice to have the first woman graduate also be close to a Ph.D."

Thrasher, an education administration major, does double duty as the assistant director of the Learning Resources Center (LRC).

"There's nothing Ann can't do and do well," says LRC Director Nancy Ames. She describes Thrasher as an "exceptional organizer and assistant."

Thrasher labels herself a "Conservative — a school teacher at every level," who wants to work for change from "inside the system."

A college student in the mid-60s, Thrasher developed this stance in response to her personal experience with MIAs in Vietnam. She feels the '60's protests "harmed the will" of the soldiers in Vietnam.

As a cadet, Thrasher participated in basic training, an obstacle roughly one-third of the cadets don't overcome. Describing herself as the "oldest and fattest" in her company, Thrasher "turtled" her way past exhausted "rabbits" in training while gaining experience and credentials in the education field.

"She goes beyond the call of duty," Ames observes. "She's an original — you don't have to agree with her to admire her."

Thrasher thinks there is more age discrimination than sex discrimination in the service, even though women have only been involved in ROTC since 1973.

"ROTC is an individual preference," Thrasher says. "For me, it's appropriate. I don't know if it's appropriate for others, but I don't believe in closing doors ... if I'd closed doors I probably wouldn't have gone to college."

Four men will also be commissioned at the same time as Thrasher, James Brown, Rodney Hudson, Lawrence Scott and Wesley Wyoff.

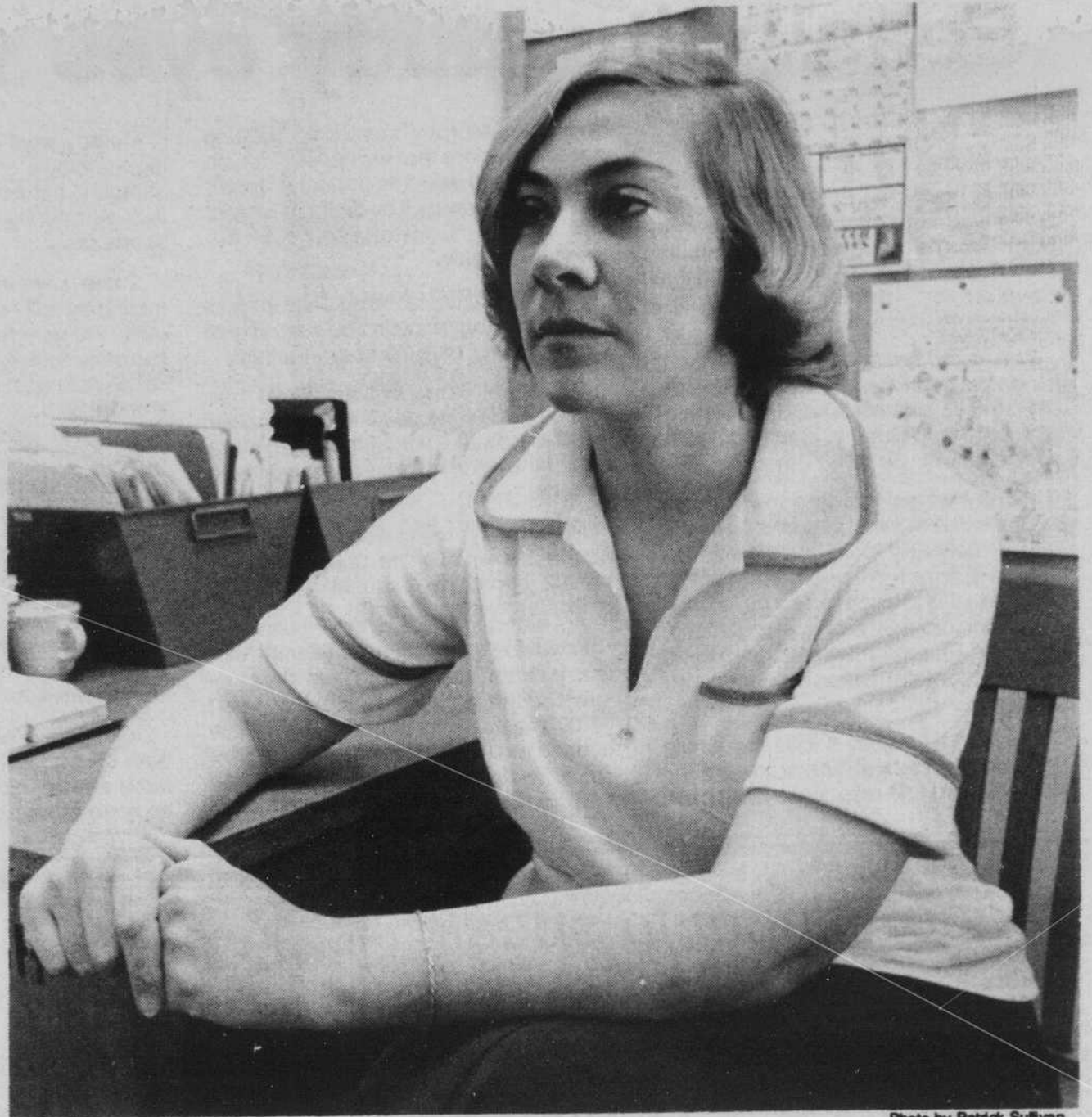


Photo by Patrick Sullivan

"Women are so new that we tend to get the acclaim, Thrasher says. "But I'd hate for the others to be left out."

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Movie critic says he delivered ad trade-off to Cinema 7 owner

A film reviewer from a Eugene weekly newspaper recently warned a local theater owner that unless the theater purchased advertising space, the paper would reduce its coverage of films shown at the theater.

Pierre Dunn, a Willamette Valley Observer reviewer for the last year, made the comments to Steve Bove, who operates Cinema 7, at a preview screening of Celine and Julie Go Boating.

Contacted later, Dunn said his warning reflected his interpretation of comments made to him by Observer editor Ken Doctor. Asked if the threat constituted a shakedown, Dunn responded, "I wouldn't use that word, but, yes, I suppose it could be seen that way."

Doctor denied the story, claim-

ing Dunn had "misinterpreted" a conversation between the two. When asked how Dunn, an experienced reviewer for the paper and professional research analyst could make such an error, Doctor offered no explanation.

He did offer another version of how advertising space is linked to film coverage: "The amount of space we have for reviews of all kinds is determined by how much advertising we sell. In the past, we've given Cinema 7 films a disproportionate amount of space, often at the expense of coverage of big-name American films. Ideally, we would review everything of importance, but since space is limited, we'll be cutting back on coverage of the films at Cinema 7. The only way we could run more reviews would be if Cinema 7 —

and other advertisers — bought enough space to allow us to expand our entertainment section."

Informed of Doctor's denial, Dunn stood by his earlier comments. Specifically, his earlier conversation with Doctor made it clear there was a "more direct link" between the advertising space paid for and the coverage it received than Doctor's explanation implied. Dunn also mentioned he had told Doctor of the Emerald's interest in the story before the paper succeeded in contacting Doctor.

Steve Bove, Cinema 7 manager/owner, was surprised by the exchange, saying "other theaters get reviews without buying ads, so why do they pick on us? If our films appeal more to Observer readers than other people, they should be anxious to do more reviews as a service to their readers. Anyway, I don't see how our decision not to buy ads suddenly makes our films less newsworthy."

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