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FIRE

Continued from Page 1

Such is a day in the life of overworked, understaffed Station 3.

"It takes three people to run an engine," said Captain Connelly, "the captain, the engineer and the firefighter." Yet Station 3 rarely has the luxury of a staff of three.

As a result, the new engine, built top-of-the-line in 1993 to the specifications of the Eugene Fire Department, "just sits," sighed Armstrong. He and Connelly shook their heads and pointed to the other vehicle—the R.A.V., standing for "Rapid Attack Vehicle."

The R.A.V. is what a two-person staff at Station 3 usually makes do with when they respond to fire and medical calls. When a fire call comes in for any given area, such as the area surrounding the University, "no single station responds," said Chief Joe Estes, who acts as supervisor for all the fire chiefs in the city.

Estes said that in the early 1980s recession period, the city lost a lot of funding for public safety. Rather than hire enough people to keep every station staffed with a three-person crew, the R.A.V. was purchased. He said he doesn't think the R.A.V., "designed for fast response and rapid attack," provides adequate rescue or crew safety.

One such scenario was a serious car collision in the intersection of 17th Avenue and Orchard Street. A pickup truck with two youths in it was turned upside down. Gas and blood leaked from the vehicle. Another car full of people had careened onto a lawn. With multiple emergencies present—fire potential, possible entrapment and injuries—the crew of two was "torn between setting up the truck as a pumper (hose) and getting them out (of the truck)," said Connelly.

With another firefighter, they could have done both with more ease. They ended up doing "a little bit of everything" on that "judgment call in the middle of the night," said Armstrong, and everybody survived.

Another close safety call occurred when Arm-

strong and a relief captain came to the University to rescue a visiting professor who had a cardiac arrest while shooting baskets outside of Esslinger Hall. There were four people responding to the call, including two from an Eugene medic unit who performed CPR and defibrillation (stopping fibrillation of the heart by using electric shock paddles) on the man.

"We had to scoop him and put him on a gurney and run," said Armstrong. The two-person crew from Station 3 quickly found someone on campus who had a radio. "I think he was a student. He looked trustworthy," said Armstrong with a smirk. They asked him to watch \$5,000 worth of equipment—which he did. Then they left the R.A.V. parked in the street and jumped into the medic van.

The R.A.V. has a 20-foot ladder while the new, custom-built engine has 24 feet. In addition, the new engine has 800 feet more of hose to work with, more horsepower for climbing steep hills like the ones around Hendricks Park, and a foam system that increases fire fighting efficiency built into the pump.

Legally, there must be three people per shift staffing a fire station, said Connelly. But other Eugene fire stations receive an average of more calls per year than Station 3. Because of that, the third person from Station 3 is the first to get pulled in order to staff other stations when they are short one firefighter.

Firefighters in the Eugene Fire Department work one of three shifts. Each shift works 24 hours straight until a 48 hour break. They cook there, eat there and become family to each other. "We don't have a lunch hour, or a dinner hour," where they get to go home, said Connelly. They set up their fire clothes next to their twin beds so when a call comes in the middle of the night, all they have to do is jump in them and go.

On top of these demanding conditions, the staff of Station 3 has to worry that their two-person crews won't be enough to respond to some calls. "People see a red truck and they think, 'They're here!'," said Connelly, "They don't count people."

KULONGOSKI

Continued from Page 1

to know why there was nothing to offer offenders once they do their time.

"What is there for the people who it might be too late for?" she asked. Preventative programs aren't going to help those already embedded in the system, Madrid said.

Kulongoski pointed to a number of programs including Regional Residential Academies. But he agreed that the system could do more.

"You are correct that the process we have today is a system that puts people back out there without a skill," Kulongoski said.

"A lot of kids not only need an education, they need a skill.

Not a minimum wage job," Kulongoski said.

On the issue of curfews, students were in agreement that a statewide curfew would not be effective or appropriate if imposed. Most agreed that curfews serve a purpose but should be handled on the local level.

George Westergaard, the teacher of the class, said "As a teacher, am I nervous about someone getting shot here? Yeah. I want them arrested if someone brings a gun to school."

Students agreed with his opinion.

Kulongoski said he would like to focus more on preventative programs.

"The government doesn't have a proactive stance," he said. "We have to wait until

something happens. But people do not like the government coming into their lives."

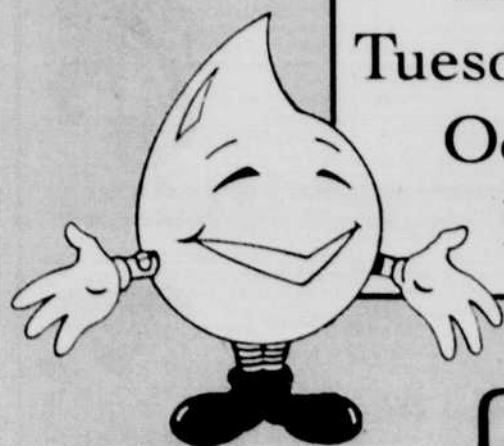
Kulongoski asked the class, "What if the law said your parents had to be there at the hearing? It is believed that if parents are required to be at the process, they will take a greater interest."

Most students felt that parents shouldn't be punished for crimes their children commit.

He asked the class to make it a project to become lobbyists for this cause when the state legislature convenes in January.

"I think on the corrections side of it, the public has gotten ahead of the legislature," he said. "There are too many politicians thumping their chests talking about being tough. But we have to be smart."

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