

Research: Class provides chances

■ Continued from Page 1

"It was very exciting to be published in such a prestigious journal," said Mike Bell, a general science major. "It was something I thought only grad students got the opportunity to do."

Charles Johnson, a senior chemistry major, agreed. "It looks really good to have a research article for future reference."

Both Bell and Johnson have worked for about one year in Haley's laboratory.

Undergraduate students working for Haley are usually juniors or seniors or occasionally even exceptional freshmen or sophomores who have completed preparatory courses such as organic chemistry.

The student researchers have all signed-up for the advanced research class, Chemistry 401 with Haley's approval.

"Professor Haley was my

teacher for organic chemistry," Johnson said. "I went to talk to him and he allowed me to do research for him. It wasn't easy to get in — he looked at my grades, references, and everything."

"[The class] gave me a chance to be a scientist," said Bell, who will be attending Oregon Health Sciences University this fall. "It gave me an opportunity to apply all that I have studied and gave me a glimpse of what being a scientist is all about."

"I like being able to make new things, especially synthetic compounds," said Johnson, who is in ROTC and will be commissioned a second lieutenant when he graduates. "You learn about processes in class, but being able to do that practically is exciting — especially new compounds nobody has ever made before."

Johnson remembered a time when his own tinkering allowed

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Mike Bell
General Science Major

him to create a larger amount of a compound. "One of the steps in our process had a very low yield," he said. "I was able to modify the amount of intermediates and got a higher yield. I was one of the few people to do so."

Johnson hopes to do chemical research for the government after his mandatory four years in the armed services.

Piercy chosen as minority leader

■ **HOUSE:** Rep. Piercy said she plans to emphasize the message that Democrats are on the side of working people and children

By Brad Cain
The Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon House Democrats picked Rep. Kitty Piercy of Eugene as their new minority leader Monday night, making her the first woman to ever hold the post.

Piercy said afterward she thinks Democrats have a real shot at winning enough seats in 1998 to regain control of the House. Republicans currently rule the chamber by a bare 31-29 seat margin.

"We're excited about the opportunities ahead," Piercy said, noting that under the state's term limits law 13 Republicans are barred from running again next year while only nine Democrats are hitting term limits.

Piercy, who pushed child care and women's health issues during the 1997 Legislature, replaces Rep. Peter Courtney of Salem as minority leader.

Courtney, one of the lawmakers who is prohibited from running for his seat next year, recently gave up the minority leader post so that someone else would have a full year to devote to the 1998 House campaigns.

Meeting in a closed caucus room at the Capitol,

Democrats unanimously selected Piercy as their new leader.

Also in the running was Rep. Bryan Johnston of Salem, who recently was appointed interim president of Willamette University.

Some Democrats said afterward they were worried Johnston would have difficulty administering a university and running the House campaigns at the same time.

"It would have been a little much," said Rep. Margaret Carter, D-Portland.

Piercy, 55, who pledged to work full-time at the minority leader post, is in her second term in the House.

Before being elected to the Legislature she taught at Patterson Elementary School in Eugene and has been active in various civic and political causes in the city.

She said that in next year's House races, she would work to emphasize the message that Democrats are on the side of working people and children.

She said Republicans who ran the House this session did join with Democrats to "stop the bleeding" in the areas of funding for schools and for health insurance for Oregon's working poor.

"But this session lacked a vision of how we are going to do those things in the long term," the Eugene Democrat said.

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