

# Fire student brightens her field

By Don Ives  
Of The Print

Many picture a woman firefighter as a 6'3", 200 pound weightlifter, whose hobbies include marathon running and passing out petitions to get women on pro-football teams. On the contrary, Tracy Shelton, the College's first

female fire science major, is the complete opposite.

What most people fail to realize is that Tracy doesn't plan to become a firefighter. She does plan to make a career in the fire service, but she has decided to focus on the often overlooked but highly important field of fire prevention.

According to Dan Olsen, College fire science instructor, the key to a better fire service is a better prevention system. Olsen said that fire prevention in the United States is presently inadequate and unnecessary tax dollars are being wasted on fire suppression. More importantly, many lives have been

wasted, needlessly lost because of a lack of proper knowledge in how to deal with fire, he said.

Shelton feels that other women are interested in fire science knowledge, but she is determined to do something about it.

"I'm looking forward to this year," said Coach Harlow, "We have a good schedule of tournaments and many fine speakers for individual events."

held throughout Oregon and Washington. Several on-campus debates are planned including a "Proposition 6-versus 11" debate held Oct. 25 in the Community Center Mall.

Other plans include a public forum for community benefit and the Tri-County Handicapped Speech Tournament in the spring. Harlow is confident that the team will do well, particularly in the individual events.

Returning from last year's team are: Lisa Thomas, Milwaukie; Julie Chitty, Mulino; Denise Kline, Estacada; Sherri Montgomery, Oregon City; and Carolyn Gaupo, Milwaukie.

Newcomers for this year's speech team are: Joe Woods, Sellwood; Kathy McMahon, West Linn; Mike Cookingham, West Linn; Linda Idol, Portland; Fritz Wenzel, Milwaukie; and Phil Boitnott, Oregon City.

"The team is growing and still welcomes new members," Harlow said.

"It doesn't require a lot of experience," he said. "We believe in educational experience first, competition second."

"Last year was our first in competition. The team is young, still in its embryonic stages," he said. "I feel that we're winners just getting there."

"Most people don't even know the basics, like to drop and roll when you catch fire," Shelton said. "Even if I did get into, say, inspecting, I'd still want to do some public educating."

Shelton seems to enjoy her fire science curriculum, and so do her male classmates. She plans to continue her education at the university level in order to be as qualified as she possibly can in her career.

Shelton first became interested in the fire service while attending Rex Putnam High

School, where she came in contact with the Oak Lodge fire department, she said. She began going to Fire Awareness Conferences, helping on Fire Prevention Day and doing volunteer work at Oak Lodge

"The guys at Oak Lodge have been very positive and encouraged me," Shelton said. "But a lot of other people think it's a big joke."

Shelton feels that other women interested in fire science should lean towards fire prevention. "There will be a lot more openings in fire prevention for women than in firefighting," Shelton said. "I've heard of girls working out and pumping iron to pass the tests. That's okay, too, if it's what you want. But it's going to take all kinds of people to get the job done. That's what I'm doing," she said.

## Speech team ready

College speech coach, Frank Harlow, is hoping to build on last year's success as his team begins 1978-79 competition at the R.D. Mahaffey Invitational Speech Tournament at Linfield College, Friday and Saturday.

Although it is only in its second year of competition, the team is unquestionably active. They will compete in nine college tournaments between now and May. These will contain numerous events and be

## Engineering class expands

By Scott Starnes  
Print News Editor

The College's engineering program has expanded from a one to two year transferable credit course due to requests by major universities to bail them out of excessive student enrollment.

Harrison Platt, College math and engineering instructor, said that two of the four-year universities in Oregon (Portland State and Oregon State) are receiving more engineering students than their faculty and facilities can accommodate.

"OSU especially couldn't handle the increase in freshman students," Platt said. "Evidently, while I was teaching engineering in Europe, the state school board agreed that engineering would become available in the community colleges as a two-year transferable program."

The problem was that engineering students enrolling in either OSU or PSU found that the classes or lecture halls were very large. Students would have to pay close attention to the instructor for this was the only time they consult him, Platt said.

A burdensome average of 18 credit hours, plus the inability to consult with the professor after classroom hours, caused, in many cases, a huge amount of student withdrawal, he said.

"By initiating a two-year engineering course at the College, students who need the extra time with the instructor will have this opportunity and will not become discouraged as readily as with a major university," Platt said.

The engineering program at the College is a totally approved two-year transferable course to any university, Platt said.

"Respective courses applying to the freshman through senior years at a university have been generally picked so that the engineering student at the College will be able to complete most of his general studies here," Platt said.

First year engineering students will be involved with engineering orientation their first through third quarters which will orient them with basic engineering principles and problems, Platt said.

Trigonometrical as well as Calculus principles will be used to solve problems "since problem solving is what engineering is all about," he said.

Although not employed until this year, several engineering students from last year are now working in the second year studies such as Statics, Dynamics and Strength of Materials, he said.

Computer languages, such as FORTRAN and PASCAL, which are used frequently in engineering, will be touched upon in some of the later courses at the College.

"Though many of the universities are switching to PASCAL, it will be beneficial to the student to learn the principles and application of both," Platt said.

The two-year College engineering program was designed mainly to relieve university overcrowding, but it will also help the student who demands individual attention. Also tuition expenses will decrease sizeably, Platt said.

## Senior citizens get jobs done

The Portland-based Rent-A-Grandparent program, which was initiated by Loren Deming in 1976, will soon have an extension at the College campus.

Rent-A-Grandparent is not a babysitting organization, according to Deming. It is designed to put people 50 years-of-age and older back to work and to provide a supplemental income to their social security benefits, which, under most circumstances is never enough to live by.

Currently, the Portland office of Rent-A-Grandparent is receiving all the calls from persons needing everything from brick laying to television repair. The program has 400 willing seniors to get the job done.

The College office of Rent-A-Grandparent "will provide a satellite program for work that's in demand on the local level," said Larry Forsythe, chairperson of Human Services. Forsythe could not indicate at what

particular point the satellite program will come into effect but the office will be located in Trailer D and manned by a hiring coordinator and three telephone operators.

According to Lillian Steinbacher, the founders secretary of the Rent-A-Grandparent program "gets people off the shelf, and makes life more worthwhile for them." It also helps hinder the aging process, she said.

"A couple who began Rent-A-Grandparent from the start said 'we have become years younger because of it,' Steinbacher said.

Whatever kind of jobs people need done, whether be carpentry, plumbing, painting, tiling, wallpapering, yardwork, the people at Rent-A-Grandparent may have a low-cost, quality grandparent to complete it. The Portland Rent-A-Grandparent number is 233-9961.



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