

Jones excited about upcoming school year

by Carce Hussey
Feature/Managing Editor

Tim Jones will be serving as Associated Student Government's vice president during the 1989-90 school year.

Jones is the youngest of four children and, he states, "the toughest." Jones was born in Seattle and lived there for the first two years of his life. He says he has "good memories of Seattle between the ages of zero and two."

Jones has attended Blue Mountain, Walla Walla and Pierce Community Colleges. Last year he moved to Oregon City to live with his brother. "I'm trading rent for babysitting my niece," he said.

Jones raced bicycles last summer. This was one of the reasons he decided to attend Clackamas. "I rode my bike around here (to train for racing). It's a beautiful campus. I liked the setup of the buildings. It's convenient."

Jones' next step was to talk to some instructors. "I was impressed by the quality of instructors and by how much they give to the students."

This is his first year at Clackamas and so far he says, "I'm really happy. It's worked out well. I can't name a bad instructor."

Jones got involved with student government because, "it's a great way to meet people and the half tuition waiver helps financially. It gets you more involved in

what's going on at school. It's important in building a person's self. It helps in realizing your moral and civic duties." He is currently serving as a vice president's senator in ASG.

Jones recently changed from a biology major to a business administration major. He hopes to get into industrial waste management. "It's a real growth area. I like higher level management decision making."

As for his future, Jones says he wants to "get school finished. My career is my future."

Jones is currently working full time but wants to assure the student body that "I'm stopping at the end of summer so I can assume the duties of vice president."

However, he is completely serious about his duties as vice president. "I'm going to make sure things get done in a timely and orderly manner," he said.

According to Jones, he will make every effort to communicate with the students. "I want them to be aware that I'm working for them. My office will be open to anyone."

He wants the students to know who he is and feel free to talk to him. "I'm going to get up in class and make every class I'm in aware that I'm the vice president. If you see me in the hall come up and talk to me. I'm willing to listen to anyone."



photo by Jillian Porter

Tim Jones, who will be serving as the ASG vice president during the 89-90 school year, is eager to hear students' opinions.

He is very positive about the upcoming school year. He said that he has talked to ASG President-elect Garret Lytle and feels that their personalities are very compatible.

Jones stated that he would

like to thank the students for electing him and give a special thanks to Leslie Barton (the current vice president) "for helping me out and knowing what the job is and what to do."

911 program training students for challenging career as professional emergency dispatchers

by Carce Hussey
Feature/Managing Editor

The 911 program here at Clackamas is only one of two programs of its kind in existence in the U.S. The other program is at Portland Community College.

The program was started fall term of this year. It is a one year certificate program. In June, the first class will graduate.

The program was started because, "the industry came to us," explained Jim Brouillette, chairperson of the criminal justice department. "There is a 60-70 percent attrition rate in the first year for dispatchers," he stated. This means that 60-70 percent of the dispatchers that were hired are leaving during the first year.

Brouillette attributed this to "culture shock. There are a lot of stresses placed on dispatchers. It's ten minutes of boredom and seven hours of panic. They can't just leave during a crisis if their shift is over. People are not prepared."

Being a 911 dispatcher is not just a job. According to Brouillette it is a "total commitment to a career. The overtime is large. Dispatchers are very dedicated and conscientious. They have to be high-level decision makers. They are constantly on the razor edge."

Because of the demands placed

on dispatchers, this program was born. The students attend classes, but are also expected to put in 12 hours a week doing co-op work experience at different 911 centers in the tri-county area. They are moved around to different sites so that they learn how the various centers are run. Students are also

"It's ten minutes of boredom and seven hours of panic. They can't just leave during a crisis..."

required to ride along with police, fire and ambulance on occasion. Also included in the program are classes on crisis and stress management. "We prepare you for the stress," stated Brouillette. Throughout the year, students are evaluated. "It's a constant re-learning process," explained Brouillette.

The advantages to going through this program are "your odds for getting a job are higher, and you're more attractive for hiring." The disadvantages are "it's very demanding. You have to dedicate nine months of your life to the program and you might

decide that you don't like it. There are no guarantees, but it isn't a waste of time. It's valuable for any occupation," Brouillette said.

Getting into the program is not an easy task. First an application must be filled out. The application deadline for next year's class is May 31. Applications may be obtained by contacting Jim Brouillette at ext. 560. Testing is done on June 3. It is a four and a half hour written test.

If applicants are successful on the test they are called in for an oral interview. The interview panel consists of representatives from the college and from 911 dispatch centers. The point of this interview is to make sure that the person can "think fast. They have to have a good speaking voice. We're not really concerned with specific answers to questions. Fingerprints are taken and a criminal history is run," Brouillette explained.

The prospective students are then placed on a list and the top 30 are selected for the class. "We are trying to ensure the success of the program. It is an elite group. But you can be sure that we are conscious of your needs and are going to assist you," explained Brouillette.

There are advantages to the job itself. "The pay is good: \$15,000

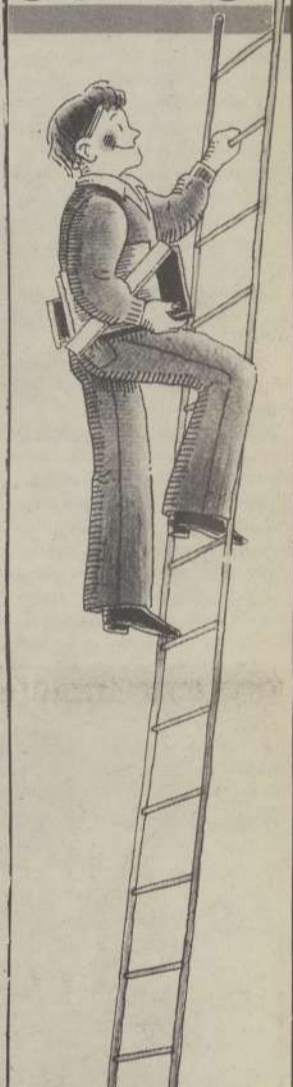
to \$20,000 to start. It can run above that with overtime. There are fringe benefits. There are advancement opportunities-managers and supervisors come from within the ranks," stated Brouillette.

Currently there is legislation pending in Salem for minimum education standards for dispatchers in Oregon. If it passes,

"(911) Dispatchers are the responders to cries for help. It's a critical profession."

Brouillette feels that "we will have a leg up in providing training." Brouillette said that he has already been "besieged with inquiries" about the program. He has been contacted by people in Austin, Texas; British Columbia; Wyoming and Montana.

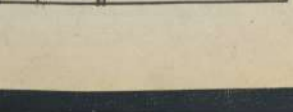
He foresees that being a dispatcher "will develop into a true profession." He stated that dispatchers are the "link up to have someone respond to an emergency. A lot of things can go wrong. You're dealing with human lives. Dispatchers are the responders to cries for help. It is a critical profession. We're training professionals."



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