

9-1-1 class prepares dispatchers for job

by Jennifer Soper
Feature Editor

Applications for the 9-1-1 program will be accepted starting at the beginning of winter term.

"The program is designed as a vocational offering to persons interested in 9-1-1 dispatching," explained Director of Public Services James Brouillette.

The year long certificate program was designed over a two year period by Clackamas and Portland Community Colleges' in cooperation with 9-1-1 Dispatching in the Tri-County area.

"The purpose is to try to bring about a training program that would allow people to have all their fundamentals and background in 9-1-1 before going into dispatching," explained Brouillette.

The program was implemented because of the need for qualified dispatchers who could handle the stress related to the job, according to Brouillette. At one point, 70 percent of Portland dispatchers were not completing

their first year on the job.

"The certificate program will provide us trained applicants that are predicted to have a lower attrition rate and a higher degree of productivity," Chief of Portland Police Bureau Richard Walker stated.

Testing for entry into the program is set for next Sept. Applicants must take a four and one half hour long exam that tests spelling, mathematics, memory,

"Dispatching has been likened to seven hours and 55 minutes of panic with five minutes of boredom."

logical reasoning, multi-tasking and listening skills. Applicants are finger printed, their criminal history is checked and they must pass an oral interview.

Brouillette said about 200

people normally test for the 30 available positions in the program.

"The job itself is extremely demanding," said Brouillette. "It is a very stressful occupation."

"Dispatching has been likened to seven hours and 55 minutes of panic with five minutes of boredom," he continued.

Once enrolled in the program, students receive many hours of classroom instruction. They also are enrolled in a co-operative work experience program that places them in actual dispatching centers. As a part of their work experience requirement, students must ride with police, fire and ambulance personnel.

"The more mature person seems to do better in the program," said Brouillette. "Dispatching puts strains on your personal life. Your time is not your own."

"People whose previous occupation has a strong background in dealing with people and conflict seem to do well," he said.

Revision in scholarship contest

by Kyle Moe
Contributing Writer

Winners of scholarships from the Clackamas County Skills Olympics will have more opportunities to use them.

The County Skills Olympics is hosted annually by the College to give local high school students a venue to compete against one another in an effort to test the skills they have acquired in their vocation of interest.

"The revision was made to allow more students to use the scholarship."

Tuesday, in a decision prompted by recommendations made by Assistant Dean Kit Youngren, the President's Council approved amendments to the scholarship to allow the winner of each individual contest to attend Clackamas tuition free for one term, either part or full time. The scholarship may be used any term after it is awarded through the year following the student's high school graduation. The student may also attend the college while still in high school with a statement of approval from her or his school district.

"The revision was made to allow more students to use the scholarship," says Skills Contest Coordinator Mindy Brown. "One student wanted to take classes that his school didn't offer and couldn't use the scholarship."

"I think that if they've earned [the scholarship] we want to make sure they can utilize it," Brown said.

George Stevenson, an electronics teacher at Oregon City High School is pleased with the change.

"It gives us one more positive thing to work with to keep our students focused," said Stevenson.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

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The Tow List



The following vehicle license numbers currently have two or more unpaid college parking citations.

EKN-755	QVC-800
EYN-843	RBC-631
JUD-913	PGZ-814
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QKL-956	QTG-589

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Payment may be accepted at the cashiers windows in the College Community Center building.

Refunds available to students deployed to Gulf

by Frank Jordan
Staff Writer

As more U.S. troops get shipped out to the Persian Gulf, people may ask how the reserve call-up will affect those members of the National Guard and the Reserves who attend Clackamas Community College.

"The college will gladly work with any students that are affected by a call-up," according to Mary Dykes, the college registrar. "We will work hard to see that the student(s) get the most favorable results possible as far as course work make-up or refunds."

When the Persian Gulf crisis

broke in August, the college instructional council, led by Lyle Reese, dean of instruction, and Dian Connett, acting dean of students, decided that "it would be in the best interests of the college and the students involved to give those affected students all of the help that they needed," according to Dykes.

Three students so far have withdrawn from school because of their activation into the Armed Forces. Two of those students took the option of 100 percent refunds, while the other student chose to take incompletes on his coursework. Each of the students

involved received a 100 percent refund on their books from the college bookstore.

"Any withdrawals by affected students will show up with a 'W' on his/her official transcript, but attached to the 'W' will be the notation 'called to duty,'" Dykes said.

Any students that are called up to active duty and are in the middle of the school term will need to contact the registrar's office, with a copy of his/her orders, to make arrangements for either a complete withdrawal with incompletes, or to get a full refund from the college.

Parking lot construction creates confusion

by Nolan Kidwell
Staff Writer

The McLoughlin Parking lot is a confusing place for some people according to Melissa Banks, president of the classified employees association who has received complaints about it.

"What I have heard from people is there are no arrows, they have gotten lost," said Banks.

Because of the layout of the parking lot and the lack of direc-

tional markings, many people get inside the lot and cannot find their way out. A sign committee is being formed and Banks hopes it will clear up any confusion.

"They most certainly need arrows painted in the lot," said Chief of Public Safety Jim Wiseman.

Carol Patterson, who will be working with Andy Rice, the lot's original architect, on retooling the

facility with directional signs and markings, also agreed to the possible confusion which the lot could pose for some people who are not familiar with it.

"I've heard that people are uncomfortable with the parking lot because people will start in one direction and not end up where they were going," said Patterson.

Rice does not think that any changes will be made until the other projects under development are completed. He also pointed out that the parking lot was originally two separate facilities and were not designed to be used as one.

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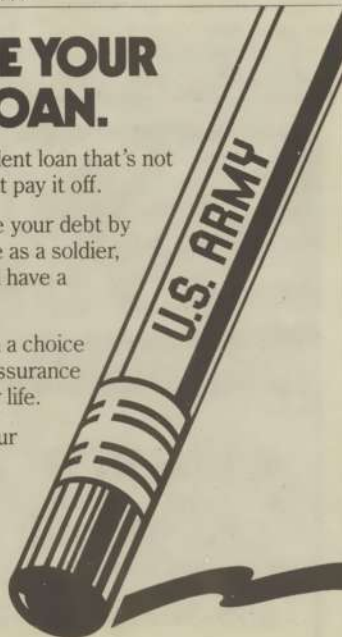
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