

It doesn't take much time to save a life

Jennifer Lessard
Staff Writer

Have you ever thought about what would happen if someone had a medical emergency? What if you were the only one around? Would you know what to do, correctly? Now, think about if that person was a relative—a brother, a sister, a mother, or father of yours. Could you perform the necessary tasks effectively? First aid is not something we think about often, yet, it is something we need to do. When a life is at stake, I feel the subject deserves some attention.

According to Kathy Woods, a Red Cross first aid instructor at CCC, "Everyone should have CPR and keep up to date on it." I agree. This is a subject that is important to me. Having been in situations where I needed to use my training, I wonder today what would have happened if no one was there who knew effective life saving techniques when I needed assistance. I feel very strongly that we owe it to our family and our fellow human beings to be educated and up to date on current first aid procedures.

According to Woods, far too many people just assume that since they took first aid four or five years ago that they could help. That is a misconception. The first aid classes need to be taken at least every three years. CPR classes should be taken once a year. The Red Cross comes up with new life saving procedures every year; if you don't know those procedures, you could be ineffective in a medical emergency. Woods says it is also easy to forget



the procedures.

Although this is a subject that we choose to ignore, it is about time we took notice of it.

I feel that the excuses for not taking the class are weak. Some people simply don't want to get involved. If you were to be seriously injured, wouldn't you want someone around to be adequately trained to help? I would.

Some fear getting AIDS, others fear a lawsuit if something goes wrong. According to Woods, AIDS is a very real problem, yet Woods says if a barrier between the

victim's blood and yours is made, there is no problem. Woods also refers to a good samaritan clause on the law books that says if you are trained and know what to do, the law protects you. Woods feels that there is really no excuse for not taking a first aid course. It is not something that should be put off.

If you put it off too long the odds are that a medical emergency is going to arise and you won't know what to do.

So, for the sake of my family and yours, please take a first aid and CPR class.

Time shows acceptance of women's roles

Editor's note:

Joe Uris is a sociology instructor at Clackamas and has been on sabbatical this past year. Uris hosts a daily talk show on 62 KGW. The article appeared in *The Oregonian* on Wednesday April 3, 1991.

She had removed the broken faucet stem assembly from the larger antique unit and together we went to the plumbing supply house. Inside the huge warehouse, six or seven men were gathered at a counter awaiting service from men much like themselves. They were in their middle years, in jeans and workshirts or coveralls, with keys dangling.

They were kidding each other with the easy language of guys who at least share a kind of work if not a real camaraderie. But when my friend stepped to the counter there was a moment of silence almost as though someone or something had died.

And then the talk changed. Suddenly someone asked what had happened to the nudie calendars. Another said that the calendars had been taken down because of affirmative action. Small sexist jokes and blunter crudities, not part of the earlier exchange became common.

I, coward that I am, stepped away and busied myself with a plumbing-fixture catalogue. In distancing myself both from the woman and the men, I could watch and witness an event that I suspect is becoming more common as women enter non-traditional careers.

A tall, bald man behind the counter attempted to deflect the comments of the men on the other side. But the language, while not overly confrontational, continued to be anti-female and essentially hostile. Even more telling was the body language of the men. Gathered as they were along one straight counter, they still managed, after the woman's appearance, to shift around so as to create a semi-circle that left the woman out.

While not really mean, the whole way the situation was developing was mean-spirited. It was as if an invisible signal had been used - some special macho mannerism like a lodge hand signal. But, of course, no sign had been needed.

No business there

Here was a woman in a male preserve. Clearly these men, or at least the most powerful of these men, felt that she had no business there. It was up to these guys to make sure of two things. First, that they as a group were in solidarity as to her outsider status and, second, that she as a woman in a male scene must be made to feel uncomfortable and unwelcome.

She waited her turn, and when they were gone she was served by a very kind and knowledgeable clerk. His demeanor was in marked contrast to the men who had just left.

Later she wondered at the clear hostility that had greeted her. She could think of no reason for it. She had waited her turn. She, like they, was in work clothes. But then she concluded that perhaps that was just the point. If she had worn a dress, heels and makeup, their response would have been different. It might have been flirtatious, even aggressively and unpleasantly so, but it would not have been so exclusionary and so overtly hostile.

But she was not dressed as a true outsider. Aside from her sex, she looked no different from them. Thus she was a competitor, a woman usurping a male role. And she was doing so in a field (plumbing) that is already highly competitive and very traditionally male.

Times have changed. These macho dudes in the plumbing supply store were older guys. In contrast, the young clerk was helpful and polite; and if nudie calendars ever really were on the wall, they no longer are.

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