

A night in the life of a public safety officer

Paul Ulmen
Staff Writer

9:10 p.m. Public Safety Officer Tom Steigleder stops in front of the Community Center to pick me up. I'll ride along with him during his shift to see how a Public Safety Officer performs the duties that will ensure safety on campus after hours.

Before we start out, he explains how to use the radio in case of an emergency. "I don't anticipate a problem, but you never know, and it's best to be prepared. Press the button on the mike and say 'code zero.' That means 'officer down and needs help.'" There are a variety of codes that are called out over the radio. Steigleder shows me a card of what the various codes are and what they mean.

"We like to walk people out to their cars. It's part of our job. Anybody and everybody can call us at any time"

**~Tom Steigleder
Public Safety Officer**

will swiftly respond. "We can also call out for medical," said Steigleder.

In addition to the radio he also has a cellular phone. After the Public Safety Office closes for the evening, dispatcher Amy Cornett is on duty at the Help Center to transfer calls directly to him. To demonstrate how it works, he has the dispatcher call him on the phone. The call from the Help Center comes through to let him know his cellular phone is working properly. After the dispatcher leaves, any calls made on campus will go directly to his phone.

If anyone on campus needs help at night or at any time, they should dial 6650 at any campus phone and get help immediately. There is also someone available at all times to walk a student or faculty to their car in the dark. "We like to walk people out to their cars. It's part of our job. Anybody and everybody can call us at any time."

In addition to the officer in the roving patrol car, there is also a cadet on foot with a two-way radio. Ron Ailoth is on duty this evening and conducts himself in the same professional manner as a Public Safety Officer. "He's kind of my eyes and ears when I'm not there. He's usually the one who walks people to their cars at night and makes sure people get off campus safely."

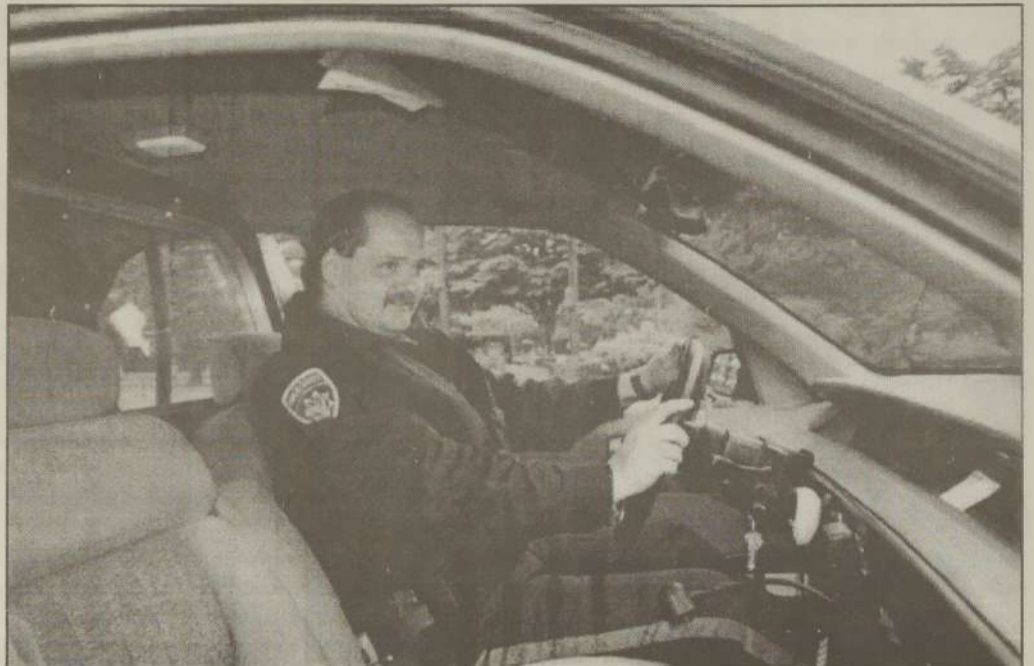


Photo by Chad Pattenon

Public Safety Officer Tom Steigleder cruises around the campus making it a safe place.

He checks on people's cars, makes sure the buildings are locked and responds quickly to any disturbance," said Steigleder.

9:24 p.m. A male student driving a truck runs a stop sign. Steigleder turns on the flashing lights and goes in pursuit, stopping him near the Safety Office. He calls in to C-Com. and runs a check on both the plates of the truck and the driver to see if there is anything outstanding on his driving record and it comes back clean. As a routine precaution he also gives his location.

For running a stop sign the fine is \$165, plus \$90 for not having his vehicle registered and another \$165 for not having insurance. Because he has a clean record, Steigleder lets him go with

a warning. Moments later C-Com calls in a code 4, which is a spot check to see how he is doing. If they get no response a squad car will be sent to the campus to check on him to see if he is okay.

9:36 p.m. The cadet on duty calls in to say there has been a heated argument between a boyfriend and girlfriend as they leave class. We check the parking lot where they were last seen to see if there is still a problem, but they have already left.

9:48 p.m. Steigleder sets up a speed trap where we can see three stop signs at once and breaks out the radar gun. The radar gun is calibrated to the same speed of a vibrating tuning fork, the same instrument used to tune musical instruments. He checks

several cars and the speed shows up at the back of the radar gun in bright red numbers. Most are obeying the traffic and speed rules this evening.

Public Safety is also responsible for the campus at the Harmony Center and the campus at Wilsonville. Cadets are also used there to make sure everything stays peaceful.

10:00 p.m. After a relatively peaceful evening we head back to the Help Center where we meet the cadet and walk Amy Cornett out to her car.

After 10:00 p.m. most of the students are gone and the only sounds you hear are sounds of the night and frogs serenading each other.

Why Did He Do It?



"Three reasons mainly: first, they have night and weekend classes so I can get my degree while working full time. Plus, there's a low ratio of students to teachers so you get good instruction, and lastly, I like the atmosphere here. That's why I transferred to Marylhurst."

— Dana Torrey
Social Sciences

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'Twister' sweeps in profits

Brian Ray
Staff Writer

The first of the summer's blockbusters has arrived. "Twister" is an exciting, effects-filled spectacle with no more thematic depth than absolutely necessary. The film is the celluloid equivalent of a roller coaster ride.

Scientist Bill Harding (played by Bill Paxton, of "Apollo 13") and his soon-to-be ex-wife Jo (played by Helen Hunt of "Mad About You") find themselves on the verge of a breakthrough. They develop a device that can monitor tornado activity, nicknamed Dorothy. Its purpose is to give advance warning of potential tornadoes, so that towns can be evacuated sooner. Along with a rag-tag bunch of storm chasers and Bill's dimwit psychologist fiancée (played ineptly by Jami Gertz of "The Lost Boys"), the pair find themselves chasing the biggest tornado to hit the Midwest in over thirty years.

Hot on their heels are a rival

group of storm chasers led by Cary Elwes ("Robin Hood: Men in Tights"), who have copied off Bill and Jo's Dorothy design and intend to beat them to the punch.



Along the way, it becomes not only a race against nature, but a neck-in-neck race with each other. Meanwhile, with each ensuing encounter Bill and Jo become closer to each other, rekindling their relationship.

Despite the amazing visual effects (courtesy of Industrial Light & Magic), "Twister" has a few flaws. The screenplay, by "Jurassic Park" creator Michael Crichton and Anne-Marie Martin, seems to be half-developed in

plot. There isn't much to the film except for its visual impact. The acting, with the exception of Paxton and Hunt, is pretty pathetic. All of these things are irrelevant as the film is not intended to be a deep thinking study of storm chasers. It is a giant thrill machine. On that level, it succeeds in every way.

It has apparently worked, because "Twister" has raked in over \$96 million dollars in one and a half weeks. It's opening weekend "Twister" made almost \$41 million, making it the largest non-holiday opening in history. It was also the fourth largest opening ever behind the last two Batman movies and "Jurassic Park." Pretty impressive for this early in the Summer movie season. Directed by Jan De Bont, the talented filmmaker behind 1994's blockbuster "Speed", "Twister" is an enjoyable, exciting spectacle from beginning to end. If you're looking for "Jurassic Park"-size thrills, "Twister" definitely delivers. If you're looking for depth, you will be disappointed.
Grade:FX A+, Movie B+