

Public Safety busy in fall

Mairin-Anne Moore
Staff Reporter

Fall term is one of the busiest times for Public Safety.

The fall term brings new incoming freshmen who are not used to the environment -- with all the new buildings there is a lot of confusion -- and many are testing the boundary lines and laws for the campus. With the new apartments being built adjacent to the campus, many find it as a playground and target for fun

The busy days for Public Safety are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 a.m. until about noon. During these times there are a lot of visitors seeing the sights along the campus. Many crimes occur during this time because the campus is at the end of the Tri-Met bus line and many new people meet here.

After school hours, the parking lots and campus area becomes a meeting place for some. Public Safety has had several calls of suspicious persons and cars wandering the campus. Chief of Public Safety Larry Dexheimer explains, "Basically the campus closes between 10 and 11 p.m. Around those times you will start to see people lingering. A lot of suspects caught are not even students. They are mostly wanderers in their mid-thirties or forties."

There now are more routine patrols at all hours. About three

times a year there are mentally troubled lost on the campus, such as one in late September.

"An elderly woman, probably with Alzheimer, somehow wound up on campus around the library. She was lost and looking for her car. We drove around about three times 'til we found it for her," said Dexheimer.

There were about two break-ins per day at the beginning of this fall term. However, with this new

“There is no certain area. Crime is of opportunity and, when they see what they want, it doesn't matter.”

~Larry Dexheimer,
Chief of Public Safety

routine of patrolling, much has been stopped. Also, a new patrol person has been added to the list.

"Melinda Roe is my eyes and ears for me. With two now, it makes it that much scarier for them. They never know when one [patrol officer] will come driving through," said Dexheimer.

Gangs have been a problem once before and are being cracked down on now. A variety of police officers meet once a month to discuss and deal with the latest gang-related issues. They hope much gang activity will be stopped in this way.

Many stolen vehicles have been recovered. It is easy to find those that are being dropped off since the cars are left overnight in the parking lot. Once found, the owner is contacted. By calling the owner, costs are cut since the towing-lot fee of \$85 to \$100 per day is avoided.

This year has brought a lot of traffic, including speeders and accidents. Though none have been serious -- just minor fender benders -- the accidents are a concern. The safety committee met this past Thursday to discuss the danger in the road configurations.

"It is pretty, but dangerous. The road curves and, when someone is pulling out, someone could be speeding around those curves and the cause is an accident," said Dexheimer.

Dexheimer urges all to slow down and be aware there could be a car coming around the curve. A radar is clocking speeders and tickets are being given out.

No certain area is the target for crimes and concerns.

Dexheimer comments, "There is no certain area. Crime is of opportunity and, when they see what they want, it doesn't matter," commented Dexheimer.

Public Safety is doing its duty and cracking down on problems; the public's duty is to simply be aware.

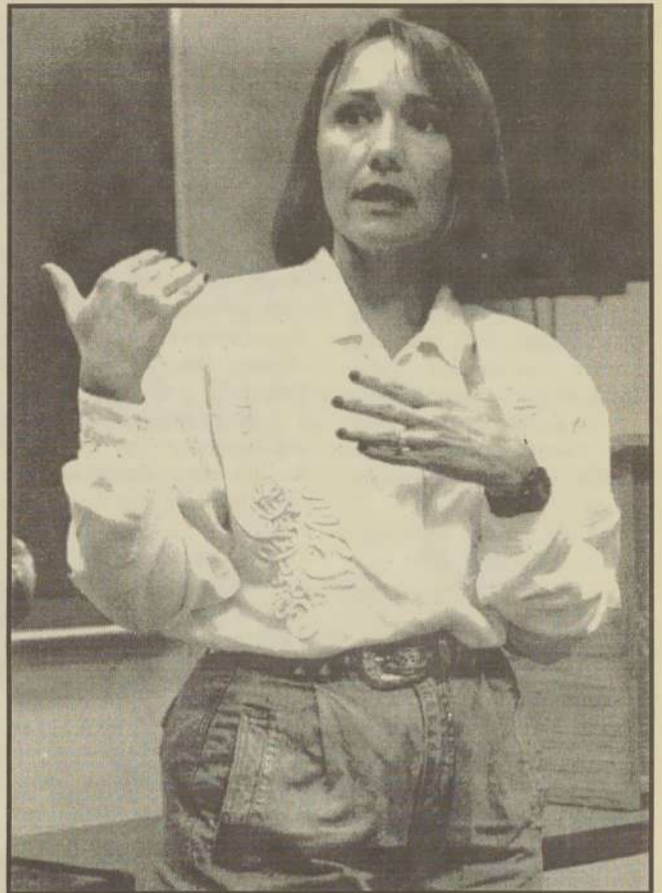


Photo by Joel Coeson

Dean of Instructional Services Dian Connet led the second "Friday forum." The topic of discussion was Measure 47 and its impacts on the college.

The next Measure 47 forum will be held Nov. 21 from 12:30 to 1:30 in McLoughlin room 206. Again, the topic(s) of discussion will be Measure 47 and its impacts on the college, how the college is reacting to Measure 47, what the college

has already done to lessen the impacts of Measure 47.

One of the major topics of the last forum was how the college could limit expenses without raising tuition.

All students and staff are invited.

FREE CRUISE TO BAHAMAS!!

YES, NO JOKE,
FREE CRUISE
FOR TWO, 30
DAYS, NO
OBLIGATION,
DON'T PASS UP
(503)722-8737
OR (800)806-2532