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The Portland Observer

My Chosen Career As A Welder

My name is Pam Nelson. When I was eighteen years old, I realized that being a forest ranger would not pay, but \$6.00 an hour in about ten years. So I went to a vocational technical school for welding in 1976 at Pocima Skill Center in Pocima Calif. When I graduated, my first job was \$9.00 an hour, in Texas, and I have never received less money for the skills I received. I've worked non-union in my early career in oil fields, shipyards, manufacturing all over the United States. The U.S. Nuclear and Navy had the most extensive training procedures and safety. When I came to Portland in March 1979 I applied at F.M.C. to weld railcars, I had to join the Boliermakers Union Local #72. I have not worked for almost two years.

I cannot work for Gunderson beimportant to make a choice--Union vs insure your personal safety.



Pam Nelson

Non-Union. It's a difficult decision, but a necessary one. One moment cause of being Non-union. Union you're working, and the next they're doesn't have the work, but non-union working and you are not. What ever will not except the same even more you choose, make sure safety exists. qualified person. So as a beginner it is That is your number one priority to

The Army Is A Bridge

The Army is a bridge, not a detour Universities throughout the United to a college degree. The Army's Con- States are admitting Army alumni, current Admissions Program ensures many with the Army College Fund that even before a new recruit leaves and Montgomery G.I. Bill, to their for initial training he's already en- class of 1998 and even Class of 2001. rolled in college back home.

money for college and now Army recruiters are helping new recruits with pre-admission to a college or in CONAP, the college has the opporuniversity of their choice before the tunity to monitor the college courses soldier leaves for basic training.

mander, U.S. Army Recruiting sary courses. Battalion - Portland. "Having a son or not been set aside.'

leges are participating in the Concur- change their minds while fulfilling

rent Admissions Program. U.S. Army and the Servicemembers courses in the meantime. For more Opportunity Colleges (SOC) began information on CONAP and how it in 1989 as a pilot program only in can work for you, contact your local the Northeast. Now, colleges and Army recruiter.

So far, Army recruiters have referred The Army guarantees its soldiers more than 4,000 young people to CONAP.

Once a new recruit has enrolled the recruit may choose to take while "This kind of support helps the on active duty. They can then tell the new recruit focus on his goals--he has recruit whether a course fulfills one of a plan and knows where he's going," their requirements, so the recruit said Lt. Col. Thomas L. Snyder, com- doesn't waste time taking unneces-

Most soldiers with deferred addaughter pre-admitted to college also mission indicate they will pursue a reassures parents that their goal of a four-year degree in a specific area like college education for their child has communications or business. Colleges may not enroll them in a degree pro-As of February 1993, 835 col- gram right away because they may their military commitment. They are, CONAP, a joint program of the however, encouraged to take basic

Army Enlistment Offer That Can Erase College Debt

debts and little job experience on their clean. resumes are taking advantage of an their college debt.

payment Program more than doubled meet certain qualifications. in 1990, the first year Congress approved the program for all Army job have now topped \$55 billion, with specialties. Previously, the Loan Re- more than 20 percent in default. payment Program was offered with only a small percentage of Army jobs.

The Army says a qualified applicant who has a federally insured student loan can reduce that debt by one third or \$1500, whichever is greater, up to \$55,000; as long as the individual is not in default on the loan; for each year the person serves as a sol-

Students saddled with college loan dier. After three years the slate is

In addition to the loan repay-Army enlistment offer that can erase ment, former students will receive training in a choice of skills. They Takers of the Army's Loan Re- may also be eligible for bonuses if they

Outstanding federal student loans

According to Lieutenant Colonel Thomas L. Snyder, Battalion commander, U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion - Portland, "In addition to the loan repayment, new Army recruits with 30 or more semester hours of college qualify to start at a higher rank and a higher pay grade.



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