

Job opportunities await women in energy industry

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Although you might not think Michigan ranks high in use of solar energy, the state is the nation's sixth largest

user of such energy. "The myth around this state is that we have so much cloudy weather that solar won't work. That's just not true," said Debbie Rowe, faculty director of Oakland Community College's Alter-

nate Energy Technology program. That's one of the rumors and myths Rowe will try to dispel during a seminar called "Women and the Energy Industry," scheduled for 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 30 at the OCC-Orchard Ridge

Womens Center. Rowe said the solar energy industry in Michigan is growing and creating a world of new jobs. "The energy industry, including solar use, energy auditing, energy-efficient

construction, as well as sales, is one of the top three professions in the nation today, lagging only slightly behind robotics and gerontology, Rowe said. "It's definitely a growth area," she said.

That's why women increasingly are encouraged to enter the energy industry. It's a field in which interest is the most important job requirement. Skills and training often can be more acquired along the way.

"WOMEN SEE it as a new area," Rowe said. "And they don't have to have a lot of skills to enter it."

Salaries, needed skills and the types of jobs available in the energy industry will be discussed during the seminar, Rowe said.

Although primarily for women, "I don't think we're going to keep men out of the conference," she said.

But part of the seminar will be devoted to discussing the attitudes and historical elements that have traditionally kept women out of the business world, Rowe said.

"Funny enough though, the majority of the stars (in the energy industry) are the women," she said. "They feel they have to work harder to prove they are just as good."

The seminar, however, also will be

directed to the homeowner, professional and "person who wants to become more self-sufficient."

Homeowners can pick up some tips, for example, on more energy-efficient methods of insulating their homes, Rowe said.

The professional engineer, architect, plumber and heating and cooling repairman, can learn about some new energy conservation construction ideas.

"Much more business is available to these people when they understand energy conservation," Rowe said.

FOR THOSE who want to become self-sufficient, tips will be offered in producing energy at home, building a home-made shelter and growing food.

Although a college degree isn't required for all the energy industry jobs, associate degree courses are available at OCC in energy management, solar energy, windpower, heat reclamation, and energy-efficient construction, Rowe said.

A \$3 fee will be charged for the evening seminar. For more information, call the OCC Womens Center at 471-7602. For those who can't attend the seminar, but would like additional information about the energy industry, call Debbie Rowe at 853-4219.

Faxon vows to aid art consumers

With a reported increase in the purchase of art as investment, guaranteeing the work's authenticity is the focus of new legislation recently proposed by state Sen. Jack Faxon, D-Southfield. "Consumer expertise in the field of art investment is very limited," Faxon said. "Too often the unaware and uninformed art investor has been misled into buying copies of a Picasso reproduction sold to them as 'exclusive editions.'"

scrupulous art dealers," Faxon said. Although reputable art dealers traditionally have offered art buyers proof of a work's authenticity and value, the proposal will help weed out "the dishonest, fast-buck dealers," he said.

Modeled after a New York statute, Faxon's proposal would force dealers to disclose whether the reproduction was signed before or after it was produced and whether the reproduction is a copy of a reproduction or of an original.

Dealers also would have to inform buyers of the number of copies made in

a limited edition and whether the reproduction is a copy of an artist's work originally made in a different medium.

UNDER FAXON'S proposal, if a buyer receives false written information about an art work, the buyer would be refunded the price paid the dealer. "By enacting into law this bill's warranty and disclosure provisions, the

Legislature will greatly reduce the art investor's risk of buying a Pinto that is deceptively merchandized as a Rolls," Faxon said.

A similar type of legislation was introduced in 1981 by the Michigan Revision Law Committee, said one of Faxon's legislative aides. Faxon is reintroducing the bill.

Faxon is chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Arts.

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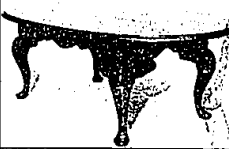

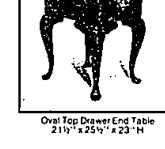

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