

What are "frail elderly" people?


Dear Joe:
I see so many programs offered for the "frail elderly." Would you please tell me who they are and why there are so many programs for them?

Mrs. J.A. city reader

Dear Mrs. A.:
The "frail elderly" are a high-risk group within the overall population of older people who have serious problems associated with health, economics, housing, family and personal supports.

They find it difficult or impossible to cope with the everyday activities of life. Many are dependent on others for assistance in performing the routine yet essential tasks that most of us take for granted. Those tasks

gerontology



A. Jolayne Farrell

include getting out of bed, bathing, dressing, cleaning the house, shopping for groceries or preparing a meal.

In order for the "frail elderly" to remain in the community and not be institutionalized, they desperately need the help of others.

The "frail elderly" in your city are fortunate to have many programs available to them. The concept of

keeping the "frail elderly" at home through community programs is comparatively new.

Many communities across the country are just beginning to look at these programs in order to keep older people in their own homes — where they want to be.

Dear Joe:

Could you print the address of Elderhostel? I have some free time this coming fall and would like to learn while I'm vacationing.

L.R., Windsor

Dear Mr. R.:

For our readers who are not familiar with Elderhostel, it is a residential educational program for older adults (60 plus, or spouse of 60 plus).

Courses in liberal arts and sciences are offered in one-week segments on college and university campuses. These programs are available in all provinces, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon as well as more than 1,000 institutions in the U.S. and 40 other countries.

Fees and travel expenses are low, and the program appeals to all older adults who want to learn and be adventurous at the same time.

The address for further information is: Elderhostel Canada, Corbett House, 29 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto, Ont. M5R 1B2.

Readers can write to Jolayne Farrell at 11 Cynthia Crescent, Richmond Hill, Ontario L4E 1J3.

Thursday, June 9, 1988 O&E

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OU helps film car crash tests

An Oakland University physicist is helping Chrysler obtain the best possible film to study the cars it crashes at its test site in Chelsea.

Professor Robert W. Williamson, with the aid of physics undergraduates, is in his third year of research under successive grants from the Chrysler Challenge Fund.

"What we have done is to build optical bench test setups to test some of the camera lenses to find out exactly what the lenses' parameters are. We have built optical test equipment for Chrysler," Williamson said.

THE PROFESSOR said the project moves along through the summer months and has some outstanding features.

"This provides superb experience for two physics undergraduates each year and offers them a source of summer support."

"It is an excellent chance for them

to see how applied physics is used in the auto industry, and it is an excellent chance for us to establish closer relationships with Chrysler, our next-door neighbor in a few years."

"It is good amusement because solving problems is our thing," Williamson said.

The Chrysler Challenge grants have averaged about \$45,000 a year, Williamson said. The opportunity arose in 1986 when Chrysler officials were referred to OU by Bill Breitmoser, an OU grad working in Chrysler in the division in which car crash tests and analysis are conducted.

Williamson said there was talk "about the problems they were having with their filming of the car-crash tests," and "we submitted a proposal to them for the summer of 1986."

WILLIAMSON WAS in charge of the grant and was assisted by two undergraduate physics majors. He said the grant turned out to be successful, and Chrysler has made similar requests for additional work in 1987 and 1988, again in the areas of applied optics.

The researcher said he has received excellent support from the

students, Bruce Silver of Southfield and Bill MacIntyre of Troy the first year, MacIntyre and Richard Wade, also of Troy, the second; and now Donald Peck of Rochester and Tom Hacker of Clarkston for the current research, assisted all three years by Clarence Bennett, electronics engineer in the department of physics.

Williamson said that the project works well because OU is relatively close to Chelsea, where the crash tests take place, and to Highland Park, so liaison with Chrysler representatives Dave Labick and Cliff Waggoner is relatively easy.

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