

# McConnell sworn in Thursday; YSU's first woman security officer

by Liz Lane

"It's interesting working with young people, and I think the campus environment is good," replied Sandra McConnell, the first woman security officer here at YSU. McConnell was sworn in Thursday afternoon by Administrator of Affairs Dean Salata.

McConnell, a YSU graduate in criminal science technology, in 1977, worked as a security officer for Strouss' in Liberty and Youngstown before coming to YSU. She wants to work with people her own age because she feels she understands them and she hopes they will come to the office with problems. McConnell says many times people feel their problems with security are insignificant or unsolvable they won't come to the office. "But to understand the problems, we need the cooperation of the students, which we are receiving," added McConnell.

Since the security officer is working under assistant Chief of Security Gale Mills for the past

year, McConnell said Mills was doing a good job as acting security chief. "Mills is getting more people who are younger in the department," commented McConnell.

Being the first woman officer at YSU, McConnell said she feels Youngstown and YSU are not behind the times in recruiting women officers. McConnell says recently Youngstown has hired a few women and most departments in the country are hiring

women for street duty.

Another officer, Joe Bonacci, commented that women officers are underestimated. He said the southern and western cities in the United States had women officers on street duty but women officers hadn't reached the northern cities until lately. He cited an example where he was on duty with a woman officer in another city and she handled the situation exceptionally well.

(Cont. on pg. 2)



**READY, WILLING AND ABLE**—Sandra McConnell, YSU's first female security officer, was sworn in Tuesday, although she was on the job Monday, albeit out of uniform. She is now officially on the force and looking forward to duty at YSU.

(Photo by Chris Pruitt)

## **McConnell**

---

(Cont. from pg. 1)

McConnell felt the YSU security department functions just like other police departments. "I've worked at the Austintown police department and I feel this security department's the way," stated McConnell.

McConnell says she feels a woman officer can help a police force greatly, since people might give her more details in an incident than if being questioned by a man. McConnell said a situation like this could easily help a rape victim.

McConnell said the remodeling at YSU will help the security department. YSU looks more like a campus and that can help the department in patrol routes and other situations, stated McConnell.