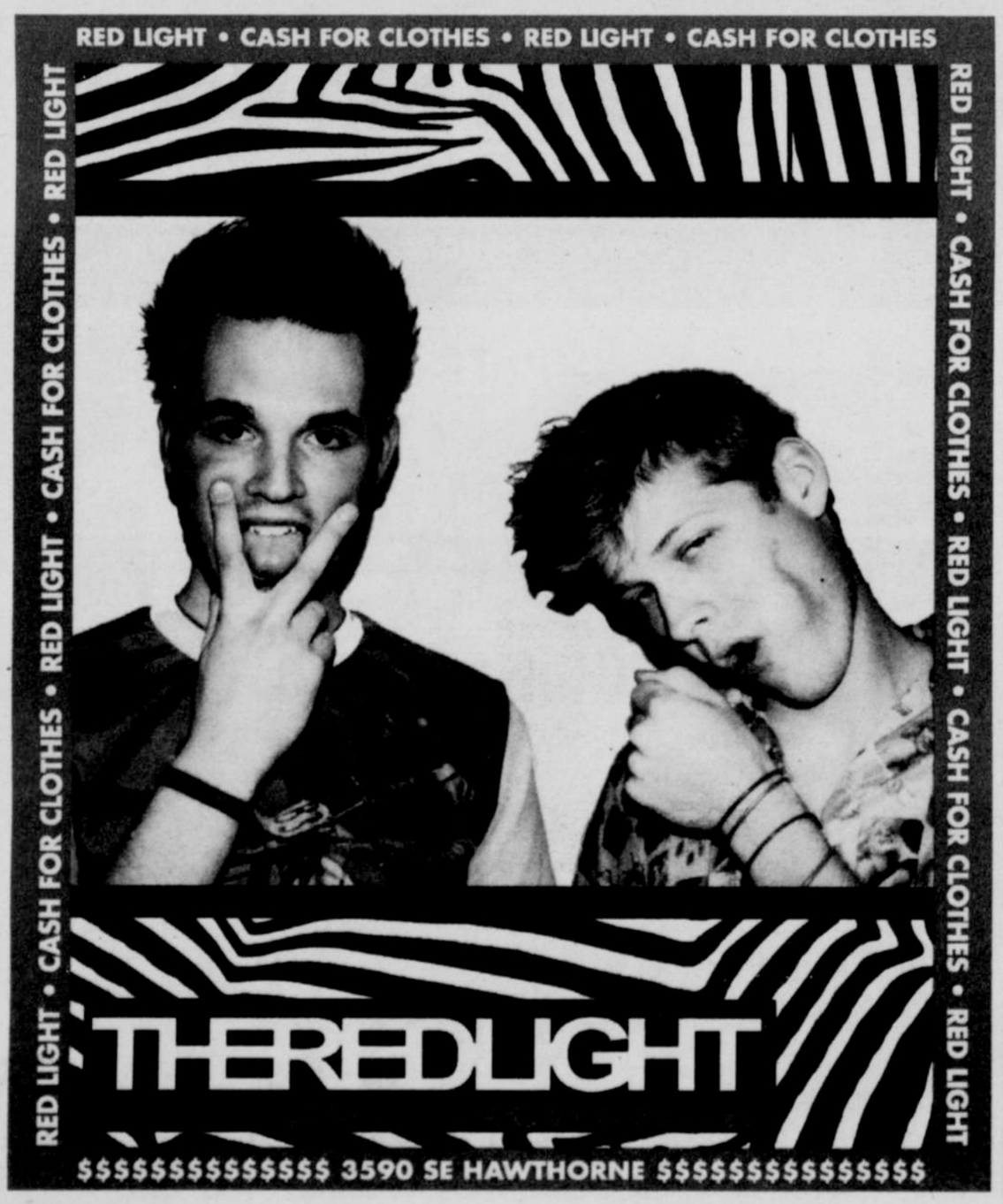


NORTHWEST news

TRANSFORMING A CAREER

All-trans construction company gets the job done

by Jaymee R. Cuti

Construction Tranformations, a Portland business meeting home and commercial building, remodeling and repair needs, prides itself in the trusting relationships it develops with clients.

Angela Bay

The women who run the business and perform building and repair duties say their gender, for once, is working to their advantage in the male-dominated field of construction. Though women with power tools are unique in themselves, this business has an extra element of distinction: Its all-female staff is transgender.

"I do think it's an advantage that it's an all women-owned company run by all women," said Laura Calvo, business manager. "We work with the homeowners to make sure they feel really comfortable. We have to go into their personal space, so they have to feel that you're on their side. That's one of the things that we do really, really well."

She added, "It helps that we do really good work."

Though the company is proud of its makeup, its primary focus is the quality of work.

According to the business's Web site: "At Construction Transformations, we are proud of our friendly, responsive working relationships with our customers and our dependable, reliable and trustworthy crafts people. We look forward to providing you with the quality general contracting and excellent customer service you deserve."

Construction Transformations formed in February and was conceptualized to keep bread on the table for its trans staff—a pressing challenge for those wishing to transition.

According to Calvo, being trans cost her a law enforcement career with the Josephine County Sheriff's Department.

"I got outed at work in 1995, and it cost me my career. Ever since then I've had to struggle to make a living," she said.

Calvo has skills in decorative ironwork. The company's owners, Simone Neall and Angela Bey, have more than 50 years of combined construction experience.

Simone Neall

Laura Calvo

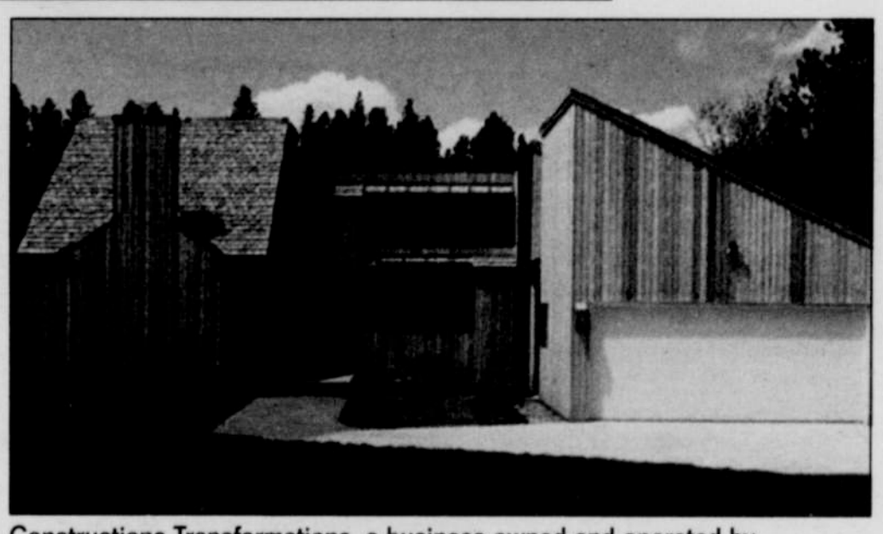
"We're so varied in our experiences, each one of us brings something to it," said Calvo.

Besides building, remodeling and repairs, the company has specialties in historic preservation work, building additions that look as if they were part of the original design.

The company aims to support the sexual minorities community that it has been strongly encouraged by. Construction Transformations is a Portland Area Business Association member and makes an effort to frequent queer-owned companies. It also relies on earth-friendly methods and materials.

The company, in turn, is active with projects from the greater Portland area—the busiest of Neall's 35 years in construction.

One of the company's goals is setting an example of professional success to other trans people.


Constructions Transformations, a business owned and operated by transgender women, made seamless additions to these houses.

"One of our core values is to show other trans people and other women that it can be done," said Calvo. "Good things come when you're able to express yourself the way you were meant to be."

For more information about CONSTRUCTION TRANFORMATIONS *visit www.constructiontransformations.com.*