

# Banking choice of BA graduate

By Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

As the United States progress towards the year 2000, it will become increasingly difficult for Blacks without specific job training to obtain employment.

According to a recent Newsweek survey, there are 1.4 million Blacks unemployed in the U.S. This figure has tripled since 1969 and it shows no sign of improvement - the only Blacks that are practically assured jobs during the next decade are those with a college education, political connections, and marketable skills.

Dana Rae Lyons, a customer representative at the Bank of California in downtown Portland and accounting student at the University of Portland plans to be ready for society's rapid changes. When questioned about why she chose Business as a career, the twenty-year old Ms. Lyons made the following comment.

"I selected business as a career, specifically accounting because I enjoy working with figures, and it's not as much math involved like a lot of people think. There are several formula's you have to know in order to do an effective job in saving yourself and client money come April 15th. Also, business is a subject I feel most comfortable with," she said.

What are your responsibilities as a customer service representative?

"My job responsibilities are keeping good relations with the customers, handling daily transactions of travelers checks, money orders, cashiers checks, living trust drafts, selling and cashing savings bonds, certified

checks and balancing my cash which is the most important," she said.

Lyons, a native of Los Angeles, California, is a 1978 graduate of Rolling Hills High where she attended school with tennis great Tracy Austin and members of the popular singing group, the Sylvers. Lyons gave her opinion about what she thinks are the key careers in the future.

"The key careers in the future," she said, "are computer operators, skilled technicians, fields in medicine, engineering, science, accounting and experts in marketing and banking finance. With the large influx of non-Americans into the U.S., I would assume that there will be careers in land, food, and energy conservation because we will soon be a overpopulated nation," she said.

Ms. Lyons career plans include graduating from the University of Portland in 1982 and obtaining a M.B.A. (Masters of Business Administration) immediately afterwards.

"I hope to pursue a job with a local or otherwise accounting firm where I can utilize the knowledge that I've gathered on a college level and then I'll get ready for the Certified Public Accountant Examination. I feel working in a career related job during the summer or part-time during the school year will help me.

"If a student can obtain a job in a career related job, it's like killing two birds with one stone because you can earn creditibility and valuable work experience. Then when you mix all of these factors with a college education, you can't go wrong...I urge all high school



DANA RAE LYONS

students to attend a institution that specialize in your career choice, stick it out and get ready for the next two decades because it's going to be competitive, especially for Blacks," said the articulate Lyons.



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