

Engineering student catches train to success

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A. Yes, I do consider myself a minority within a minority. The discrimination between these factors are about even. Me being Black and besides the point that I'm a woman, they (Whites) tend to look down on me.

Q. What is the percentage of minority engineers nation-wide and locally, and of this percentage what percentage are minority women?

Vernon Chatman of the Urban League, roughly estimates that there are no more than 5% of minority engineers in the country nation-wide. The number of engineers in the country as of a 1978 report by Statistical Abstract of U. S. estimated that there are currently 1,265,000 engineers in the nation. Of this number 5.5% of the engineers are Black, and 2.8% of the country's engineers were Black females.

Mr. Chatman roughly estimates that the percentage of minority engineers in Oregon would be less than 1-2 percent. Of his estimated percent the percent of minority woman engineers would be even less. Mr. Chatman further notes that the specific number of Blacks of the minority percentage is even less and is difficult to determine.

Q. Why aren't there more Black engineers?

A. In Oregon, most Blacks don't go into the field of engineering in school. Therefore I guess they're not aware of the field so they don't know much about it. They tend to go into different types of fields.

Mr. Chatman concurs with Barbara concerning the reason for the lack of Black engineers. "Until recently within the last 4-5 years minorities have not had the opportunity to view engineering as a career for them. Therefore, minorities lacked the preparation in math and science which is necessary for engineering. Lack of programs also contributed to the disinterest of minorities concerning engineering, that's begun to change. More

groups and individuals and national programs are beginning to encourage minorities to get into engineering. Local programs are also beginning to foster the idea to minorities to perceive engineering as a career attainable."

Mr. Chatman has played an instrumental role in encouraging minorities to enter the field of engineering.

Q. Because of your interest in engineering, are you a feminist or advocator of minority women's rights in the field of non-traditional fields?

A. Yes, I think that I'm going to be a stepping stone for a lot of Black women younger than I am.

Q. Does engineering allow you to incorporate your own kind of personality into your work?

A. I'm a individual type of person, I like to do things my own way. I don't like copying others. I like to be original. There is alot of originality involved in engineering.

Q. What personal challenges does engineering offer?

A. Engineering offers the challenge to start something from the bottom and work your way up to the top, and to see it finished in a few years from now.

Q. Would you like to see yourself become a role model for children, and what could you offer them?

A. Yes I would, I could offer them a great amount of support. I could help them out when they have problems. I know what's going on and how it is to start from the bottom and work yourself up to become a good engineer.

Q. What are people's reaction when you tell them that you're interested in engineering?

A. Men look at me and say that's a male role. Oh so you want to go out and work with the men huh.

Q. Is engineering a 9-5 job.

A. In some cases it is, and in others it's not. It depends if you're working out in the area where you

might have to go out at night in order to get some things done. Or if you're just basically working in the office making designs or planning constructions.

Q. What do you personally plan to contribute to our society and the Black community?

A. I plan to contribute my ideas as they come. I also plan to contribute alot of help and go out into the community and tell the community about engineering. I want to work in the community and help it build up in society.

Q. What kinds of courses in school should a person interested in engineering take?

A. They should take alot of math courses, science courses and also alot of drafting.

Q. What qualities make a good engineer?

A. An engineer should have good aptitude and ability. They should be able to go about a design in their mind and then work it through on paper. World Book confirms Barbara's analysis. "To put power and materials to work, an engineer must know and use principles of science and mathematics. He must not only think clearly, but also speak and write clearly so that his instructions cannot be misunderstood. He has to study constantly to keep up with new engineering developments."

Q. What activities and honors in engineering have you received or been involved with?

A. I received a mathematical award from The Professional In-

stitute of Engineers of Oregon. Also I was invited to attend a week long seminar in Long Beach, California on engineering. Also, I've attended several seminars held in Oregon.

Q. What other things besides engineering do you like to do?

A. I like to run track, sew, crochet and bake.

Barbara has been involved in other activities also. At Grant High School her activities included: drill team, variety cheer leader, outstanding sophomore, homecoming queen and National Honor Society member. Barbara is also a member of the AKA'S "All kinds of Action" and a member of women in non-traditional careers and explorers. Barbara was selected by the Portland Links Chapter Organization as a 1980 debutante in their "Starlight Cotillion," and was a recipient of the "Finer Womanhood Award," presented by the Zeta Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Currently Barbara works for the Soil Conservation Service, through Junior Achievement. Barbara was selected for this program out of twenty other student applicants in the State of Oregon.

This fall, Barbara plans to enroll at the University of Houston in Texas. When one considers the energy shortage, many people are increasingly becoming sidetracked from the route to success. However difficult, Barbara's train will always be on the right track. Furthermore she will have more than enough fuel to get her there!

Boycott needs volunteers

The Front is asking for volunteers starting September 2, 1980. Please call 288-6700 to volunteer and support Quality Education for your children.

Supervisors: Responsible person in charge of activities at specific church sites.

Transportation aide: Volunteer driver and vehicle to transport lunches to church sites.

Arts & Crafts: Work with small children (6-10 years) in simple crafts.

Education: Teachers - retired, substitutes, teacher aides, persons willing to work with teachers welcomed.

Athletics: Organize games and group activities in specified community parks.



Ornamental street lights on Union Avenue have been removed for cleaning during construction period. At the suggestion of Opal Strong, the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods will write the City to remind them that the lights are to be returned.

Community Calendar

Two valuable half-day workshops will be held on "Sexuality and the Older Adult" on Monday, August 25, 1980, at 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., at the Water Services Building, 510 SW Montgomery, Portland, OR. No fee or pre-registration is required. For further information call 248-4752.

The Morning Star Baptist Church invites the entire community to worship with them during their annual revival, August 25-29, with services beginning at 7:00 p.m. nightly. For more information call 288-6633 or 281-3649.

Vancouver Branch NAACP annual picnic to be held at Marine Park in Vancouver. Bring your lunch and table service and join in the fun. Come as early as you wish from 9 o'clock on. **Directions:** Coming from the West, take Portco Corporation turn to the right off Evergreen Highway and the park is in view. Turn left just before entering park and drive to the far end near the ball field. Coming from the East, take left turn just past Blandford drive (blinking light), cross the highway and drive back to Portco Corporation, turn off to the right. Marine Park is on the Columbia River. The date of this event is Sunday, August 24, 1980. For more information call Bertha C. Baugh, 695-5972.

The King Improvement Association regular meeting will be August 26, 1980, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., in the King Neighborhood Facility. Agenda items will be (1) selection of nominating committee, (2) neighborhood needs request. Please attend.

The Area II Citizens Advisory Committee of the Portland Public Schools will meet Monday, August 25, 1980 at 7:30 p.m. at Glenhaven School, 8020 N. E. Tillamook Street for their organizational meeting for the year.

The Commonwealth Fitness Center - Y.M.C.A. has scholarship money available toward membership for low income adults. A complete adult fitness center located downtown at 421 S.W. 6th ave. Please call 223-7643 for more information.

Boise Neighborhood Improvement Organization. August 27, 1980 - 7:30 p.m., Urban League field office, 3630 N. Vancouver.

Portland School Board, August 25, 1980 - 7:30 p.m., Administration Building, 501 N. Dixon.

OMSI. A partial or penumbral eclipse of the moon will take place on the evening of Monday, Aug. 25. To mark the event, members of the OMSI Astronomers Club will set up telescopes in the field adjacent to the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry for the purpose of free, public moon gazing. Only 73% of the moon will be immersed in the earth's secondary or penumbral shadow. The eclipse will be visible over all of North America. Portlanders will be able to view the last half only.

Neighborhood House, Inc. has a bus available for a trip to the Oregon State Fair on Senior Citizens Day, August 26th. The bus will leave Neighborhood House, Inc. (029 SW Hamilton) at 10:00 AM and return at 3:00 P.M. There will be a \$3.00 fee. Register by August 19th with Andrea Berg at 226-3251.

Catholic Family Services and Solo Center are sponsoring a workshop for Catholics -- "Divorce: Decision, Impact & Recovery." The five week series will be held on Saturdays from 3-5 p.m. starting Sept. 20 and ending Oct. 18, 1980, at the Paulist Fathers Catholic Center, 2408 S. E. 16th.

The Youth Department of Williams Temple Church of God in Christ will be having it's First Annual Youth Banquet on Saturday, August 30, 1980 beginning at 7:30 P.M. in the consolidated room at the Jantzen Beach Red Lion, located at 909 North Hayden Island Drive. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased from any youth department member during regular church services on Sunday, August 24; Tuesday, August 26; and Friday, August 29. A few tickets will be available at the door but early purchase is recommended. For further information call Miss Walker at 289-7351 or Mrs. Wilson at 287-8500.

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SPECIAL REPORT: Friday 9pm



News 8 reporter Lew Frederick examines the power, politics and problems in Portland's Black Community that Whites are just beginning to recognize. **Friday 9:00pm**, right before "Takeover," an update on Oregon's overcrowded prison system.

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