

Doctor's Business is Helping People

Naturopath helps her community

BY NICOLE HOOPER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

She has worked to build an HIV clinic in Kenya. She is a vital resource for homeless youth in Portland and serves young people at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, the historically African-American congregation in north Portland.

Kimberly Tippens is just 29-years-old, but she is already using her skills as a doctor of naturopathic medicine and expert in acupuncture and oriental medicine to help her community and people around the world.

She first attended UCLA where she received a degree in psychobiology and thought some day she would work in the field of neuroscience.

But after becoming a lab technician she found that the work was gruesome.

"It dawned on here that it did not make sense to kill animals to cure diseases," she said.

She made the transition to naturopathic medicine at Bastyr University in Seattle where she received a Doctorate in Naturopathic medicine and Masters in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine in 2003.

After leaving Bastyr, she finished her residency requirements at the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, the oldest accredited naturopathic college in North America.

At NCNM, she worked with Outside In, the downtown organization that advocates for the health care of homeless youth.

Tippens said she had some diffi-



PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Kimberly Tippens is one of the few African-American naturopathic doctors in the state of Oregon.

My goal is to take care of my community.

- Kimberly Tippens, doctor of naturopathic medicine

culty entering the naturopathic field as an African-American woman, but it wasn't as difficult as she thought it would be. She believes that attending the NCNM in a "liberal" city like Portland helped to ease the transition from undergrad to medical student.

She strived not be the type of person that would let someone else's negative

continued ▼ on page B12

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Contracting Fairness Wanted

Heads of NAACP, National Urban League and NAACP Legal Defense Fund are urging fairness

for African Americans and Katrina survivors in recovery spending. The heads of three top civil rights

organizations have urged President Bush and congressional leaders to be "inclusive" in federal expenditures for Katrina hurricane recovery, and that displaced African Americans and other people of color be given priority for jobs, reconstruction and contracting.

Their joint letter expressed concerns about provisions in the emergency Appropriations Act that would reduce opportunities for the socially and economically disadvantaged.

An appropriations bill passed by Congress would exempt federal contracts below \$10 million (up from the existing \$5 million limit) from coverage under the Small Business Act mandating such inclusive hiring practices.

"We believe the Congress [and this Administration] should continue pre-existing federal policies that seek to assure that minority business enterprises are regularly selected as federal contractors," the civil rights leaders said. "It is only through the continuation of these federal policies that persons of color will have a full and equal opportunity to serve as participants in the rebuilding efforts."

Local Credit Union Grows

Point West Credit Union, with offices at Northeast 12th and Irving and Northeast 67th and Killingsworth, has promoted Michael Fletcher to vice president of marketing and Business Development.

Before joining Point West in 2002, Fletcher he was with the Portland State University Athletics Department for six years and served as the Assistant Athletic Director for Development.

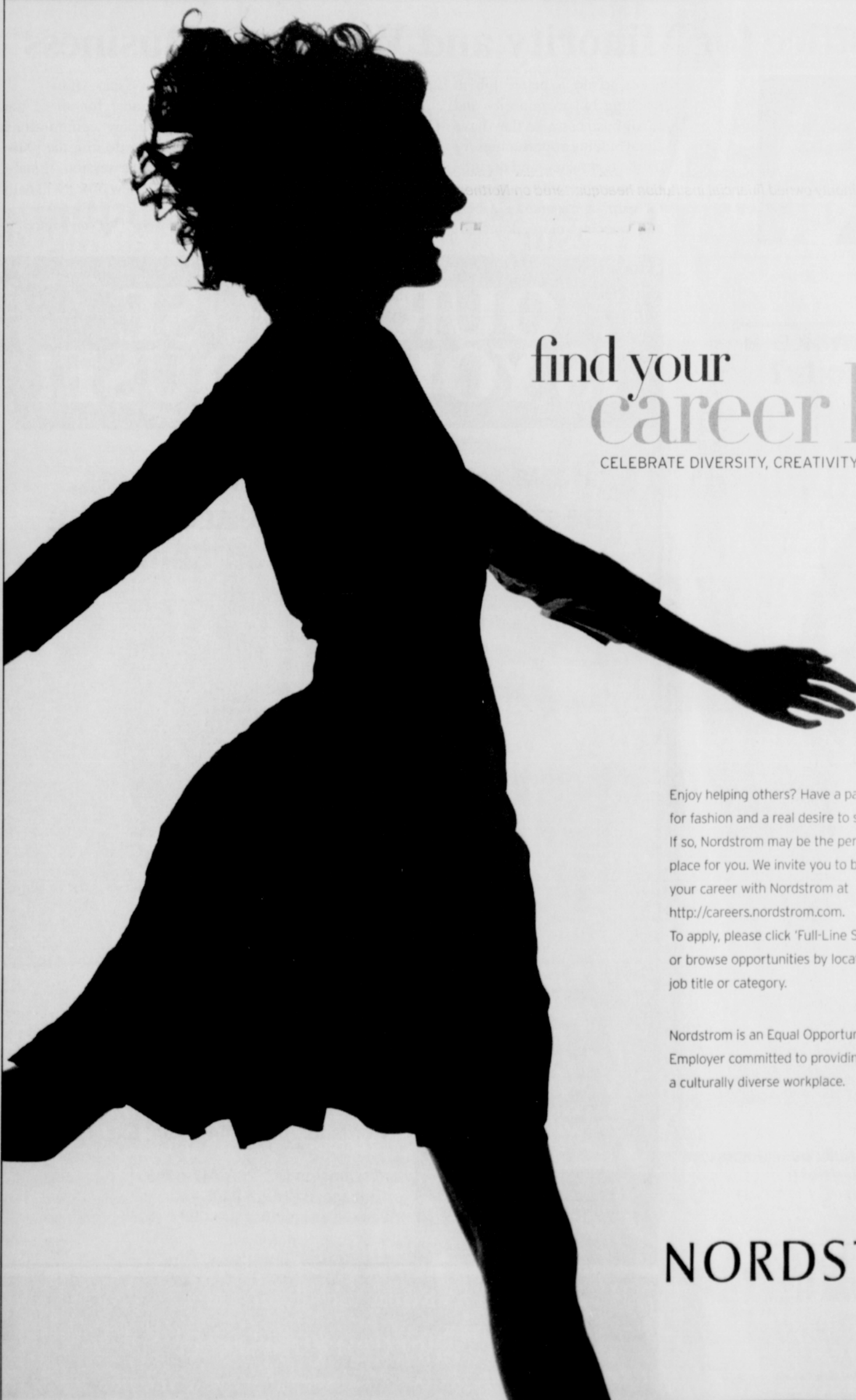
Fletcher earned an undergraduate degree in business with a focus in marketing at Portland State University.

Point West Credit Union is a \$95,000,000 financial institution and serves more than 12,000 members. The credit union added 2,400 members since January of 2005, in part due to a merger with Hacienda Community Credit Union on March 31.

The four months prior to the merger were also recording breaking months for new membership at the credit union.



Michael Fletcher



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