

PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER
Trejon, 2, a Baby Hugs client for a year, is busy trying to grab the camera.

Parenthood Becomes Career Opportunity

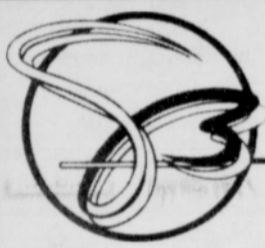
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reconsider only for a moment of going back to her regular job. "It can be rewarding to have your own business but hard at other times," said Green. During rough times Green remembers that she truly loves working with all children and being able to see her daughter grow. Something that many parents don't have the ability to say. "I love my children, the kids keep me young, and they are hilarious. No corporate job could ever give me this," said Green. For more information, call 503-256-4189.



Coast Industries Honored for Accomplishments

Gov. Ted Kulongoski (center) recently congratulated Northeast Portland's Coast Industries for being one of Oregon's largest and oldest minority-owned businesses. He stands with (left to right) Lydia Munoz, from Oregon's Office of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Businesses; Hasan Artharee, sales and operations manager of Coast Industries; Bernadette Artharee, president of Coast Industries; and Peggy Ross, director of Oregon's Office of Affirmative Action.

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Merchant Concepts clients consist of regional and national companies including The Don Rasmussen Company, Standard TV & Appliance, LaZBoy Furniture Galleries, Nordstrom, Ethan Allen, while also partnering with exceptional minority businesses such as Yam Yams, AJ Java, L'Mu Salon, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, and the Portland Observer. Corporately based in the Pacific NW, Merchant Concepts performs all of the legwork to ensure you have the right program for your needs. We represent various banks and equipment manufacturers. Based on monthly revenue, our clients secure the lowest processing cost by us performing three critical functions:

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Bills business philosophy can be summed up in three words: Integrity " Efficiency " Partnership

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- **Efficiency...**you will have the most cost-effective credit card / transaction processing system you have ever experienced.
- **Partnership...**you work with people who care as much about your financial success as you do.

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As a client of Merchant Concepts, you can rely on us to tell you everything you need to know to be informed about the credit card / transaction processing process. You are guaranteed to receive the most cost-effective transaction processing system your company has ever experienced.

Merchant Concepts is located in The Pearl District at 513 NW 13th Ave. (503) 281-1460.

Portland Observer subscribers calling and referring to this article will receive a free financial analysis and be entered to win a new Lipman 2085 processing terminal.

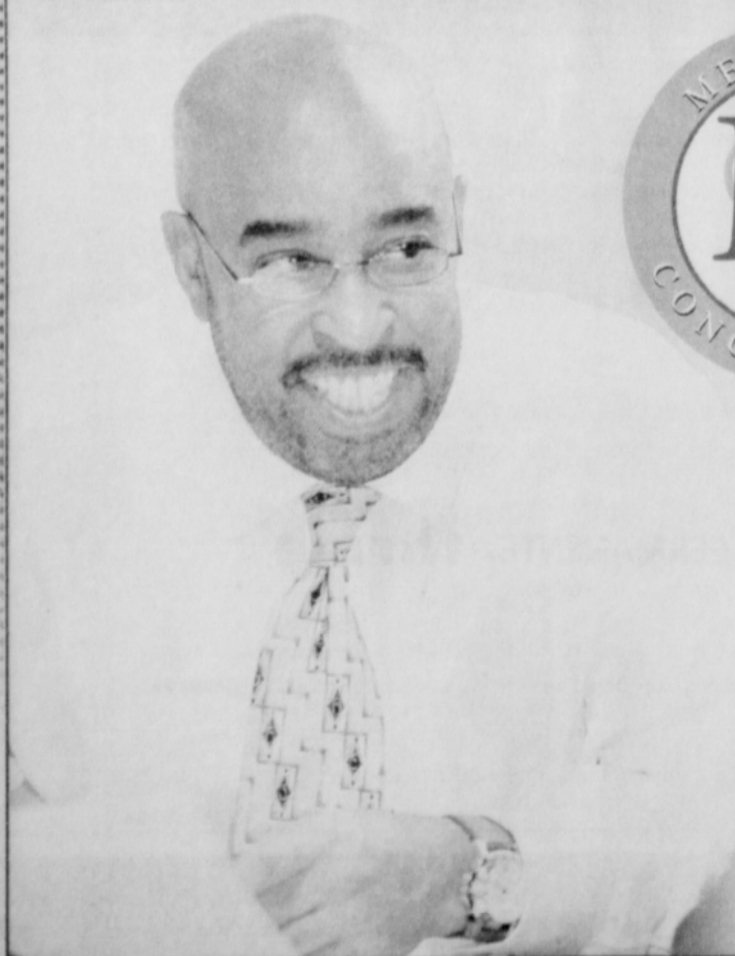
Finding Success in Construction

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sense of pride. "Since I attended PCC, it feels great to be involved in all of its projects," said Onchi, whose husband Dwight was a Judo instructor at PCC. "It's nice to see PCC invest in the future. Community colleges play a big role in our community. If they weren't here, so many people wouldn't have an education."

With the Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business initiative, the college has allocated \$14.5 million to date in contract money toward women, minority or emerging small businesses for the construction projects.

"PCC really makes an effort to use MWESB business," Onchi said. "It's a special thing."



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