

Growing Discontent

continued ▲ from Front

and several people were led away in plastic cuffs.

Late in the afternoon, protesters stood on one side of the street chanting, "Let them go," while police in riot gear lined the other side of the street in front of the Justice Center, which holds the jail.

Some taunted officers, chanting, "You're sexy, you're cute, take off that riot suit."

A few protesters carried a black banner that read, "No Gods, no country, no masters," and a circled A symbol for anarchy.

Some said the police overreacted. "They showed a huge amount of force," said Jake Fagan, 21, of Portland, who said he had lost two friends in Iraq. "But we are just trying to march."

Aaron Clark is a reporter for The Associated Press.



PHOTO BY NIA DIYU/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

A protester carries twin slabs that indict U.S. actions in the Iraq War during Sunday's peace march on the fourth anniversary of the war.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Carol Robertson (left) and David Anderson advance their careers in the asphalt construction trade at Lakeside Industries of north-west Portland. Robertson is the first African American female to hold the advanced position of estimator for the company.

Tradeswoman Achieves in Business

Developed skills for top job

BY FELICIA SLIDER
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Lakeside Industries employee Carol Robertson dug deep, developed her skills and distinguished herself as a talent among the industry of women in trades.

Robertson, who grew up in northeast Portland and now lives in Clackamas, was recently promoted from an accounting administrator and administrative assistant position. She joins David Anderson, a paving foreman for the company, as estimators for the firm.

What makes this decision groundbreaking is that this is the first time in the history of the third-generation company that an African-American woman will hold the groundbreaking and highly competitive title.

The Portland Observer spoke with Lakeside's human resource director Tammy Vibbert on this exceptional advancement:

What strides have women, especially minority women, made within this industry?

One of our ongoing efforts is that we rely heavily on advertising our positions. It encourages people to get the right training to improve their skills. In addition to advertising for external ability, we also have programs to develop our in-house of talent. We take pride in promoting the best, whether internal or external. We post all of our leadership positions, so that company wide anyone and everyone is on an equal playing field.

We also identify employees who have shown interest or those we have noticed who have the aptitude.

What is Lakeside's ongoing goal in "diversity"?

Lakeside is positively trying to integrate our leadership positions.

We are working incredibly hard in many of the field positions. From administrative to field positions, we want to give equal access to leadership opportunities. We are always excited to promote minorities and females. Our owners, the Lee Family, and our directors and management have always made it a priority.

Give us a "Day in the Life" of an Estimator?

On the whole, they are accountable for going out to find work for Lakeside. They put together bids; commercial, residential, etc. What then takes places is that there is usually a bidding process. They put together the bid for the job and determine how much it's going to cost.

They submit the job and confidently succeed with the bid. The estimator follows the work from start to finish. They are the eyes and ears for the job until its completion. Because the Portland area is a very competitive market the daily tasks and responsibilities for our estimators are crucial.

What skills sets do Carol and David bring to this position?

They bring exceptional skill sets. Respectively, they each have more than 10 years with Lakeside. They are both unique, which is why promoting two people for the same position at the same time is a distinctive move for us.

David, who had been one of our Field Paving Foremen, will transition well because of his field experience.

Carol is a great role model. She started with Lakeside over 10 years ago. She went to school, got her Bachelors degree and is now working on her Masters.

What local organizations support women in this industry?

Lakeside is always involved in local and national organizations to support women and men. For example, one is called NAWIC (National Association of Women In Construction). Carol is personally involved with Oregon Trades Women. Another is AGC (Association of General Contractors). We also have connections with training through NAPA (National Asphalt Paving Association).

How would someone go about preparing, training or networking for a position in trades?

Lakeside appreciates being one of the many examples in the industry regarding our high percentage of female employees. Some may gravitate more towards certain areas of the industry or field, but we are closing the gap. We are truly proud of David and Carol. They are both examples of people who set their minds to their goals.

What can they expect in the first few months of their new promotion?

They will continue to receive on the job training, learn how to put together a bid, how to measure and how determine the work and what needs to be done. They will jump in very quickly.

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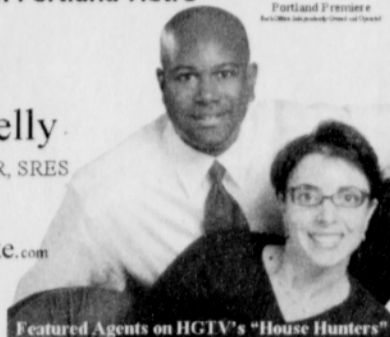


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For more information call 503-285-0493

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*Self Enhancement, Inc. now provides the community services previously offered by Albina Ministerial Alliance (AMA). The two non-profit organizations did not merge; AMA continues as an advocacy organization.



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