

Women Entering Fields Dominated by Men

Barriers still in place

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

More than 40 years after the Equal Pay Act, students were still surprised to see a woman driving construction equipment. The reaction is understandable, considering women make up two percent of the construction workforce and earn 79 percent of the average salary that men make in this field.

One exception is Michelle Prouty, who wanted to encourage more women to enter the construction business by showing off her skills to 4,500 students at the Northwest Youth Career Expo. Shrieks of surprise erupted from the audience as she used a mini-hoe to place a baseball onto a safety cone.

After working her way up from a flagger, Prouty is happy



with her job at Nutter Corporation in Vancouver, Wash.

She was attracted to the \$50,000 a year she could make as a heavy equipment operator.

"Women bring different talents to the construction industry that complement what the industry offers," wrote Lisa Schmidt, Nutter Corp's marketing director.

Schmidt expects future growth in Oregon's construction industry will bring more opportunities for women in fields that have been dominated by men.

Construction worker Michelle Prouty delights audiences at the Northwest Youth Career Expo last month by showing off her skills using a mini-hoe.

Live Music Every Night

- Hannah Bea's, 3969 N.E. MLK, presents jazz during its 'Sunday Brunch Serenade' from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Live jazz performances Sunday evenings from 8:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m., at Clyde's Prime Rib, 5474 NE Sandy, and at the Blue Monk, 3341 S.E. Belmont.
- Participate in a mixed-media open mic night each Monday at the Back-to-Back Café, 614 E. Burnside, and at the Clackamas Community College's Open Mic Jazz Jams, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Live blues performances Tuesday at Produce Row Café, 204 SE Oak, from 9 p.m. to Midnight, the Steinhaus, 2366 SE 82nd Ave., Mississippi Studios, 3939 N. Mississippi Ave., from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. and at Jimmy Mak's, 221 NW 10th, at 8 p.m. Live blues and jazz performances are available.
- Wednesdays, the Candlelight Room, 2032 SW 5th, and Duff's Garage, 635 SE 7th, and the Blue Diamond, 2016 NE Sandy Blvd., offer up blues performances. Catch live jazz performances at the Blue Monk, the Portland Art Museum, Jimmy Mak's, and Jax, 826 SW 2nd, from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.
- On Thursdays the Women in Blues Review, at Tillicum's, 8585 SW Beaverton in Hillsdale.
- Fridays and Saturdays offer many venue choices around the metro area: Halibuts (2525 NE Alberta St.), Mississippi Studios, LV's, 3530 N. Vancouver Ave., XV, 15 SW 2nd, Out of the Blues, 2050 NW Vaughn, Manila Express, 12370 SE Main St. in Tigard, One Stop Records, 615 NE Killingsworth St., and the U-licious Smokehouse, 4057 N. Interstate Ave.



Dear Deanna!

I'm the only girl out of five boys in my family. I'm not the oldest but because my mom was a single parent, I had to grow up too fast and take care of my siblings. I've been on my own for two years and my mother won't accept the fact that she can't boss me around anymore. I don't mind babysitting while she works but my life is my priority. We argue a lot because I won't stay from work, skip college classes or give her money. How do I deal with this and hold on to respect? — Tired Daughter; Columbia, S.C.

Dear Tired Daughter:

You've been a babysitter for so long that your mother feels the loss and the financial impact. Your mother spent so much time working and raising the kids she didn't notice you growing up, developing your own personality and becoming a woman. She still views you as a child. Have a discussion with her as you help her begin to know you as an adult. Remind her that the

Ask Deanna!



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the purse made me notice. —Suspicious; On-Line Reader

Dear Suspicious:

The moment you learned he gave another female a gift is the moment you should have got with the program. To make matters worse, he gave you the cheapie so that should tell you how he really feels about you. It's shameful that it took a material possession to reveal what you were too silly to see. All in all you came out on top. Look on the bright side and thank him for sparing you from a broken heart, looking like a fool and getting played like a sucker.

Dear Deanna!

My brother is dating a girl that is using him. She's pretty and that's why my brother runs after her like a sick dog. It really bothers me to see this. He acts as if he has to do everything for her, do what she says and can't think for himself. I've seen her out with guys and she talks on the phone to several of my

male friends but she claims it's innocent. I don't believe her especially after seeing her in the club with a guy. How do I expose her and her lies? —Temia; Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Temia:

If your brother wants to be a mat that's walked all over, there's not much you can do to change it. Obviously he's content being used and sharing his girlfriend. The best you can do is give him advice to be cautious, pay attention to the signs and be clear of his expectations in his relationship. If he chooses to ignore the words of wisdom, sit back and be ready to support him when she takes him to the cleaners, hurts him and bleeds him dry.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd. Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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Mental Health Services Work

Arrests, school expulsions decline

Community treatment for mental health disorders has reduced arrests of adults and school suspensions and expulsions for youths.

Data reported by the Oregon Department of Human Services show reductions in arrests of nearly 70 percent for both youths and adults. In addition, data from treatment providers show a 56 percent reduction in school suspensions and expulsions of adolescents a year after treatment began.

Community mental health treatment is available across Oregon from county governments and more than 100 private nonprofit providers. Anyone interested in learning about mental health treatment services may contact the local county's mental health department, listed in the blue government pages of the phone book.

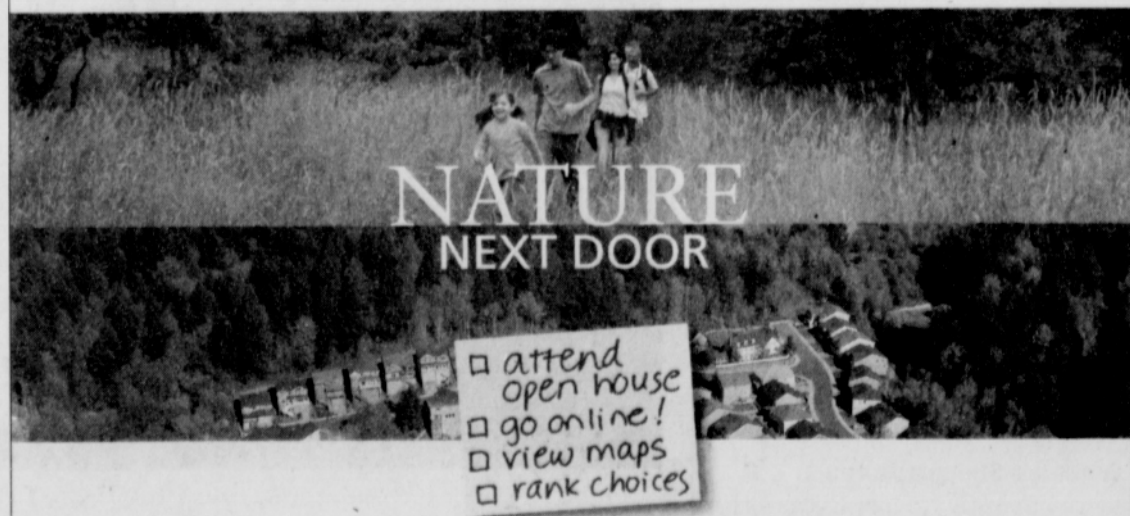
Bob Nikkel, DHS assistant director for addictions and mental health, said publicly financed services,

needed by many people with severe mental illnesses, reach just 35 percent of the nearly 108,000 children and adolescents and 44 percent of the nearly 162,000 adults estimated to experience severe emotional disorders or mental illnesses in any given year.

In his proclamation of May as Mental Health Month in Oregon, Gov. Kulongoski made a pledge to replace the aging Oregon State Hospital and strengthen the community mental health system that supports it.



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