

CAREERS & EDUCATION

The Portland Observer

SPECIAL EDITION

38
years of
community service

SECTION B

Career Unfolds in Unexpected Ways

Satisfaction runs high for TriMet employee

Arelina Russell needed a bit of coaxing from a friend before applying at TriMet as a part-time bus operator 17 years ago.

Russell had been working in accounts payable at a department store but felt it was a dead-end job. She wanted to work at TriMet because she heard the agency offered great opportunities. But, after applying for several positions in the Accounting Department, she became discouraged.

"My friend told me that those positions were often filled internally and that I should consider getting hired as a part-time operator and see if I could transfer to accounting," Russell said. "I didn't think I'd like driving, though, because the buses are such big vehicles."

Despite reservations, Russell applied for a part-time operator position and was hired in October 1990. She began driving buses full-time after about a year. After several years, a position opened for an accounts payable clerk and she applied for the job.



Arelina Russell, a field scheduler at TriMet, enjoys the challenge of working with bus operators on their routes to discover why buses run late and resolve scheduling issues. Her 17-year career at TriMet has taken many interesting twists and turns.

PHOTO BY GABRIEL VERNON

Partway through the hiring process, however, she changed her mind.

"I realized I really liked driving," she said. "I liked being outside. I liked

interacting with all the different people. I decided I wanted to stay an operator."

However, Russell's career devel-

opment at TriMet wasn't over. After eight years of driving a bus, she switched over to driving Max trains. She operated trains for a couple years

and then returned to driving a bus. "What I've found is that TriMet is

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Choosing a Helpful Job with a Solid Future



OHSU helps you get started

If you're looking for work today, or planning a future career for yourself or your children, it may seem a bit like throwing darts in the dark.

But experts agree on one thing, there's a job area that is rock solid. For the next two

decades health-care jobs will grow faster than any other sector of the economy. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, career choices in health will be unprecedented in the nation's history with an estimated 2.8

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million new jobs.

The reason is simple: a surge in the population, that group called Baby Boomers, is entering retirement and the age when they need the most health care. At the same time, people

working in health fields, such as nurses, doctors, dentists, medical technicians and many others are also reaching retirement age and leaving their professions. The result is a growing need meeting a low-

ering workforce, a shortage that will last for years—and a unique opportunity for anyone planning a career.

As the state's only academic

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Aaliyah Hodge smiles as she attends the white-coat ceremony that welcomes her and others to the Oregon Health and Science University Medical School.

PHOTO BY TIM JEWITT

Entrepreneurial Life Suits Cuban Immigrant

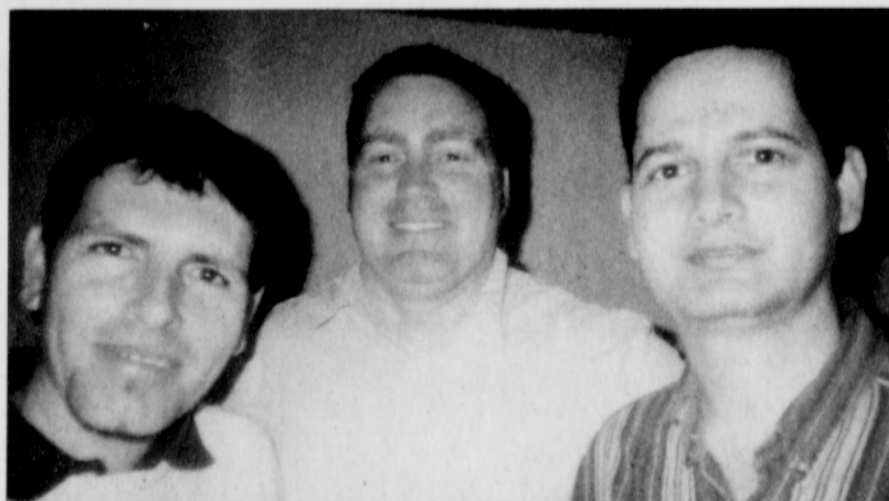
Bilingual designer moving to Vanport Square

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

"I started knocking on doors and they wouldn't open, so I walked in anyway," Eduardo Norell says in de-

scribing how he began his graphic-design business.

The Cuban immigrant has parlayed his talent, and his initiative, into a new way of life. The latest chapter will come by year's end when he moves Norell Design from his garage in the Lents neighborhood of southeast Portland to a 2,800-square-foot space in the Vanport Square commercial condominium at 5225 N.E. Martin Luther



Eduardo Norell (center) is moving his graphic-design business into the new Vanport Square commercial condominium complex at 5225 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. with the help of Elio Numez (left) and Carlos Guerra.

King Jr. Blvd.

There he will be one of 16 co-owners of the newly renovated complex. He will be sharing space with fellow graphic designer Laurie Cary, restaurateurs Marco Shaw (Fife) and Alem Gebrehiwot (Queen of Sheba), Farmer's Insurance agent Nghi Tran, and C.P.A. Rick Harris. Hung Kim's Living Color is already up and running in the new space.

Norell Design can create business cards, brochures, web designs, menus, flyers, posters and non-electric signs in English, Spanish, and a combination

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At the Speed of Life



PCC starts Web design degree program
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Community Advocate Honored



Celebrating Jean DeMaster's passion for low-income services
See page B7

Behind the Scenes Contributions



Clark College executive prioritizes quiet effectiveness
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