

# Exploring Africa to the Americas



Sara Rashad

continued ▲ from Metro

Root," "From Florida to Coahuila," and his work-in-progress, "Incursions into the Hills," will be shown at the Symposium on the African Legacy in Mexico and Community Conversation on Saturday, Feb. 11. Following the films, Dr. Sagrario Cruz, professor of history in the "Africa en México" program at the University of Veracruz, will speak on the AfroMexican identity, followed by a panel discussion with local community activists.

Family Film Day will held on Saturday, Feb. 18, at McMenamins Kennedy School Theatre, with two films by local directors set in Mali, "Welcome to Mali and Kofalen/The Gift Exchange," and a third film, "Coming to England," a BBC adaptation of Floella Benjamin's popular children's book about her journey as a young girl from Trinidad to Britain in the 1960s.

A forum on HIV/AIDS in Africa with films and discussion will be presented on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the PCC Cascade Campus.

Women Filmmakers Week will be held from March 2 through March 4. Film director Sara Rashad will introduce and discuss her film "Tahara" on Friday, March 3. The festival will close on Saturday, March 4 with a second remarkable new film from Angola, "Hollow City" directed by Maria João Ganga.

Since its inception in 1991, the Cascade Festival of African Films has been orga-



This year's Cascade Festival of African Films opens with "The Hero," a powerful film about devastation and hope in post-war Angola. Directed by ZeZe Gamboa, the movie is in Portuguese with English subtitles



"Hot Chili" is a mythical tale of love about a humble gardener who is in love with the king's daughter, but the king will have none of it. The film is written, directed, and stars a young Botswanan who begin working on the movie while a student in the U.S.

nized and run by volunteers. The festival receives generous support from individual donors and sponsors.

For complete information about the fes-

tival and descriptions of the films, visit the festival Web site at [www.africanfilmfestival.org](http://www.africanfilmfestival.org) or call 503-244-6111, extension 3630, for a brochure.

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## A Tradeswoman in a Man's World

continued ▲ from Metro

some women do not break or give up," she said. "One voice does make a difference."

In 1996, Darco added to her daunting workload when she became a welder for the City of Portland Parks and Recreation. With two jobs, her days began at three or four a.m., ending around midnight. She juggled both jobs for one year, but after a trip to Hawaii her body said she could no longer work 96-hour weeks.

"I had reached a crossroads. I was through proving myself to people," she said.

Darco said she's much happier working at PP&R. She's the city's lead welder, in charge of more than 200 parks, plus recreational facilities and hundreds of sports fields. Darco says the city has a



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
D.J. Darco at work in the City of Portland welding shop located at the base of Mt. Tabor.

more diverse workforce, but as one of only a handful of tradeswomen, she feels they have a long way to go.

Instead of welding night and day she pursues her passion for ending domestic violence and child abuse issues.

She is also involved with the Oregon Tradeswomen network, a non-profit organization that helps train women for their apprenticeship.

More than a decade after she dedicated countless hours to writing her bills, Darco said she would still like to see her legislation pass, but she's confident of the direction she has taken.

"If legislation started again I'd be there, but you have to choose your battles wisely," she said. "I try to choose my directions that will make the most difference for the future of our children."

### Peninsula Little League 2006

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#### Softball Program

Level	Ages
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Major	10 - 12
Junior	13 - 15

Questions contact:  
Mark Washington ~  
503-901-1722

Saturday, January 21, 2006  
Saturday, January 28, 2006  
Early Bird Sign-ups (\$10.00 discount, thru 1/28/06 only)

Saturday, February 4, 2006  
Saturday, February 11, 2006  
Saturday, February 18, 2006

Peninsula Park Community Center  
700 N Portland Blvd  
10:00 am - 2 pm

Portland Observer  
4747 NE MLK Jr Blvd  
Hours: 10 am - 5 pm (Mon - Friday)

Participation Fee - \$85.00 (per player), \$65 for T-ball  
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The fee includes prepay of fundraiser.

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Farm	7 - 8
Minor	7 - 9
Major	10 - 12
Junior	13 - 15



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