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'City of Roses'

Volume XXXVI, Number 49

Bring Troops HomeLocal leaders say money
can be better spent
See Metro section**Soul-Stirring
Christmas**Local choirs join Oregon
Symphony in concert
See Metro section**The Portland Observer**

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**Week in
The Review****9 Awards for R&B Diva**Mary J. Blige's
chart-topping
comeback album
"The Breakthrough"
landed the R&B
diva a leading
nine honors atthis year's Billboard Music
Awards, including R&B/Hip-Hop
artist of the year, female R&B
artist of the year and R&B/Hip-
Hop album of the year. See story,
page B6.**U.S. Jails Millions**A record seven million people —
or one in every 32 American adults
— were behind bars, on proba-
tion or on parole by the end of last
year, according to the Justice De-
partment. See story, page A2.**Shootings Probe Wanted**The Rev. Al
Sharpton
called for a con-
gressional
probe of police
shooting poli-
cies as he
joined activ-
ists Sundayoutside the Atlanta, Ga. home of
an elderly woman killed by nar-
cotics police officers who burst
into her home unannounced. See
story, page A2.**Oregon Sailor Guilty**An Oregon sailor accused of
stealing a Navy laptop and ped-
dling its classified contents
pleaded guilty Monday to espio-
nage and other charges. Petty
Officer 3rd Class Ariel J.
Weinmann, 22, of Salem, faces life
in prison without parole, a dis-
honorable discharge from the
Navy and forfeiture of all pay.**Holiday Toy Safety**The U.S. Consumer Product
Safety Commission has issued its
annual toy safety tips for con-
sumer use during the holidays
and throughout the year. See
story, page A6.**Katrina Body Found**Workers demolishing houses in
the 9th Ward of New Orleans
found a body thought to be that
of a Hurricane Katrina victim. The
discovery could be the 28th
Katrina body found in the city
since March.**UN Ambassador Resigns**Unable to win
Senate confir-
mation, U.N.
Ambassador
John Bolton
will step down
when his tem-
porary ap-
pointment expires within weeks,
the White House said Monday.Critics have questioned Bolton's
brusque style.**Big
Hit***Khalia Moore
visits Chocolate
Santa, aka
Stanley Will-
iams at the
Miracles Club
in northeast
Portland.*PHOTO BY
ISAIAH BOUIE/
THE PORTLAND
OBSERVERHe calls himself Chocolate Santa
and Stanley Williams has become a big
hit with local children as well as bring-
ing out the kid in adults.Santa makes stops on weekends at
the Miracles Club, 4069 N.E. MartinLuther King Jr. Blvd., to celebrate the
Christmas season and is known to travel
throughout the city, surprising anyone
from college students to senior citi-
zens.

At Miracles, he poses for pictures

with photographer Tracey Stadamire,
who welcomes a black Santa as an
inspiration to the city's diverse culture.Kids and adults can visit Chocolate
Santa at the Miracles Club again this
weekend.**Free
Internet
Begins**Wireless starts
downtown and
close-in eastsideA new wireless service
that will eventually provide
free internet access to almost
every Portland resident was
officially turned on in Portland
Tuesday.Initial coverage will include
a two-square mile area of
downtown centered on Pio-
neer Courthouse Square, as
well as much of the Buckman,
Lloyd and Kerns neighbor-
hoods in inner southeast and
northeast Portland.The firm MetroFi is building
the ad-supported network.

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Friends and supporters of civil liberties rally for justice Monday outside Pioneer Courthouse in the case of a Patrice Lumumba Ford, a local African American sentenced to 18 years in prison for sedition.

PHOTOS BY ISAIAH BOUIE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Political Imprisonment Charged**Local man called
victim in war on terror**BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVERA federal appeals hearing took place in Portland
on Monday for Patrice Lumumba Ford, one of the
"Portland Six" who was sentenced to 18 years in
a federal prison as one of the government's first
victims in the war on terror.Ford, a lifelong Portland resident, was charged
with sedition for trying to unsuccessfully go to
Afghanistan from China in Oct. 2001, before the
U.S. invaded the country.A full courtroom left many friends and support-
ers of civil liberties outside the Pioneer Courthouse
to offer support to Ford's family, who for years
have been politically active in Portland, including
his father, Kent, who was a Black Panther.Ford has been incarcerated since his initial
arrest on Oct. 4, 2002. The U.S. attorney who
prosecuted the case argued he and five other men,Patrice Lumumba Ford's father, Kent Ford of
Portland, thanks supporters for their prayers.mostly African American Muslims, were going to
Afghanistan to fight American forces. The men
claimed they merely wanted to help at the Afghan
refugee camps.Ford was originally offered a five-year sentence
in a plea bargain, but that offer was withdrawn,
presumably after former Attorney General John
Ashcroft's intervention, and he faced a maximum
20-year sentence.The U.S. 9th Circuit Court has agreed to hear an
appeal of Ford's sentence on grounds that it was
excessive. He is being represented by a new
lawyer, Shaun McCrea of Eugene. McCrea argued
that the sentencing guidelines for treason were
erroneously applied in Ford's case. Previously,
Ford tried to obtain habeas relief on the grounds of
ineffective assistance of counsel but the U.S. Dis-
trict Court denied that appeal.The issue at Monday's hearing was whether the
advice of Ford's former attorney affected the
sentencing.

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