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## Oscar Recognition

Black actors break records for nominees

See Inside, page B6



## Week in The Review



### Black Coaches Reach Top

For the first time in Super Bowl history two African American head coaches will be on one of the sporting world's biggest stages. Leading the Chicago Bears will be Lovie Smith, who became the first black head coach to reach the title game Sunday. A few hours later, Tony Dungy coached Indianapolis to the Super Bowl. See story, page A2.

### Iraq Bombings Deadly

Twin bombings Monday tore through a busy Baghdad market catering to Shiite Muslims during a religious festival. A market also was attacked north of the capital, and police said as many as 100 people died in the renewed campaign blamed on Sunni Muslim insurgents.

### Portland Soldier Killed

A U.S. Army soldier from Portland was killed Saturday in combat in Iraq. Sgt. Sean Patrick Fennerty was struck by a roadside bomb in Al Anbar Province. He graduated from Jesuit High School in 1999. See story, page A2.

### Insurgents Claim Hit

An al-Qaida-linked coalition of Iraqi Sunni insurgents claimed Monday that its fighters shot down an American military helicopter in a crash that killed 12 U.S. soldiers. The U.S. military has said the cause of the crash has not been determined.

### Bush Approval Hits Bottom

President Bush was preparing to deliver his State of the Union address Tuesday night to a nation that's strongly opposed to his plan for increasing troops in Iraq and deeply unhappy with his performance as president. According to a CBS News poll, Bush's approval rating has fallen to just 28 percent, a new low.

### Chavez Scolds U.S.

Venezuela President Hugo Chavez told U.S. officials to "Go to hell, gringos!" and called Condoleezza Rice "missy" on his weekly radio and TV show Sunday, lashing out at Washington for what he called unacceptable meddling in Venezuelan affairs.



Sir Millage, the 15 year-old tasered by Portland police last month, attends a prayer vigil to bring an end to police violence. Millage's autism made it hard for him to communicate with the officers involved in his beating.

## Police violence vigil Justice rally is call to action

A prayer vigil brought ministers, activists and families with children to Union Station in downtown Portland on Saturday seeking justice for recent victims of police brutality.

The Albina Ministerial Alliance, the group of African American clergy, organized the gathering at Northwest Hoyt and Broadway. The location was prompted by two incidents which called into question the protocol followed by Portland police officers.

On Dec. 5, Portland police beat and tasered no less than 13 times Sir Millage, a 15-year-old boy who has autism. Officers

*The location was prompted by two incidents which called into question the protocol followed by Portland police officers.*

said Millage was uncooperative and they feared he had a weapon.

In September Portland officers beat James Chasse Jr., an unarmed white man suffering from schizophrenia who got into a quarrel with police while being ques-

tioned. Chasse died from injuries in police custody shortly after.

Vigil speakers focused on the City Council resolution passed in 2004, which

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U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton

## Clinton: 'In it to Win' Hillary, Obama early frontrunners

(AP)--Starting her first full week as a presidential contender, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton expressed confidence she can win the 2008 Democratic nomination.

Clinton said she decided to run after doing a "thorough review" of the challenges facing the country. She said she is the best candidate for the job and is eager to begin campaigning.

"It'll be a great contest with a lot of talented people and I'm very confident. I'm in, I'm in it to win and that's what I intend to do," she said.

The former first lady was vying to be the first woman and first presidential spouse to win the White House. Polls show her leading a crowded field of Democratic candidates that includes Illinois Sen. Barack Obama to become the first black president.

A new Washington Post-ABC News poll shows Clinton is the favorite of 41 percent of Democrats, more than double the support of any of her rivals.

Despite abundant strengths, Clinton remains a polarizing figure to many voters and faces questions about her ability to win a general election. Her position on the Iraq war — she voted to autho-

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## Breaking Barriers in the Trades

### Apprenticeship opened doors

BY LEE PERLMAN

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Six years ago, as Marcy Wickman was glancing through the Portland Observer, she noticed an announcement that applications were being accepted for women apprentices in the building trades industry.

"It completely changed my life," Wickman told the Portland Development Commission at a recent meeting.

Until then she had worked for 13 years as office manager for a physician at Emanuel Hospital's pediatric neurology clinic. "He had paid me a very fair wage, but he was getting older and I knew he was considering retirement," she recalls. "Being a single mother, that made me nervous." She decided to follow up on the opportunity.

Wickman originally thought that she would try for a position with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers but, on the advice of her father, a welder, she instead became a steamfitter, concerned with the installation of non-plumbing piping. She lucked out, joining an apprenticeship program that is open only once every two years.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW GINN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

In her work as a steamfitter, Marcy Wickman uses machines like this Georg Fischer Fusion Machine to connect lengths of plastic tubing used in industrial locations like Intel's Ronler Acres and Aloha sites.

It wasn't always easy. "The sheer lack of women is a barrier," she says, although she adds that she was "very well accepted and treated" by the male workers she encountered. "There was the cul-

ture shock of going from an office with just a handful of people to a job site with 2,000 workers. I went from being an office manager, with a job I knew like the back of my hand, to a job where at first I knew

nothing. I had spent so many years behind a desk where my only exercise was walking to my car at the end of the day. I was working overtime, going to school at night, and still trying to be a

good mom. There were days when I didn't think I could make it."

Somehow she managed, and she is happy with her new life. Having received her journeyman's papers in 2005, she now makes more than \$34 an hour in take home pay. "I'm a morning person," Wickman says. "We start early, and for me that's great. We end by 3 p.m., and I feel as if I have a whole day to myself." She finds it a relief not to have as much public contact as her previous job demanded. "I take pride in my work, and I like the challenge of doing something new, something you didn't think you could do." She is constantly moving from one job site to another, but finds she likes the "variety and change. I loved the six people I worked with for years and years, but I really love the brothers and sisters I've met on the job; they're like an extended family." She was fortunate enough to have gotten steady work that allowed her to complete her apprenticeship quickly.

She was one of the older apprentices in her class, but not the oldest. "We had one woman over 40," Wickman says. "If you're physically able to do the work, age isn't a barrier, and it doesn't require great strength."

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