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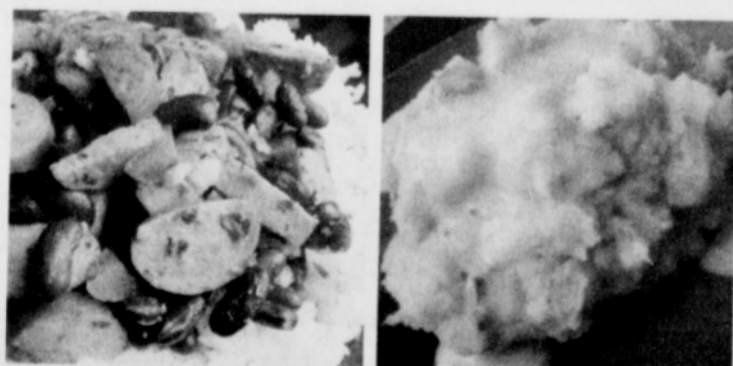
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What's on your list today?

LOCAL NEWS

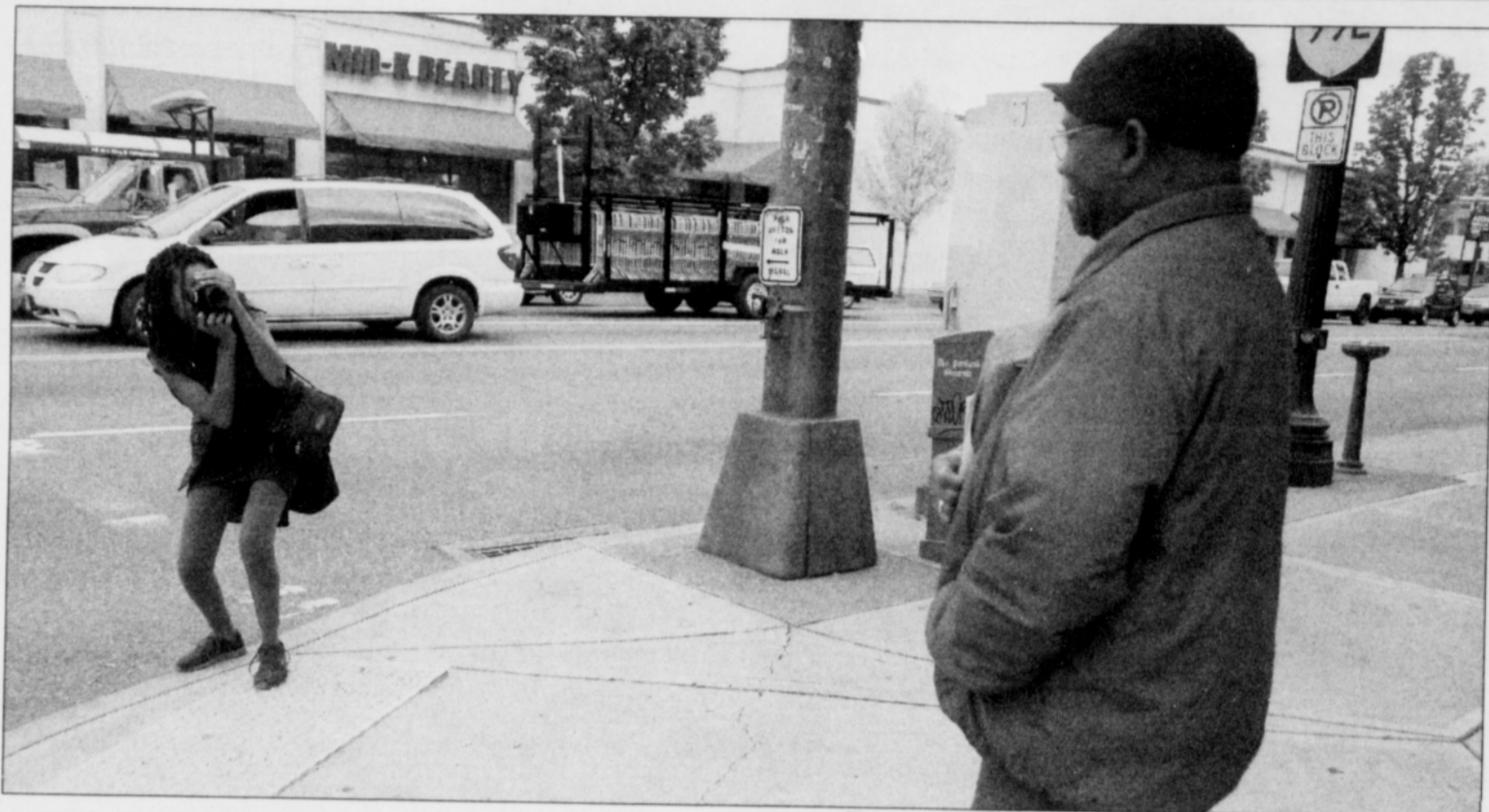


PHOTO BY DONOVAN M. SMITH/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Inistar Abioti uses her camera to document black life in Portland. She credits a passion for "art and exploration, and the love of African Diaspora cultures and photography for creating her own website, the blackportlanders.com.

Black Portlanders

Camera shoots document life in the city

BY DONOVAN M. SMITH
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Memphis native Inistar Abioti was not surprised Portland falls much behind her hometown when it comes to cultural diversity. After all Memphis is the birthplace of Blues music and is 62 percent black, while and the City of Roses doesn't even edge up on 7 percent.

When the 27-year-old multi-disciplinary artist made the decision to

come here, Abioti says she barely had any real context to Portland's racial history. Initially it was the food, the healing arts, lush greenery, and independent businesses that intrigued her. However in time, she became aware of other things surrounding her.

Abioti started an Internet blog to document black life in Portland. Called The Black Portlanders, the project keeps a camera tied to her hip, and when intrigued by a person, male, female, tall, short, dread-head, or bald, she approaches. She tells the person (or people), of her blog, she asks if she can shoot their picture; most oblige.

"What led me into it basically is what led me into everything else -- art and exploration and the love of black culture, a love of African Diaspora cultures, and photography," she says. "The imagery, poetry in life, poetry of the visual, finding powerful stories about life. Those are all things [I've explored], maybe since I was a teenager.

"I love our image, we're beautiful, we're so diverse, you could put us all together and we'll all look different, we'll all have different experiences, and come from different places. I just love people. Whether they're black or white, there's just so much beauty in people. I love that," she says.

Her work documenting the lives of

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Marine Charged with Murder

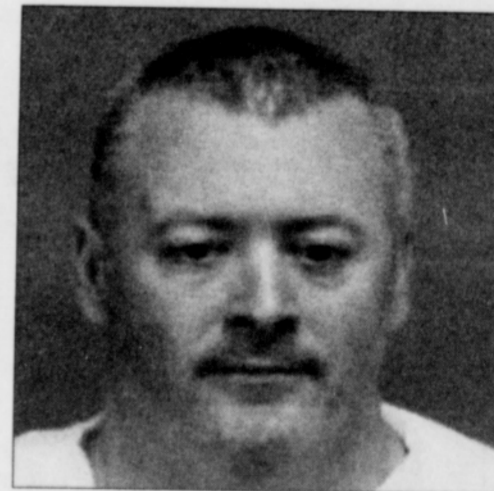
Victim's family looks for justice in Hawaii

A Marine has been charged with murder and other charges, including patronizing a prostitute, in the death of a Portland woman who was on vacation in Hawaii, the Marine Corps said Monday.

An Article 32 hearing, the military's equivalent of a preliminary hearing in civilian court, will be held at Marines Corps Base Hawaii on Wednesday to determine whether Master Sgt. Nathaniel



Ivanice 'Ivy' Harris



Nathaniel Cosby

Cosby should face a court-martial.

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service took over from Honolulu police the investigation into the death of Ivanice "Ivy" Harris, who

was vacationing with her boyfriend and friend to celebrate her 29th birthday. She was last seen outside a

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