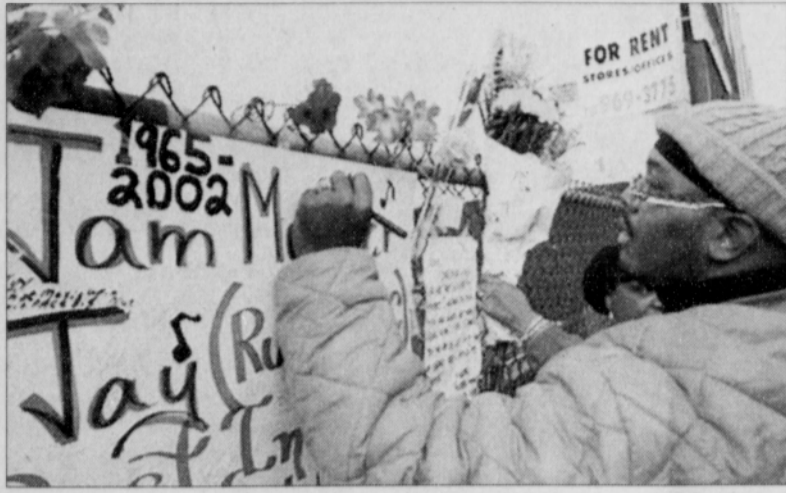


# Thousands Mourn Jam Master Jay



Jam Master Jay (AP photo)



Fans erect a makeshift memorial for slain rapper 'Jam Master Jay' in his Queens, N.Y., neighborhood. The killer of Jason Mizell is still at large. (AP photo)

Jam Master Jay was not a gangster. Jam Master Jay was a unique individual. ... He was the embodiment of hip-hop

—Darryl "DMC" McDaniels

(AP) — Run-DMC star Jam Master Jay, his killer still at large six days after he was shot in his recording studio, was mourned at his funeral in New York on Tuesday as "the embodiment of hip-hop."

A fleet of white stretch limousines was parked outside the Allen A.M.E. Cathedral in Queens, the borough where the rapper, whose real name was Jason Mizell, first

met up with his bandmates, Joseph "Run" Simmons and Darryl "DMC" McDaniels.

"Jam Master Jay was not a thug," McDaniels told the overflow crowd inside the church. "Jam Master Jay was not a gangster. Jam Master Jay was a unique individual. ... He was the embodiment of hip-hop."

McDaniels did a rap from the band's song "Jam Master Jay," with

the whole audience joining in at the end to shout out the slain DJ's name. As McDaniels stood at the altar, he was surrounded by more than a dozen funeral wreaths - including one in the shape of twin turntables.

As the group's DJ, Jam Master Jay had worked the turntables as Simmons and McDaniels rapped a string of hits over nearly 20 years.

Along with the two bandmates,

those attending the service included Simmons' brother, hip-hop entrepreneur Russell Simmons, and performers LL Cool J, Chuck D and Queen Latifah.

Outside the church, dozens of fans and police officers mingled on the streets. Several of the fans sported the classic white Adidas sneakers that the band turned into a fashion statement.

# Failing Schools Promised Tutors

Option is for low income students

(AP) — Portland schools will offer tutors to 2,500 low-income students at poor-performing schools, hoping the extra attention will spur learning.

Low-income parents will be able to pick a tutoring option, ranging from a highly scripted commercial program to a district-run summer school. The school district will use federal money to pay for it, roughly \$1,000 a student.

Only students who qualify for free or reduced-priced lunches and who attend Roosevelt, Marshall and Jefferson high schools or Whitaker Middle School will get vouchers to pay a district-approved tutor. A family of four can earn as much as \$33,485 a year and qualify.

"It sounds wonderful, like it's been a long time coming," said Regina Jones, mother of two Marshall students. "The only thing that makes it not as good as it could be is if it's solely based on income. Your market should be all stu-

dents who need help."

The idea to offer parents a choice of tutoring stems from the federal No Child Left Behind law. It requires schools that have failed to deliver for three straight years to give low-income students the option of outside help.

Under the new rules, Portland would have to offer tutoring only to Roosevelt students this year.

Instead, Portland officials persuaded the federal government to let them offer tutoring at all four schools that are on the federal failing schools list or headed that way. They were unable to persuade federal officials to include students whose families earn more than the income cutoff, said Kathryn Anderson, who heads Portland's initiative.

The district plans to spend about \$2.4 million from its pot of federal funds for this year on tutoring. It plans to have tutoring sessions start Jan. 6, the first day of school in 2003.

# African American Chamber Hosts Networking Event



Helen Manafi and Carolyn Brown exchange ideas and information during the conference.

continued from Front not all will meet final approval.

"We are like the Marines," he said. "We are only looking for a few good men and women."

Williams added that all new members must be willing to bring something to the table that will either be of economic or educational benefit. Or they must be willing to go the extra mile to improve personal or business finances with the resources a chamber membership can offer.

The African American Chamber was formed in 1996 with only four founding members. According to the Business Journals annual report it is now ranked as one of the top five Chambers of Commerce in Oregon.

Jay maintains that the chamber is not a social service agency, but said that the group involves itself

in many social issues. The chamber provides funding and participation for several longstanding projects to better senior transportation and housing.

With the cooperation of Bullivant, Houser and Bailey, the chamber will also start accepting applications for business scholarships. Next year these scholarships will be awarded to deserving individuals who plan to pursue a degree in business or law.

The reception the chamber announced a new program that allows chamber members to buy a home with no money down and a payment of about \$2,000 to \$3,000 in closing costs.

Although this offer is made exclusively for chamber members, the chamber does offer resources for home financing and refinancing to the general public.

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