

Focus



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Slain Rapper's Mom Carries On

Promotes new charity in Jam Master Jay's memory

(AP)—Unlike millions of people around the world, Jam Master Jay's mother was never a big fan of his music.

"It's just not my thing," Connie Mizell-Perry says in a brief respite from a more somber subject: the unresolved killing of her son.

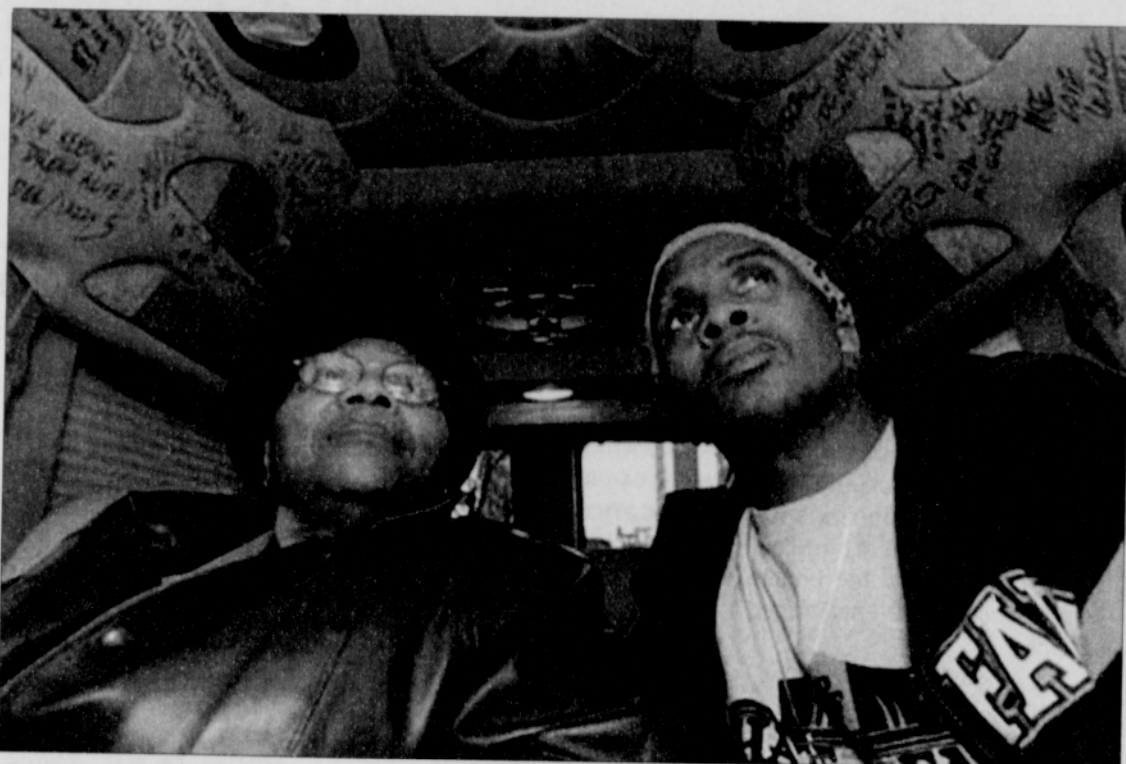
More than 16 months have passed since an unidentified gunman entered a Queens recording studio in New York City and put a bullet in the head of the peace-promoting hip hop legend, a founding member of Run-DMC whose real name was Jason Mizell.

"I've admitted to myself he's gone," Mizell-Perry said. "I don't dwell on how he left."

She dwelled mostly on fond memories of her youngest child's rise to fame as she promoted a new charity named in his honor. The Jam Master Jay Foundation for Youth, which she runs with another son, Marvin Thompson, hopes to raise \$2 million for college scholarships.

During the 1980s, Mizell made rap music history by working the turntables as Joe "Run" Simmons and Darryl "DMC" McDaniels rapped on hits like "King of Rock," "It's Tricky" and a Top 40 remake of Aerosmith's "Walk This Way."

The threesome developed their



Connie Mizell-Perry, mother of the late Jason Mizell, the hip hop legend known as Jam Master Jay, and another son, Marvin Thompson, sit inside a van called "The Jay-Whip" in New York. (AP Photo)

sound as teens in the basement of Mizell-Perry's Queens home. She was busy working as a teaching assistant and singing in church choirs. The other kids on the block had to break the news to her that her son was famous.

"Don't you know he's Jam Master Jay?" the mother recalled then asking. "I didn't know anything about that. He was Jason to me."

In Run-DMC's heyday, Mizell demonstrated his success to his mother by taking her on the road. There were sold-out concerts at Madison Square Garden and other arenas. And limos. And body-

guards.

"He'd introduce me as 'My First Lady,'" she said.

Mizell-Perry eventually moved back to her native North Carolina. Her son stayed put in Queens.

The end came on Oct. 30, 2002 at the 24/7 recording studio, where in recent years, Mizell, 37, had helped produce and promote lesser-known rap artists. That night, according to one witness, a man wearing a black sweatshirt appeared and - after embracing Mizell - pulled out a .40-caliber pistol and opened fire.

A first round missed Mizell, instead injuring a performer who was working in the studio. A second

bullet, this time fired from point-blank range, entered the left side of Mizell's head. The shooter vanished.

Speculation followed that Mizell, who was drowning in debt, may have been killed on orders from someone he owed money. Some authorities also have suggested Mizell was caught in the crossfire of a rivalry between rap figures who associate with known criminals.

A police spokesman, Deputy Chief Michael Collins, said Tuesday that the Mizell investigation "is still very active." Privately, investigators have complained that they're stymied by uncooperative witnesses.

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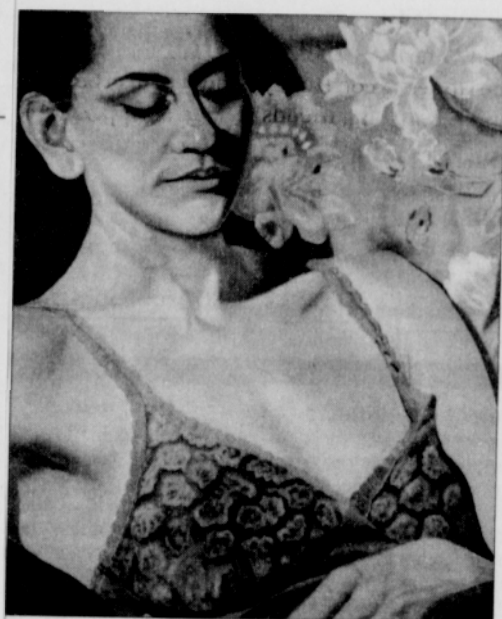
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"Amy Resting" by Jay Giliberty can be seen at the Buckley Center Gallery through April 8.

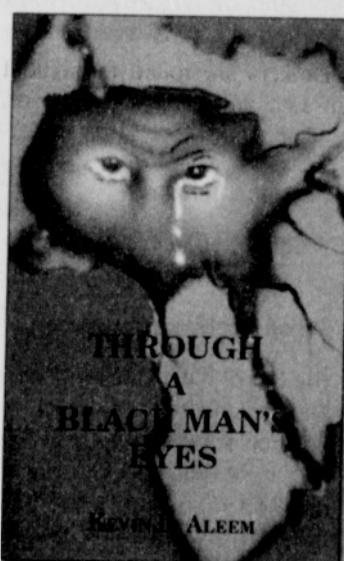
Black Man's Eyes

Keven L. Aleem's "Through A Black Man's Eyes" takes you on a spiritual, passionate and emotional road to self-discovery and self-awakening, that will leave you pondering how you view the world.

The African American author touches on how black men think, love, react, and respond to the various experiences of contemporary life - all while remembering the rhythms of the ancestors and speaking to the poetry of the soul.

"Through A Black Man's Eyes" will have you looking deep into the pages when you start reading it and deeper into your heart when you've completed it.

A graduate of Temple University School of Social Administration, he was born in Philadelphia and forged into a man by the flaming, "God-fearing" heart of his mother.



HOPE AND MEMORY ON DISPLAY

Jay Giliberty's exhibit of oil paintings, "The Three of Us, Between Memory and Hope," are on display from March 15 through April 8 at the University of Portland's Buckley Center Gallery at 5000 N. Willamette Blvd. The title refers to

results combining the artist, the canvas and the subject.

The gallery is free and open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 503-943-7792.

Author has Keys to Paintball Success



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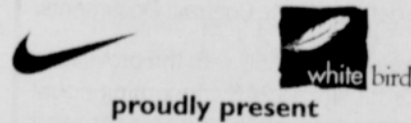
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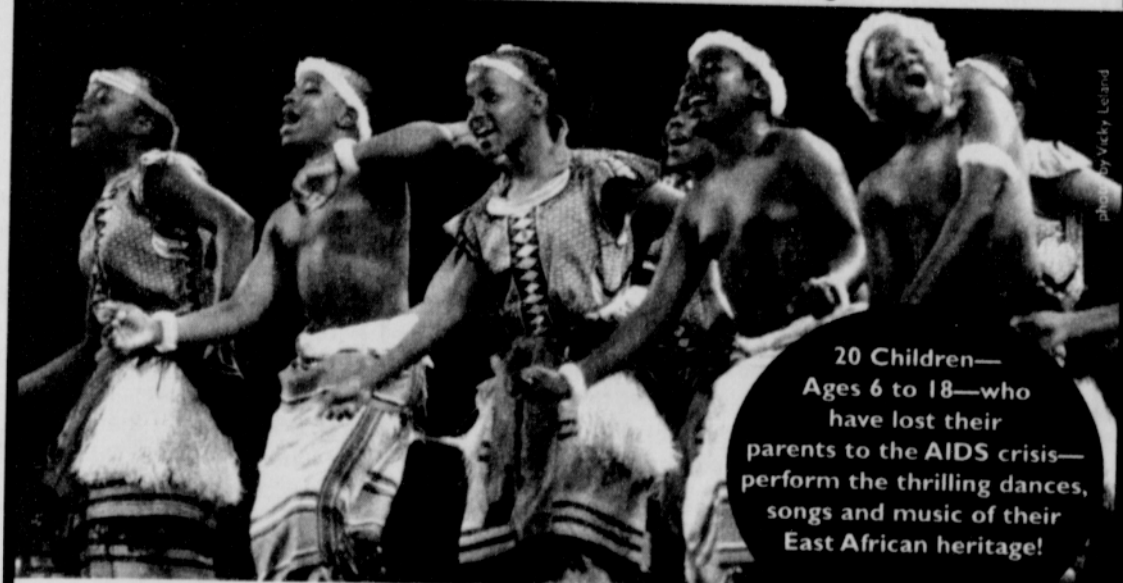
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