

# Socially Conscious Hip Hop Jam Session



Mic Crenshaw



Tony Hill

## Interstate Firehouse hosts cabarets

Portland is joining the ranks of Philadelphia, L.A., Chicago and New York by inviting DJ's MC's, dance crews, poets and flowologists out of the nightclubs and on to the stage for a series of hip-hop cabarets.

Mic Crenshaw will host the

monthly series at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, 5340 N. Interstate Ave. Each installment will be geared toward a socially conscious hip hop experience for the entire family, celebrating hip-hop culture through an ongoing collaboration with Northwest artists.

The next show will take place on Sunday, March 8 at 7 p.m. under the theme, "The 'b' word," exploring, exposing

and dispelling the myth of misogyny in hip-hop culture.

An all-star group of artists will speak about the influence women have had on their craft as they perform inspired, exhilarating work. The performers include Tony Hill, DJ Sugarman, DJ Computerfam, Bisquits and Gravy (dance crew), Othello, Syndell, and Unseen Dance/JoonRA.

Tickets at \$12 for general admission and \$10 for students and seniors will be available at 6 p.m. on the

night of the show, with doors opening at 6:30 p.m. Next month's event is scheduled for Sunday, April 12, also at 7 p.m.

Eddie's Flat Iron Pizza, 1218 N. Killingsworth St., will partner with the IFCC to host the hip hop series. The restaurant has been part of the community since 2005.

"We have a very strong repeat and regular customer base and we are looking to give back to our community," said owner Ed Wizawaty.

## Vancouver First Families Celebrate

First Families of Vancouver's African-American Community, a local history project sponsored by NAACP Vancouver Branch will celebrate Black history and culture in song, dance, and the spoken word on Sunday, March 8 at Washington State University Vancouver.

The free program, at 3:30 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of the Ad-

ministration Building, is entitled "Connecting to Our Heritage." Everyone is invited and all ages are welcome.

The program was originally planned for Black History Month in February, but a full schedule of First Families public events pushed it into March.

Cornetta Smith developed First Families with writer Jane

Elder Wulff to tell the story of the African Americans who came to Vancouver to work in the shipyards during World War II, and stayed to build a community here.

In January 2007, the NAACP agreed to sponsor the project, with the goal of building awareness of this important part of Vancouver's history.



PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

## Pedaling and Planting

Friends of Trees volunteers dismount bikes and grab shovels to plant trees in northeast Portland. The 'Green teams' pulled 20 big trees and shovels on bikes to the yards where they were planted. In all, 154 trees were planted Saturday in the Woodlawn, Vernon and Concordia neighborhoods.



## Jefferson Picks First

Jefferson High School senior Kia-Lynette Carter was named to the Rose Festival Court Monday, the first princess from the traditional Portland schools that make up the court in addition to a new metro princess that will be named for the first time this year.

Carter is the varsity cheerleading captain at Jefferson and is a community service coordinator for the National Honor Society.

She plans to attend Spelman College and pursue a career in journalism.

Kia-Lynette Carter of Jefferson High School was named the first Rose Festival princess of 2009 during ceremonies Monday.

## Retired Soldier Honored



The chief of Staff for the Oregon Army National Guard presents the Oregon Exceptional Service Medal and a copy of the Creed of the Non-commissioned Officer to retired Master Sgt. Earl Henry Winchester, the first African-American member of the Oregon National Guard.

The Oregon National Guard Diversity Council held a commemorative ceremony observing African American Heritage Month Thursday at the Oregon Military Department in Salem.

Ronnie Brooks, NAACP Executive Board Member of the Salem Chapter, was the keynote

speaker. Brooks is also the Aspire Coordinator at McKay High School in Salem and head pastor of To God Be the Glory Church, also in Salem.

Retired Master Sgt. Earl Henry Winchester, the first African-American member of the Oregon National Guard was honored at the ceremony,

joined by his wife, Virginia, sister Norma Kennedy and son Peter Winchester.

Brooks highlighted Winchester's accomplishments.

"If it were not for him, I would not be your keynote speaker today—I stand on that man's shoulders," Brooks said.

## Oregon Jobless Numbers Grow

### State hurt more than most

(AP) — A dismal report on rising unemployment in Oregon shows the jobless rate up to 9.9 percent as the state's economy sinks faster than most others in the nation.

The January employment numbers for Oregon showed the state lost 14,600 jobs as the unemployment rate jumped nearly a percentage point from December, when Oregon ranked the sixth worst in the country.

"Oregon has been hit harder than the nation over the last year," said Art Ayre, state labor

economist.

The figures released Thursday showed declines across six of the eight largest industry sectors in Oregon, led by the loss of 4,500 jobs in trade, transportation and utilities, about 4,400 jobs in manufacturing and 2,100 in construction.

Overall, nearly 215,000 Oregonians were unemployed in January, by far the largest number since World War II.

From December 2007 to December 2008, Oregon's unemployment rate rose 3 percent-

age points, the fastest 12-month rise since 1980.

Gov. Ted Kulongoski offered reassurances that state officials were doing everything they can to put people back to work.

"Today's news isn't just a number. It represents our family members and neighbors deeply affected by this recession," Kulongoski said.

The governor said the state is on schedule to break ground on \$175 million worth of deferred maintenance for public buildings, universities and community colleges to repair the infrastructure and provide jobs.

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