

'Yung Mil' Follows Dreams to New York

continued ▲ from front

Parkrose teen performs winning video; meets Def Jam legends

BY CARI HACHMANN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Meeting music moguls Russell Simmons and Kevin Liles in Russell's New York City office was "inspiring to say the least" said 17-year-old Parkrose High School graduate Ezekial Jones, also known by his rap name "Yung Mil."

Jones recently won a national video contest among high school students called the "Get Schooled Video Contest" — where students produced and submitted videos about the importance of education.

A panel comprised of executives from Def Jam Enterprises, BET Networks and the Get Schooled Foundation selected Jones' winning video, Leaders of the New School.

On June 28, Jones traveled to New York City for his prize; to meet Russell Simmons and Kevin Liles and perform his winning music video on BET's hit music countdown show, "106 & Park."

The morning after he arrived, Jones met with Def Jam executives and who he says gave him motivating words of advice and guidelines for his future. The next day, Jones performed Leaders of the New School (with a new chorus) on

"106th and Park where his rap and dance rhythms incited positive reactions from the audience.

"I had a lot of fun doing it," said Jones, "It was a little nerve-racking though, seeing as it was my first live TV experience." However, the rapper says it's definitely something he could get used to.

Shocked and intrigued by the bright lights and numerous, towering buildings of New York City, Jones says that he is still excited to return his smaller hometown of Portland.

Graduating just a few weeks before his trip, Jones says life without high school is a little bit different, but he is gradually adapting to it and excited to be moving forward with music.

With an open book future, Jones won't be spending his summer days forgetting all that he's learned in school. He plans to keep putting words on paper and release a new album, a music video, and a documentary detailing his trip to the big apple.

This month, Jones will tour the country with Up and Over, a crowd of other artists and intellectual aspirants, who will travel from school to school, talking to kids about stay-

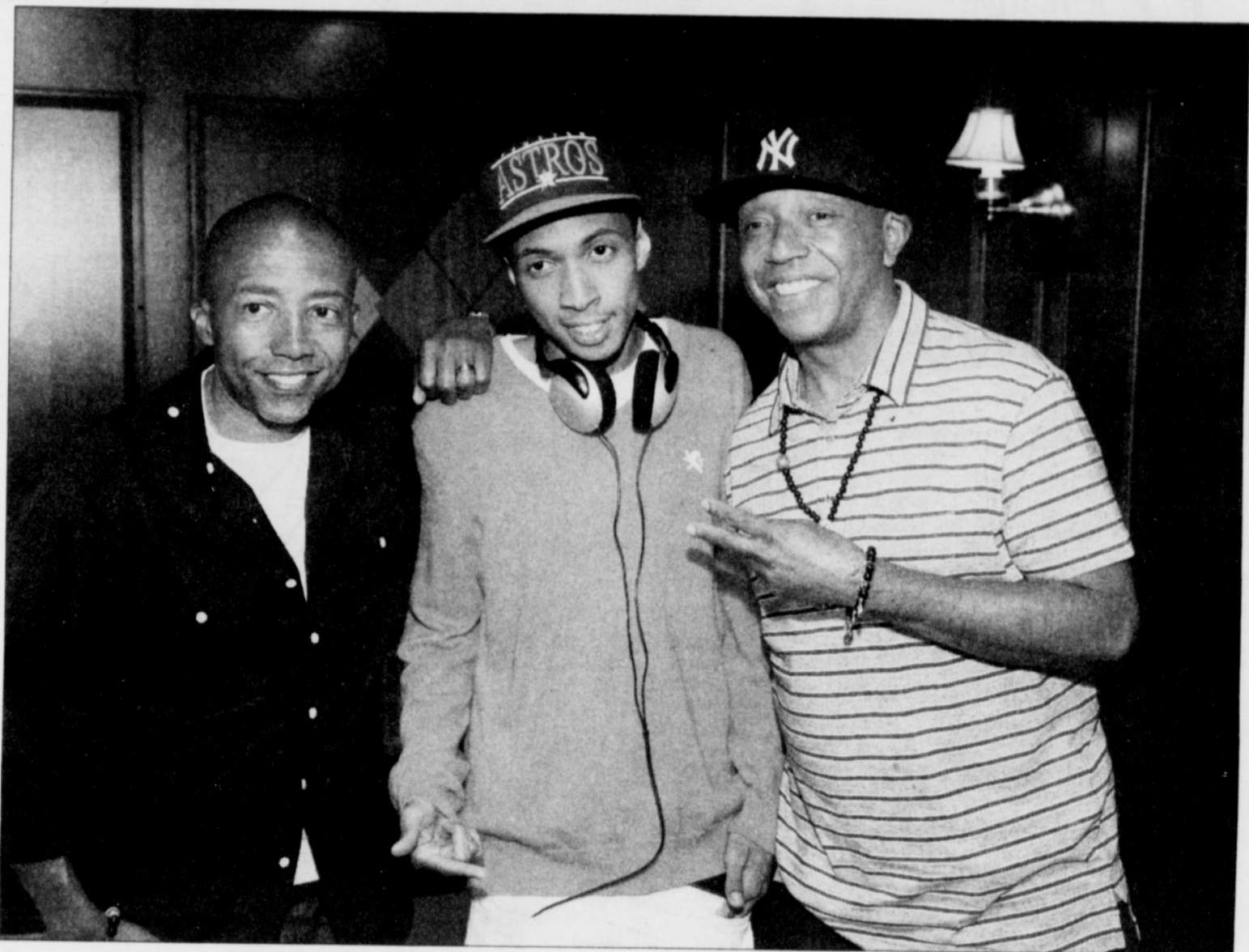


PHOTO BY ERIK FREELAND

A Get School video contest gets Parkrose High School graduate Ezekial Jones (center), also known by his rap name 'Yung Mil,' a winning trip to New York where he met music moguls Kevin Liles (left) and Russell Simmons in Russell's office.

ing in school, overcoming obstacles and staying positive.

"For the time being, I will continue to chase my dreams of music, even when I begin college in the fall," said Jones.

Yung Mil's winning music video

was viewed more than 900 times and includes memorable lyrics including "it looked like a long road at first but now I think its walking distance, visualize success first then put it in your composition."

"Leaders of the New School

means that the youth of today has the power to mold the future and set the standard," said the young rapper, who credits his parents, school faculty and local rappers Cool Nutz and Diezel P for encouraging him to do well in school and graduate.

Murder Charge Dropped

continued ▲ from page 3

ing an electronic wand to search people and their bags before they enter the establishment. Anyone leaving after 10:30 p.m. will not be allowed re-entry until the next business day. Employees also must use age verification equipment to verify the age of every person entering the bar, and deny entry to anyone wearing gang-related clothing.

Seeznin's was also ordered to stop all alcohol sales at 11 p.m. and

close for business at 11:30 p.m. If the bar fails to follow the new restrictions, OLCC said they will face the cancelation of their license.

The investigation for Irving's murder is ongoing, and anyone with further information is asked to contact Detective Erik Kammerer at 503-823-0762 or email erik.kammerer@portlandoregon.gov. Crime Stoppers is also offering a reward of \$1,000 for information reported that leads to a new arrest on the case.

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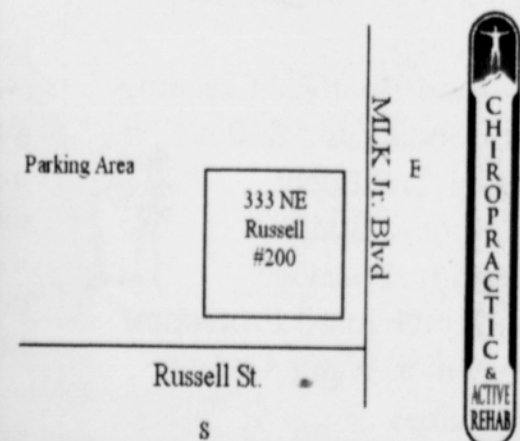
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