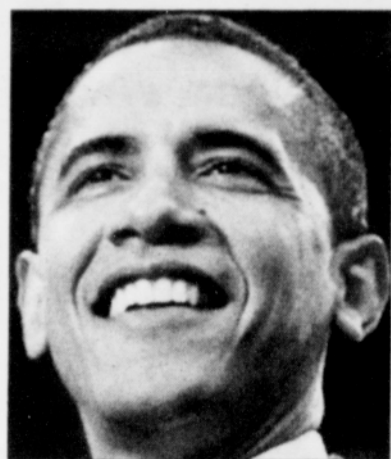


**Obama Roots Traced**

The United States' first African-American president is likely a descendent of the first documented enslaved African in America in Colonial America in the 1600s, researchers at Ancestry.com said Tuesday. Although President Obama's father was from Kenya, his ties to slavery stem instead from his white mother, Stanley Ann Dunham.



**Hunger Strike Ends**

Activist and former mayoral candidate Cameron Whitten ended a nearly two month liquid diet hunger strike Thursday with an agreement by city leaders to re-

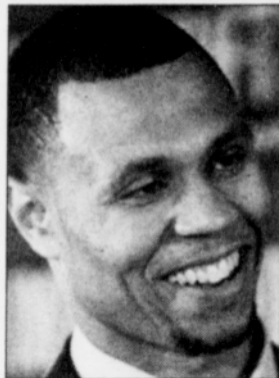


The Week in Review

new efforts to find local housing solutions from those suffering from homelessness. A summit on the issue will be held this fall led by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

**Roy Starts Comeback**

Former Portland Trail Blazers guard Brandon Roy was introduced Tuesday as a member of the Minnesota Timberwolves. Roy retired in December due to a lack of cartilage in his knees. But he has since announced his condition was improving and he expects to make a comeback.



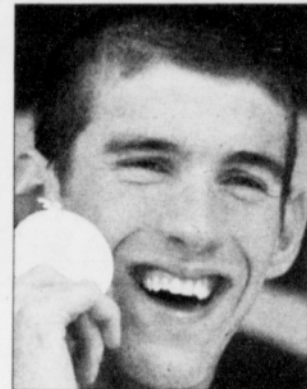
**Police Shoot Suspect**

Family members of a man shot and killed by police Saturday

in north Portland said they're outraged over how officers dealt with the suspect and his relatives. Police said Billy Simms, 28, was shot while attempting to elude officers who were chasing him for allegedly firing a gun.

**Hoyt Trail Attack Foiled**

Police made an arrest in a Sunday attack on a woman who was walking on a trail in Portland's Hoyt Arboretum. The woman screamed loudly and the man released her and fled. Kenneth Couch, 24 is also wanted for a rape in Gresham.



**Medals Record Broken**

Michael Phelps broke the Olympic medals record Tuesday with his 19th as the U. S. romped to a dominating win in 4x200-meter freestyle relay at the London Games. Phelps moved one medal ahead of Soviet gymnast Larisa Latynina, who got her haul in 1956, 1960 and 1964.

diversity  
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**The Portland Observer**

**HOUSING** 40  
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City of Roses

Committed to Cultural Diversity

Young,  
& Black  
& Gifted  
Recognizing kids  
on right track

BY JAKE THOMAS  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland's African-American youth are often caught up in a net of negative public perceptions brought by news of gang violence, the sobering achievement gap and school drop out rates.

But there's plenty of young black kids in Portland who are on the right path, making good grades, headed to college, and are making positive contributions to the city. A new photographic tribute recognizes the hard work of some of these students and shows that there is still reason to be optimistic.

"Young, Black & Gifted," a photo essay putting the spotlight on the accomplishments of high-achieving African-American students, opens to the public on Monday, April 5 at Portland School District headquarters at 501 N. Dixon St. and will later be moved to the Lloyd Center Mall.

The project is the brain child of Reiko Williams, the district's family and community engagement manager, who said she got the idea after having a conversation with someone who seemed shocked when she mentioned an African-American student that was excelling. After the conversation she worried that all the attention on the problems of young black students was drowning out the hard work of others.

"You hear so much about deficits and achievement gaps," she said.

Williams said the exhibit came together with a call for nominations of black students doing well district wide, and the recruitment of a photographer and web developer.

Skylar Holt, a freshman at Jefferson High School is one of the 13 students featured in the exhibit.

Holt gets A's and B's in school. She does especially well in English classes, taught by Anne Novinger, one of her favorite teachers, and chemistry is getting steadily easier. Holt plans to go to college and is thinking about law school down the road.

"I'm enjoying it a lot," she said of her high school. "I like

continued on page 19

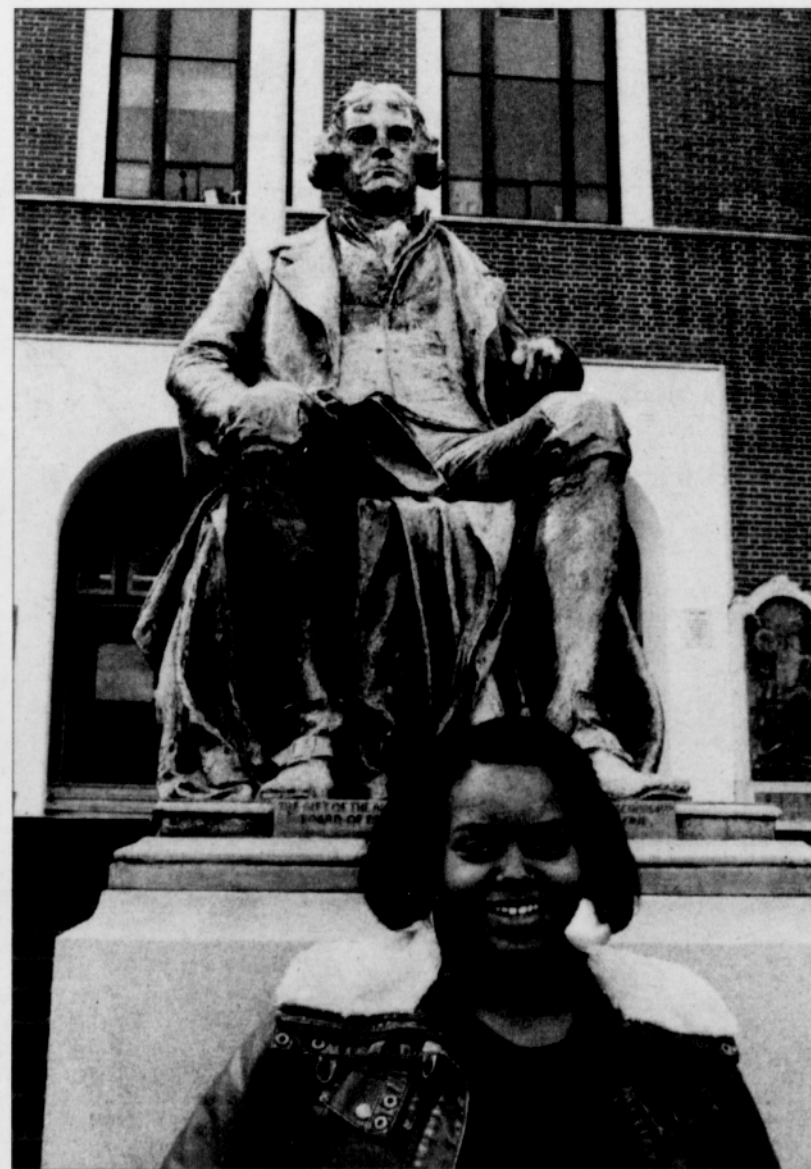


PHOTO BY JAKE THOMAS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER  
Skylar Holt excels as freshman at Jefferson High School in north Portland. Her contribution as one of the city's "Young, Black & Gifted" students is part of a new exhibit coming to school district headquarters and Lloyd Center Mall.