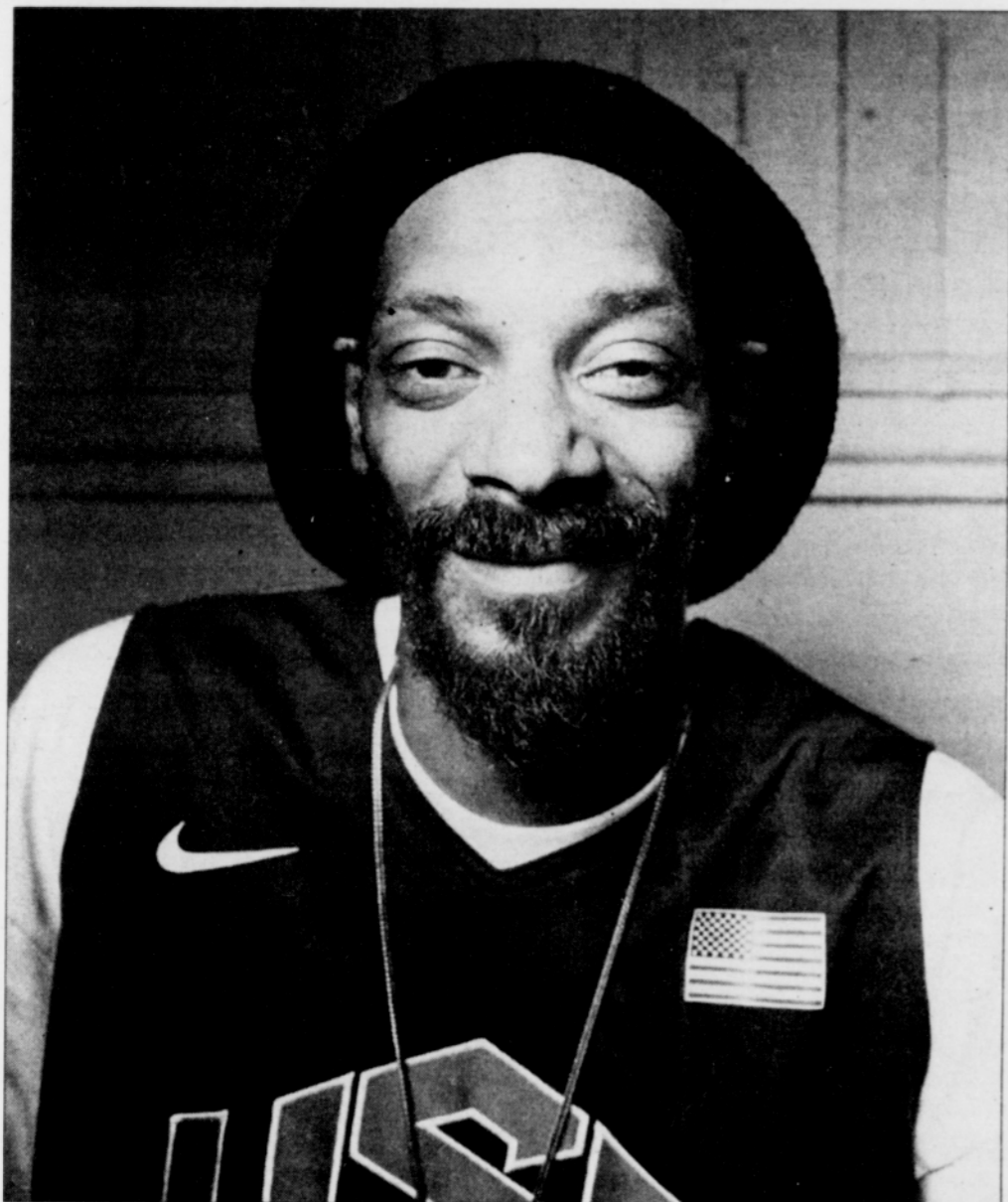


Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



Snoop Dogg is reinventing himself as Snoop Lion.

New Name, Changing Tune

(AP)—Snoop Dogg says he was "born again" during a visit to Jamaica in January, is changing his name to Snoop Lion and is ready to make music that his "kids and grandparents can listen to."

The album will be followed with a documentary of the same name. It features him making music and will include some personal elements of his life, a producer of the film said. It will debut at the Toronto International Film Festival in September.

The artist known for gangster rap is releasing a reggae album called "Reincarnated" in the fall.

The West Coast rapper held a news conference in New York last week. Later he played five songs for a small crowd, including one called "No Guns Allowed." It features his daughter.

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Established in 1970 www.portlandobserver.com Volume XXXX, Number 13
Wednesday • March 31, 2010

The Portland Observer

HOUSING Special Edition 40 years of community service
See inside, pages 4-5

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 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

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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.

diversity in Print

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