

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

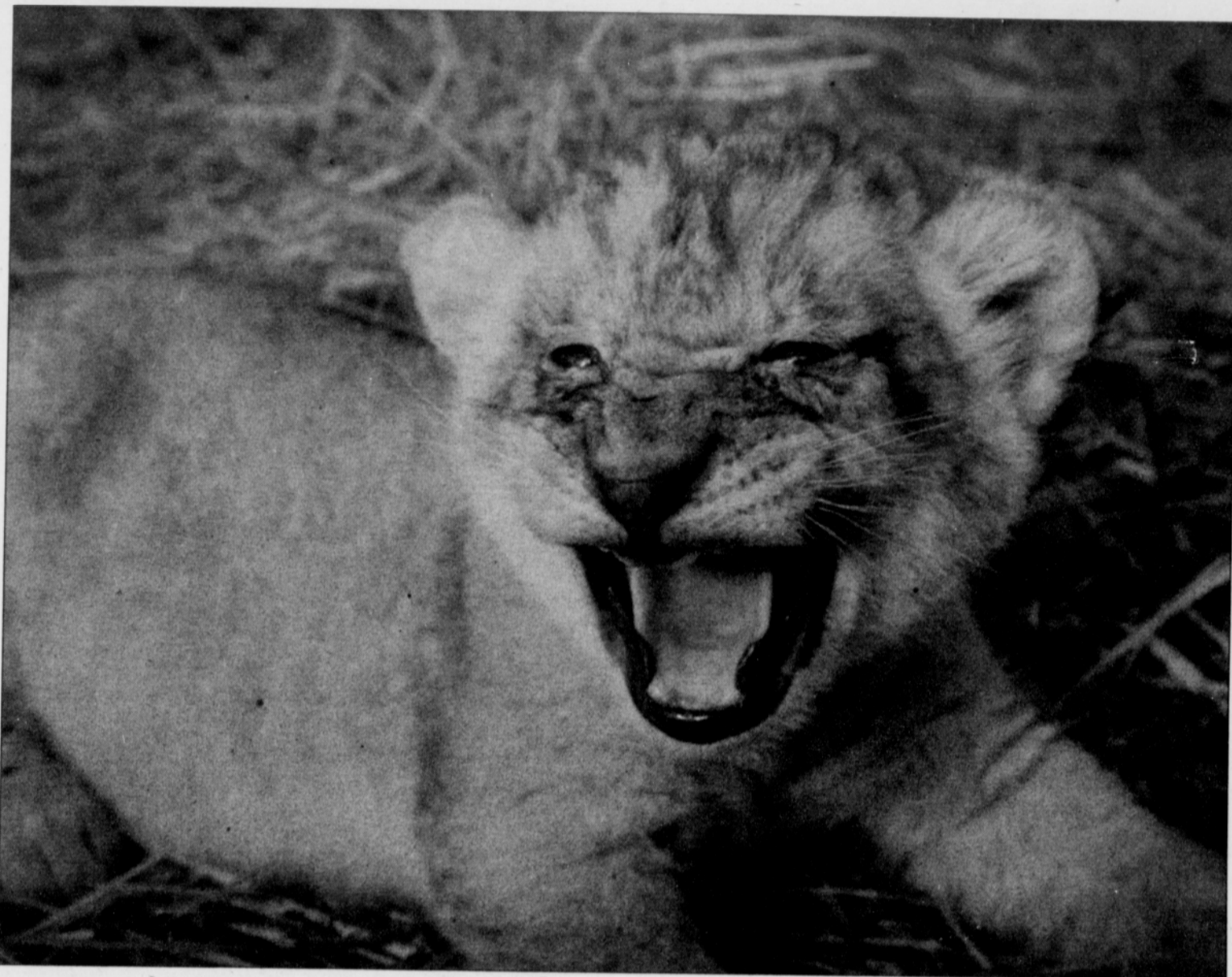


PHOTO BY MICHAEL DURHAM

Oregon Zoo lion keepers say Kay's 3-week-old cubs are fluffy, feisty and ready for names.

Fluffy, Feisty and Ready for Names

Kay's cubs are on the go. The 3-week-old African lions at the Oregon Zoo — two females and one male — are walking now. They have been venturing outside their den box recently, and keepers think it is time to give them names.

"Mom and the cubs continue to do well," said Laura Weiner, senior keeper for the zoo's Africa section. "The little ones are up to around 9 to 10 pounds each, and they have started walking around and exploring. They still look like little fluffballs, but they are feisty and energetic."

Keepers have selected two possible names for each cub and are asking the public to vote for their favorites on the zoo's website, oregonzoo.org.

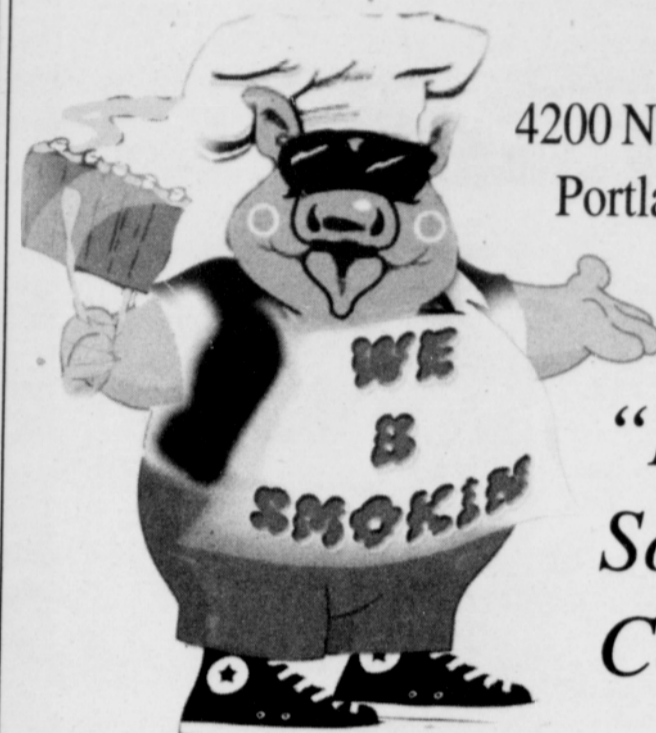
For the male cub — one name is derived from the Igbo people of Nigeria, a country where lions once were plentiful but now are nearly extinct. Gnosis is an Igbo-language name meaning "good fortune" or "blessing." The other name is Hisami, a Swahili name meaning "handsome."

For one of the female cubs, possible names mentioned are Macau, Swahili for "chubby-cheeked," and Sandra, Swahili for "young cat" or "small cat." For the other female, keepers have narrowed their choices to Kioni, a Swahili name meaning "the one who sees" and Niara, a Swahili name meaning "one with high purpose."

The zoo will announce the winning names on Friday, Oct. 10.

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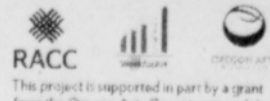
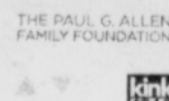
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Max Perini, Nathan Kessler, and Lisa Rios in *Dreamgirls*. Photograph by Eric J. Anderson

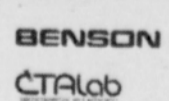
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