

PHOTO BY MIKE BIVINS/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland-grown hip-hop performer Mic Capes remembers when he started putting his thoughts to words with poetry in the Fifth grade. Today, he's leading a hip hop renaissance in St. Johns, where he can be found performing solo and with local hip-hop contemporaries Glenn Waco and Rasheed Jamal, collectively known as The Resistance.

# Hip Hop Renaissance

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"We found ways to get money man," Capes said,

Explaining the trials and tribulations of growing up poor, he gives me a couple of tales of childhood adventures that had me bursting at the seams with laughter.

First as Capes explained that if you put a can on a stick and insert it repeatedly into the return machine you could fool the machine and get a nickel refund; and second when he tells me about the times his friends (Capes never actually participated in the act), would run onto an idling bus, swipe the unpunched transfers, find out the punch code for the day, and help themselves to free bus rides.

Having scrounged for change to catch TriMet in my childhood, I could empathize.

Currently, things have changed dramatically for Capes. When the Benson Polytechnic alumni and former varsity football player is not testing the water with fresh verses on Twitter, he is taking classes at Portland Community College. He plans to eventually transfer to Portland State to get a bachelor degree in psychology or social studies.

When he is testing the water on Twitter, it is to his 800 followers, as well as his thousand-person Instagram following. These are modest numbers as far as social media are concerned considering

some have millions of followers. But for a person who has come as far without stopping as Capes has, you can only expect those numbers to increase with every verse, track and album he creates.

Capes also works in the community as an after-school activities coordinator. He's helped kids at Roosevelt High School write and record music; he's tutored kids at Fabian Elementary; and is currently at Riggler Elementary doing sports activities and tutoring four days a week. Last summer, he gave back at Peninsula Park in north Portland

doing day camps for local kids.

"It's rewarding," he says. "I like just being a positive person in their lives."

While Capes has personally sold around 200 copies of Rise & Grind, he has made it available for download free of charge at [datpiff.com](http://datpiff.com). You can also keep a look out for his sophomore album Concrete Dreams in the first quarter of 2015.

On Twitter? Follow Mike for interesting tweets regarding local sports, international affairs and other random timely topics @IlluminatorMike

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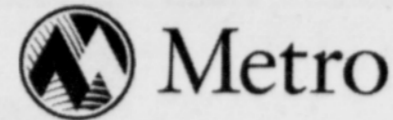
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RFP 2894

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Sealed proposals are due no later than 2:00 p.m. January 5, 2015, in Metro's business offices at 600 NE Grand Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-2736, Attention: Sharon Stiffler, Procurement Analyst, RFP 2894.

Solicitation documents can be viewed and downloaded from the Oregon Procurement Information Network (ORPIN) at <http://orpin.oregon.gov/open.dll/>

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