

SAY YOUR PEACE

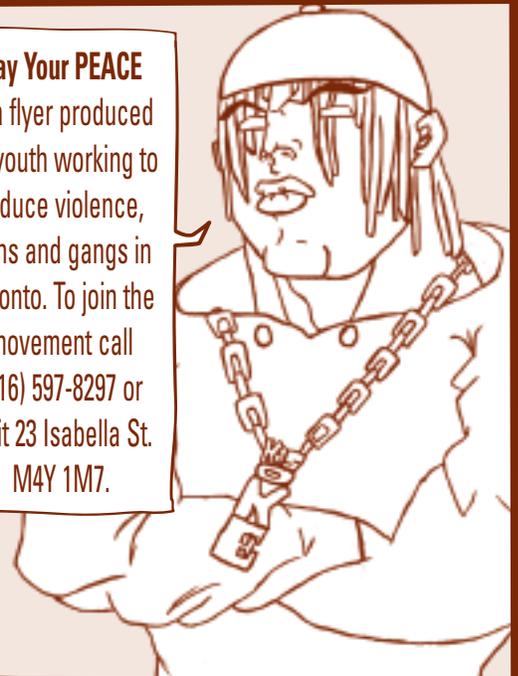


JUNE 2009

HIP HOP



Say Your PEACE is a flyer produced by youth working to reduce violence, guns and gangs in Toronto. To join the movement call (416) 597-8297 or visit 23 Isabella St. MAY 1M7.



The future of Hip Hop



30 years from now our kids won't even know the essence of Hip Hop. **2**

Views on Hip Hop



KRS ONE makes an impact with hopeful message. **3**

Real woman...

Has the real woman image been tainted? **4**



HIP HOP

OUR THOUGHT

LIFE, a coalition of youth organizations, brought Hip Hop icon KRS ONE to Toronto in June. Here are some reflections of the PEACE team on what KRS ONE said and Hip Hop – its roots and why young people today should learn its history and original purpose.



RAVEN

I recently went to see KRS ONE as part of the “Stop the Violence” campaign. He was a guest speaker on one of the panels. It was interesting to hear a Hip Hop icon speak about such an amazing culture.

Myself, being a female not actually interested in Hip Hop (I mean I’m a Rock lover; I listen to The Beatles, Ozzy Osbourne, Green Day), it was cool to hear the background from which Hip Hop came. From what I witnessed at the event, I got a different idea of where it came from. Like, I knew that it originated in R&B and Blues, but I got a better look at this massively growing sub-culture that practically the entire world is immersed in. Just like in all other music, Hip Hop is just another way people vent their problems and has nothing to do with singing about money or cars or about how many guys you shot. That negative image of Hip Hop is probably why I love Rock over Hip Hop. But, that’s just my opinion.

– Raven



STEVEN

Reflections on a Hip Hop discussion:

Hip Hop is a very touchy, and broad topic to have as a peaceful conversation. At a Thursday night P.E.A.C.E. meeting we decided to talk about our different views on Hip Hop. I have come to realize that this topic is similar to a discussion about one’s view on religion or God. Since everyone in the discussion was passionate about their views on Hip Hop, the discussion was a concrete learning experience to hear different sides and angles. Even those that weren’t really into Hip Hop had opinions, so I even got to see an angle from someone who is not even immersed in the culture, which is not a bad thing. It helps everyone see how Hip Hop actually influences both those that are involved and not involved in the culture and lifestyle that is Hip Hop. Even the previous statement I made, “culture and lifestyle that is Hip Hop”, can be challenged because Hip Hop in my view is not a material or physical thing, and it becomes an idea that manifests into any meaning people attach to it whether it is positive or negative. This realization during the discussion about Hip Hop can also be applied to life itself. In my opinion everything is an idea until you put a meaning that is your view and your angle which then makes it a imaginable, tangible thing. So if you are passionate about something, stick to that passion which drives your take on things because at the end of the day it is your idea.

– Steven

NUNO BIZ

Following a Hip Hop discussion held at a PEACE meeting:

I think the Hip Hop discussion was very controversial, but good. Many people had different opinions on what Hip Hop meant to them. After that discussion I don’t even know what Hip Hop means any more. Modern day media has infiltrated the culture so much it has taken a bite out of the essence and all we are left with is the watered down entity of what’s left on Much Music, MTV, BET, etc. Me, I personally think 30 years from now our kids won’t even know the essence of Hip Hop, and the arts of the pioneers of this trendsetting culture will be extinct.

– Anonymous

HOP

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JJ ONE

Hip Hop Resolution

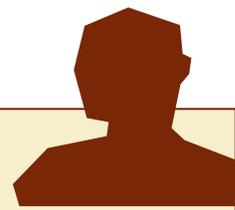
Hip Hop can be defined as an "intelligent movement." In its essence Hip Hop was a tool used by youth in the inner city to resolve conflict. A stark contradiction to the images of mainstream media in which young black men are depicted as thugs, drug dealers and many other negative stereotypes.

Since the jump, Hip Hop was about keeping the peace, saving lives, rescuing the self from the unforgiving streets of urban ghettos. By self-realizing that violence was not a solution to problems that its citizens faced, Hip Hoppas took the initiative to remove violence from its consciousness and replaced it with artistic expression: ie B-Boying (Break Dance), Graffiti Art, MCing (Rapping), DJing / Turn Tablism and Street Fashion.

This recognition was the start of the Stop the Violence movement. These intelligent movements were the heart of non-violent conflict resolution started over 30 years ago. Today these basic principles are lost in a generation disconnected from its history. In order to know where you are going you must overstand where you are coming from. For Hip Hop to achieve this it is imperative that the elders foster our youth, to ensure a peaceful future for Hip Hop. If we don't teach our youth our history, what will happen to our culture 100 years from??? Think about it...!

Remember our credo Peace, Love and safely having Fun!

- JJ Write One



JEN

I thought that the event was very educational, but I feel as though he was speaking out to the black individuals, but then at the same time KRS ONE has been around for many years, and has seen the change in Hip Hop and life in general. I liked when KRS ONE said: The less you know, the less you see; the more you know, the more you see. The more words you have in your vocabulary, the more you see physical nature. Those with a small vocabulary usually have small outlooks on life and a small vocabulary. When someone comes to you with hostility, that small vocabulary can only say "Hit em" which is one of the causes of violence.

I also believe that it's true when KRS ONE stated that many of us youth lack purpose. When you have a purpose, when you have somewhere to go, some place to be, violence doesn't affect you. In my opinion those two statements are true. First off, speaking of lack of knowledge, when someone speaks with vocabulary higher than ourselves we feel insulted, and we begin to put up this defensive mode and get violent just because many of us don't know any better. With that small vocabulary we don't see a huge future for ourselves because without that knowledge we are blind to the higher outlooks in life.

Speaking of lacking purpose, the majority of the youth like myself, don't know what our purpose in life is, so we just hang around, doing nothing productive with our time. That causes us to make bad choices because we don't have anything to occupy our time. Not only that, many of us youth, don't have someone in our lives that could show us as youth what is out there for us, and all that we could benefit from. Without that youth basically look for trouble.

Overall, there are many good things that KRS ONE spoke about that many of us could relate to, but overall we are Hip Hop. Life has changed from the day when Hip Hop encouraged "battling" on the streets through dance and MCing rather than using physical violence to deal with our situations. At the end of the day we have a choice to make what KRS ONE said and make change by educating ourselves, using our time more productively, getting more involved in the community, and if anything finding our overall purpose in life.

- Jennifer Bourque

REAL WOMAN or TV WOMAN?

Yes

NO

- **Nikki Minag**
- **MIA**
- **Queen Latifa**
- **Lil Kim**
- **Rah Diggah**
- **Remy M**
- **Da Brat**
- **Foxy Brown**
- **Salt & Peppa**
- **Lil Mama**
- **Tyanna Taylor**
- **Angie Martinez**
- **Missy Elliot**
- **MC Lite**
- **Olivia**

..... **SUN**

Yes

NO



Women are portrayed as unintelligent sexual objects in media and on TV too often. It's a cycle of oppression, it's passed on like inheritance. Because people see this image on TV they begin to think that's acceptable. Stop being a TV woman and start being a real woman. This won't change until we step up and say that it's not how we want to be treated. No one can disrespect you as long as you have the strength to stand up for yourself. People will treat you the way you allow them to treat you. We need to recognize and promote our accomplishments.

Peace Partners

CTI's Breaking The Cycle Youth Gang Exit and Ambassador Leadership Project

1790 Albion Rd., Suite 101 (27 & Albion), (416) 745-1829 or 4500 Sheppard Ave. E., Unit 476 (Sheppard & McCowan / Brimley), (416) 293-1287
www.cantraining.org/BTC/btc.php

Conflict Mediation Services of Downsview

Conflict resolution services for all types of relationships, especially parent / youth and family.
 95 Eddystone Avenue, 2nd floor (Jane & Finch), (416) 740-2522,
www.cmsd.org

East Metro Youth Services

The Violence Intervention Project

provides youth with realistic strategies and skills to prevent violence.

1200 Markham Road, Suite 200 (Ellesmere & Markham), (416) 438-3697, www.emys.on.ca

The Students Commission

Project PEACE is developed by youth to decrease gun and gang violence.
 23 Isabella St. (Yonge & Bloor), (416) 597-8297, www.tgmag.ca

Operation Springboard

Programs that prevent crime and integrate at-risk people into the wider community.
 2568 Lawrence Ave. E., (Lawrence & Midland), (416) 615-0788
www.operationspringboard.on.ca

Leave Out Violence (LOVE)

LOVE trains young people who have experienced violence to become community leaders of violence prevention.

3130 Bathurst St. Suite 212 (Bathurst & Lawrence W.) (416) 785-8411,
www.leaveoutviolence.com

Central Toronto Youth Services (CTYS)

Programming for youth who are involved in different stages of the youth justice system.
 65 Wellesley St. East, Suite 300 (Wellesley & Church) (416) 924-2100, www.ctys.org

Toronto District School Board

(416) 397-3000, www.tdsb.on.ca

Toronto Catholic District School Board

(416) 222-8282, www.tcdsb.org

Toronto Police Service's Community Mobilization Unit

(416) 808-7080
www.torontopolice.on.ca/communitymobilization



KEEP THE PEACE NOT THE HEAT

www.peace-project.org
 CALL: 416.597.8297