

This article -- **“STOP VIOLENT RAP AIR POLLUTION”** -- was written by Author **MELVIA F. MILLER** -- and it was published in a magazine titles **“Fund & Edutain Guide”** in the summer 2007 edition.... and in the book: Joining Hands

Keep it REAL with Non-Violent Rap and STOP Violent Rap Air Pollution!

by Melvia Miller

Air Pollution comes in many forms, including Violent Rap Music. By cleaning up the lyrics and expressing our pain, sorrows and joy in creative ways-- we also promote health, happiness, and wealth.

Rap, as we know it today, represents the ultimate creative 'free-flow' expression of attitude in popular culture. Nowhere, to this point, has the message been more important than the medium that sends it. To this end, rap music has emerged with a style more concerned with the content of its message than the constructs of its art form.



The March for Decency in Music

The Rev. Al Sharpton announced steps in his battle against 'poison lyrics' in RAP music, and will take his fight into various corporations' boardrooms. On May 3, 2007, the Reverend Al Sharpton led a march to three major record labels on demanding more 'decency' in hip-hop lyrics.

The march comes in the aftermath of comments made by terminated shock jock Don Imus, who claimed if his 'controversial remarks' were made by a rapper, it'd result in a hit song. Throughout the demonstration, Sharpton blared over a bullhorn, plans to hold record companies and media companies responsible for what they broadcast through their platforms, stating the people want a 'standard in this business' for indecent words.

What's happening in the controversial world of RAP MUSIC these days?

When it comes to the Don Imus controversy, many news commentators, pundits, reporters (and others concerned) continue to point to foul mouth music lyrics, but they some-

how evade the issue of all the historical racist humor which has ridiculed Black people for hundreds of years.

Somehow popular Black music changed from Ol-Schools DOO-WOP (Why do fools fall in love?) to 'Say it loud--I'm Black and Proud,' and from 'My Girl' and 'U.N.I.T.Y.' to vile lyrics that celebrate violence, crime and degrade women.

We went from listening to the 'creative, consciousness raising RAP music' of Gil Scott Heron, James Brown, The O'Jays, Marvin Gaye, Will Smith, & Queen Latifah to a new genre known as VIOLENT GANGSTA RAP.

Russell Simmons and the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network (HSAN) issued a statement (April 23) urging the recording industry and media outlets to censor misogynistic lyrics (anti-women) and racist terms from future recordings. Presidential candidate '08 Barack Obama also spoke about Hip-Hop but in another light. "We are all complicit...let's not just single out the rappers," Obama said, noting that he had heard offensive words in many places other than rap songs.

Synthetic Dandies for slur-soaked and racist lyrics in music

In several somber and meaningful ceremonies across the nation, NAACP (The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) has been sponsoring 'funerals' for the death of the 'N-word.' The word has been considered both derogatory and controversial over its lifetime. Leaders of these funeral events claim, 'There's so much negativity associated with the N-word, we just feel like it's time to make a change.' Yes some popular rap lyrics have become vulgar.

But, in all fairness we must look back to the roots of the problem. The ROOTS of racist, sexist comments (especially toward Blacks), images of lazy, stupid sambos or 'tap dancing coons'... etc., all originated in the evil practices of slavery. REMEMBER: The horrible 'N-word' came out of slavery. So did many other ugly racial slurs, acts of violence, and racial hatred.

And Don Imus is like many others, including KRAMER (Mike Richards) who ranted in a comedy club using the dirty word 'NIGGER' repeatedly in a loud rant? that he probably thought was funny.

There are many others who harbor 'anti-Black' and racist attitudes....not to mention the millions of men who have these horrible SEXIST attitudes toward women. (Though not nearly as prominent, there are also some women who have sexist attitudes toward men)

NAACP recently announced that it has launched an initiative called 'The Stop Campaign' which aims to end racist and sexist language, images and concepts in the media. Already, a few local hip-hop radio stations including New York's Power 105.1 and Mississippi's Hot 97.7 have taken action by refusing to play songs with degrading or sexist lyrics. Many other types of music, particularly known as 'heavy metal' have also contributed to promoting horrible, violent, insulting, and degrading lyrics to the air pollution.

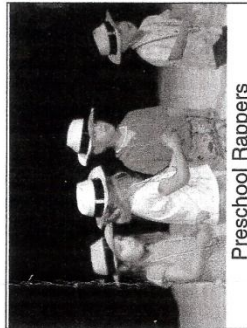
Rap Music Financiers, who's to blame?

RAPPERS DID NOT START THIS PROBLEM OF VIOLENT, UGLY LYRICS. Some of it started during the era of the 1960's and 1970's with the hip-plees. Some comes from radical religious theology and from old backward sexist practices from the Dark Ages. The attempts to place blame on HIP-HOP or Rap Music ignore the fact that the biggest publishers of the gangsta rap are White-owned companies--major media conglomerates

Originally, RAP MUSIC was a creative, decent art-form, just like Blues, Jazz, Rock, etc. The deviation into MORAL DECAY occurred primarily when the major White-owned companies and others started heavily financing, publishing and marketing the rap songs with extremely vile, profane language-- known as: 'gangsta rap.'

HISTORY OF RAP:

Rap was originally a highly respected art-form that had its birth in ancient Africa. In many ancient African societies, story-telling, preaching, and rapping were nourished and practiced as an art-form. Over the years, accompanied by drum-beats, the art transformed into a very popular medium within the music world.



Preschool Rappers

Likewise, in many other ancient societies including ancient China, India, Europe and other cultures, the art of poetry was held in high regard. In pre-literate societies, poetry was frequently employed as a means of recording oral history, storytelling (epic poetry), genealogy, law and other forms of expression or knowledge that modern societies might expect to be handled in prose. Shakespeare became very popular for writing drama in prose.

'Rap' is the form of poetic lyrics in music that stemmed from the Hip-Hop culture. Hip hop

continued on page 33

Occupy Education !

GET INVOLVED...IT'S TIME FOR CHANGE !

Educator, author Melvia Miller has been advocating school reforms and proposals for change for many years ! Offering seminars, DVDs and classes, she has shown effective ways of teaching and training. She claims that education should be more than lectures and passing tests. Her books contain exercises, games and activities that help spice up education.



She is the creator of **SUPER SISTAH** ...and many books, DVDs, and **EDUTAINMENT**



Super Sistah says ...*"Wise teachers make schooling enjoyable and effective !"*

Edutainment Enterprises
www.authorsden.com/melviafmiller



EDUTAINMENT ZONE

Check out these amazing programs for your school . . .

There is a dire need for new and innovative methods of learning. "Our whole society needs to uplift EDUCATION," emphasizes Melvia Miller, educational consultant. By coupling education with entertainment Miller's learning system is an effective and enjoyable model for both students and teachers.

"New & Different Friends" was Melvia Miller's first book written in a format for youth. It was presented at a Teacher's workshop on "how to teach multi-cultural ideas in the classroom" and earned her the affectionate title, "Soulful Dr. Seuss." Miller is also the creator of "Super Sistah," a character who represents suc-

cess and promotes knowledge, wisdom and excellent teaching. Miller's edutainment system raises the achievement levels of every student, including the so-called "difficult" students. Critics can't explain how or why, but this learning system is extremely effective.

"We learned a lot [as children] when we played games with friends," says Miller. "Play is critical to learning. The use of collaborative group methods, games & exercises increase learning."

Contact Melvia Miller of Write-On Consulting Firm for a Free "Cultural Diversity" newsletter. For a variety of Multicultural Edutainment Materials - Books, games, activities, DVDs, CDs, call (702) 232-9654 or visit www.success-secrets.ws

EARN REFERRAL

REWARD\$

visit this website:

www.success-secrets.ws

Wizard's Festival of Fun

Belmont Magic & Illusions

1st Class Amusement

SPE

WWW

This article appears in nationally distributed: FUND AND EDUTAIN GUIDE; 2006-2007 edition; Vol. XV; page 18; published in San Diego, CA