

Congratulations Spring 2003 Graduates

Who Are Your Top 50 Rappers?

Last Friday night on VH1, the kings and queens of hip-hop got their proper due. Some of the biggest names of the musical genre commented on the musical influence they've had on one another and on the social implications of the music itself. And when it's all said and done, one act will be named the greatest hip-hop artist of all time.

The channel's latest musical countdown, the "50 Greatest Hip-Hop Artists," premiered at 8 p.m. EDT. Everybody from Snoop Dogg to Dr. Dre, Ice Cube to MC Hammer and Coolio to Public Enemy offered their insight into the rise and widespread commercial explosion of rap.

Rick Krim, VH1 executive vice president of talent and music programming, says the time was right for the network to showcase the best artists hip-hop has to offer.

"Musically, we've broadened considerably in the last year or so and have certainly broadened our horizons from the old VH1," Krim says. "There are hip-hop artists now getting played on our channel, and we've also had success with hip-hop artists with some of our other shows, whether it be with 'Behind The Music' or 'Driven'."

"Hip-hop has become more mainstream, and whatever polarity there may have been in

the past from people being opposed to rap... I don't think it exists anymore."

In addition to some of today's hottest hip-hop stars, the special also gave nods to pioneering acts such as the Sugarhill Gang, Tone Loc, LL Cool J, Grandmaster Flash and the Beastie Boys.

"A lot of our viewers were teens when Run-DMC or LL Cool J or Public Enemy hit big for the first time, so there's also a nostalgia factor," Krim says, adding that seeing stars speaking with reverence about one another can make for educational and interesting viewing.

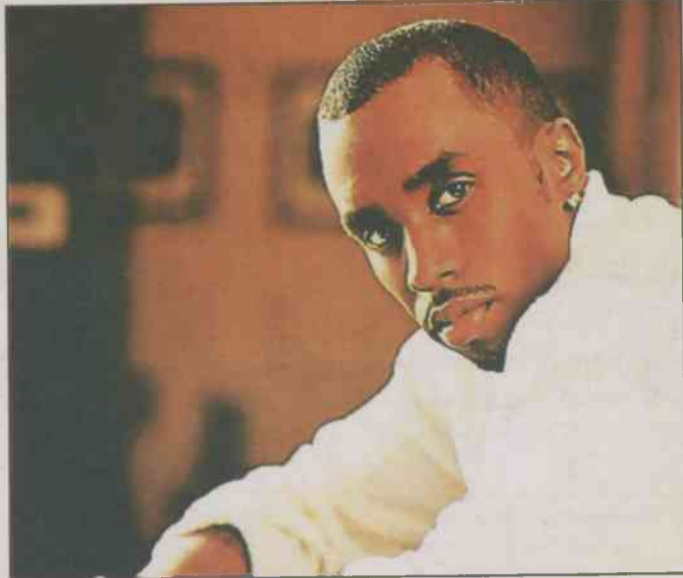
Some examples:

P-Diddy on Run-DMC: "They inspired me so much as an artist, a producer, a businessman and an entertainer. They would have to be hip-hop's greatest entertainers."

Ice-T on Tupac: "You don't become the greatest just by being able to rap good. You become the greatest by being able to touch people... that was a skill."

Nelly on Notorious B.I.G.: "No one was better as far as putting words together... Big, big dog was smooth."

Krim says having older acts sing the praises of new acts also can make for insightful



P. Diddy hosted VH-1's Top 50 Rap Artist Show

television.

"It's sort of a reference for people," he says. "Audiences want to know why they should like something new, and when they see somebody that they respect and an artist that they like telling them about something new, I think it resonates with them."

Although some artists showcased on the countdown have been killed, the show does not dip into the world of violence often associated with rap. Those aspects of the genre, Krim says, have been well-covered with other VH1 programming.

"The nice thing is it's about

the music, and it leaves all of that behind," he says. "We've told those stories. That's what we have 'Behind The Music' for. If you saw the Biggie 'Behind the Music,' it was almost like a crime drama. It was a big part of the story, and I think in some ways it overshadows what their musical influences were. The goal of this show was to focus on their musical heritage, and we tried to stay as true to that as possible."

One artist who shows up in the countdown, Sean "P-Diddy" Combs, also happens to be the host.

"We were thrilled to have

him," Krim says. "It's someone who obviously has been influenced by a lot of these people and is also so mainstream, which may make it a little user-friendly for some people that still may not be sure if hip-hop is for them. We want to appeal to the real serious hip-hop fans as well as to the causal people who are just tuning in, and I think he helps with that."

Although we won't reveal who No. 1 hip-hop artist of all time is, some other acts found within the countdown are N.W.A., Wu-Tang Clan, Eminem, Will Smith & DJ Jazzy Jeff, Ja Rule, Cypress Hill and Arrested Development. Krim says picking the order of the countdown was no easy task.

"It's tough," he says. "It was a combination of popularity and influence and trying to have a balance with the current and the historical. There's no exact science to this, and there's a lot of people weigh in to try to come up with a consensus. There's always debate internally, but I think that's part of the appeal of the show, because somebody watching may also have a debate."

"We were pleased with the list. It's a good mix of influential artists and current artists that are going to influence the next wave."

God Has Roles For Men And Women

By Monchaily McDowell
Contributing Writer

There is a misconception about the roles of men and women in relationships. So many stereotypes and "home-made" definitions of what women should be like as wives are out that one can hardly see the truth anymore. Several believe that a wife is for the purpose of cleaning and tending to every need of a man. This is not completely true.

As a woman of God, caring for your husband is something that should come naturally. Genesis

2:18 says: *And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him.* Therefore, a woman of God should be a help to her husband, and not a slave. Women are precious jewels and a blessing to men.

In order to realize this, one must understand Proverbs 18:22. This states that: *Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.* This is also the reason why men should be careful in the wives they choose. A woman who is designed for you will bring favor

from the Lord as well as an everlasting love.

For anyone wondering how love should be, read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 (Amplified). *Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited; it is not rude and does not act unbecomingly. Love does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or*

fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything. Love never fails.

Therefore, when the right person appears, the love should be according to all of these things.

Likewise, men should treat their wives with the same love and respect and be willing to die for her because Ephesians 5:25 says, *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.* If you think it doesn't matter, consider what happened to the man who chose the wrong woman.

Proverbs 5:3-6 says *For the lips of a strange woman drop as a honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.*

So one can cheat and play games with women and men's hearts, but be aware of the consequences.

Not everything that is sexy and attractive is good. Choose whether you want a woman of God designed with purpose or a cheap thrill with deception that will eventually lead you to death. Women must also choose between a head (man) with direction and purpose or the "so fine" guy who will only hinder you for life. Women know your husband is your head and everything you do should be in subjection to him. Ephesians 5:22-23 says, *Wives, be subject to your own husbands as (a service) to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the Head of the church, Himself the Savior of (His) body.*

Marriage is sacred and is not only a lifetime of growing, learning, and love, but is most importantly it is a service to the Lord. Women, you are a helpmeet and should be submissive and caring in everything you do for him. You are not slaves, but helpers. Men are to rule over the household, not as a dictator, but as loving husbands and leaders like God rules over us.

You are to be faithful and obedient to God first and foremost.

This is the position that God has made plain for each of us to do. It is up to you to decide if you will obey his Word.

Fashion

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announced door prizes during the show's intermission. Prizes included American Airline tickets to any destination in the United States and a gift box from Fashion Fair Cosmetics. Produced by Eunice Johnson, wife of John H. Johnson, founder of Johnson Publishing Company, the fashion show has been successful all 45 years of its existence. The fashion fair along with Ebony magazine, Jet magazine and Fashion Fair Cosmetics, makes the company one of the most successful black-owned businesses today.

The show comes to Fayetteville every February. If you missed it this year, go ahead and mark your calendars for the 2004 show. This is one of those events where you have to see it to believe it. This night of fantasy, drama, beauty and cultural diversity will be hard to repeat!

For more information on the Ebony Fashion Fair, visit their website at www.ebony.com.

Be good, and in all you do be stylish! Style is an expression of your personality that sets you apart from the rest.

Victim

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the bridge with my name on it so I could jump off it. However, my son is counting on me to walk away from the edge and I can't let him or myself down.

My advice to other young females in violent relationships would be to know that you are not alone. There are others going through the same circumstances and there are people that you can go talk to. We all need to have people in our lives that will listen to us and provide a shoulder to lean and cry on when we need it. Moreover, even if the violence is not physical, we should still evaluate our relationships. If we are with someone that is not benefiting us, we should re-adjust our decisions. And if you have no one to go to, come to me. I'll listen.