

Bible College Students Agree

Today's Music Doesn't Motivate Our Youth To Think!

By Teresa Simmons
Post Managing Editor
Grandmother to great grandson: "You don't dance or listen to reels (secular music) do you?" Four year old great grandson answers: "No." Grandmother: "Good."

Students at a certain Bible college in Charlotte laugh when the dean mentions MTV - they don't want to look at it anyway.

And then there are those like James Brooks who feels that instead of the style of R&B music getting better it's getting worse. "I think disco messed up the black music," Brooks proclaimed. "Today there are simple lyrics, simple beats and that make for simple people."

"Much of today's music is the same - it preaches about partying and sex - it doesn't motivate our youth to think."

People like the grandmother above and Brooks would like to place R&B, soul music, as well as MTV videos in one sack and give it a squash.

According to Don Cody, morning air personality and member of radio station WGIV Music Committee, recent research by the station found that Gospel music is becoming more and more popular among the population of Charlotte.

"WGIV's research shows that a lot of people love Gospel," Cody pointed out. "WGIV has planned a change in format. Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until noon and Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. until midnight Gospel will be featured with Curtis Parker as host. The programs will be entitled "The Old Ship of Zion."

There are some disc



Kurtis Blow
.....Bad medicine?



Skip Murphy
.....Music is positive

jockeys in Charlotte, however, who feel that the negative virtues of today's secular music is being overrated. "There has always been the positive and negative in music," Marsha Burton of WGIV commented. "There are songs with very bad moral messages but children will listen to music for the tunes. They aren't as interested in the words as parents are."

Music, according to Burton, has decreased in quality in the five to 10 years. "Our music is not basic black music anymore. The music is getting away from being black and crossing over with less quality. Musicians are trying for white audiences now and losing the soul and feeling of music."

But is it time for music to be banned? "No," according to Ms. Burton.

Even the lyrics of little moral value Ms. Burton concludes children's home training should prepare them and they will not be swayed by the words. "Parents should teach their children what is right and wrong. If children are

raised correctly they can listen to anything. Knowing what is right they will not be influenced. Just because a song says to do something doesn't mean they have to do it."

The advantage of today's music, according to Ms. Burton, is its quality to allow one to escape reality. "Music makes you forget about your problems."

She suggested that the group D Train has many positive songs and that even Prince's "1999" has messages of religious significance.

Skip Murphy, Operations Manager of WPEG radio station feels that there are some positive aspects of today's soul and R&B music. "Some display the changing attitudes of society and show how drugs, the fast life, prostitution, basing cocaine and walking the streets and killing are bad."

Murphy cites three rapping songs by Kurtis Blow from "Eight Million Stories" and "30 Days" by Run D-MC as giving positive messages to the youth. "The lyrics tell about how hard life is in the

ghetto. It talks about all the negative effects of street life and the fact that youth need to either get away from it or stay away from it."

Many youth today are listening to the songs by musicians who mention sex. Murphy feels that today's youth have enough sense to say "I know I'm not, so I won't."

"I think there is a big to-do about the negative effects of music. Kids know right from wrong. They are warned and they know."

Cody of WGIV feels that the quality of music has increased over the years.

He compliments the improved musical techniques and advances and even the cross over of musicians from one musical category to the next.

Lyrics like "I'm going to give it to you just the way you like it" can be taken any way you like it, ac-

ording to Cody. "It depends on the frame of mind."

Cody feels that through all music played over the air waves of WGIV, the station spreads sunshine to the Queen City. "WGIV is setting a positive image in Charlotte," Cody stated.

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