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The Teacha's Disciples

KRS-One's students share some thoughts

The last time KRS-One rolled through Eugene, I effused at length about all the wonderful contributions The Teacha has made to hip hop. As half of the legendary Boogie Down Productions (the other half being DJ Scott La Rock, RIP), KRS-One penned the introduction to the book on gangsta rap, and as a solo artist he elevated the hip hop movement to the various plateaus of "conscious" rap that exist today (from Mr. Lif to the Roots, many owe a great debt to the man).

When he hit the WOW Hall stage almost two years ago, it was a sight to behold. Here was a man who 25 years ago laid the groundwork for a monolithic cultural phenomenon, completely rocking a modest Eugene performing arts center. Without a modicum of pretension or bombast, KRS-One reached out to all the young hip hop heads in the audience and performed with all the heart and soul he could muster.

For his upcoming visit, rather than reiterate my last homage to The Teacha, I thought it might be more insightful to hear the perspectives of a couple local MCs.

One component of the Animal Farm crew,

Kenny Wilson, describes first hearing KRS-One's music as a "big turning point" in his life. "To me, he was someone who showed me that you could put intelligence into your lyrics," Wilson explains.

Wilson says that shortly after KRS-One's last WOW Hall performance, Animal Farm was offered a chance to work with him on a collaborative track, which will be included on the forthcoming Animal Farm album (scheduled to be released sometime this spring). "His writing is more inspirational to me than anyone else's," Wilson says. "There's really only a couple other people I'd like to do a track with — maybe Rakim or Run DMC."

Animal Farm member and D-Fault agitator Hanif Panni (aka Hanif Wondir) shares Wilson's sentiments. "KRS-One helped me to believe in hip hop again, especially while I was a teenager," he says. "When hip hop seems to be getting worse, KRS-One seems to be getting better."

D-Fault, the live 10-piece hip hop group, hopes to release a new album sometime this summer. Both D-Fault and Animal Farm will open for their Teacha on his return visit. **EW**

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