

Holy Hip Hop

continued ▲ from Front

and their mates are pioneers in a newer breed of hip hop. Rapping about how nice your skills are or what kind of cash flow you clock takes a far backseat to the unadulterated message of a personal relationship with God and personal spiritual growth.

It's not what most people would expect to hear in someone's car as they cruise by with bass slapping in their trunk. To some it would be the last thing they would expect to hear in church, but that's what's happening with the groups on the Cross Movement label.

Hip hop has been a distinctive voice since its induction into pop culture in the early '80s. It was the voice of the unheard, of the young and, more often than not, the voice for black Americans.

But with time, rap music underwent change, and today it's one of the largest vehicles utilized by corporate America. The once neglected community from which hip hop sprung is now showcased in media with a certain consumer spin. It rules the Top 40 of popular music and has gone mainstream on TV sitcoms.

Cross Movement artists contradict and confront almost every message publicized in commercial rap today. They have also stirred up controversy from certain individuals in the community of churches.

Some religious camps consider hip hop at its roots lawless and rebellious and therefore unfit to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many churches and churchgoers feel that hip hop has become a weapon against younger generations by invoking ideas of self-seeking fantasies where money, even by illegal means, is the truest form of success, or where sexual allure is a power worth exploiting for personal gain.

But others like using hip hop to carry a message of salvation and see the new hip hop ministry as a blessing from God.

Iz Real, of the Philadelphia group Everyday Process and a newer member of the Cross Movement family, said the emphasis is on using hip hop to build a ministry that's about reaching the individual within their culture.

"When we step on the stage we want to make sure that Christ's name is spread and is glorified," he said. "It ain't about us."



'Flame,' also known as Marcus T. Williams-Gray, a St. Louis, Mo.-based hip-hopster, performs in Portland as part of a new breed of rap that speaks to a relationship with God and spiritual growth on a personal level.



PHOTOS BY JASON FLOYD/
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Emanuel Lee Lambert Jr., also known as 'Da Truth,' makes Gospel the message and hip-hop the vehicle to deliver the word of God to a large crowd gathered for at a Maranatha Church concert in northeast Portland.

North Portland Bible College

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Fall Term Schedule

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MONDAY MORNING (9:00 - 12 noon)

OT 203 *Book of Deuteronomy Alan Cushway, ThM, M.Div.
The Book of Obedience, quoted the most by Jesus

MONDAY

OTS 101 *Old Testament Survey, I Jim Sellers, M.Div.
Genesis through II Samuel

CH 202 *Church History David Brown, M.Div.
Apostolic Church to the Reformation

TUESDAY

BF 101 *Inductive Bible Study Alan Cushway, ThM, M.Div.
Develop skill for independent Bible study and teaching

WM 205 *Introduction to the Religions of the World Geoff Hartt, M.Div.
Major religions, their teachings and daily life practices

WEDNESDAY

NT 101 *New Testament Survey I Rob Robinson, D.M.
Matthew through John

GE 111 *Basic English Connie Stanton, B.A.
Paragraph structure, outlining, essays, formal correspondence, book reviews, etc.

(Students are required to take PCC Placement test unless their transcripts indicate no need)

THURSDAY MORNING (9:00 - 12 noon)

NT 209 *The Kingdom of God in the Teachings of Jesus
Beth Nance, M.Ed M.Div. Explore whether the Kingdom of God is present or future

THURSDAY

UM 209 *Ministries to Urban Families Linda Thompson, MSW
Learn strategies to assist inner-city families with special needs.

SATURDAY MORNING (9:00 - 12 noon)

NT 209 Greek Grammar Daniel Willard, BA NT
Fundamentals Greek grammar and vocabulary memorization. Greek/Bible TH.

MU 080 Basic Piano (Individual/Group lessons) Zetta Burton, B.A.
Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday (by appointment only, call 503-709-2905)

All evening classes are from 6:30 - 9:30pm. * Tuition: \$120 per course
* Required for the ACM degree in Christian Ministry.

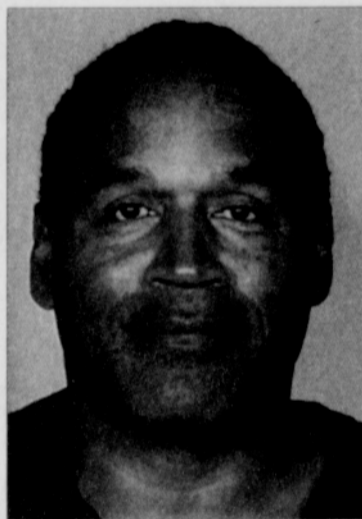
No Celebrity Breaks for Simpson

continued ▲ from Front

yer who represented O.J. Simpson in the early 1990s in business and real estate matters, said the public and law enforcement "are looking for some sort of conviction for those who want justice for Nicole Brown and Ron Goldman. Everyone wants to be the one that gets him."

Experts also raised questions about the decision to release a man who police said carried a gun in the alleged holdup of two collectors at a Palace Station casino hotel room.

Walter Alexander, 46, of Mesa,



O.J. Simpson's booking photo from his arrest on Sunday.

Ariz., was released without bail, despite facing charges almost identical to Simpson's. Legal experts said that may indicate his testimony could be key to convicting Simpson.

An apparent audiotape of O.J. Simpson's standoff with men he accused of stealing his memorabilia begins with the former NFL star demanding, "Don't let nobody out of here."

"Think you can steal my s--- and sell it?" the voice identified as Simpson's said, in a recording released by celebrity news Web site TMZ.com.

A big hurdle for prosecutors

will also be determining who owned the memorabilia—everything from cleats worn by former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana, to autographed baseballs, and Simpson's Hall of Fame certificate.

Bruce Fromong, one of the sports memorabilia dealers who said he was robbed, told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Monday that the items did not belong to Simpson.

"If you're asking did they once belong to him, yes, they did," Fromong said. "But these were things that belonged to him a long time ago."

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