

Gun Turn-In Promotes Safety

The Ceasefire Oregon Education Foundation, Sullivan's Gulch Neighborhood Association and the Portland Police Bureau collected 103 guns, plus pellet and toy guns, at a recent gun turn-in at Grace Episcopal Memorial Church. The guns will be checked for possible involvement in felonies, then melted down. Participants received coupons good at Union 76 gas stations, Fred Meyer, Safeway, New Seasons, the Lloyd Center mall and for Portland Trail Blazers tickets. Grace Church pastor Stephen Schneider recalled that Ceasefire Oregon had its first gun turn-in 10 years ago at this church. At a press conference prior to the event, Portland Police Chief Rosie Sizer praised the event as a way to reduce the number of excess guns that can find their way into the hands of children or criminals.

PHOTO BY LEE PERLMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Girls Master Elements of Hip Hop In New After-School Program



First of its kind

BY RAYMOND RENDLEMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

The Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls is inaugurating a 10-week program to teach the cultural importance and technique behind the five elements of hip hop.

As part of the program's mission to eradicate myths about music and gender that limit speaking up, singing out and making noise, girls 8-18 will learn the basics of beatboxing, DJing, MCing, breakdancing and graffiti art.

The teachers represent a who's who of the thriving regional hip-

Molly Brown (left) and Sequoia Brownclay practice beatboxing at the Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls, 8900 'A' N.E. Vancouver Way.

"It's about empowering girls toward their own ideas of who and what they want to be," says program director Connie Wohn, who this year helped start Hip-Hop 101 at Jefferson High School.

After the success of introducing some hip-hop elements at camp last summer, the program directors decided to widen the offerings through an after-school program. The seven-year-old organization will also expand the wide variety of instruments and equipment that it provides for the students.

The move marks more resurgence than reaction, as female hip-hop artists and producers established the genre. "Especially in hip hop, there have been a lot of women who were influential," says Wohn.

Foundational performers like Queen Latifah shared in the desire to abolish obsolete traditions that restrict many females' free musical expression and obstruct their access to the world of music. The camp will seek to demonstrate—through lessons, mentorship and positive examples—that women can explore hip hop's forms as much as with any other medium.

With each expansion, Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls becomes each year a bit more of a misnomer. But, in the rebellious spirit of the original rock music, the organization continues to help young people develop musically and emotionally in a society that makes any musical genre difficult for those striving to be active agents.

"You can always have a role, and for hip hop, that doesn't mean you have to be a video girl," Wohn says.

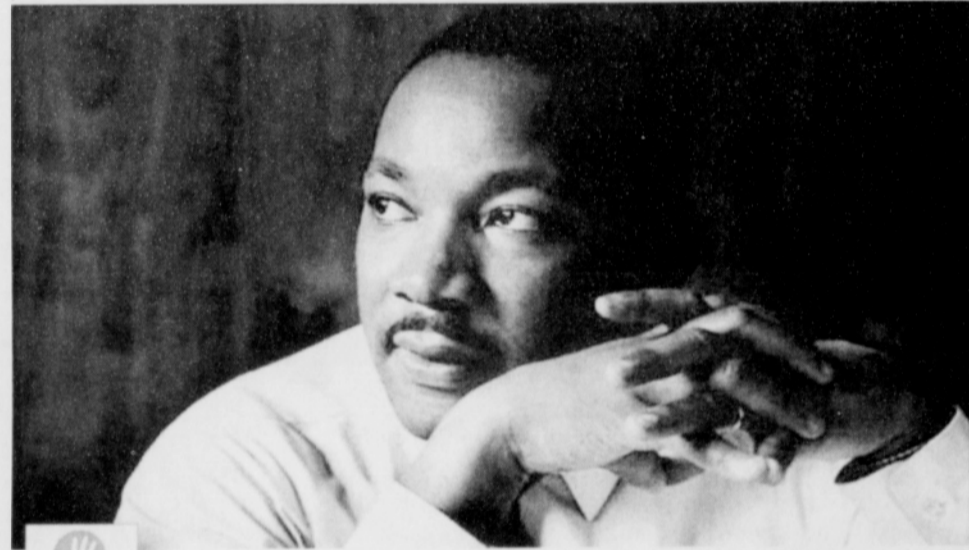
The first course of its kind in the city, Hip Hop Elements uniqueness extends to its now-fleeting underground status. "If we were doing this in New York, the hip-hop program would be the first one sold out," says Wohn, noting that small classes will be held regardless.

With limited financial aid available for its \$250 tuition, the premiere winter course runs weekly from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. starting Thursday, Jan. 10. Applications can be found from 1 to 7 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays at the camp's location, 8900 'A' N.E. Vancouver Way, on girlsrockcamp.org or by calling 503-445-4991.

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Ask Deanna!
An advice column known for its fearless approach to reality based subjects!

Dear Deanna!

I don't make a lot of money but I know how to save and invest. My family members want to borrow money and get loans from me. This causes a lot of stress and arguments when I tell them no because they don't pay me back. I'm single and I'm tired of everybody thinking I'm their money bags. --Anonymous; On-Line Reader

Dear Anonymous:

You need to grow up and realize that you're not a savings and loan hero. You don't owe your family anything, and if they kick you to the curb for holding on to your money, then so be it. You're being used. Get over it and keep it moving.

Dear Deanna!

I plan to evict my adult children that live with me. I've been retired for a few years and I still find myself cooking and cleaning because my kids haven't left the nest. I started letting them know my plans this summer and they act like this is a joke. I have retirement money that I want to use to travel, live my life and have a good time. What is the best way to tell them one more time, they have to get out and know that I'm serious? --Margaret; Baltimore, Md.

Dear Margaret:

You can hire a moving crew to come and pack their things for them. This will catch them off guard and shock them especially if you have a locksmith changing the locks at the same time. You've done your job as a mother but failed as a parent if your children can't make it on their own. Then again, they're selfish freeloaders taking advantage of you because you let them. The game is over and your freedom begins when you call the moving company.

Dear Deanna!

I am in a situation at work because of a prank my co-worker played on our boss. We participated in the Secret Santa drawing and agreed to buy gifts for one another. I had to buy a gift for my boss and I bought a bottle of perfume. This was well and good until my friend replaced the gift with a box that had charcoal, a dog collar and breath mints in it. I'm going to be fired and I want to take her down with me but I'm scared of being called a snitch. What do I do? --Anita; Dallas, Texas

Dear Anita:

The first thing to do is stop being stupid. You shouldn't sit back and lose your job because your co-worker is a jackass. You need to stand up for yourself and put your friend on blast and if anyone gets fired, it should be her. In the future, keep your mouth shut because you played a role by telling your business. If you're honest and have been a good employee, you're safe. If not, plan to start the New Year off wiser and on the path to look for another job.

Ask Deanna is written by Deanna M. Write Ask Deanna! Email: askdeanna1@yahoo.com or 264 S. LaCienega Blvd, Suite 1283 Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Website: www.askdeanna.com

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