

# Why old school rap still paves the way for social justice



by Bella Geroulis

My 7th grade English teacher was probably the cutest woman I've ever seen. She loved to read. She always had her hair in ribbons. You would never catch her in anything but a dress. She screamed "teacher" from a mile away. I can't say that I remember everything I learned from that class, but the one thing that has stuck with me all these years was this woman's love for Eminem. It's strange to picture at first; a bookworm English teacher fangirling over the menace that is Eminem. But it's true. Her reasoning? His lyrics. She would go on about how powerful his lyrics were and the wisdom behind them. At the time, I didn't fully understand her. Now with the way modern rap scene influences the music industry, I can understand what she meant perfectly. Eminem and other rappers that emerged in previous decades are far from perfect role models, no doubt about that. But their music paved a way for voices that were once silenced. Their lyrics (though sometimes poorly executed) carried a meaning

and message that made rap what it is today.

Most modern rap and hip-hop artists can't say the same thing.

Sometimes it seems like hip-hop artists of the 21st century can only make music that is misogynistic or carries a derogatory undertone.

People like Chief Keef, Tyga, and Fetty Wap have flooded the airwaves with lyrics that have no purpose but to reinforce their dominance and "masculinity."

Many popular modern rap artists don't even write their own tracks.

They've diluted the airwaves and given rap and hip-hop a bad name.

What was once created to share a story and provide a release from a hard life has now become a way for men to degrade women and try to make as much profit as they can in doing so.

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That's not to say that there aren't incredible rappers that have emerged recently. Kendrick Lamar, J. Cole, and Vince Staples have carried on the rap legacy that was set for them.

They've done so by continuing to give voice and recognition to people all over the world who can't express it themselves.

They share a story in a way

that everyone can connect with. In doing so, they bring people together through the power of music.

Though their work is respected and recognized, it seems like they're the minority when it comes to the industry.

Too many listeners today don't recognize the importance of rap music and why it was created, simply because there are so many pseudo-rappers who have distorted the true purpose of the genre.

On Martin Luther King Jr. day last year, there was a speaker who said, "if MLK were to come back today, he would have to do so as a rapper."

I fully agree.

The social reformation that has been going on in the U.S has taken multiple forms, molding itself and adapting to the time. Rap is the 21st century molding of that reformation.

To be a rapper in 2016 and ignore the responsibility you have to speak out for social justice is a slap in the face to all those who have worked so hard to give us the opportunities that we have today.

Whether you identify with East or West Coast rap, both transformed the art of rap music into a voice for the nation.

The lyrics were more complex, the beats were louder, and voices were united.

The artists who emerged from those 20 years helped pave the way for the rappers that we know and love today.

I can safely say that without 80's or 90's rap our society would be a much different place.

# How to cope with the closing of your family's go-to restaurant



by Marie O'Connor

For as long as I can remember, the only place my family ever went out to eat was Dave's Italian Kitchen in Evanston, near the corner of Church and Davis. This was the one place where my picky and divisive family of 8 could always agree.

We had the menu memorized, so much that we could tell when they changed the font or added a new side dish. The atmosphere was always relaxed no matter how many people were there, and the vibe made you feel cool without being all hipster and pretentious about it.

It may have been the only place my unbelievably loud and frequently misbehaving family was welcome, and the one place that we all actually wanted to go to.

This is not an ode to my favorite restaurant of all time, however, because last year, suddenly and tragically, Dave's Italian kitchen closed its doors. This is advice on how to move on.

I heard the news of Dave's closing through a Facebook post by my aunt from New York, because even hundreds of miles away, this was shocking news. I received no explanation besides the banner on the official website reading, "We're

closed forever! Thank you!" I was heart broken.

As with any instance of grief, my first reaction was denial. I refused to believe that Dave's had closed its doors forever, so, naturally, I ignored the Facebook post.

However, soon my family group chat erupted with the news of the shutdown, as we were all taken aback. This was where my parents went on dates before they got married, where I celebrated most of my birthdays. I even went to Dave's before my first real high school dance sophomore year.

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I then moved on to the "anger" stage of grief and stayed there. I skipped the bargaining and depression stages, and now I'm well on my way to acceptance, almost.

Here is what I have learned on this tumultuous journey.

Never try to remember the last meal you had at your favorite restaurant, this will leave you craving their food, and this craving is nearly impossible to fulfill. You may end up eating plate fulls of food you didn't even want.

When going to a new restaurant, never compare it to your old go-to, it will never live up to the

standards in your head, and you will end up hating every new restaurant.

Don't immediately go looking for a new go-to restaurant, as painful as this situation may be, it is also an opportunity to try new things. Our favorite was huge-serving-sized, casual Italian, and since the closing we have ventured out to try other foods.

Mount Everest is an amazing Indian and Nepalese restaurant a few doors down from the now-abandoned Dave's storefront.

Prairie Moon, only a few blocks away, provides a similar casual, chill vibe that Dave's so eloquently mastered, and yet serves a completely different type of menu.

When we're up for a hike our family will trek down to Lincoln Park to The Pasta Bowl, who's serving sizes rival those of Dave's.

Finally, have patience. A few months after the closing of my safe haven, I got news from that same Aunt that Dave's New Kitchen would be opening on Noyes.

New Dave's, as my family now calls it, is small and much less welcoming to my 8 person family, but I no longer have to pine for a Big Ravioli, or Lasagna con Amore.

Losing our go-to dinner place has been a source of stress within our family, because change is always difficult, but it hasn't all been tragic. We've been given the opportunity to try new things and go to new places.

However, without a designated restaurant, we are still culinary vagrants.

# Staff Editorial

## A superintendent wishlist

With the announcement of the new superintendent, Dr. Paul Sally, it is important to outline what the student body wants to see in the new superintendent.

The position of superintendent can be difficult to define for students. With New Trier being larger than many small colleges, the everlasting list of teachers and administration can be confusing to clarify. Between advisers, adviser chairs, assistant principals, principals, and assistant superintendents, the separation of power can be a somewhat confusing subject to look into for both students and parents. So it is important to define part of the superintendent's responsibility.

To illustrate the responsibilities of the superintendent I am going to simplify quite a lot and avoid the formal job descriptions. I am going to use the analogy of the 2016 World Series Champions Chicago Cubs.

So, let's imagine New Trier as the Chicago Cubs organization. All the students are "players." The managers and coaches are teachers and department heads because they are directly instrumental in teaching. The GM is the principal for they have the power to remove managers and discipline (bench/trade) players.

The superintendent is, then, the president of baseball operations. They are in charge of overseeing all baseball operations, which includes making sure the players are performing well and ensuring the cost of maintaining the equipment and staff is warranted. Not only do they have to create the best environment for the team, but they also have to justify their decisions to the dreaded Board of Directors (the school board) which scrutinizes every decision with the purpose of working towards the most beneficial outcome for the team.

Bringing it back to New Trier, the superintendent has a hand in everything from finances, to student academic and athletic achievement, to implementing school wide policies to benefit student social and emotional health. They do all this while being a liaison with the school board (an overseeing board composed of community members).

With a clear definition of the responsibilities of the superintendent we can now state what we want to see out of our new superintendent next year.

Dr. Paul Sally was selected by the school board to replace Dr. Linda Yonke. The school board unanimously chose Sally after a presentation highlighting the "whole student." This plan outlined Sally's plan to grow not only the academic and athletic parts of a student but to grow their mental, social, and emotional health.

Sally's commitment to the "whole student" is reassuring as the pressure to succeed in academics and athletics continues to rise. We want him to continue pursuing this dream of the whole student.

But reassuring words from an office at the Northfield campus is not all the student body needs. Students need to see their superintendent. There needs to be a face to the name, so that students see the superintendent as a figure to respect instead of a hidden force to fear and who also has the power to magically declare snow days.

Our superintendent needs to be at the Winnetka campus not just for meetings, but to walk around, hang out in the cafeteria or library. In short: the superintendent should make their presence known to the students in all settings. This will build their ethos in the eyes of the student and will allow respect to prosper.

Furthermore, the new superintendent should establish communication with student leaders. If these student leaders see the superintendent in action it will, again, build his ethos around the school.

Meeting with student leaders is also mutually beneficial. Not only will the superintendent gain more respect from the student body, but it is through students where administrators can have a greater understanding of the needs, wants and concerns of the student body. Through student leaders, the superintendent can learn valuable information that they can then share with the board.

Communication with students is crucial. And we recommend that Dr. Sally follow Dr. Yonke's example of creating solid lines of communication with students. Again, in order for this communication to be honest, the superintendent must have a presence in the school; creating a feeling of respect among the student.

But the bottom line is this: the superintendent is serving students. That is the purpose. That is what is most important: to improve, care for, and support the 4000+ students in this district.

We have been lucky for the past 11 years to have a superintendent who understood this purpose and worked to improve the lives of the students. We hope Dr. Sally continues this pursuit.



by Sam Blanc