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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reviewer knows little about rap, reggae

I am responding to the May 27 review "Rap and reggae festival cost a lot, but offered little to excite the senses" by Justin Seremet.

I was disgusted and appalled by the review. It was evident that the reviewer had little knowledge about rap and reggae music and the atmosphere at the festival.

It is amazing to see two young African American local businessmen, Garfield and Desmond Mills, produce a show and have all the artists show up. The reviewer did not acknowledge them for their efforts.

To add a little pizzazz, there were rap artists, including some the review did not mention. The

crowd was entertained from 2 p.m. until 11 p.m. with local and big-name artists.

It was nice to see a lot of young talent from Hartford, Boston and other surrounding areas performing. The crowd was supportive even though the reviewer was not.

The review stated that Buju Banton was a newcomer to the music industry. If Seremet had done his research, he would have known that Buju Banton has been singing professionally for more than four years. Also, for the reviewer to say KRS-One was trying to sound Jamaican shows he did not know that KRS-One is Jamaican.

The reviewer also made disrespectful comments about West Indian food. He stated that "the food left a bad stench reminiscent of oceanic high tide." Evidently, he cannot relate to the island spices.

As a young person who has some knowledge of the music and the audience, I enjoyed both. So did my friends.

It was exciting to see a large number of people from Hartford, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, of different racial backgrounds, mingling together and having a great time in a peaceful environment.

Irene Melo
Hartford

Reclaiming the gay agenda