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Peace, love, unity, and respect. These four words constitute the belief system of a new manifesto for the rave culture that has breached the adolescent and young adult atmosphere. The new custom stems from the performances of Electronic Dance Music (EDM) artists, and includes vibrant colors, bright lights, and a wild celebration unlike any other. Sold out venues have increasingly become the norm as the popularity of electronic music increases. Artists such as Avicii, Skrillex, and Swedish House Mafia have not only sold out arenas, but have headlined some of the most notable venues in the United States, such as the Hollywood Bowl, Madison Square Garden, and Radio City Music Hall.

Mainstream EDM's presence emerged in the early '90s, but in recently, the genre is steadily booming with more recognition than it has ever seen. The ground-shaking bass lines, catchy hooks, and up-tempo rhythms keep listeners engaged and animated throughout the artist's performance. Using a computer and turntables for instruments, producers utilize an array of different sounds and pre-existing song samples to create different subgenres of dance music including house, progressive, and dubstep, to name a few. The music focuses on the buildup and release of the "drop," which is usually a loud burst of an appealing beat and a bass line that could potentially be measured on the Richter earthquake scale. The adrenaline-evoking combination can spike anyone's blood pressure and leave a listener with no choice but to dance.

For some, the new genre can be quite hard to enjoy or understand; however, artists such as Skrillex are outspoken about their music, insisting that the unique experience and emotions the music captures are what makes it so special.

Within the scene of young adults that regularly attend these shows, a new family-oriented group has arisen. This group espouses the belief of treating one another with the intentions of "PLUR," or peace, love, unity, and respect.

"PLUR is an acronym for peace, love, unity, respect," said Eric Owens, '15, who frequently attends raves. "So they use a handshake to trade [kandi] and for respect, they link their hands to slide their "kandi" off onto the other person's arm."

Accessories referred to as "Kandi" adorn the vibrant neon outfits worn by ravers. The homemade beaded jewelry can be worn as bracelets, necklaces, cuffs, or even masks. The Kandi is then traded amongst the masses as a gift to show equality.

"It's important because it creates a bond between people who have never met before to compare and share [experiences] and in a sense become part of a rave family," said Owens.

Like many other music cultures, the use of psychoactive drugs is viewed as a commodity within the attendance of a performance. However, many ravers believe that this is a misconception perceived from the guests looking only for a fun night out.

"I'm there for the music," Owens agrees. "Most times I choose people [that] I truly want to see, rather than to just party [to]. But, I definitely think it's easy to go to shows sober...if you are there for the music, you already have some sort of openness about you. So seeing others with the same mindset as you makes it easy to relate and have a good time with people that you have never met before. It's a great bonding experience just dancing and having fun."

Every generation has a fresh, different sound it can cling to and claim as its own--the '60s had the Beatles, the '70s had disco, and the '90s had punk rock and hip hop. EDM is this generation's innovative genre of music, and its popularity is nowhere near its peak, indicating that it will persist for years to come.

An increasing number of students from Saint Joseph's University appear to be taking part in the rave culture by attending shows.

When asked if most St. Joe's students seem to be fans of EDM, Owens said, "A lot more kids are getting into it. I always see a bunch of kids from school at shows now. Kids that I would expect [to attend raves] and kids that I would have no idea about [would not expect to attend raves]."

Because of its elasticity with the use of new technology, the possibility for new noise is virtually endless, leaving the horizon of the genre very unknown, yet thoroughly bright.