
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one mass
movement.

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Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible, starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

“Moving Forward, Remembering the Past”



"Never forget the bridge that brought you across"

By
DonnaMarie Woodson

I don't know about you, but time is fleeting faster than ever. Since Covid, my life is a blur. You know how in the movies when the director shows someone's life passage of time, it whooshes by so fast that you can't relish the memories.

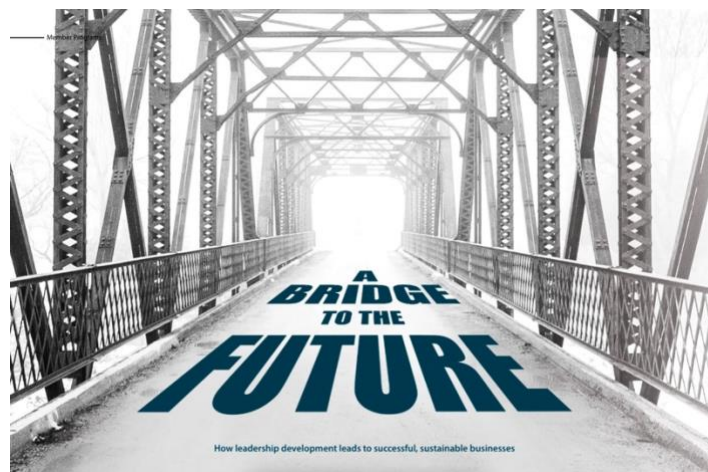


As we traverse time together in 2024, I want us to...

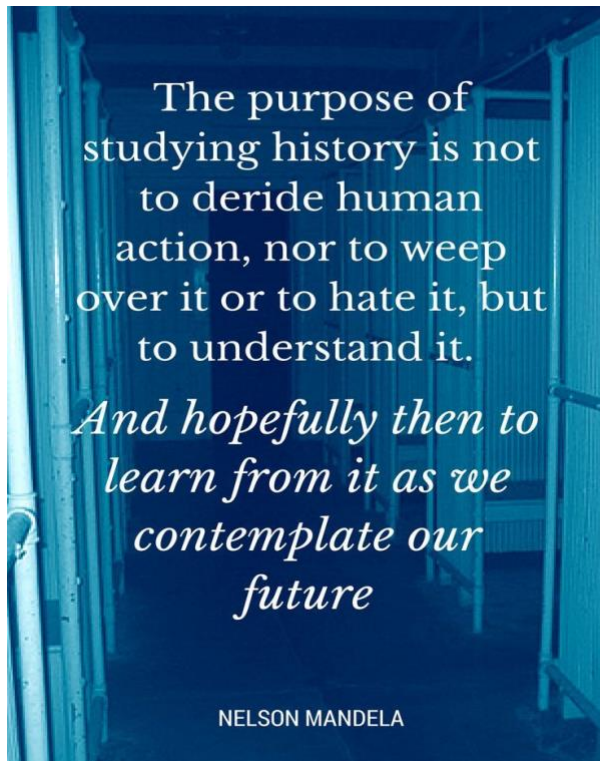
Move Forward, Remembering the Past!

Politically, the last few years have been extremely challenging. The cruelty and hate are sometimes more than I can bear. But, we must learn from the past even if all we really want to do is just make it go away. This New Year I want to embrace the future while not forgetting past lessons learned.

How do we build this bridge to the future?



The quote below helped me feel a little more stable in my approach to 2024. There's a reason I'm experiencing these uneasy feelings, I



have a personal role and responsibility to the upcoming generation.

“Because history gives us the tools to analyze and explain problems in the past, it positions us to see patterns that might otherwise be invisible in the present – thus providing a crucial perspective for understanding (and solving!) current and future problems.”

My head spins as I reflect on 2023 and the extreme regression of this country:

**Racism and racial inequality
Violence against LGBT people
Healthcare
Human rights
Domestic violence
Gender inequality
Gun violence
Wealth inequality**

My lived experience goes back to the early sixties and the historical [March on Washington](#). We stand on the shoulders of these visionary leaders who gave their lives so my generation and those to come have respect, dignity, and civil rights!



The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, also known as simply the March on Washington or The Great March on Washington, was held in Washington, D.C., on August 28, 1963! The purpose of the march was to advocate for the civil and economic rights of African Americans. At the march, final speaker Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., standing in front of the Lincoln Memorial, delivered his historic "I Have a Dream" speech in which he called for an end to racism and Racial Segregation.

The march was organized by [A. Philip Randolph](#) and [Bayard Rustin](#), who built an alliance of civil rights, labor, and religious organizations that came together under the banner of "jobs and freedom." Estimates of the number of participants varied from 200,000 to 300,000, but the most widely cited estimate is 250,000 people. Observers estimated that 75–80% of the marchers were Black.

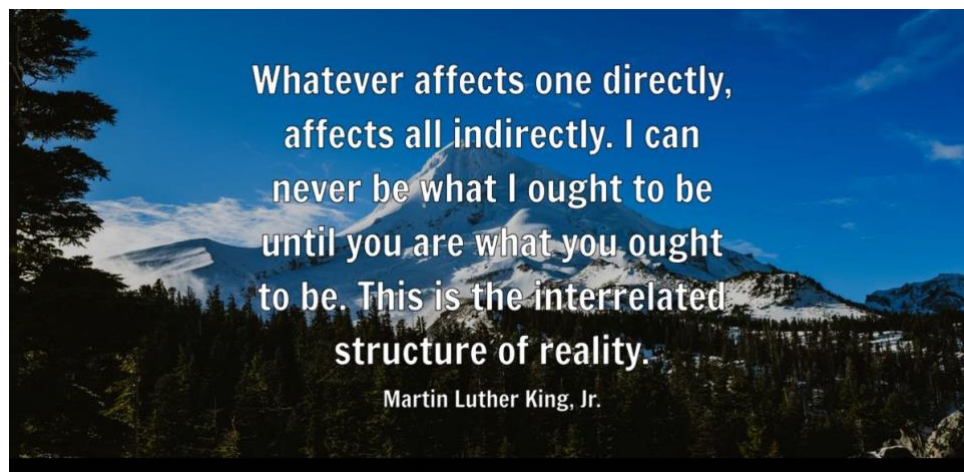


The March was the largest political rally for human rights in United States history. Walter Reuther, president of the United Auto Workers, was the most integral and highest-ranking white organizer of the march.

The March is credited with helping to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It preceded the Selma Voting Rights Movement, when national media coverage contributed to passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that same year.

This historic moment informs my outrage of the current state of political madness!! If we were able to accomplish these two generational game changers in 1963, how can we reclaim these rights and reverse the gutting of the Voting Rights Act, Civil Rights and the blatant disrespect of the American People.

What effects one of us affects all of us.



As we cross the bridge into 2024, my mantra will be to...

“Uplift others. Take care of the bridge that takes you from yesterday to today, for you are not the only one who will travel it. Leave it a little better than you found it. Create opportunities for those who follow you. Remember the times when you were in need and how people opened the door for you.”

“Surround yourself with the right people. Connect with people who share your vision. Surround yourself with those who will grow with you and support you.”

“Be truly grateful. Without all of the bumps, friends, challenges, and opportunities that arose during your journey, you would not be the person you are today. So, be grateful and take time to reflect on the bridge that you are crossing over.

Be grateful for the experience, no matter how tough.”



The road is long, but we will persevere!

Work Cited

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/bridging-the-past-and-the-b_7805164

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_issue#Types_of_social_issues

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/March_on_Washington_for_Jobs_and_Freedom

Editorial

The Decline and Fall of Hip Hop Music

By

Tarik Kiley

12/28/2023

Hip Hop has primarily been an expression of African American culture, as aspects of African American culture can be found



throughout its 50 year development. Since, negative relationships with the criminal justice system, are a reality for many African Americans, it's no secret that African Americans,

particularly African American men, would have negative things to say about the USA's criminal justice system. These feelings of being criminalized have seeped into the Hip Hop culture, as particularly expressed in rap music.

According to Charles F. Coleman Jr. in an MSNBC opinion piece, "Hip-hop — more specifically, rap music — has always had an uneasy relationship with the law. As rap music was "the CNN of the ghetto," as Public Enemy's Chuck D put it, it also chronicled the Black experience with law enforcement and the courts from myriad angles and called out the inequities within those core institutions. Whether it's KRS-One's "Sound of da Police" or

Akon’s “Locked Up,” there’s at least one hip-hop song for every step of the criminal justice system, from police interactions and arrest to trial, sentencing and incarceration.” It is no wonder that gangster rap would continue to develop out of the urban experiences of African Americans.



But it should also be noted that rap music went from “F- The Police,” a scathing commentary on police brutality and racist policing, to actively glorifying a criminal lifestyle. In this sense, rap music has become a caricature of itself. The days of wearing African medallions, HBCU sweatshirts, and promoting consciousness have given way to a litany of crime stories.

These problems come from the use of realism in rap music. Realism is an aesthetic concept where art imitates reality. In rap music, this has been exemplified in phrases such as “keeping it real.” The bend towards realism is concerning because, many of the contemporary gangster rappers insist that their lyrics are “real.” They create the impression that they are rapping about the reality of their lives.

Realism has taken such a center stage in rap music, that rap lyrics are now being used to prosecute rappers of crimes. According to Coleman, Jr., “...in Fulton County, Georgia, in the RICO trial of rapper Young Thug and his YSL record label.

Prosecutors say his lyrics amount to a confession to the crimes they've charged him with." The problem here is that some contemporary rappers are implying that they are actual real-life



Young Thug

criminals in their lyrics. While I agree that rappers are artists who should be able to express themselves artistically, at the same time, some of the

rappers are saying that their lyrics reflect their real lives. It is no wonder that people take their lyrics so seriously and can often be misconstrued as confessions of criminal activity.

Also, while I don't encourage censorship, at the same time, because of its popularity, rap artists need to understand that they are often cast in the light of being role models. Hip Hop culture has reached so many that what rappers do and say matters.

My problem with contemporary rap music is not that it causes crime. My problem is that contemporary rap music promotes crime. It is also troubling because rap music has global appeal. The messages that rappers spread are consumed across the globe. Hip Hop is no longer a subculture limited to the city of New York.

It is global in its' reach!

This also ties into the idea of cultural representation. For years,



African Americans were depicted negatively in the media. There have been so many caricatures, from minstrel shows, to stereotypes such as the “Mammy,” the “Sambo”, the “Uncle Tom” and the “Jezebel”. These

misrepresentations and stereotyping affected how we as African Americans saw ourselves, and how we were treated by mainstream White society.

In fact, representation has been so important, that the film “Birth of a Nation”, which was released in 1915, was used as a recruiting tool by the Klu Klux Klan. The misrepresentations found in “Birth of a Nation” were so potent that they swayed public opinion, and political attitudes towards African Americans. So, media can have a significant impact on public opinion and sway political attitudes.

Not only are African Americans being misrepresented in contemporary, rap music, but rappers themselves are being commercially exploited for financial gain as they spread these negative messages about themselves and our community. Some rappers fail to grasp the fact that their art is being packaged, marketed, and sold as a commercial product. In this sense, the original intent of rap music as an honest cultural expression has been distorted.

Works Cited

<https://www.msnbc.com/opinion/msnbc-opinion/hip-hop-criminal-justice-50th-anniversary-rcna98636>

<https://scrippsnews.com/stories/why-so-many-rappers-hip-hop-artists-end-up-in-court/>

<https://www.history.com/news/kkk-birth-of-a-nation-film>

<https://www.rebelessex.com/2020/03/the-commercialisation-of-rap/>

Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg:

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 6:30 pm

North Regional Library

16500 Holly Crest Lane, Huntersville

Please RSVP via email - democrats@demsofnorthmeck.org.

Democratic Women of North Mecklenburg County

Monthly Membership Meeting

Executive Board Installation

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

Hope Community Center

1609 E. Fifth St. Charlotte 28204

Meet & Greet – 6:30 pm

Program - 7:00 pm

Announcements



**N. Meck Progressives
Monthly Meeting
Monday, January 8th, 2024, at 6:30 pm
Speaker: NC Supreme
Court Judge Allison Riggs
Birkdale Clubhouse
8915 Devonshire Drive Huntersville
Zoom alternative: starting at
around 6:45pm
Link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/842449
08490](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84244908490)**



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

HAPPENINGS!



The Executive Corner:

**Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson
Rev Glencie Rhedrick**