

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

“Heal the World”



By
DonnaMarie Woodson



We are, without question, living in incredibly disturbing and fearful times. You can't turn on the TV or log in to Facebook or X/Twitter without asking yourself, what kind of world are we living in? This is why it's more important than ever for us to breathe in, breathe out and focus on what's important and how to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud.



We are all souls charged with taking care of one another. When people feel it's okay to turn their back on pain and suffering, we lose humanity.

Whenever I'm feeling stressed or overwhelmed by life and the world events around me, I seek out motivational affirmations and positive reinforcements to lift my spirits. It's so easy to get mired down in all the negative energy, however, pressing the pause button allows me to slow myself down and remind myself the way things turn out is in direct proportion to my attitude.


inspire kindness[®]

So, each and every day let's choose to live a life without fear; understanding that taking chances and keeping faith through adversity is to grow as a person and citizen of the world. Fear makes some people commit heinous acts and is responsible for so much suffering in people's lives. Fear can prevent us from speaking out when seeing a wrong or blaming some "other" for our problems.

But, by living fearlessly we can open infinite possibilities. Believe and realize your dreams. Reach out and understand that a simple smile can brighten someone's day.



We can't heal
the world today,
but we can begin
with a voice
of compassion,
a heart of love,
an act of kindness.
mary davis



Unexpected kindness is the most
powerful, least costly, and most
underrated agent of human change.

— Bob Kerrey

Work Cited

<https://donnamariewoodson.medium.com/breathe-in-breathe-out-gratitude-1d9fe92ac590>

Editorial

“The Pervasiveness of the Jezebel image in Rap Music”

By

Tarik Kiley

4/30/2024



The culture of Hip-Hop, as a whole, is over 50 years old. As an element of Hip-Hop, rap music has a relatively notable and storied history. Over its 50 or so

years of development as an art form, it has had many messages.

Interestingly enough, Hip-Hop culture was once considered a fad, and it was expected to go the way of the dinosaurs long ago. However, Hip-Hop, particularly Rap music, has had an interesting amount of longevity and power in popular culture.



It should also be noted that Hip-Hop has changed over time. Some would say it has changed to reflect the current generation of youth culture, and some would say that current Rap music is not “real” Hip-Hop. Regardless of one’s

viewpoint, Hip-Hop, especially Rap music, has grown to be a global phenomenon that has experienced immense commercial success. Rap music is probably the most listened-to form of popular music today.

Herein lies the rub. The commercialization of Rap music has led to the prioritization of making money with the music rather than expressing the artist’s truth. The images that Rap music portrays are driven by the need to sell the music. So, the current generation of artists generally does what they believe they must do to be commercially successful.



Also, through the years, the Rap music game has been male-dominated. While there have been many female pioneers of Rap music since the birth of Hip-Hop, such as Queen Latifah and MC Lyte, women in Hip-hop have been relegated to the level of being accessories in general.

Also, women in Rap music have been intensely over-sexualized. Even as far back as the Golden Age of Hip Hop in the 1990s, the music videos of various Rap artists tended to portray scantily clad women, who were in the video to appeal to the sexual pleasure of men.

But, the hypersexualized portrayal of women, in particular Black



women, has a significant history in the media. This image, which has been consistently used, is called the “Jezebel stereotype.”

Let’s face it: sex sells, and female

artists need to sell their music. And selling sex often leads to immense commercial success. But at what cost? The misogyny prevalent in rap music, at least since the rise of Gangster Rap in 1988, has reduced women to the level of being whores whose sole role is to pleasure men.

While women embracing their sexuality is one thing, being reduced to a stereotype and being seen through a one-dimensional viewpoint is truly unhealthy. This is because *representation matters*. Black men and women are more than “thugs and whores.” According to Radcliffe, “Black women are seen as sexually gratifying and exotic objects before they are a person” (Radcliffe 4).

Unfortunately, many Black female rap artists have bought into this fetishization. This goes as far back as Little Kim and, most recently, Cardi B and Megan the Stallion. Cardi B and Megan the Stallion are most notably known for their song “WAP,” a tale about female genitalia.

This is all-important to note because if Black women are jezebels, then that would suggest that they lack the ability to bond with any one man and to form a family in a monogamous relationship. Instead, this suggests that they are the toys of various men and lack consistent and committed relationships.



And, if the family is the building block of society, then the Jezebels lose out in the bargain. This is destructive because it teaches Black women to be “baby mamas” but not wives.



Also, Black women are multidimensional. For every Cardi B and Megan the Stallion, there are doctors, engineers, lawyers, graduates of Spelman, and pillars of their community. It’s unfortunate that Rap music has been denigrated into its current unsophisticated form and perpetuates the Jezebel stereotype.



Rap music started as a positive expression of the conditions and culture of Black America—Puerto Ricans and Caribbeans. The Jezebel image and the misogyny of Rap music, in its commercial form, have reduced the idea of Black women only being good for sexual pleasure and seemingly unworthy of committed, familial relationships. It should also be noted that it is one thing to be “body positive” and a whole another thing to be unworthy of respect from men.

If we are to have strong families in the Black community, we must also pay attention to how our women are represented in the media. While many Black women aren’t Jezebels, the power of the imagery cannot be denied. If we continually consume images of Black women as Jezebels, then the perception becomes a reality.

Again, body positivity is one thing, and blatant disrespect is another.

Works Cited

Radcliffe, Emily (2022). Mainstream Pop Culture and the “Jezebel”. *Sankofa Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies* (2022) 02, 1–5. <https://doi.org/10.15353/sankofa.v2/4745>

Lindsay, Melanie Marie (2016), *WHO YOU CALLIN' A BITCH? A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF THE IMAGES USED TO PORTRAY AFRICAN-AMERICAN WOMEN IN RAP MUSIC*. Electronic Theses, Projects, and Dissertations. 336. https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/etd/336?utm_source=scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu%2Fetd%2F336&utm_medium=PDF&utm_campaign=PDFCoverPages

Otto, Elizabeth A., Kumar, Shaina A., and DiLillo, David. (2022). Music’s Impact on the Sexualization of Black Bodies: Examining Links Between Hip-Hop and Sexualization of Black Women. *Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research*, The International Honor Society in Psychology (Vol. 27, No. 2/ISSN 2325-7342). <https://doi.org/10.24839/2325-7342.JN27.2.145>

Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, May 2nd, 6:30 pm

**North Regional Rec Center on Old Statesville Road,
south of Bailey Road, in Cornelius.**

Democratic Women of North Mecklenburg County

Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 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, May 13th, 6:00pm
Birkdale Clubhouse
8915 Devonshire Drive,
Huntersville, NC**

**Reid McCollum - Program Outreach
Director for the Progressive Turnout Project**

Speaker's portion via Zoom at 6:30pm.

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4352796919?pwd=SUxiaHdhL1ZPV3ZXTFl...>

Meeting ID: 435 279 6919

Passcode: NMP040924 (It's the date)



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

Happenings!



Monday, May 6, 2024, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM ET

Join us for this important County Executive Committee meeting. CEC Members will be voting on two officer vacancies and the 2024 strategic plan.



The Executive Corner:

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

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley