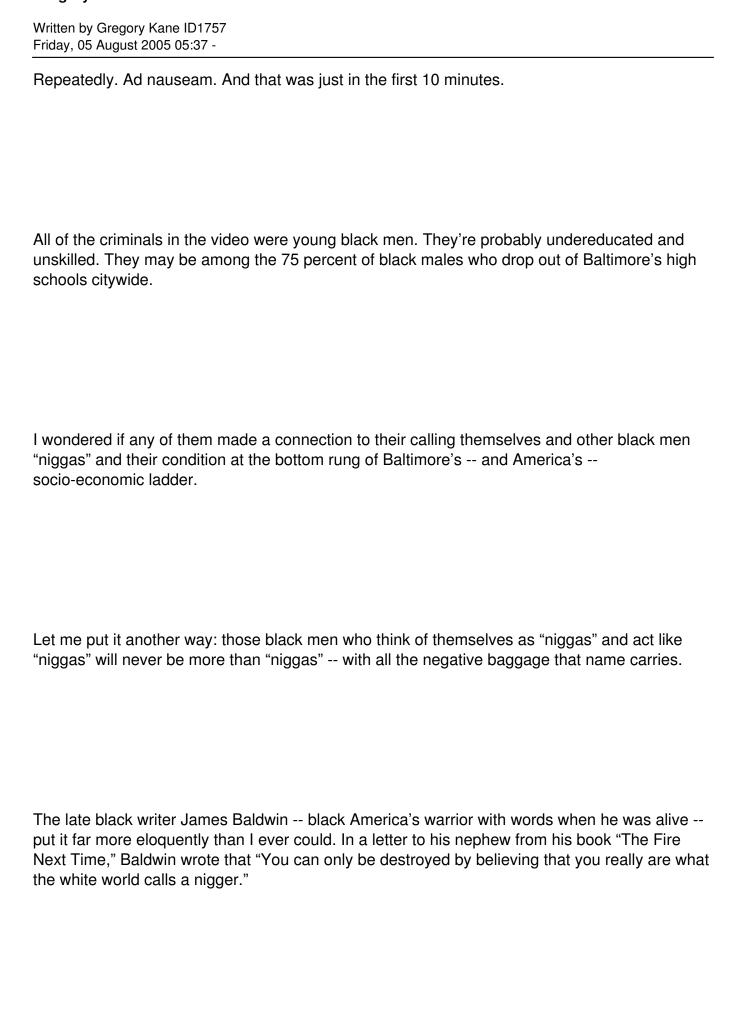


number of times the N-word was used.

Written by Gregory Kane ID1757 Friday, 05 August 2005 05:37 -"Stop Snitching" is widely regarded as a downright scandalous portrayal of Baltimore (I've noticed the term "inaccurate" has never been used to describe the DVD.), which is why I was shocked when one of the teaching assistants in a writing course I teach at Johns Hopkins University selected it to show to the class. She was a white woman in her early 20s, raised and educated in a suburb somewhere in Connecticut. I looked in her eyes when she made the request to see if she was joking. She wasn't. So it was on a Wednesday night this past spring that some 20-odd Hopkins students got their first glimpse into Baltimore's criminal underbelly. "I'll be in the back of the room slashing my wrists as you watch this," I told the class. It was my second time enduring the video. I watched it the first time late last year, when I wrote a story about it BlackAmericaWeb.com. But what struck me the second time around was the



Written by Gregory Kane ID1757 Friday, 05 August 2005 05:37 -

That perfectly describes the black men in "Stop Snitching." They're destroying themselves and the "snitches" and "rats" they excoriate. Baltimore has the body count to prove it. In fact, some of the guys in the video call Baltimore "Bodymore, Murderland."

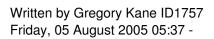
Most of those bodies are of young black men. Most of the murderers are young black men. All of them think of themselves and the black men they kill as "niggas." If they read a little James Baldwin, maybe they could make the connection to that body count, their pathetic lives and referring to themselves as "niggas."

But who in black America's hip-hop generation reads Baldwin these days?

Black America's hip-hop generation? Heck, who in black America's baby boomer generation reads Baldwin these days?

The young men in "Stop Snitching" are the sons, grandsons, nephews and cousins of black America's baby boomer generation. We're the ones who supposedly read Baldwin's "The Fire Next Time" when it was released in the early 1960s. We're the ones who dug Malcolm, praised the Black Panther Party, started the Afro craze and truly (but erroneously) believed we were "blacker" than previous generations.

If anyone should get the blame for our young men calling themselves "niggas" while they gleefully slaughter each other on the streets of our nation's cities, it's black America's baby boomers.



Gregory Kane, writes for BlackAmericaWeb.com and this article was used with their permission.

Please visit their site at http://www.blackamericaweb.com