Written by Westside ID4351 Monday, 12 May 2008 05:24 -

In this year of America saying and showing it wants change, can we change present hip hop music to more fit the culture of hip hop? Can we depend on the leaders that will be elected to say to the music industry; enough is enough?

With countless senseless killings and record numbers of people being incarcerated, isn't it time we say enough is enough while we still have young people to watch out for and to lead.

The major record labels have been 'censoring' the hip hop music we hear for years, so why not force them to stop with the music that tears down the community instead of enriching it.

It is hard to imagine that the hip hop scene we have today is what Afrika Bambaataa first imagined when first using the term hip hop to describe the subculture that hip hop music belongs to.

The 'elements' of hip hop - DJ'ing, Rapping, Graffiti, Breakdancing and Beatboxing where meant to uphold and build the community – not destroy it. The injection of gangsta rap into the culture was a pivotal turning point, since the corporate end of the hip hop scene seen nothing but money in gangsta rap. The first gangsta rap album to become a mainstream pop hit, selling more than 2.5 million copies, was N.W.A.'s Straight Outta Compton and the flood gates were open to the anything goes era.

That was the 80's and still today 20 years later almost every hip hop and rap artist wants to portray themselves as gangsta, with shoot 'em up lyrics and death with 'honor' as a subtitle, drinking and clubbing is more important than knowledge and advancement.

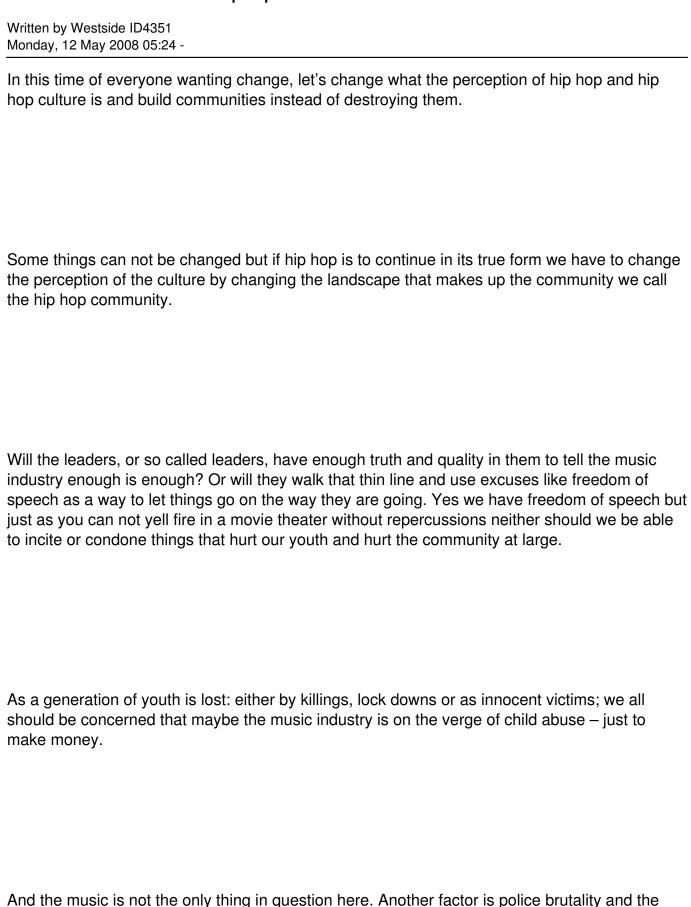
Written by Westside ID4351 Monday, 12 May 2008 05:24 -

Today the lyrics of many hip hop tracks incite violence against either another rapper, sect or crew or they want to disrespect women and even worse is the use of the word 'nigga'; which disrespects an entire race of people.

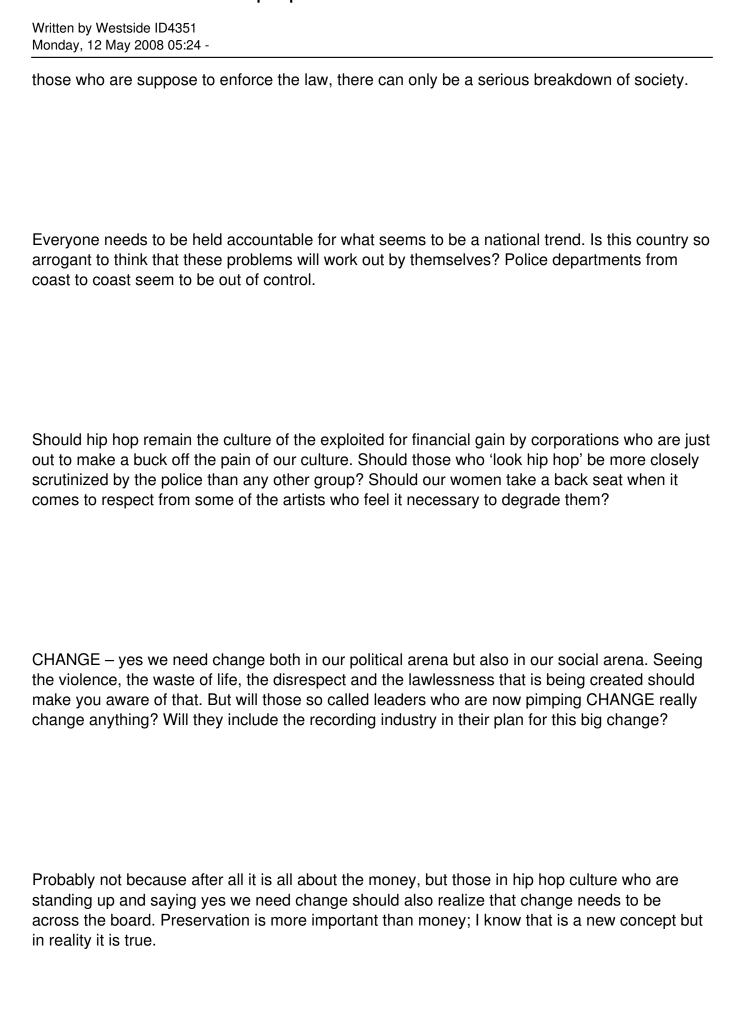
Now if we look at the definition of the word 'nigga', some can argue that the hip hop icon rap artist Tupac Shakur (2Pac) looked at it this way – N – never, I – ignorant, G – getting, - G – goals, A – accomplished = 'NIGGA' . Now that may make sense to those who know 2Pac's explanation of the word, but many are from an era when the word 'nigga', 'nigger' or anything close would be taken literally and there would be no time for explanations; the result would be a confrontation of some type.

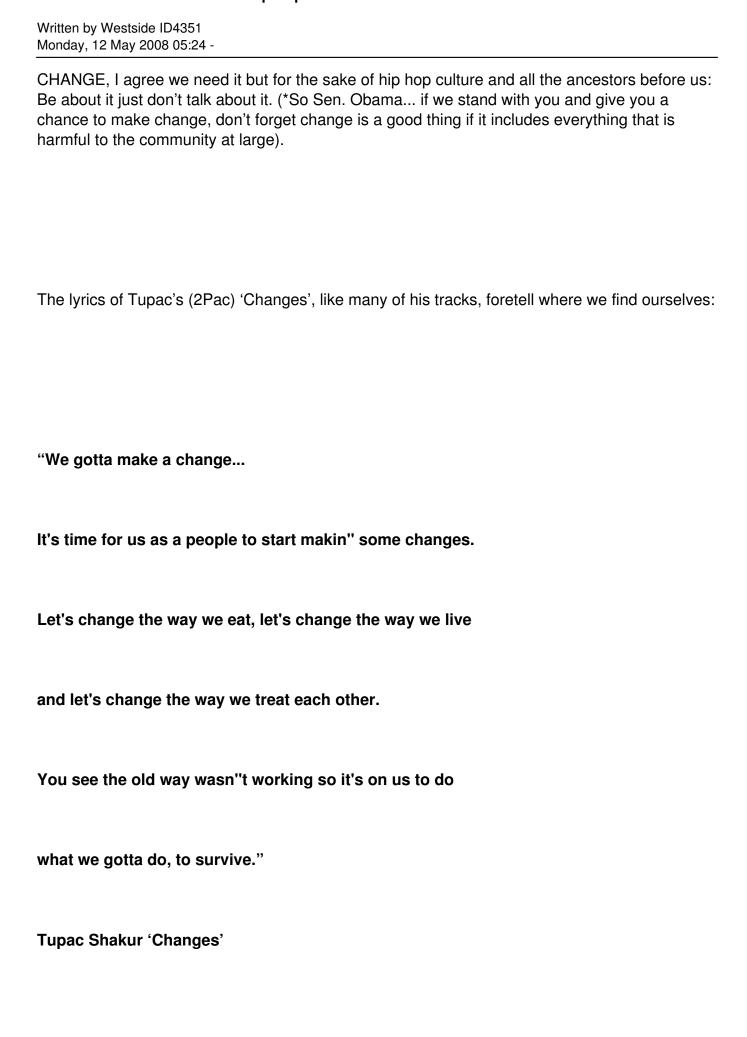
If we look at the struggles, the pain, the deaths that brought us from Frederick Douglass to Malcolm X to Martin Luther King Jr. to the Honorable Minister Farrakhan; and the many in between; and the demand for respect for a people: how can we use that word so freely and comfortably? How can the struggles of the Civil Rights movement be thrown out so nonchalantly? Many people were beat, many died gaining respect for a race and culture and now that is all forgotten and the word is mainstream again. That is a pitiful statement against the 'elders' who brought us all to this point.

How can women be treated and represented in such an ill light, when they are the center of humanity. With out women we do not reproduce, we fail to exist and still some would compare them to female dogs?



perception that maybe the Bloods and the Crips, and other street organizations, are not the only 'gangs' roaming the streets. The biggest 'gang' on the streets today seems to be the police. Increased beat downs, police shootings (as in the case of Sean Bell), and racial profiling and 'hip hop' profiling are serious issues that need to be addressed. When the people do not trust





Written by Westside ID4351 Monday, 12 May 2008 05:24 -