



THE AFRICAN NEWSWORLD

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An Organ of the Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO)

TODAY'S MUSIC ON THE BLACK MIND; A WEAPON OF MASS DESTRUCTION



Trending Rappers on The Black Mind: Weapons of Mass-Destruction!

(By Amari Sneferu / UAPO Minister of Pan-African Affairs)

When it comes to the power and influence of music; currently trending at number one in America is a song called That's What I Want. This song features a well-known controversial Black rapper, singer-songwriter, in that of Montero Lamar Hill, age 22 and known by his stage name, Lil Nas X. The first verse in this hit song features the homosexual lyrics: “Need a boy who can cuddle with me all night, keep me warm and love me long etc., etc ..” In response to this as well as the shocking performance he displayed at the BET awards, I beg the question: Did our spiritual leaders, secular intellectuals or culture nationalist decide that this is socially acceptable in the context of building strong Black families? Or were we bombarded without cultural consent, by opposition initiatives invading the boundaries of Black manhood and breaching gender role standards set in place by our beloved ancestors?

It is in this context, that we must examine the latest trends, evaluate our roles, our activities and the impact a given industry has on our collective well-being as it relates to our trajectory towards Black Empowerment. This includes taking a fresh look at some of the cultural challenges that stand in front of us, as well as the weapons of Mass-Destruction (psychological or otherwise) that are formed against us. Hence is the purpose of this article.

Out of the top ten biggest music recordings trending today, black rap artists hold positions at #1, #5, #7 and #8. Yes indeed, four out of the top ten hit songs are proudly held by black artists. In addition to Lil Nas X holding the #1 and the #7 spots, the other 2 hit songs feature black rapper, singer-songwriters Amala Dlamini aka Doja Cat who's only 25 years old , Drake who's 34, Future (37) and Young Thug (30). Are these black artists and many others like Cardi B (28) and Lil Wayne (39), using their wealth and talents to advance the interest of our people in this global competition? Or are they being used as weapons of

mass destruction to destabilize an entire generation who are now standing at the helm of a people who are under attack globally?

The answer to that question rest upon what impact does their music and their musical performances have on the minds of impressionable black children and impressionable young Black adults still trying to find themselves. How do these artists and their work impact the stability of Black youth and our families moving forward? A study conducted by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation suggests that young people who listen to rap and Hip-Hop are more likely to abuse alcohol and commit violent acts. In the early days of Hip-Hop, rap artist did not include alcohol references in their music for the most part. But over time the Cognacs, the Cristal, the 40 oz-s, and other alcohol references grew tremendously and so did an increase of alcohol consumption by underage Black youth in direct correlation. The marriage between Hip-Hop and the glamorizing of alcohol, weed and cocaine consumption, became very concerning to say the least.

Research shows that young people who start drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to become alcoholics than those who wait until they're 21. They are seven times more likely to be in alcohol related car accidents and 11 times more likely to suffer from violence associated with fighting after drinking. With that said, we know that Hip-Hop as an industry is not leaving America anytime soon. So, perhaps it's incumbent upon us to employ Hip-Hop music as a WMD as well; for fighting back against our historical adversaries as we've done so in the past.

“Now Brother Amari (some will say), there's nothing sexy about segueing from the glitz, glamor and fame of today's popular rap artist/ to age-old racist pathologies associated with Black family life in America.” Well, I beg to differ .. BLACK LEADERSHIP IS “SEXY” when it's done right. Raising a

Black family, loving our children, fighting back and serving the interest of our people are the keys for having real and lasting success. Beyond examples of fame or beyond misfortune, everything that we do should be done in consideration and respect for our children. Because we have not adequately done so, the push-back will be tougher now. Because (like it or not) we've unfortunately allowed our rap artists to become powerful role models of influence over our children.

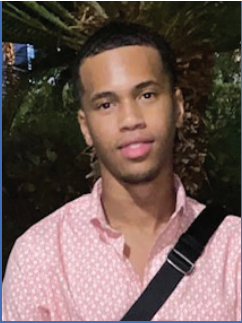
Let's take a look at disrespectful lyrics expressed in the (#8) hit song called, Way 2 Sexy by Drake, Future and Young Thug: “You turnt-up little thotty, ain't no wife about it. I'ma f**k her friends and send her back to Metro housing.” Referring to a woman as a thot or a bitch, unfortunately is not exclusive to this song. Rap icon Lil Wayne, well known for his objectification of Black women, is rivaled not only by Black male artists, but by female artists as well. In Cardi B's new song {Up}, she refers to women as bitches 15 times; not to mention the extreme elicit (X-rated) sex



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LET THE PEOPLE BE HEARD

QUESTION: IS TODAY’S MUSIC HAVING A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE MINDS OF BLACK YOUTH? IF YES, WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT?



Jeffrey Reed, Jr. Age 19 Student at Tennessee State University

One of the controversial issues impacting the Black Community today is the choice of our youth’s music selection and the life that is being promoted in the Movies and Media. As an African American teenager, I can speak from experience that most of the Hip Hop/ Rap Music that we listen to contains some sort of violence and/or derogatory language. However, I, myself can separate what I hear and what I believe is morally right. This might not be the case with all youth, because everyone has not been brought up in the environment that I have been to know what’s right and wrong. In conclusion, I think our generation will never change our music taste. What can happen is for more positive role models to step into the lives of our youth. These positive role models can tell them that it is OK to listen to our music. At the same time our youth need to know that there are more ways of being an adult than what we hear in our songs

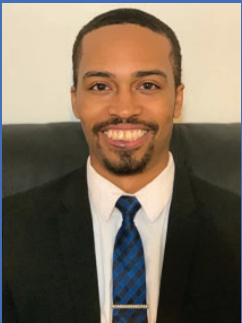


Xavier Silva Age 18 Student at Brown University

To begin, I feel I must preface my response by noting who I am and where I come from. I am an 18-year-old Black man from St. Louis. I recently graduated from John Burroughs high school in Ladue, and I am now attending Brown University. I’ve lived in the suburbs virtually my entire life, and I have never been in a predominantly Black schooling environment. I just wanted to put this information out there, because I do not want to make any generalizations about this topic or give a perspective that is not unique to me.

So, to answer the question at hand, I don’t think that today’s music inherently has a negative impact on all Black youth, but I do think that it certainly has a negative impact on a lot of us. The extent of this negative impact will vary from case to case, but overall, I think that certain groups of Black youth are significantly more susceptible to falling victim to the potential negative impact of today’s music. In that same vein, other groups of Black youth aren’t. For example, I listen to tons of rap music daily. The topics of the music I listen to include money, women, sex, gang violence, drugs, etc. However, I don’t feel that any of this, what most people would consider to be “negative”, music actually has any sort of effect on me. I’m not going to go listen to a song and want to go shoot someone. I’m not going to want to join a gang. I’m not going to go sell drugs. I take everything I hear as entertainment and nothing more. The reason I feel that I am able to do this is because of my background. I am definitely much less susceptible to being influenced by the things I hear in the music I listen to, because of a combination of how I’ve been raised, my stable environment, the positive figures in my life, etc. On the flip side of that, had I grown up in a much different environment with less positive influences and people to lead me on the right path (as such a large portion of the Black youth does) then I likely would be heavily influenced by today’s music.

I could probably write a whole essay on this topic because of all the aspects of the Black community that it feeds into, but I’ll end it here. I don’t think that all Black youths are negatively impacted by today’s music, but I do think that too many of us are.



Jakobi Connor Age 27 Registered Investment Advisor

In my opinion, music is merely a reflection of life and society. Saying that music has a negative impact on our Black youth, is equivalent to saying that life has a negative impact on our Black youth. Both statements hold some truth, but the impact of music is minuscule compared to the impact of our youth’s environment and access to positive role models. What we can do is focus on the community, parenting, and mentoring that our Black youth are exposed to. Growing up, I listened to many violent and explicit songs, but because I had great parents and mentors, I never let the words in songs sway my actions in life. I think we should stop placing blame on music and other forms of media and start taking responsibility for our own impact on the minds of our Black youth. It is our job to create positive influences that will outweigh the impact of any negative media or life experiences.



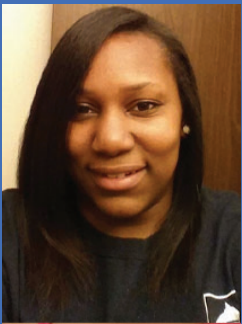
Josh Reed Age 17 Student at Cardinal Ritter Preparatory Academy

I definitely think that the music of my generation plays a role in the craziness going on in our country, but it’s not the true problem. In my opinion, the lack of leaders and role models in the Black community is what is the underlying issue that is more damaging to the youth. When a child doesn’t have a father or father figure that is a positive influence on their lives then it is easier for them to be influenced by certain music. While I believe this is the main issue, the music my peers and I listen to, still contributes to a lot of the problems.



Que Simone Age 28 University Resident Director

As I reflect on the question and those who are part of not only my generation, but the generation after me, I can honestly say I don’t think that music has made a negative impact on the minds of Black youth. As a young adult and in some situations a near peer to youth, I believe that music has been an escape, stress reliever, a method that provides solidarity and comfort to many Black youth. Today’s music, whether rap, r&b, etc., provides a sense of hope and the ability to dream and desire aspects they would not be exposed to. I look at music for our young Black youth as a connection tool. So many of our youth love listening to music, making music, and following the day-to-day trends of music artists. It is important to view this tool of music for Black youth as a positive and figure out ways that we can outreach more of our youth to be successful in whatever ways they deem it to be for them. When we think about music and negativity, it is centered around social media which is the true negative impact on the minds of Black youth. Social media has a larger influence that can have ebbs and flows of negative and positive experiences for our Black youth specifically. Music allows our black youth to express themselves and the empowerment to be heard through their way of communication. Music to our Black youth is a way that provides a sense of belonging and community specifically for them. So, no I do not think music has a negative impact on the minds of Black youth.



Ashley Ramsey Age 29 Certified Pharmacy Technician

Most rap music you hear on the radio today covers a lot of topics, but the most featured topics are sex, drugs, and money. Does this have a negative impact on the minds of our youth? I’d say yes and no. Depending on one’s environment, music can be depicted as either entertainment or a muse. You either hear the things being said in the music and aspire to do those things or you see it as what it is, entertainment. I feel we can counteract these negative behaviors in youth by changing their environment. When you’re living in “survival mode,” as unfortunately most Black youth are, these things ring true to you and your life experience. Change the environment and you can change one’s world view.



Larry Freeman Age 47 Entrepreneur

I would say 1000% it is having a negative effect on Black youth. I’m 47 years old and a fan of original gangsta rap of the late 80s & 90’s and even early 2000, but the Lyrics have gotten worse and more deadly. The beats are good, but if you listen to the words, they are very demeaning. Lord forbid if you are under the influence of drugs and alcohol and believe and do what the song says. The music is detrimental to a whole generation. Today, they play songs on the radio that would have never been allowed to be played in the past. I personally think it’s a form of BLACK POPULATION control and it’s working. I’m sad to say it is an effective tool. The big record executives are doing just what they are being paid to do and making good music is not the most important thing. The music message is promoting killing Black people, so we won’t take over like the kings we are. BUT with great organizations like the UAPO, even though I’m not a youth anymore, I am woke and will try to be a beacon of light.

LET THE PEOPLE BE HEARD

QUESTION: IS TODAY’S MUSIC HAVING A NEGATIVE IMPACT ON THE MINDS OF BLACK YOUTH? IF YES, WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT?



Tiyah Jackman Age 17 Student (Senior) at University City, MO High School

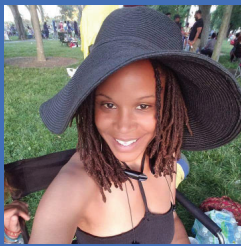
In my opinion, the current state of music doesn’t have a negative impact on the minds of Black youth. Every generation has music and songs that seem inappropriate for that time. Artists like Prince, Madonna, and 2 Pac were criticized for their song lyrics and style. However, they are known as icons in music. I listen to all genres of music from hip hop to country, all of which can have a positive or negative influence on the listeners. It is easy to focus on the few negative songs, because they are more mainstream or popular. However, there are several artists that have positive and uplifting messages in their songs. For example, my mother has constantly praised my vast music taste and even added some of the songs to her playlist. Therefore, I listen to music for enjoyment, it helps me to relax while doing my homework/studying or just to create a nice vibe in a social setting.



Joshua Ramsey Age 29 District Director, St. Louis North County Boy Scouts of America

While there has been a flawed perception of hip hop and rap music for generations, many artists today reinforce Black stereotypes. When rap was first born on the “Boogie Down Bronx”, many artists rapped about real life issues that plagued the Black Community. It was a form of expression and before therapy became a thing in the African American Community, one may say therapy for people living in these everyday battles and how they successfully made it out, while others unfortunately didn’t. Music has always been a form of therapy for many folks, but in the last few years violence misogyny, and the preaching of hardcore dislike of authority can negatively affect Black people, especially youth.

The ethos of rap music today reinforces the stereotypes that have long hindered Black folks. For example, teaching young Blacks that a thuggish, adversarial stance is the right response to a presumptively racist society, disregards Black success. It can enable Black young folks to continue to kill each other over street corners they don’t own and principles that are non-existent in the average person’s life.



Kristine Hendrix Age 42 Political and Educational Activist and Mother of Three

Yes, the music of today is having an affect on the youth and has been for 30 plus years. I believe it’s getting worse. I think on the individual level we can introduce Black youth to different genres of music that don’t contain violent toxic lyrics. Parents must use parental locks to monitor the on line activity of their youth; and we need better internet safety laws and policies to prevent them from consuming too much toxic media. Activists and organizers need to boycott and protest local radio stations and music companies as well. We should at the minimum demand that certain music be kept off the air waves before 10pm and after 4am.

Are Charter Schools across the nation experimenting and dumbing down our students?

*New Orleans, Louisiana 100% Charter Schools

What city is next?



Sep. 14, 2021 Educators express their concerns about the Charter School takeover in the U.S.A.

**Mr. Nicholas Clement, retired SLPS teacher
former Vice President for Policy Enforcement,
AFT Local 420**

To the St. Louis Board of Education: Concerning Better Futures STL. My recommendation is not to participate in the Better Futures planning process. It’s a trap and a quagmire you may not get out of. If you do decide to participate, (Mayor) Tishaura Jones should not be co-chair of Better Futures. It is a conflict of interest. Her legislative career was spent advancing charter schools and denigrating St. Louis Public Schools. She supported the removal of the elected board in 2007 and the imposition of a private board, the SAB, you know like charter schools have. The SAB has been a disaster for the students of St. Louis Public Schools. There has been minimal transparency and no accountability for the collapse of map scores under the SAB. She supported the SAB.

No worries about equity and inclusion from any of these groups about the SAB... What is a more blatant example of racial inequity than poor black school children being denied services because white millionaires demand their tax money? Where are the equity and inclusion groups? Is there outrage about the diversion of tax money from poor black kids to Maxine Clark, who lives in Clayton, by (Mayor) Tishaura (Jones), by Forward Through Ferguson? By WEPOWER, by Education Equity?...

We now see that this syndicate of phony equity groups are weaponized by white oligarchs against the most democratic, racially inclusive institution in the St. Louis area, the St. Louis Public Schools. St. Louis Public Schools and their elected board are the true champions of racial equity and democratic values. There has to be an opt out option for SLPS if the interests of SLPS are not protected under any future city-wide plan. SLPS shouldn’t agree to go along with the plan if it doesn’t protect their interests.

**Mrs. Dountonia S. Batts, J.D., M.B.A.
Bridge Builder & Community Engagement
Strategist**

My name is Dountonia Batts. I am an education justice advocate from Indianapolis, Indiana. I am a wife, parent, former charter school teacher, and a former support staff member at a public school. I serve on national, state, and local boards dedicated to the preservation of public schools with a democratically elected school board. I am missing one son’s tennis match and another son’s soccer game to share with you the vision of what St. Louis Public School District has a high potential of looking like in the near future.

The new St. Louis education blueprint peddled by Better Futures STL sounds a lot like the NEO Plan that was solicited in Indianapolis in 2013 by The Mind Trust which is the equivalent to your

Opportunity Trust here. The NEO Plan was shot down by community members and was resurrected as Live. Work. Play. – almost the exact same plan went unnoticed by many of the same community members who defeated the original NEO Plan. Thus, my fear for St. Louis Public Schools, the City of St. Louis, and the State of Missouri.

The City Fund’s Opportunity Trust, Education Equity Center of St. Louis, Forward Through Ferguson, WEPOWER, and others are operating to push agendas laced in the language of equity but have inequitable outcomes indeed. Like in Indianapolis, our Mayor’s Office, The Mind Trust, and Stand for Children created a parallel school system of charter schools in the name of innovation. Our innovation schools have school boards that are made up of people who often do not send their children to our schools and/or board members may live in another state altogether...

Diane Ravitch says, “Our schools will not improve if we continue to close neighborhood schools in the name of reform [or innovation]. Neighborhood schools are often the anchors of their communities, a steady presence that helps to cement the bond of community among neighbors.”

If you want a better future for St. Louis, learn from the people recruited to advocate against their own interests, then woke up.

For both presentations use this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuvNbIGNsME> (Set timer at 2:32:45). For more information call or text the Communities’ One Project® (314) 398-1489. Join us to keep high quality education in our children’s traditional neighborhood public schools!

UAPO SUPPORTS RALLY TO STOP ST LOUIS SCHOOL CLOSURES

Save Dunbar Elementary



Rally Supporter



UAPO Member and Missouri Senate Candidate Coffee Wright



Rally Supporter



UAPO Outreach Coordinator Gwen Cogshell



Rally Supporters



Rally Supporter

August 1, 2021

National Black Leadership Alliance Open Letter
nblanow@gmail.com

There Is Indeed A Message In The Music

By Bob Law

Earlier this year, the Grammys and the NAACP image awards were given to songs that called for the killing of Black people and the abuse and degradation of Black women. These kinds of songs also remain in heavy rotation on radio stations that target Black audiences like Chicagos WGCI and WPWX as well as New York's Hot 97 and Power 105. Consider this lyric "Coupe! Got the missing roof, your boo came up missing too. Poof! I just stole your boo, now ooh she gon' eat the whole crew." Or this one "Headshot a nigga ass to see what his mind do. Catch him at a red light or a F***in drive through."

To understand our concern, it is helpful to understand the emotional, as well as the political significance and influence of music. It was Confucius, the ancient paragon of Chinese sages who said "If one should desire to know if a kingdom is well governed, if its morals are good or bad, the quality of its music will furnish the answer."

Music touches us in ways that other art forms cannot, it is not only in the lyrics as noted musician David Byrne and others have explained, it is also the combination of sounds, rhythms, and vocal textures that communicate in ways that bypass the reasoning centers of the brain and go straight to our emotions. Poet Larry Neal, one of the architects of the Black Arts movement of the 1960's said "It is indeed the music that can affirm our highest possibilities." That may be precisely why the best of our music is being removed.

It is also important to understand that in in this society, music conveys social status. Consider the higher level of sophistication associated with opera or classical music, or the level of cool and hip sophistication associated with the music of Coltrane, Monk and Miles.

While we do indeed like the music we also tend to like the company it puts us in. In this sense the music creates its own community including a life style that is validated by the acceptance of the music. It is the music that validates the "Gangsta."

When the Chicago based, Clear The Airwaves Project appealed to the FCC, the commissions response was that they trusted the white owners of the radio stations to determine what was in the best interest of the Black audience. When the National Congress Of Black Women appealed to Harvey Mason Jr. thinking that a Black man as head of the Grammy committee would make a difference, that he would at least be sensitive to the concerns of Black women, he ignored them.

We doubt that this music would even be considered for a grammy or a NAACP image award if these songs referred instead to any other marginalized group. What if we substitute the negative word "nigga" and inserted a word like "faggot" or "Jew." Just insert that one word so that the song now says, "My daughter a G, she saw me kill a Jew in front of her before the age of two, and I'll kill another jew too fore I let another Jew do something to you" or remove the word nigga from this lyric and say instead "I don't like faggots, I don't like bit***s, I don't like nobody (nobody, nobody)"

We seriously doubt that Harvey Mason Jr. or the NAACP Image award committee would condone any such lyrics, nor would the Black program directors like Johnnie D. Glover and Jay Alan at black music radio stations condone and accept such music, it appears that this music is worthy of airplay, recognition and awards if it clearly only targets Black people.

It seems that it is up to the Black community to take the necessary steps to demand respect. If you are opposed to music that calls for the death of Black people and the ongoing degradation of Black women, **TURN IT OFF**. If it is being played on any given radio station, **TURN OFF THE RADIO**. Turn off any source of music that is playing lyrics that calls for the killing of Black People. **TURN IT OFF. (And Don't Buy Their CD's and Albums)**

Zaki Baruti's Health Reflection



If you know a family member or friend who is really suffering from the effects of Covid 19, please encourage them to seek a Mono Clonal Antibodies Infusion Treatment which a doctor has to prescribe. (The sooner, the better). Having personally being seriously ill from Covid 19, it saved the day for me!!!

“ We are the only people on this entire planet who have been taught to sing and praise demeaning ourselves. I’m a bitch. I’m a ho. I’m a gangster. I’m a thug. I’m a dog. If you can train people to demean and degrade themselves, you can oppress them forever. You can even program them to kill themselves and they won’t even understand what happened.”

Dr. Frances Cress Welsing



I wanted to begin my Task Ahead article with quoting the late great Dr. Welsing, because she so eloquently and succinctly described the present-day negative reality facing our people. In addressing the pain and hurt facing our communities in my humble opinion, we are facing a warfare against our people that is manifested in a variety of ways to keep us oppressed in this capitalist society. Those methods include (1) psychological and spiritual warfare that stimulates many of our people to act as Dr. Welsing describes above, (2) economic deprivation which leads to mass incarceration and family instabilities, (3) political under representation and misrepresentation, whereby effective laws are not passed and implemented that addresses our social conditions, (4) police terrorism that perpetrates fear in our communities, and (5) an educational system across America that does not teach our true history that is part

and parcel of the psychological warfare waged against us.

So, with the many problems that we must tackle, if we are to be the Creator’s chosen people as I believe we are, what is the task before us? As I have repeatedly advocated over the years, we must do as Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael) would say and that is “ Organize-Organize Organize.” Also, in the vein of organizing, our people must begin joining and supporting those progressive movements that “Speak Truth To Power” and have a proven track record of working to uplift our people. Many of the issues impacting the race are not solved, because there are not enough people helping in our struggle for justice, peace and equality.

Accordingly, every progressive movement should have memberships that are equiv-

alent to armies for us to be victorious against those waging warfare against our people. Therefore, the Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO) which has a proven track record is calling upon our people to become one of our 144,000 members/supporters as we continue the struggle for “Liberation In Our Lifetime.” (See our back page for platform)



YOU MUST LEARN

Close your eyes and name as many countries on the continent of Africa. Ideally, you should know at least 35 of the 54 countries. Learn their names, spelling and their location.

A	E	
Algeria	Egypt	
Angola	Equatorial Guinea	
B	N	
Benin	Namibia	
Botswana	Niger	
Burkina Faso		
Burundi		
C	G	
Cape Verde	Gabon	
Cameroon	Gambia	
Central African Republic (CAR)	Ghana	
Chad	Guinea	
Comoros	Guinea-Bissau	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	K	
Republic of the Congo	Kenya	
Cote d'Ivoire	L	
D	Lesotho	
Djibouti	Liberia	
E	Libya	
	M	
	Madagascar	
	Malawi	
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	Uganda	
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	Zambia	
	Zimbabwe	



What is Wrong with White People In America?



Deacon JB Bond
UAPO Senior Advisor

What’s Wrong with White America? Black America must continue to show this country that we can be a better Union when all of its citizenry is held equally accountable to all of the rules and regulations of the Constitution without prejudice. However, we have some whites in Congress and in the judicial system on the right and left constantly trying to convince poor and less fortunate people of this country, White Black Brown Red and Yellow, that they are a threat to the stability of White America. They would have us believe that the poor and less fortunate are trying to take the country from White Americans. America is supposed to be the great melting pot of the world; however, White America sees people of color as “others” and not true Americans. This is where the problem starts.

When people of color in this country began to gain ½ percent of the wealth that white America controls, the governing bodies would tell the poor whites that the people of color were taking their (meaning white people’s) opportunities to better themselves. This is the big lie the governing bodies tell poor whites so that the rich get richer and poor whites get what’s left.

Black America must continue to help white America see that opportunities are expanding - like the universe. If they would acknowledge this truth, they too would see that the sky is not falling. But instead, the lies are abounding. White America controls nearly 100% of everything in America.

Let’s paint the picture so that everyone can see more clearly what’s wrong with white America. In the banking business whites own over 95% of the banks and control over 98% of the banking business. This type of dominance flows to news media, manufacturing, and the educational system. White America is clearly in control of everything, yet they say that the people of color are taking over (meaning white people’s) country. One must ask the question what’s wrong with white America? With these facts as evidence, white America please show us where people of color, and black people in particular, are taking over.

White America has been conditioned to perceive any gains by Black America as too much. This is a matter of perception, not fact. I have a personal example of a white friend of mine’s perception of a Black man taking his job. He said to me that affirmative action was reverse discrimination because he was not allowed a position in a certain union job. After the owners had hired over 200 people, all white, the law stated some Black people had to be hired also. When my friend found all positions had been filled and 2 Black men were hired because of affirmative action, his perception was that one Black man took his position and not one of the over 200 white men that came before he did. The fact of the matter is he felt entitled to the position in spite of the law.

We know that oppression, as a whole, ails Black America. We have endured Chattel enslavement, Jim Crow laws and now systemic racism, an oppressive network designed to control the masses of people of color - particularly Black people. With this being said, you can see more clearly why there is a segment of the Black community which commits violence in our less prosperous Black communities across the country. When the oppressive network denies the less fortunate of the black community the opportunity to better themselves, the Black community often turns to the underground or low sustaining job opportunities to make a living. This is what’s wrong with Black America, and the reason is crystal clear. However, the question is what’s wrong with White America? White America can lie, deny, and evade questions about the history of this country and how it came to power, but the truth speaks loudly. The New King James Bible says: “For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. (Luke 8:17)” Naked

truth stands and presents itself as a bright morning sun. What’s done in the dark shall come to the light. As this happens, hopefully a nation of honor will move with passion, humility and repentances to right the wrong - not double down and put up statues and monuments of those who fought against the forming of the United States of America. This is exactly what the country did, and now we are again at the crossroads of a country divided. For example, the term Critical Race Theory (CRT), another attempt to keep the truth from coming to light, is the latest subject of interest, but we will get into that discussion another time and stay with the current narrative.

There is something wrong with a people who can see a police officer shoot a child in a park playing with a BB gun or toy gun and shoot that child dead without first warning the child to drop whatever is in his hands and hold his hands up. There is something equally appalling when, in a court of law, that officer is found not guilty of killing the 12-year-old Black child for playing in the park where he should be playing.

There is something wrong with a people who would put a narcissist in the white house with a track record that no fortune 500 company would have as it’s CEO. There is something wrong with a people who have a daily national news media company spouting alternative truths and outright lies to the American public and calling it news (AKA Fox News) while white America reveres this broadcasting media station as the best this country has to offer. There were over ninety treaties signed by white America with the indigenous people of this country and white America broke every one of them. This is why the Native American people say that the white man speaks with forked tongue. The common thread throughout this narrative is an affection for lies by white America and aversion to truth. So, for those who are struggling with the answer to the subject of this article, the answer is “Truth.” White America has a problem with telling the truth.

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Cuba’s big wins at Olympics due to its revolution

Zack Farber/Liberation News

To the surprise of many, the Republic of Cuba finished the Tokyo Summer Olympic Games with 15 medals. Their seven gold, three silver and five bronze medals place them 14th in the world. This is remarkable given the impact of the U.S.-imposed blockade and the size of Cuba’s population. Of the countries that won more medals than Cuba, only New Zealand has a smaller population. Cuba ranked second in Latin America behind Brazil, which has a population of 211 million compared to Cuba’s 11.33 million.

Cuban athletes won a medal for about every 755,333 people in Cuba. The United States, with 113 medals total, received one medal for about every 2,904,425 people in the United States. Cuban athletic development a result of the revolution The achievements of Cuba at the Olympics are a testament to the success of Cuban socialism. The state has funded athletics since the 1959 revolution. In Cuba, people are supported by their community and the state if they show interest and promise in a particular field, including sports.

In capitalist countries like the United States, people must rely on their own personal resources and connections to access athletic facilities and obtain equipment. This presents many barriers for working class, poor and oppressed athletes. The socialist orientation of Cuba’s athletics is understood and appreciated by Cuban Olympians, such as four-time Greco-Roman wrestling gold medalist Mijain Lopez, who dedicated his most recent victory to Fidel Castro: “I have to thank this result and dedicate it to our undefeated Commander-in-Chief, who was the one who brought sport to Cuba for the first time. And I believe today we are not only deserving of this result, thanks to him and thanks to the efforts he made so that our revolution could go forward.” (Translated from Spanish by Kawsachun News)

Cuba’s boxing team captain Julio Cesar La Cruz also expressed a revolutionary sentiment after defeating Cuban expatriate Emmanuel Reyes. As Radio Havana Cuba points out “Reyes, born in Cuba but abandoning his country for Spain, had been spouting anti-Cuban rhetoric for weeks leading up to the Olympics. Observers say he was on the social networks, and chanting the counterrevolutionary slogans typical of recent maneuvers against the Cuban Revolution.”

After La Cruz’s 4-1 victory was announced, Reyes was nowhere to be seen as La Cruz bowed before the audience and shouted, “Patria y Vida, no! Patria o Muerte! Venceremos!” The slogan “Patria y Vida” (“Homeland and Life”) has been adopted by Cuban counterrevolutionaries and other reactionaries to undermine the popular Cuban revolutionary slogan “Patria o Muerte,” (“Homeland or Death”). La Cruz went on to win the gold medal in men’s heavyweight boxing. Cuba dominated the boxing category, finishing with four gold and one bronze medal.

U.S. blockade hurts Cuban athletics The incredible performances by Cuban athletes at the Tokyo Olympics are even more impressive when one takes into account the 62-year U.S. blockade. A huge strain on the economy and society in general, the blockade hinders Cuba’s athletic development. The blockade restricts access to imported sporting equipment and prevents Cuba from being able to produce their own high-quality sporting goods as it cannot get materials needed to do so. It also limits the flow of medicine and medical technologies into Cuba.



Without adequate training equipment, athletes are more prone to injury. A lack of medical devices and medicines such as anti-inflammatories and painkillers extends recovery times, especially for major injuries and procedures. Additionally, multinational corporations that have their roots in the United States are heavily involved in almost every major sporting industry. This incentivizes players to defect from Cuba so the U.S.-imposed blockade can no longer inhibit their ability to compete in professional sports leagues abroad.

One need not look further than the sport of baseball to see how the blockade serves as an athlete drain for Cuba. Cuban baseball players must renounce their citizenship to play in the U.S. major league baseball, a policy that was briefly reversed before Trump’s administration reimplemented it.

The Tokyo Olympics provided Cuban athletes with a platform to express perseverance in the face of a criminal blockade while engaging in friendly competition with athletes from nations across the globe. Despite its capitalist roots, the Olympics are a forum where socialist countries like Cuba and China, and others the U.S. opposes, like the Unified Korean team in the 2018 Olympics, can display their social and cultural achievements.

Perhaps most importantly, these teams and their approach illustrate the possibility of a future where the norm in international sports competition changes from corporate sports events to events that really build peace and friendship among all peoples.



Scenes From UAPO Activities

UAPO Rally and Red-Black and Green Ballon Release To Commemorate 100 Year Anniversary of Black Wall Street Massacre. May 30th, Irv Zeid Citizen Park Olivette, MO



Ballon Release



President/General Zaki Baruti



Greg Reed/Amber Books Owner



UAPO Vice President Safiyah Chauvin



UAPO Minister of Pan African Affairs
Amari Sneferu



Rachel Mitchell/Singer and Poet Roscoe (Ros)
Crenshaw seated in front

Marcus Garvey Celebration August 21st Irv Zeid Citizen Park Olivette, MO



Kunama Mtendaji Pouring Libation to Our Sacred
Ancestors



UAPO Vice President Safiyah Chauvin



Albie Walls/Member All African Peoples
Revolutionary Party (AAPRP)



African Drum Call Led by Kunama Mtendaji,
Akhan Anu and Brother Sharifu



Michael Kodjo Anani/Founder-African Diaspora
Council



UAPO Senior Advisor JB Bond



UAPO Outreach Coordinator Gwen Cogshell



UAPO Kansas City Representative GG Owens



UAPO Minister of Pan African Affairs
Amari Sneferu

and Social Justice Actions

September 24th Press Conference Calling For Firing of Woodson Terrance, MO Police Officers Who Allowed Canine Dog To Attack Black Man In Their Custody



President/General Zaki Baruti Addressing The Press



President/General Zaki Baruti Addressing The Press



Rev Richard Jackson/Manasseh Ministries



Press Conference Attendees



Rev Darryl Gray/Expect Us



End Mass Incarceration Founder and UAPO Member Willie Boyd



UAPO Member Anthony Cage



UAPO Member and US Senatorial Candidate Coffee Wright

Other Activities



UAPO Members Coffee Wright, Zaki Baruti and Larry Freeman at Court-house in Support of Corey Hunter Appeal of 145 Year Sentence



Coffee Wright at Missouri State Building Supporting Stay of Execution for Mentally Challenged Black Man

Trending Rappers on The Black Mind: Weapons of Mass-Destruction!

Continued from Page1

references, albeit versed very nicely over an awesome music track. As we bob our heads in the night club dancing to the beat, have we stopped to wonder, “how popular is this song, to innocent little black girls?”

Author, Philip Purpura, a Homeland Security consultant defines a Weapon of Mass-Destruction {WMD} as something capable of inflicting mass casualties and destroying or rendering high-value assets; as useless. Spitting “dope” lyrics to the beat, I’m reminded of pervasive gun violence that’s plaguing the black community, leaving massive casualties on our streets. Rapping about robbing, lude sex, selling drugs or whatever rhymes with the last verse; some of our legendary rap artists have glamorized killing, sagging and street-cred bragging. In the global scheme of things, this musical madness is by design. Some of the lyrics endorsed and produced by the music industry, feed and re-feed these narratives and mirrors what seems to be an endless cycle of pain. Chicken or the egg? Either way, the missile is hitting its intended target (young black ears).

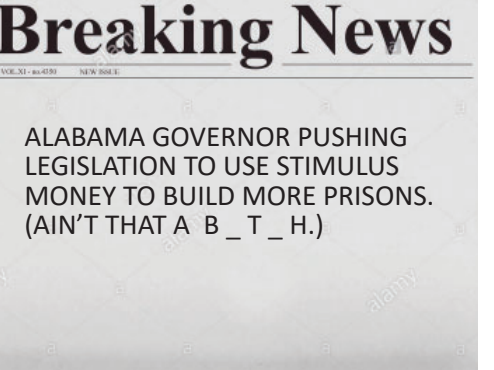
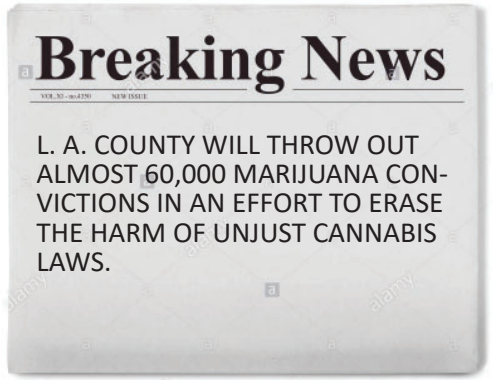
Black Americans are experiencing 10 times more gun homicides and 18 times more gunshot injuries than do white Americans. Each day on-average, 26 “Black Americans” are killed by way of gunshots and 104 Blacks on-average, are experiencing non-fatal gunshot injuries each day as well. In the midst of this excessive gun violence, I think about how our gifted Black artists,

who possess high-valued assets of talent and riches, are not engaged in raising the moral standards or the VIPs (values, interest and principles) when it comes to our people. The Biblical quote: “To whom much is given, much is required” is rendered useless outside the context of Black unity. By design, many of our most popular artists have been colonized into a consciousness of economic individualism; saying just-about anything to make money. Explosive is the power of the negative word that blows our people backwards. We cannot allow lyrical weapons of mass-destruction to demoralize our women and corrupt our men. Lyrical WMDs are not missiles shot from silos brothers and sisters. They are missiles shot from the mouths of our entertainers.

Fortunately for us, not all hip-hop artists are cut from that cloth. We have a proud legacy of using Rap music for fighting back and speaking truth to power. Yes, we too have used Rap music as a WMD; but as a WMD against mass-incarceration, a WMD against poverty, against urban violence, against police brutality, against miseducation and against everything bad from racial profiling to white supremacy itself. Lest we forget the Black Nationalist rappers of the late 1980s like XCLAN and Public Enemy. Continuing that rap tradition today; we have hard-core Conscious Rappers like Tahir RBG and AYEWAX. Shout-out to LL Cool J for going in hard online with a powerful spoken word following the murders of George Floyd and Ahmaud Arbery. Shout-out to Black rap artist overseas like Teddy Neguse and Black female rap artist Yael Montesnot living in the Jewish

State of Israel. They’re fighting against racism and killer cops shooting down unarmed Black youth in that country as well. Shout-out to St. Louis rapper and activist Tef Poe who stood up for justice on the frontlines during the Mike Brown Protest and all other rap artists and entertainers using their voice around the world fighting for justice. I want to give a shout-out to other home-grown rappers from St. Louis like Nelly, Chingy, Murphy Lee, J-Kwon, new artist-producer K Kudda and others; that you will invest your talents and resources into changing old narratives and building new ones.

In this global competition for power, we encourage all of our gifted Black artists and other gifted professionals to recognize your power. Organize yourselves into Black collectives and seize control over all the industries that we as a people have enriched. The quality of our future literally depends on our ability to do so. We cannot successfully compete for power until we learn to move as a team. When we learn to move as a Black organized collective (as other races have done and continue to do), we will have ultimately positioned ourselves for controlling the direction of Hip-Hop. He who controls the Hop-Hop industry, controls Hip-Hop lyrics. So, let the fight be for control because in the final analysis, our future will be shaped by the words we allow our children to consume. Our future is sound only if our weapon of choice is to raise our standards and support only the stars that will brighten our path. Otherwise, self-hatred is the only song that’ll keep on playing and playing!!!



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Open Letter To Missouri Department of Correction In Response To Inhumane Treatment of Muslims Praying

March 26, 2021

Mrs. Anne Precythe
Director of Missouri Department of Corrections
2729 Plaza Drive P.O. Box 236
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Director Precythe:

I'm writing this letter regarding an incident that occurred on February 28, 2021 at the *Eastern Reception Diagnostic and Correctional Center* in Bonne Terre, Missouri. I have received complaints that Muslim prisoners in *Housing Unit 4B* were subjected to a vicious, unprovoked, pepper-spray assault by guards while performing their daily congregational prayers, during their open wing recreation period. Congregational prayers are mandatory in the Muslim religion and *Housing Unit 4B* is supposed to be a honor wing. It is also my understanding that these men had previously been given permission by the institutional warden to participate in these religious practices out in the wing during open wing movement.

Not only was the attack on them unprovoked, but these men were sprayed directly in the face with this chemical agent. The manufacturer's label instructions sternly warns against this. The guard who did the spraying had a riot size container which he sprayed until it was empty. Then he (or whoever wrote the final report) lied and said the prisoners were only administered a short burst. The truth, however, is that the clothes of all these victims were completely saturated. Also, the only white Muslim in the group was taken by the arm and told by one of the guards to "Get over here before you get pepper sprayed." Then they unleashed a barrage of these chemicals on all the other prisoners who are African Americans.

Muslims in the *Missouri Department of Corrections* don't ask for much. They have had a relatively peaceful existence with officers and other staff for many years. This type of outrageous behavior was totally unnecessary. It is also one of the most egregious violations against the Muslim beliefs which anyone could ever commit. (Even Christians don't tolerate interruption of their religious services when they are praying to their God). Had this been done to more seasoned, more fearless, and more determined Muslims, I'm sure there would have been a violent counter reaction to this incident. Some of your guards would have probably been seriously injured. ***These guards are supposed to know this because it's been part of their training for many years. So they had to be trying to deliberately provoke a physical confrontation. For that reason, they need to be written up and suspended.*** There was no reason why these guards could not have waited until these men finished their prayers to discuss these matters or do whatever else they were going to do. These men didn't react to the guard's provocation (and choose to remain peaceful). The prisoners were still written up, thrown in the hole, and found guilty on bogus charges.

One of the guards involved in this incident, Sergeant Carl Heart, has on numerous occasions stated that he suffers from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome) because he was trained to kill Muslims when he was in Afghanistan. So, my question to you is this: Why is Sgt. Heart even allowed to have any contact and involvement with Muslims in the first place. He willingly admits that he is incapable of dealing with Muslims fairly and cannot interact with Muslim prisoners without resorting to brutal oppression? Despite his claims of PTSD, I'm sure he



These men were sprayed directly in the face with this chemical agent and the manufacturer's label instructions sternly warns against this. The guard who did the spraying had a riot size container which he sprayed until it was empty.



One of the guards who was involved in this incident, a Sergeant Carl Heart, has on numerous occasions stated that he suffers from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome) because he was trained to kill Muslims when he was in Afghanistan.... Why is Sgt. Heart even allowed to have any contact or involvement with Muslims?

wouldn't do that to Muslims on the street. So, he's only doing this to ***Black people who are Muslims in prison*** because he knows they are at a serious disadvantage.

I think the only PTSD Sgt. Heart suffers from is the same kind of PTSD that the rest of the officers who were with him on that date suffer from as well. (*i.e., being raised in southern rural Missouri--around a bunch of uncivilized, redneck, racist, hillbillies who have a storm the U.S. Capitol mentality*). Or maybe, they think they are still living back in the days of Jim Crow and slavery. At that time, Black people were hung if they got caught praying or trying to hold religious services. They would then have their breasts, fingers, toes, or their penises/testicles cut off. Those body parts would be sold as souvenirs at an auction to a crowd of spectators. If these types of events were still being held, I'm sure Sgt. Heart, Lieutenant Bashem and the rest of their gang who were also involved in this, would enjoy attending some of them. Therefore, some members of the Islamic Community refer to people like that as "devils" and righteously so. Who else besides a devil wants to torture, kill, and inflict forms of physical and psychological punishment on other human beings to discourage them from worshipping God?

These kinds of people have no real regard for religion, law, government or anything else. They merely use the law as a convenient excuse whenever they want to perpetrate injustice against the helpless and the poor. These are not just my feelings. These are the feelings of just about everyone who has ever had any dealings with the Criminal Justice System. Therefore, your rehabilitation methods don't work. It is also why you keep having so called acts of "organized disobedience" and near riots in your institutions. Prisoners get tired of hearing DOC Officials constantly telling them one thing and seeing them doing another. They claim all they want to do is maintain safety and security of the institutions. Yet, they are the very ones who keep going around and doing things that are calculated to incite violence and breaches of safety and security.

When I was in prison, the most effective rehabilitation I had was the realization of just how unjust and corrupt the penal system, the courts and legislature really are. Their real mission was to discourage ***me*** from being rehabilitated, even when I was trying to do something right. Just like the Muslims were doing in this case. So, I rehabilitated myself out of defiance to that.

One of the most serious impediments to rehabilitation came into existence when the *Missouri Department of Corrections* went back to calling their institutional heads "Prison Wardens," rather than Superintendents. Wardens work in places like *Alcatraz, Attica, San Quentin, New Mexico State Penitentiary, Walpole State Prison in Massachusetts and the now defunct Missouri State Penitentiary*. The word "Warden" is perceived to be the title of a person who oversees a prison inhabited by nothing but incorrigible people who are unworthy of being treated like human beings. This type of mentality is clearly reflected by most, if not all of your staff.

Sincerely,

Keith Brown EI

c/o Missouri CURE
Post Office Box 28931
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One Goal - Our goal is the liberation of our people spiritually, economically, politically and culturally, whereby we will control our own destiny.

One Destiny - the fulfillment of God's will for us as a people to have Freedom, Justice and. Equality, no matter where we reside and where we as a collective group will fulfill our capacity to grow, develop and expand to our greatest height of self development.

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oppress the weak, confusion and discontent will obstruct progress and development. With respect, equality and justice towards those of goodwill, a new era of peace and plenty will be forthcoming into the world and out future generations will be liberated

UAPO PLATFORM

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2. We seek to increase the quantitative/qualitative number of African Americans to elected public offices in proportion to our population at the national, state and local levels. We seek the passage of legislation that would directly enhance the quality of life for African Americans.
3. Support the development and expansion of independent African American schools. Support African centered curriculum in the local public school boards with Afrocentric thinking people. Increase the literacy rate and level in our community.
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