

So Its 1994.... Now What?

Just the other day a sister-friend of mine expressed her happiness about the New Year. She went on to say that she had made some New year's resolutions and that she was going to try really hard to make them all realities. Now the last thing I want to be is discouraging but I must be honest. Nine times out of ten most people make resolutions at the start of every year with intentions to make some drastic, positive changes in their lives. Whether people vow to start dieting, stop smoking or to become more financially stable these promises are made but rarely kept. By the middle of February everybody goes back to smoking, spending money that should be saved or invested, and eating foods loaded with fat. The beginning of another year should be a time when we re-evaluate our lives. It's a good time to weigh the pros and cons of the previous year and make an effort to improve a few bad habits. But when resolutions are made they shouldn't be so far fetched that they cannot ever become reality. No one can change over night. Change that is genuine and truly worthwhile takes time. We can only take one day at a time and just have faith that things will work out for the best. It isn't a rule that the only time people should change or kick bad habits is at the start of each year. Making a decision that can help you improve your life or the life of someone else can be

made on June 1 just as well as January 1.

Webster's Dictionary defines resolutions as: the quality of having a fixed purpose; determination; firmness. Plenty of folks have made resolutions for 1994. Maybe 1993 was a bad year for some and a good year for others. Regardless of what kind of a year it was it's over now and

better teachers and better friends. Our youth need us now more than ever.

It is also easier to vow to go on a diet than it would be to bring more unity within the Black community. Yes, Black people come in a variety of shades from creamy vanilla to coffee-bean- chocolate but we're all Black people. Our hair comes in an array of textures from silky,

smooth
t o
kinky
curls-
b u t
we're
a l l
people
of color
a n d
we're
beautif
ul in



THE HARD FACTS KNOCKING ON WOOD WITH TONYA

another year is staring us in the face! We know that this year will be different from last year, but the question is will it be better? What does 1994 hold for this country? Will the crime rate decrease? Will the economy improve? Will race relations improve? Particularly what does 1994 hold for the future of Black America?

It is easier to resolve to stop smoking than it would be to resolve to decrease black on black crime. It is impossible for one person to make a big difference but if we all made a collective effort it could be done. Today parents not only have to worry about their children facing the ugliness of racism and discrimination, but the reality of possibly being killed by a stray bullet on a playground or in the schoolyard. It's terrifying to know that todays in 1994, Black males are killing other Black males just as easily as the Ku Klux Klan killed our Black men years ago. Many of us should be resolving to be better community leaders, better parents,

our own unique way. We need to start loving one another with our hearts and not our eyes. If we don't become more unified we will soon find ourselves in a pitiful state. It doesn't make sense for Blacks folks to separate themselves from other Black folks for something as insignificant as the kind of car one drives. There is enough separation in this country without black people feeling superior to other Black people. Some of us have gotten so caught up in the European way of life that not only do we attempt to live that way but we also try to think that way. As black people we've got to hold on to our special characteristics that make us unique. While holding on to these unique characteristics, we must also come together to ensure the betterment of our people as time goes by. With every new year changes come. Hopefully 1994 will be a good one. But in all seriousness, a lot of things in this world are bad and getting worse with each passing day. Not only in the Black community but in all communities; things aren't as good as they should be. We all know what the problems are. Talking and writing about these problems isn't going to help the present state of the country. Only action can do that. So let's all resolve to do a little something to make this year better than 1993. *Stop the violence--increase the Peace.*



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