

SECOND OPINIONS

Does Rap Music Portray Violence, Crime?

With the deaths of Tupac Shakur and Christopher Wallace, the world of hip-hop faces a big problem. Society has the perception that rap music portrays violence and crime. Let's take a look at the situation from the perspective of a fan of both Wallace and Shakur and not people in society who constantly give rap a bad image.

As we all know a majority of the people who listen to rap are black or Hispanic. Most of the youth of other races only listen to rap because they want to socialize or be cool. Today, many rappers can relate to black or Hispanic kids because they are young and have been through many of the same experiences. By telling these young people about their experiences, rappers

want young people to learn and not make the same mistakes in life. They are also informing youth about what is going on in their neighborhoods because there is a lot of negative things going on there everyday.

What is the difference between James Brown singing "I'm Black and I'm proud" in the 60s and KRS One rapping about the same subject in the 90s? There really isn't a difference. Some people believe that rappers are nothing but thugs that pollute society with talk about guns and drugs. These people should realize that all most rappers have seen in their lives are guns and drugs. Why would a person rap about something that they do not have any idea or clue about. Life is reality and that is what rappers like to

focus on in their music.

Is rap music is being targeted because of its popularity? If youth did not listen to rap music, a majority of the people who are against rap would change their opinions about rap music. Obviously, Shakur and Wallace were two of the top rap music artists in the industry because of record sales. They had to give the fans what they wanted to hear in order to be successful.

If rap music contributes to crime and violence, then what about the millions of kids who listen to hard core rock music that involves cults, devil worship and drugs? People today just want to pick on rap and not rock. If a person does not like rap music, then he or she should not listen to it. People shouldn't criticize rap

because they don't like it. Whatever happen to Wallace and Shakur did not involve the entire hip-hop community. If two players in the NBA were killed in a drive by shooting, no one would say the NBA is bad and influences kids in the wrong way.

Rappers are not thugs, but they are hard working citizens who want to be successful and show kids who are interested in music how to be successful. Rap music is the only form of music that is under a microscope and people should listen to the messages in the music before criticizing it.

Jermel Wiggins

Underwood

smooth transition for him to carry out his new responsibilities at WSSU.

Captain Patrick Rimron, the Commandant of Cadets at WSSU and WFU, is also an armor officer said that Underwood is "truly a professional who works tirelessly to bring the WSSU ROTC program back from the brink of shut down to make it one of the strongest elements of the Demon Deacon Battalion."

"Capt. Underwood was very helpful to me since I was a freshman," said Jeannette Clark, a freshman political

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science major. "Anything I needed to speak to her about she would help me make the right decisions for myself. She also helped me learn what is expected of me in this ROTC program."

Cindy Ramirez, a junior majoring in nursing said, "Captain Underwood is a real motivator and a high-speed officer who looks out for the well-being of her cadets." Underwood leaves WSSU's ROTC program knowing that she has taken it from having only three cadets when she arrived to 40 cadets.

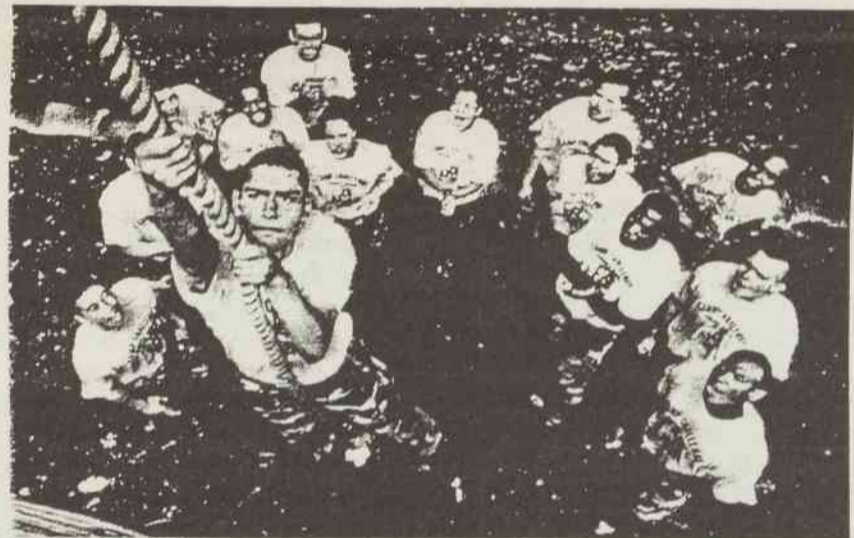
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