

Today's rap masks meaningful lyrics with catchy beats



SPENCER PULLEN

Ever since I was little, rap music has been a huge part of my life. Storytellers like Tupac, Dougie Fresh, and Run DMC entertained me with their lyrics and rhyme scheme and influenced me to get in touch with my creative style. But as I grew up, the music changed. It no longer has substance. It seems like artists today praise the negative more than the positive.

Most stuff rappers talk about, they do not really do. One can turn on any song and the majority of the time, they will come across lyrics stating they sell drugs and kill people and com-

mit other illegal activities. And listeners will believe them. It is really a lie. Unfortunately, millions of people have fallen victim to believing their music. If one took the time to research the artist, they would find out they are liars. I know I have listened to rappers like that, and once I found out the real them, I began to listen to them less and more, taking away from the hip hop culture. The essence of the music is taken out and is being commercialized.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Rap lyrics do not have substance anymore. Half the rap songs on the radio make no sense. They put a catchy hook, and then when they rap in the verse, it does not even correlate to the hook. It is ridiculous how

people do not realize this. In today's time, all a rapper needs is an attractive beat, a couple of punch-lines, then he or she is golden.

Dances out of nowhere have begun to sweep the nation, which is good, but not traditional hip hop. Television and internet have influenced it more and more, taking away from the hip hop culture. The essence of the music is taken out and is being commercialized.

It seems to me that real hip hop music is still alive in some artists. Many of Lil Wayne's fans were taken back by his platinum selling "Carter IV" album. In his album, he cut back on the club banging songs and punch-lines and spoke more truth in his music and used other beats and stayed on topic with his songs.

Jay Z and Kanye West collab-

orated together to create another platinum selling album, "Watch The Throne," in which they discuss past issues in the music industry and the friends they have lost. They compete back and forth throughout the album, talking about the beloved cities they are from.

J. Cole is another artist that fits the build. He speaks on past experiences, like growing up with no money and following his dream of becoming a famous rapper without selling out himself and becoming commercial. He also talks about what it is like being a man and the pain he has been through with past relationships with women.

I am a rapper and I enjoy listening to good music, but I hate fake artists. I do not find it appealing to listen to rappers who talk about smoking and killing all the time because I do not do that.

Most of my raps in my early stages of rapping were more about catchy punch-lines and metaphors that would make people be like "oh man that was sick." As I grew, so did my music. I ventured away from that and talk about subjects that people can relate to like relationships and battling adversity and staying true to oneself. It makes me feel good inside to know others can listen to my music and be like "wow he has a point there," or "that is a really good message to spread."

Hip hop is sending the wrong message to audiences around the world. There is a time and place for all music types, but it is imperative to recognize what is real.

Spencer Pullen is a freshman majoring in new media. You may e-mail him at spencer.pullen@sckans.edu.

Simple message changes one's life to write to spiritual lyrics to inspire others



KAITLYNN MUNOZ

Lecrae Moore, an inspirational Christian Hip-Hop, R&B singer, started his career when he was 19 years old in Houston. He started rapping non Christian music at first, then he decided to attend a conference with James

White. White's message turned Lecrae's horrible world around and showed him his need for a Savior.

With a new heart and spirit, Lecrae printed his testimony and shared what he knows across North Texas's college campus. The next five years he continued doing what he was doing before he met up with Ben Washer to found Reach Records.

Lecrae lived in Dallas and worked at a juvenile detention center for a while, but soon began working on his debut album. With life issues and his passion for Jesus Christ, Lecrae released "Real Talk." Listeners enjoy the delivery of Biblical truths and

transparent, relatable, and encouraging lyrics.

Years later, he established himself as a Christian rapper. Lecrae made the album "Rehab" in 2010. "Rehab" broke into the Billboard Top 200 albums and became No. 17 while reaching No. 3 on the Top 10 albums chart on iTunes. It also became No. 1 on Billboard's Contemporary Christian chart and No. 1 on the Billboard Gospel Albums chart.

"Rehab" has now hit Deets Library. Five songs stand out the most. The first is "Check In". The second song is track four,

"Just Like You." This song has an awesome beat. In the beginning it has a guitar solo that makes it sounds like a rock song. Then it surprises you with more singing with a bit of guitar. Then it goes to its R&B rhythm. The lyrics show how he wants to follow God's footsteps and compares it to how his Son follows what he does.

The third song is track seven, "The Children of the Light." It also starts with rock and stays consistent until the chorus, and then it goes to rap. The lyrics are about how children are the light. It also talks about what parents do so their children can accom-

plish their goals.

The fourth song is track 11, "Walking on Water." This begins with a girl that reminds me of Nikki Manaj rapping. This has a head-nodding beat, which makes you want to just keep going. This song talks about how he believes in God, and that when we want to give up, he will walk through the water.

My favorite song is "New Reality." The lyrics are pure rap, no R&B included. These lyrics are just about how when you follow God, you will see a whole new reality. You will have a different aspect of life if you follow God. My least favorite is track 17, "I

Love You." If you love someone, you say "I do" for a reason. And once you say "I do," then you are with that person and you have to share God's gifts with him or her.

The rhythms are very original. This is an album that you want to hear when you are in the dumps or having a stressful day. It's also an album that you want to jam out or cruise to. Lecrae has not been around very long, but with God's gift to him and the impact he has on others, he will go very far.

Kaitlynn Munoz is a freshman majoring in Communication. You may email her at kaitlynn.munoz@sckans.edu.

Word on the Hill

What is the best Halloween costume you have ever worn?

By Erin Morris & Rodney Marner



"My favorite Halloween costume that I've ever worn was a dead softball player. I had a bat going through my stomach."

Shelby Tucker
business
freshman



"My absolute favorite Halloween costume was a Spiderman outfit that I wore all the time. I loved it."

James Conner
instrument performance and composition
freshman



"My favorite Halloween costume was Nala from the Lion King. I dressed up as her when I was like 6."

Miranda Gibfried
marine biology
sophomore



"My favorite costume is being the Koolaid Man."

RJ Schnack
education
senior



"My favorite Halloween costume I ever wore was a hobo."

Brady Luedtke
business
sophomore



"My favorite Halloween costume I've ever worn is a Woopie cushion."

Taylor Satterthwaite
education
freshman

Jobs passing brings forth questions and a message

JONATHAN WOON

Without second thought, we take the iPod, iPad and iPhone as innovations that enrich our quality of life. Siri, for example, is a voice recognition function by Apple that blew away the minds of fans of the much awaited iPhone 4s.

I could imagine life with Siri. It understands what I say, it knows what I mean, it helps me do the things I do every day, and the best part is that it has so much to tell me all in one pocket-sized object. What more fine companionship can I ask for if it were not Siri's? I wonder if it is even possible to take Siri as my wife?

What we often bypass is rationalism. We do not think about the effort lost on our part with such "amazing" innovations. Laziness becomes part of our "enriched" culture and trust me, there is no turning back at this point. You've heard this sermon before, there's no need for me to continue preaching about technological innovations and their negative effects on our lives.

Although Steve Jobs is not fully responsible for this, Apple, with its products found in

almost every house and pocket worldwide and Jobs being one of its previous leaders that took charge during Apple's revolutionizing period, he surely has a huge responsibility on our current condition. Some call him the father of innovation, but I say he is the father of our lazy culture today.

If Steve Jobs was all out for the quality enrichment of human life, he would have been seen in the scarce areas of Africa and India feeding macaroni and cheese to the starving people.

Did I forget to mention that he would not appear on television and the World Wide Web for his contributions to the needy in comparison to what he is today; a public figure? It is clear that his motivation for innovation was not driven by the need to make better the lives of those who are living in poor quality of life but rather something else which only he can answer.

Come to think of it, Jobs has never really publicized the reason behind those innovations. Maybe, just maybe, he wasn't driven at all to help make people's lives better and it is just us, the consumers, that am-

plify a big scenario out of his passing on, how we lost one of earth's greatest contributors that "served" the human race.

What runs through your mind when you purchase an iPhone? Do you, at any point, think of the amount of money that Apple is earning off your pocket or do you just bother thinking about what the brand new phone will feel like in the palm of your hand? Business is exactly what the Apple business is all about.

It is indeed a simple concept that we as sloppy users fail to comprehend.

With Jobs being the previous leader, it is clear how his life principles seep into the company. Apple products are very user friendly alright, but is the company? Exclusive products and accessories question Apple's and Jobs' motivation.

Does technology improve quality of life of the entire human race or just those who have that extra penny to spend on applications and white wall charging cables? Why then do we weep over the death of an innovator that supposedly "made our lives better"?

Did you know that not all products are original ideas from

Jobs himself?

His fellow workers may have been the initial contributors of ideas and Jobs, being a skillful leader, has successfully taken those ideas and realized it. Jobs was indeed an excellent leader, but a leader without its followers is headed nowhere.

Why then do we give Jobs all the glory but not his fellow workmates that together, worked hard towards those products? Jobs would often take medical leaves due to his condition and mind you, Apple still went on making great achievements despite his absence.

Does Jobs presence make any difference then?

Suck it up, tear no more, and start doing something about our destroying world today. Jobs is just another ordinary man that has reached his destination, "death" as what he says in his speech that death is the destination we all share. If we don't, we will continue to operate under the "Jobs dies, a million cries but when a million kids die of starvation, no one cries" culture.

Jonathan Woon is a sophomore majoring in communication. You can contact him at jonathan.woon@sckans.edu.

The Collegian Staff

Editor in Chief.....Clinton Dick
Managing Editor.....Erin Morris
Features Editor.....Erica Dunigan
Photo Editor.....Carly Budd
Sports Editor.....Rodney Marner
Online Editor.....Richard Gould
Assistant Online Editor.....Jonathan Woon

Staff.....Bria Boykins • Dalton Carver • Caitlin Dyck • Morgan Givney • Joshua Hall • Amber Hart • Austen Holloway • Erik Johnson • Kaitlynn Munoz • Spencer Pullen • Alyssa Richardson • Will Rosson • Alissa Sheppard • Cristelle Tejes • Angel Vadillo • Katie Vorderstrasse

Faculty Adviser.....Stacy Sparks

The Collegian is the official student newspaper of Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. It is published and distributed during the fall and spring semesters.

News contributions will be accepted by sending an e-mail to collegian@sckans.edu or campus mail addressed to: The Collegian, Southwestern College, 100 College Street, Winfield, KS 67156.

Editorials are written by the Collegian staff members and do not necessarily represent the views of The Collegian or Southwestern College.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. To be published, letters must be verified, either with a signature or some other means of identifying the writer. All letters are subject to editing.

Subscription rates: first copy free to students, faculty and visitors to Southwestern College and \$35 per school year mailed.

The Collegian is also available in electronic version at scupdate.org.

