

The Carver Times

Black Music and the White House

By: James Hillyard

In 2008, when Obama was nominated for president, we received 808's and *Heartbreaks* by Kanye West, *Tha Carter III* by Lil Wayne, and *Rising Down* by The Roots. These three amazing albums all exposed a different side of the world through each artist's perspective. 808's was continuing the new trend of transparency in Hip Hop; Kanye put his heart not only on his sleeve but the cover too. *Tha Carter III* further cemented Wayne's presence in the rapper "Greatest of All Time" conversation with hits like "A Milli", "Got Money" and "Lollipop." These songs were on every urban radio station, every hour, every day after their release. *The Rising Down* holds up the conscious side of Hip Hop and brings *the tipping point* right in front of your face. The Roots and company discuss everything from the downsizing of music in mp3 (eventually streaming) to planetary devastation caused by man.

Obama represented change, and to a certain extent, freedom, which translated into the music created by rappers. Obama also spoke to the complexity of Rap music. According to Rolling Stone's Angela Balakrishnan: "he [Obama] expressed concern over his daughters - Malia, nine, and Sasha, seven - listening to some rap songs. 'I am troubled sometimes by the misogyny and materialism of a lot of rap lyrics,' he said, "but I think the genius of the art form has shifted the culture and helped to desegregate music." The beginning of Obama's response was spoken like a man who walked a tightrope; however, he does crack the surface in his praise for the music. It's funny that Obama mentions desegregation as he helped color in the line of presidents on the classroom walls and history books in elementary schools across the US. This time around we have colors orange (Trump) and green representing our nation. The latter is color of the faces of white liberals across the country who were "sickened" by the election results. People of color maintained a state of disbelief after November 9th, which quickly became apathy.

What is the difference between now and 2008? The most obvious change is the "commander in chief" tasked with representing America in all facets. Obama managed to not do one, but two terms leading a government and country that did nothing but conspire his downfall. What I really saw in the music of those eight glorious years was the barmecide freedom of a disenfranchised

people. There was a level of vulnerability in Hip Hop that had not been exposed before.

For once it was widely accepted to have rappers and albums that broke away from the stereotype created by "Gangsta rap." To individuals outside of the culture which bred Hip Hop, it was nothing more than a billboard for drugs and violence "created" by the Black Community. While there have always been artists to break the mold the best example is Kid Cudi's *Man on the Moon*. Cudi did not try to pull the proverbial wool over anyone's eyes at any point. There have been rappers who touched on things going on in their life but still had their walls up, mainly due to the need to keep a persona to sell the music or personal protection. Cudi took us on a tour of his innermost feelings and let his fans become apart of his life. This is a long winded analogy to say, having Obama in the White House gave Black people, and most importantly Black Children, not just someone they could not only identify in a crowd but self-identify with as he achieved the impossible. You can hear this in the music.

In 2007, Tony Schwartz, Trump's ghostwriter for *Trump 101: The Way to Success*, stated that, "running a business is like being an orchestra conductor. When you lead an organization or a business, you, like a conductor, must take charge and exercise control. How well your people perform is your responsibility, direction flows from the top, and you're the maestro." He concluded by saying: "In my organization, I set a rapid pace, which is called *allegro* in symphonic circles." This still holds true since, as of 2016 the world has been an audience to the orchestrated chaos America rehearsed for centuries. Something important to note is that the same music used to classify elites from plebeians and peons was created by Africans, the "lowest" rung on their social ladder.

The best soundtracks of this fire tornado has been Hip Hop which responded quickly and effectively. In 2016, A Tribe Called Quest (R.I.P Phife Dog) dropped *We got it from here... Thank you 4 your service*, a final fist in the air from a collective that has always stood for "we the people." Brazy by YG held the song "FDT", self explanatory once you hear the lyrics. *US or else* by T.I., a politically charged rebuttal to the sign of the times. America has gone through violent growing pains for... well, forever. For all it's worth, if humanity burns itself to the ground at least the soundtrack will be flames.



2020 Is Coming: Hopes and Prayers

Political opinion by: Agung Putra

Valentine's Day turned deadly in a high school in Florida last week. At Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, 17 students died of wounds from an AK-15 assault weapon, at the hands of Nikolas Cruz. Nikolas Cruz, a broken student who bragged about his guns and wore white supremacist messages to school, pulled a fire alarm and started to shoot. Students and faculty were terrified, and could be seen on social media while on lock down.

That night, the school community and the state grieved for the preventable loss that occurred. Local elected officials as well as the governor came down to provide comfort to those who suffered a loss. Unfortunately, none of these politicians can provide leadership besides providing aid in *thoughts and prayers!* America is tired of our elected officials preaching the same sad statement of thoughts and prayers! The last major shooting happened in Las Vegas last summer and no real comprehensive legislation was passed. Instead, politicians turned their backs and gladly received campaign donations from the NRA (National Rifle Association), an organization that promotes dangerous gun sales because the second amendment of the

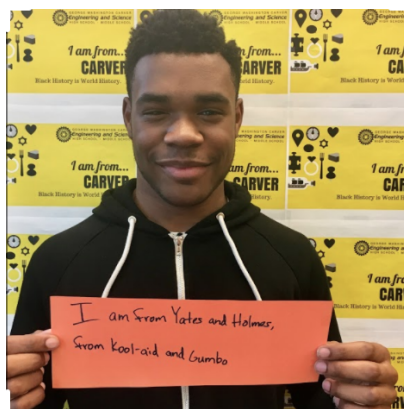
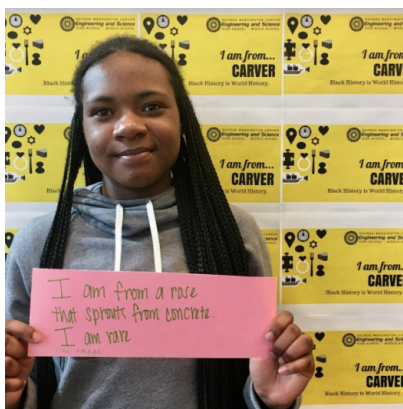


Constitution allows this. If the Constitution gives Americans the right to bear arms then go for it, let's use the same guns they used in 1776 and not assault rifles and guns that armies use in times of extreme war.

The Republican controlled Congress and 45 fail to address this national issue. Most of them live in denial or don't see guns as a serious threat because as long as the NRA contributes generously to their campaigns, they will generously protect the NRA. The politicians go to work each day protecting the interests of the NRA instead of protecting the lives of the constituents who put them into office. America has a serious addiction to guns and until we as a country realize it, we can only be ready for another grievous Valentine's Day.

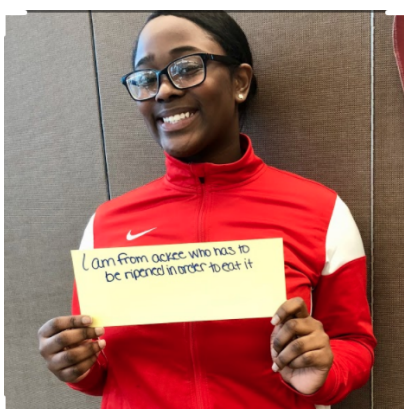
Black History is Our History

By: Carver Students



I am from a rose that sprouts from concrete. I am rare. - **Saqqara Lewis**

I am from Yates and Holmes. From Kool-Aid and Gumbo. - **Frank Holmes**



I am artistic and funny. I wonder about how I can thrive as an artist. I hear my new bulldog in the future. I see myself on Cartoon Network. I want myself to be noticed. I am artistic and funny. - **Jabri Jackson**

I am from ackee fruit that has to be ripened in order to eat it. - **Abigail Brown**



Teacher Interview



By Sawda Sarah and Emese Bata

Interview with Mr. Dougherty, English teacher at Carver E&S

Name: Joseph Dougherty

Years teaching: 25 years

Education: La Salle University

Hidden talents: "I don't have any *hidden* talents, all my talents are pretty obvious"



Emese Bata: What is the one thing you would change about this school?

Mr. Dougherty: The one thing I would change about this school is....*this question*. I would change your question to what are *two* things I would change. Firstly I would change the school colors back to brown and gold, secondly, I would change the gym so that we could play full court volleyball *and* sit in the bleachers because right now that's not possible, third thing is I would change the bleachers and put them on the other side so we have bleachers on both sides of the gym, the fourth thing I would do is have a food program where students learn how to cook and then they prepare lunches for the teachers and we get to grade them depending on how good the food was. And the fifth thing no, I think that's it.

Emese: Do you have a code that you live by?

Mr. Dougherty: Yes, I try to put myself in other people's shoes and try to think about what I do from their perspective, which is a very wordy way of describing the golden rule. So now I think I am gonna change my answer to the golden rule: which is the principle of treating others as one would wish to be treated.

Emese Bata: What is the least favorite question students ask you?

Mr. Dougherty: My least favorite question that students ask me is probably "What time is it?" or "what is today's date?" Since I have a clock on the wall, and I put the date on the board every day, I don't understand why they ask me these questions. So that would be the fifth thing I'll change about this school. I would stop students from ever asking these questions again.

Sawda Sarah: If you could have a superpower what would it be?

Mr. Dougherty: I think my superpower would be to just eat and eat and eat with no repercussions or negative consequences to my body and health like eating eight pizzas and still being healthy. Also never getting full, I would always be just hungry enough to keep eating. (Emese Bata: That sounds like a punishment! Never being fulfilled properly.)

Mr. Dougherty: I won't call it a superpower, just a power. Shoot! That's the wrong answer, isn't it? Well, I'm stuck with it. I'll just be the saddest superhero ever, the most regretful.

Sawda Sarah: If you could meet any person, dead or alive, who would it be?

Mr. Dougherty: *Will they be dead when I meet them?!*

Sawda Sarah: No! Just imagine you traveled back in time.

Mr. Dougherty: Ugh, I don't want to travel back in time, just make them travel forward in time. If I could meet anyone in the entire history of the world, I would meet my wife, for dinner. And my children. That's it.

Emese Bata: If you could go on field trip with one of your class to wherever in the world you would want to, where would you go?

Mr. Dougherty: I would say China but that's too far. Where are we now? 16th and Norris? I would probably take them to 17th and Norris Street because I can't sit on the bus for a long time, my back hurts. We could just walk to 17th and Norris street!

Emese Bata: What kind of music do you listen to?

Mr. Dougherty: Usually I listen to whatever my kids are listening to, so New Edition or Bruno Mars or goth music or Moana.

Sawda Sarah: If you could travel back in time and change a decision of yours what would it be?

Mr. Dougherty: I would travel back to about three minutes ago and change my answer to the superpower question.

Emese Bata: Is there a class that is not taught in this school but you think it should be? Other than the cooking class of course.

Mr. Dougherty: Yes, there are a lot. A lot of my students have asked me about a financial planning class or maybe like a creativity class. It seems like there is not enough time for students to exercise their creativity.

Sawda Sarah: If you could write a book about anything and you knew it would sell out immediately what would you write about?

Mr. Dougherty: I *can* write a book about anything, I just haven't yet. But I *can*, you know, I just haven't. Oh, It *would* sell out. Did I mention I *can*, I just haven't...yet. And it would probably be a Philosophical book.

Sawda Sarah: If you could attend any other teachers class as a student which one would you choose?

Mr. Dougherty: I would attend my own class since we're being hypothetical. I would put myself in my students' shoes and try to refine my own teaching, see

things from their perspective and get insight. Like how the golden rule said. Although I could do that with a video camera, couldn't I? **Moment of realization** Darn, it almost felt like a good answer...**sigh**

Sawda Sarah: What if it was some other teacher, whose class would you want to be a student in?

Mr. Dougherty: Miss Bartkus's dance class, so I could learn how to dance and show off my pre existing dance moves and I would attend Mr. Ciccarelli's astronomy class because I don't know the difference between a Taurus, a Scorpio and a Libra.

Sawda Sarah: If you could eat one thing for the rest of your life what would it be?

Mr. Dougherty: Now you're asking good questions! I'm gonna say salad cause it can be made out of anything, my salad can be made out of new things every day. Hah! I broke your question.

Emese Bata: If you could live in any decade or go back to the past...

Mr. Dougherty: Why do you keep trying to send me to the past?!

Emese Bata: Ok, nevermind, what is your favorite food then?

Mr. Dougherty: PASTA!!

Sawda Sarah: Ok, moving on from food, what is the most important thing you can learn in high school?

Mr. Dougherty: Wait, actually my favorite food is a turkey hoagie from Wawa with swiss cheese and tomatoes, no lettuce, hot and sweet peppers and bacon, no mayo on whole wheat shortie with salt and vinegar chips. And an Arnold Palmer, a half iced tea, and half lemonade.

Sawda Sarah: If you could be anything other than a teacher what would you be?

Mr. Dougherty: A famous celebrity actor, who lives on a beach in Hollywood, in a big house with my existing family but on a beach! Is that the right answer? (**Sawda Sarah:** This is an interview. There are no right answers!)

Sawda Sarah: What is one thing your students would be surprised to find out about you?

Mr. Dougherty: That I'm actually a good teacher. That'll probably shock a lot of them.

Emese: Can you describe yourself in 3 words?

Mr. Dougherty: "No, I can't." That's it, those are the three words

Scavenger Hunt

Bring your answers to Ms Puntel in Room 114. Newspaper editorial board will review answers and contact winners!

Name:

Advisory/Book#:

Email:

1) As a father, Obama expressed some concerns about the **m**_____ and the **m**_____ in hip hop music. Find the answers in James Hillyard's piece on page 1.

2) On page 1, can you find the name of Trump's ghostwriter?

3) Agung Putra writes political opinion on page 2. What was the name of the school in Florida where 17 students died? _____

4) From the same article, what does NRA stand for?

5) What fruit does Abigail Brown mention in her poem on page 2? _____

6) Mr Dougherty has a few things he'd change about Carver. What are two of them? _____

7) What classes would Mr Dougherty visit at Carver? _____

8) If Mr Dougherty could go back in time, what would he change? _____
_____ How would YOU answer that question yourself?

February 20, 2018

Akirah Harris-Watson Fatima Rabihi Sawda Sarah
Gabrielle Brown Agung Putra Habiba Sylla
Cira Diop Isaac Mills-DeLarge James Hillyard
Emese Bata Brianna Mack

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