

# TAXI TALK

## Filthy sounds

The beat is hip, the beat is hop 'til you stop dead in your tracks when you hear the lyrics, writes *Thenjiwe Nhlapo*

**M**ost rap music makes such insulting remarks about women it makes you wonder whether these artists have mothers or just popped out of the sky. They portray women as throw-away bags of fun.

Some music videos are enough to make your jaw drop. I mean, you see the pelvic area moving like no other has moved or shall move in history.

These, along with other types of media, encourage women to be portrayed in a "use 'em and leave 'em" way. Women are shown as prostitutes, mothers, wives and hardly ever as successful, fulfilled, happy people. If they are successful women, they are made to be seen

as frustrated, lonely souls.

Maybe it is portrayals such as these which make artists and society have such negative views of women. Right enough, we live in a democratic society where freedom of speech is now a given right. But just how far one can go without stripping others of their respect while practising their freedom of speech, has to be examined.

We all have different views, as a friend of mine said, "It's not like they are forced to do the sexy and provocative dances they do."

Another friend added, "the words of the songs are aimed at a particular race". Regardless of this, it still hurts when you hear women being referred to as "bitches,

whores or sluts". But, as Queen Latifah says, "U-N-I-T-Y ...." is what women need to fight against the images and language used to portray them in a negative way.

The media need to play music and show more videos that build the image of women in society. For how long will boys, and girls, repeat the filthy words of some rap music without being influenced by the messages it sends across.

Well, I like rap music but I certainly won't listen to offensive songs. "NA, NA, NA, SIPPING SOME GIN 'N JUICE, LAID BACK", I guess for now I'll have to do without hearing this tune, until some artist comes up with an instrumental version which won't hurt my ears. ☪



**PROPHETS OF THE CITY:** One of the few rap groups who don't insult women.

Rather they try to unite South Africans and encourage the youth to get involved in their communities