



WALTER BURRELL

# Hollywood Happenings

AT LEAST one prominent Negro comedian has gone from stand-up comedy to the brighter avenues of television fame, but this won't happen to comedian Nipsey Russell.

"As far as television is concerned," says Nipsey, "I'm just not interested in working on a series. Why should I settle for being someone's second banana? And that weekly grind is unrewarding and too demanding.

"Six good guest shots on top shows during one season are more than enough and any producer who wants to make me happy could offer some floating guest dates for discussion and panel shows. It's generally agreed that I love to talk, so shows of this kind are right down my

To those close to the famous funny man, this attitude comes as no surprise. They know a TV series would interfere with his sometimes lengthy engagements at Harlem's Baby Grand club, where he's returned every year since 1951. In fact, there have been times when Nipsey has been on the scene there for as much as ten months within a given year.

"I KEEP returning to the Baby Grand for two reasons," says Nipsey. "I like the crowds --the East side people and the college kids-who come there. And they're great sounding boards for new material.

"Not that I try to inject any particular messages into my social protestations. All I do is talk about things in the news. Our country's social revolution lends itself to jokes and I use them. This is certainly nothing new. Our people have used humor (and religion) to fight off frustration for centuries. Otherwise, we'd have all gone crazy."

"Any good psychologist will tell you it's much healthier to laugh at someone's misplaced feelings of aggression and hostility than to hate them and wind up destroying yourself in the process."

However, all hasn't been fun-and-games in Nipsey's life, especially in 1940 when war drums were beating all over Europe. He enlisted in the Army, figuring to serve his hitch for a year and pick up civilian life after that.

On Dec. 7, 1941, the Japanese saw to it that Nipsey's Army option was picked up for another four years and by the time he was discharged he'd risen to the rank of Captain.

WHEN HE DID get out, Russell impressed husky-toned singing star Billy Eckstine with his flair for comedy and Eckstine added the comedian to his touring entourage.

But it was Sammy Davis, Jr., who really catapulted Russell into the limelight. Sammy and the notorious Sinatra clan were putting on a huge benefit at Carnegie Hall to raise funds for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the tireless civil rights minded minister.

Since Sammy had used Nipsey in theatres and nightclubs a year or so before this event, he asked Russell if he'd emcee the first half of the star-studded bill. Nipsey accepted and scored a huge success.

But Nipsey Russell, the Atlanta, Georgia, boy who made good, doesn't figure he can rest

on his laurels.

"The source of my type of humor--our country's social revolution, foreign policy, etc.-changes every day and I have to keep on my toes. Nobody dies quicker and deader than a comedian who dares to tell an out-dated joke."

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## Comic Likes It As It Is



Nipsey Russell disarms the audience with his side-splitting humor during a recent appearance on the "Ed Sullivan Show." -- See Holly wood Happenings.

### Cleveland CORE Chapter Ford Grant Recipient

CLEVELAND - (NPI)--This city's 40-member CORE chapter has received a \$175,000 Ford Foundation grant, to be used chiefly in a voter registration drive that could put Carl B. Stokes into office as the city's first Negro mayor.

Stokes lost a 1965 race for mayor by less than 3,000 votes. The city's increased Negro population—combined with the Ford Foundation—finance voter registration drive—could put him over the top in his 1967 mayoral campaign.

Stokes will oppose incumbent Mayor Ralph S. Locher in the Oct. 3 Democratic mayoral primary.

The local CORE will use the Ford Foundation money to improve planning among civil rights groups and to train youth and adult community workers, as well as to conduct the voter registration drive. It was the first time the Ford Foundation had given money to a "black power" group. Large sums have been given in the past to the National Urban League and the NAACP.





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## Boys' Club Judo Classes

The Boys' Club announces a new phase in its summer line up of specialized programs—the addition of Judo Classes which begin July 29, 1967 at 12:00 noon.

Classes and demonstrations will he held, thereafter, each Saturday at 12:00 noon for interested Boys' Club members.

Instructors for the new Judo classes will be Robert Duke and Bob Stark, both highly reputable Judo enthusiasts.

The Boys' Clubs of Clark County have received overwhelming response to other new programs initiated during the summer. Such new programs include camping sessions, movies, parties, special celebration days, and periodic excursions to Tule Springs and the Go-Cart Raceways. These programs are incorporated into our regular guidance type programs and free play activities.

ACCORDING TO Executive Director, Gerald Gillock, the Boys' Club should receive some new game and equipment, including a new Billiard table.

The Boy's Club is grateful for the United Fund's recognition and aid in helping the Boys' Club to continue its growth in our community.

Parents of boys and interested adults are invited to visit the club with their boys. Any person interested in implementing a particular program, or in volunteering his services to help make our Boys' Club a better one, call 642-2777 or drop by the club in the West Owens Shopping Center.

#### **Howard U Loses Nabrit**

WASHINGTON - (NPI)--Dr. James M. Nabrit reversed himself when he declared that "black power" unrest had induced him to quit as president of Howard University.

He at first maintained that his surprise resignation had nothing to do with campus turmoil at Howard. He insisted that at age 66, he was past the age when he could retire and that was what he wanted to do.

He spoke of traveling extensively to South America and other places and relaxing. Then, in an unexpected change, Dr. Nabrit declared he had decided that he would not preside over "black power" turmoil on his campus.

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CHARGING THAT "black power" forces
were trying to take over Howard University,
he accused them of seeking to remove whites
from the University's board, administration,
faculty, and student body.

"When black power attempts to make this a black institution," he asserted, "it ceases to be a group in the civil rights struggle and becomes an institution trying to set up control of Howard University."

On the other hand, he refused to attack the black power concept or its adherents. Controversial issues, he said, are the "essence of a University." But he drew the line, he added, short of violence, threats, and destruction of property.

He may have been referring to a recent incident in which Selective Service Director Lewis B. Hershey was hooted down as he tried to deliver a scheduled speech.

Fifteen students and five faculty members were dismissed as a result. Among those fired was Dr. Nathan Hare, sociology professor and "black power" advocate.

DR. NABRIT'S resignation was hailed as a victory by the chairman of Operation Student Power, a militant student group on the campus.

"We don't want Nabrit replaced with another conservative," said Anthony Gittens, the organization's chairman.

Gittens suggested that Dr. Nabrit be replaced with Kwame Nkrumah, deposed Ghana president, or Dr. Kenneth B. Clark, a wellknown psychologist. But Dr. Clark scoffed at the idea.

"I am in complete sympathy with President Nabrit," said Clark, a Howard graduate. "To cast aspersions on him is to cast aspersions on me. If Nabrit is not acceptable, I am not acceptable; no reasonable man would be."

Dr. Clark said Howard should be a "non-racial institution," rather than the black-ident-ified University militants want it to be.

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