

# Willie Takes A Bride



Mr. and Mrs. Willie Gibson begin their marriage with a display of team work as the handsome couple cut the first slice of their beautiful wedding cake. The Robert Johnsons' gracious Alta Drive home was the scene of the wedding reception where scores of friends gathered to wish them happiness immediately following the marriage ceremony at the Chapel of the Bells.

Mrs. Gibson is the former Karen Hendrickson. Gibson is the popular general manager of Bob Bailey's Sugar Hill enterprise.

# THE COLLEGE STUDENT SPEAKS

By DORIS BROWN  
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

With the summer only months away, ominous warnings are already being sounded on the possibility of more "race riots." Mounting friction between whites and Negroes is said to be paving the way for more interracial conflict this summer.

But, in my view, the term "race riots" does not accurately describe the outbreaks, for the central ingredient of fighting between whites and Negroes is absent. Nor is interracial hostility a key element in the disturbances.

Throughout American history, race riots have typically involved attacks by Negro residents on whites and white residents on Negroes. Almost always, the latter situation has prevailed.

Such riots were frequent in the early years of this century. A riot in Springfield, Ill., in which white residents viciously assaulted black citizens, triggered indignant reaction which sparked the establishment of the NAACP in 1909.

A race riot in Chicago a decade later was characterized by Negro and white incursions into each other's "territory." Whites' refusal to let Negroes use "their" public beach started the fracas, which was not so much Negroes vs. the police as black vs. white residents.

Today's "race riots" are different in that the battle is not between races but against the police or National Guard.

IT WAS THE same story last summer in riot-torn city after city: Fighting between white and Negro residents was a negligible aspect of the outbreaks. This is "racial rioting"?

It is, to the extent that "racial" is a euphemism for "Negro." But the fighting does not reflect the interracial conflict that we suppose it does.

The typical incident that sets off a riot these days is a conflict with police. A citizen objects to being arrested, and area residents gather in his defense. The outbreak which is set into motion by the dispute with police is promptly labeled a "race riot."

Shades of Springfield (Ill.) and Chicago, and even the "draft riots" during the Civil War, when whites mobbed Negro New Yorkers, killing scores of them.

But, again, are today's outbreaks "racial rioting?" I consider the phenomenon different from interracial friction--and what I say in no way lets the white man off the hook.

The problem is one of social disorganization, family weakness, and a sense of being powerless and worthless.

Black people are especially troubled by these afflictions--resulting from what the white man's slavery and segregation have done to them.

There is a pervading feeling of being wronged--without being able to pinpoint one's exploiters.

There is a sense of being poor and unable, in a world where ability and wealth are the necessary tokens of virility.

EVEN WORSE, there is a sense of being deprived of the institutional, emotional, and intellectual controls needed for social and economic advancement--at a time when the Negro is beginning his "stride toward freedom."

The result is a lashing out--not so much against whites--but against the "system," which has somehow conspired to keep the Negro in his place.

But what, or where, is this "system"? Is it a white man one might happen to bump into on the street or the president of the local Chamber of Commerce? Not likely, for these people do not smack of the "authority" and "power," whose lack is keenly felt by would-be rioters.

So the police--not surprisingly--becomes the targets of the crowd's fury. And this is called a "race riot."

These institutional and psychological dynamics of rioting are overlooked by people who see the outbreaks either as so much "lawlessness" or as so much expression of interracial animosity.

As evil as the white man's exploitation of the Negro's labor has been, his assault on the black man's family life, community institutions,

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## VOTER REGISTRATION

The Clark County Election Department has staffed a voter registration desk in the lobby of the Court House. Mrs. Avenelle Lewis is the deputy registrar on duty.

"This accommodation", Tom Mulroy, Registrar of Voters, said "should make it convenient for the hundreds of citizens who visit the Court House daily." He noted the deputy registrar will be on duty every day except Saturday and Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Mulroy continued that "It is no longer necessary for voters to re-register because of a change of address only, but it is the obligation of the voter to notify the Registrar's office, by either phone or mail."

Residents are reminded that registration to vote in the School Bond Election of May 21 will close on April 13, and that most schools have deputy registrars available for this purpose. Mr. Harvey Dondero at the School Administration office, and Mrs. Belva Lang at the Election Department office can be of assistance in this regard.

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and self-regard have been even more heinous. And the Negro's resultant sense of powerlessness, producing conflict with badge-wearing authority figures, stands as living testimony to the white man's shame.

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