

# THE COLLEGE STUDENT SPEAKS

By DORIS BROWN  
NEGRO PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Recent movies on racial themes leave me with mixed feelings.

On the one hand, such films as "Hurry Sundown," "To Sir With Love," and "In the Heat of the Night" correct a long-due injustice to the Negro by presenting him as resourceful, honorable, and intelligent--instead of comically foolish and improvident, as before.

These movies also provide a morale boost to many black people, who need an image of manly assertiveness and self-pride to offset the offensive stereotype with which our culture has poisoned the minds of both Negroes and whites.

In "To Sir With Love," Sidney Poitier is shown as a school teacher in England who uses his pedagogical skill to reach "culturally deprived" youngsters. "In the Heat of the Night" provides him an opportunity to display his criminological expertise in a small Mississippi town.

"Hurry Sundown" shows a group of black people patiently enduring racial discrimination and gallantly coming to the aid of their poor white collaborator, who--like them--had been exploited by a "big operator."

In all these movies, black people act meritoriously and with self-effacing sense of decency that makes "non-violence" look like a race riot.

FOR EXAMPLE, in "To Sir With Love," Poitier seeks to instill in his pupils a regard for upholding one's honor, even if it means being trampled on. He urges his students not to take revenge on their enemies--an attitude that racial militants would hardly applaud.

Much of this imagery is for the good. We need movie heroes who espouse honor, idealism, and courage, without selling themselves out.

Yet, we should not merely reverse a racial stereotype. And we are serving no good cause by stamping Negroes as characteristically good and whites as typically evil, as these movies have done.

"Hurry Sundown," even more than the other films, reflects the theme of racial superiority and inferiority which is at the heart of our nation's cultural notions.

In that film, black people are uniformly well-educated, virtuous, and benevolent. While the whites talk obscenely in Southern drawls, the Negroes speak in cultured Midwestern tones--a subtle turning of the tables on the old racial stereotype.

In "To Sir With Love," Poitier "tames" a bunch of London teenagers by doing what any teacher, white or black, could be expected to do. The only thing which makes him a hero is his race, for the movie is short on any delineation of what his non-racial pedagogical abilities might be.

"In the Heat of the Night" offers Poitier another chance of playing a role as a professional man--this time a homicide detective.

Wonder of wonders! He solves the crime--either because he is black or despite the fact, depending on one's viewpoint.

In criticizing these films, I may be underestimating the need, in our race-oriented society, for evening the racial score and giving black people a cultural break.

But these movies only reverse the stereotype by making whites the buffoons and goats, rather than the blacks. Instead of the audience cheering when Negroes get clobbered, the applause comes when an evil white woman gets slapped in the face by Diahann Carroll in "Hurry Sundown" and when Sidney Poitier hits a white racist in "In the Heat of the Night."

To identify race with virtue is bad business, not only morally, but artistically, as well. And it is not for nothing that an ancient Scripture admonishes us not to "favor a poor man in his cause."

Artistic and moral justice must be objective and impartial. As soon as it takes sides--for or against an underdog--it has become perverted.

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## In Pillsbury Bake-Off



AKRON, Ohio -- Mrs. Wesley Washington of Akron, Ohio, met a real "Pillsbury" during the Pillsbury Company's '68 Bake-Off last month in Dallas, Texas. Philip W. Pillsbury, honorary chairman of the board and a grandson of the Company's founder, stopped to watch Mrs. Washington prepare her Chocolate Cheese Creams. One of 100 finalists in the annual Bake-Off, Mrs. Washington received her expense-paid trip to Dallas, \$100 cash, a General Electric self-cleaning oven range and the chance to compete for a \$25,000 grand prize.

Next week, in Dorothy Johnson's "Food Forum", the recipe for Mrs. Washington's prize Chocolate Cheese Creams will be given along with the heartwarming story of the Akron, Ohio housewife and mother of four.

### MATT KELLY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY

Mrs. Rose Marie Lee, Chairman of the Matt Kelly Neighborhood Council announces the next meeting of the Council will be held Tuesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Matt Kelly School.

Service Worker for the Matt Kelly Neighborhood Council is Mrs. Evelyn Coleman.

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### Curt Moody Speaker At Fair Housing Rally

The Clark County Fair Housing Committee announced this week that Curt Moody, executive director of Community Relations Conference of Southern California, has accepted an invitation from the local committee to speak at a public meeting scheduled for Sunday, March 24, 3 p.m. in the multi-purpose room of Madison Elementary School, 1030 'J' street.

The highly articulate proponent of open occupancy is possessed of a wealth of information on the controversial subject of "open" or "fair" housing legislation. Not only does this abundance of factual information discredit the false premises of open occupancy opponents, it exposes the callous motivation of those who perpetrate anti-fair housing propaganda.

Moody has also developed meaningful programs to help allay the fears of those who are victims of the vicious propaganda.

The Clark County Fair Housing Committee is an umbrella organ for all persons interested in achieving open housing, and who are willing to offer volunteer service in working toward achieving fair housing legislation on the city, county, and state level in Nevada.

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### (SCHOOL, from page 1)

lation and classified and certificated personnel with minority percentages revealed progress in integration of teaching personnel and classified employees. Also efforts toward achieving a controlled balance in the District's Junior and Senior High Schools are clearly apparent.

When the question arose as to when integration of elementary schools would take place, a rather spirited exchange of dialogue ensued between Dr. Mason and the VOICE reporter.

The obstacles to school integration on the elementary level are so near insurmountable, it seems that it would be foolhardy to predict it in the foreseeable future. However, through the help of federal financing, a staggering sum of money is presently being spent (and will continue to be spent) on many worthwhile programs for the six Westside elementary schools.

Although the VOICE reporter holds strong convictions that school integration should begin at the earliest stage, Dr. Mason's argument that he had not been made aware that parents of the children attending Westside schools desired integration at the elementary level was one that this reporter could not refute.

It was agreed that a "hashing out" meeting between Dr. Mason, Dr. Seifert, and the VOICE editor was clearly indicated at a very early date.