

## The Scarlet Letter On PBS

KLVX, TV-10 presents "The Scarlet Letter" a major dramatization of Nathaniel Hawthorne's enduring novel of Puritan America in search of its soul, airing on four consecutive nights beginning April 2 at 9:00 p.m.

Captioned in its entirety, "The Scarlet Letter" will be seen in sixty-minute episodes which represent the first serial presentation of a classic American novel produced by public television. The production stars Meg Foster as the adulterous Hester Prynne, Kevin Conway as her vengeful husband Roger Chillingworth and John Heard as the pious minister Arthur Dimmesdale.

The drama focuses on Hester Prynne, who--condemned for a sin of passion--must forever wear the scarlet letter "A" on her breast. Proud, independent, and courageous in her defiance of the social values of her time, Hester chooses to assert her self-sufficiency, her motherhood, and her love.

Hester endures her public punishment with dignity, and grows stronger as the years of her isolation and ostracism pass. Her lover, however, lives undetected in the community, tormented and weakened by the burden of an unexposed sin. Hester's husband--deeply hurt and unable to forgive--coldly plots revenge.

"The Scarlet Letter" was first published in 1850. More than 100 years later, this complex tale is contemporary, and its concerns timeless. Generations of readers have discovered values to suit every age in Hawthorne's hauntingly poetic examination of the emerging American spirit.

## LV Community & Sagebrush Alliance

Concerned members of the Las Vegas community and the Sagebrush Alliance, a local peace and zero-nuclear group, met at the Center for the United Campus ministry Tuesday evening, March 20, 1979, to discuss the nuclear waste being transported through the city and stored at the Nevada Test Site. Among those attending were persons from the Franciscan Center, Unitarian Church, Sierra Club, Libertarian Party, private solar industry, and Clark County Legal Services.

According to Ray Johnson of the Sagebrush Alliance, "My path crossed that of a flatbed truck marked 'radioactive material' at the intersection of I-15 and Tropicana."

The group is concerned because recent disclosures indicate that even very low levels of radiation previously thought safe may cause cancer, genetic damages, and other health problems. The group felt that transportation accidents, such as the recent one in Montego, Tenn., could expose local residents to threatening levels of radiation. In a follow-up phone call, David Jackson of the D.O.E. said that "these deadly materials travel the same routes where our children play, and I consider that an insult to our rights of safety and happiness."

Referring to the fact that the nuclear power industry could not survive without a massive transfusion of federal funds, Rick White asked, "should Washington use our tax dollars to make us the radioactive capital of the world? They get the power and we get the waste."

When asked about citizen response, Fr. Louie Vitale said, "The first step is to support the McGovern Amendment."

This is an amendment co-sponsored by Sen. Laxalt and supported by Sen. Cannon and Rep. Santini, which would give the people of Nevada the power to decide about nuclear waste in their own backyard.

For further information, contact the Sagebrush Alliance at 704 W. McWilliams Ave.; Las Vegas, Nevada 647-3610.



# Across The Nation

News From Home Folks

*This feature is a news compilation from more than 100 black-owned and oriented newspapers across the nation. It deals with what blacks, who are all-too-often little recognized, are doing to promote full participation in American life by black Americans. It is thus a salute from all of our readers to unsung heroes...and is designed to be a challenge for all of us to keep on doing our very best.*

The Atlanta Voice tells of Dr. Coretta Scott King's fine support of U.N. Ambassador Andrew Young, who has brought a refreshing and effective candor to the U.N., replacing the frequent rudeness of recent white Ambassadors so greatly relished and accepted as "honorable" by traditionally-racist elements in the white press. The Voice reports:

U.S. Ambassador Andrew Young has found a growing support from local black leaders in the wake of a Congressional move to have him fired because of his remarks on "political prisoners."

Ms. Coretta Scott King, president of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change, called the vote by the members of the House of Representatives for an impeachment resolution an act of "racists."

The widow of civil rights champion Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said the Representatives drew up the resolution and voted on it "without significant debate and, without asking Andy to explain what he said."

The United Nations Ambassador originally told a Paris newspaper that there are "hundreds, even thousands" of political prisoners in the United States. He brought up the issue in a comment about dissident trials in the Soviet Union.

President Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance both were angered by Young's statements, and more than 90 members of Congress supported the impeachment resolution.

Among those yelling the loudest for Young's firing are Georgia Congressman Larry McDonald, Sen. Barry Goldwater and Sen. Bill Brock.

"Never in the history of the United States has this nation been represented with the level of puerile ignorance and incompetence we have witnessed in this Ambassador," claimed Brock.

In calling Young's remarks a "lie," Brock says the Soviets will use the statement as a basis of propaganda damaging America's "credibility" as an advocate of human rights.

Asked if he was hurt by criticism of his remarks, Young said, "it hurts, only because I am anxious over the possibility of having hurt my country or President Carter."

However, Ms. King and other blacks have commended Young for daring to speak the truth despite his high post in the world of diplomacy.

In a cable to Young, SCLC president Rev. Joseph E. Lowery stated: "I fully support you in this situation which has arisen because you dared to say that the United States, too, has political prisoners. I entreat you to maintain the honesty and integrity that has characterized your ambassadorship. America desperately needs your perspective in government."

Rev. Lowery said people overreacted to Young's statements. "Andy said nothing new," he said. "The Russians are aware of and have exploited our human rights problems to the maximum."

In defense of the U.N. Ambassador, black leaders are quick to point out America's long record of jailing political dissidents.

Ms. King told the press, "My husband and Andy Young and thousands more are proof that, within the last 20 years, our American system was quick to jail those who did not agree with decrees of the establishment. Have our memories become so dim that we cannot recall that the very leaders of our

judicial and law enforcement system were actively trying to destroy my husband's movement not more than 12 years ago, a movement in which Andrew Young played a key role?"

The Rev. Joe Boone, president of the Atlanta-based Metro Summit Leadership Conference, has called on President Carter not to muzzle Young and to speak openly in support of him.

Boone cites the long prison terms of the "Wilmington Ten" as an example of "political consideration generating the misuse of the criminal justice system."

If President Carter should come out in support of Young, Rev. Boone feels it would set the "proper example of mandating human rights" in the U.S.

The Portland, Oregon Skanner tells of a victory of sorts which reflects a course of action many among us must pursue before the "Day of Freedom" dawns. The Skanner states:

Labor Commissioner Bill Stevenson ordered Fred Meyer, Inc., to compensate a former 16-year-old employee for racial humiliation and harassment.

Stevenson ordered Fred Meyer, Inc., to "deliver within 15 days a certified check in the amount of \$4,000 payable to Dana E. Hayes to compensate him for the humiliation, ridicule and embarrassment suffered" while employed by the store.

Stevenson also ordered Fred Meyer, Inc., to pay \$388.50 in back pay. The company was required to post a copy of the order for 120 days and to provide all employees with a written copy of the text.

The charges of discrimination arose from Hayes' two periods of employment with Fred Meyer, Inc. Hayes was employed as a stock clerk in the Fred Meyer store at 122nd and Division when he was 16 years old and encountered repeated racial intimidation from department personnel. After his termination

by Fred Meyer, Hayes filed a complaint with the Bureau of Labor, citing "continued racial harassment and abuse" by store supervisors.

The bureau investigated the complaint and found substantial evidence to support Hayes' contention that he had been discriminated against because of his race and color. The bureau attempted to conciliate the case but was unable to get a satisfactory response from Fred Meyer, Inc. A hearing was ordered and the findings submitted to the Commissioner of Labor who, after thorough consideration of the evidence and lengthy testimony, issued the final administrative order.

The strongly worded finding said that Fred Meyer, Inc., failed to maintain a "racially neutral environment" as required by Oregon statute, thereby fostering the "racial abuse and harassment directed against Hayes by two supervisory personnel."

Commissioner Stevenson said that Dana Hayes is to be commended for the courage he showed in filing a complaint at the age of 16. "That a young person should encounter such a racially hostile environment in his initial venture into the world of work is outrageous. Those individuals who Dana Hayes looked to for leadership and guidance became his tormentors. In circumstances such as these an award for humiliation and mental distress is not only appropriate, but fully within the intent of Oregon law."

*Our readers may wish to send congratulatory messages and messages of encouragement to the papers which report happenings of interest or concern to us. Such messages may be sent to the publishers, editors or other persons by simply addressing them, using the name of the paper, c/o Black Resources, Inc., 410 Central Park West, PH C, New York, N. Y. 10025.*

## BLACK POETRY

### SOPHISTICATED BLACK WOMAN

*I am a sophisticated Black Woman  
I look straight through street corner boys  
Who yell their admiration at me.  
I never mingle with the crowd at the laundromat,  
And please don't embarrass me by yelling my name in public.*

*I am a sophisticated Black Woman.  
I don't hang around at the corner bars,  
Or roam the streets at night.  
Everything I do must have a purpose,*

*And every purpose to benefit me.*

*I am a sophisticated Black Woman.  
I don't talk about the good old days down South,  
Or reminisce about eating collard greens and chitterlings.  
I don't have conversations with "the common folks,"  
Or use slang that would defy my intelligence.*

*I am a sophisticated Black Woman.  
The White world despises me,  
The Black world rejects me,  
My family ignores me.*

*But I must remain sophisticated.*

*I am a sophisticated Black Woman.  
I am not disturbed by riots,  
Nor do I relate to them.  
I will not sing "We shall Overcome,"  
For that would incriminate me.*

*I am a sophisticated Black Woman.  
I have excelled.  
Yes, I am selfish and conceited;  
I am not my brother's keeper...  
Mysteriously... I-I cry when I'm behind closed doors.*

*(What a wonderfully revealing ... and disturbing self-portrait ... and inner picture of a sad, sad part of each of us!)*

*(Black poets, who may wish exposure to our reading public, may send copies of their poetry—for editing and with permission to use—in groups of 12 poems or more to C. May Associates, Box 157 Selkirk, N. Y. 12158.*

*Poetry selected should normally appear within 12 to 20 weeks. Because of staff limitations no copies are returned.)*

—Luray R. Powell