

# Racial Harmony Seen on TV

Television, which owes so much to the development of compatible color, can do much for the development of color compatibility among viewers in this racially-tense time.

This is the opinion of observers, from the Federal Communications Commission on down, who believe that the scarcity of Negroes on television — both in programs and in commercials — is one of the medium's most serious shortcomings.

On one side of the present color line, it's argued, Negro TV viewers (and practically all Negro homes, even in the slums, have TV) see in car commercials and in situation comedies a middle-class America that is virtually all white, which can lead to frustration, then violence.

On the other side, the virtual absence of Negroes on TV is said to be depriving white viewers of an almost necessary opportunity to be accustomed to Negro faces in a middle-class setting.

The subject of the latest attention is TV commercials, because of a recent survey sponsored by the NAACP and showing that among 351 commercials studied, only 17 showed any Negroes at all, with most of those merely showing a Negro face in the background. In only three was a Negro the "star" of the commercial.

Survey Result Ironic  
The irony of the survey result was that the commercials studied had been shown on sports programs — baseball, football, basketball — where Negroes and Puerto Ricans are more often than not the outstanding performers.

As Chris Condon, a TV columnist for several Catholic weeklies, has noted, "a great opportunity is being missed (here) for constructive use of the medium."

"For, aside from the hopelessly prejudiced, most whites feel sure, can identify with Negro sports stars, given the chance," he wrote. "And seeing them close up in commercials tends to humanize and personalize performers seen heretofore at considerable remove during a game."

"It is this intimate contact with the sports figure the sponsors count on to get the audience's attention for the pitch. And it's this which can bring these Negroes across to whites in the TV audience, particularly white children, as individuals, as people. It can't help but make whites feel more comfortable in their relationships with Negroes in their everyday lives."

## Mass OK'd For 'People' Just Four Times A Year

Washington, D.C. (RNS)—Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle of Washington has permitted "The People" to hold their own special kind of Mass once every three months after forbidding it in September.

About 750 people were on hand at St. Mary's Catholic Church here for the folk Mass, which carried a heavy emphasis on singing. Cardinal O'Boyle earlier had denounced the rituals, calling them a "travesty" in worship.

In keeping with a "dialogue sermon" program, when Father Thomas Heath delivered the message, seven or eight men and women came forward to offer comments on his sermon, "On the Nature of Giving."

A statement issued by Gilbert Donahue, chairman of the coordinating group for the organization, lamented Cardinal O'Boyle's limiting the Mass to four times a year.

"The People regret the decision of Cardinal O'Boyle to



Ivan Dixon, a Negro actor of considerable talent, mulls over a bit part as one of "Hogan's Heroes" on TV. With him, Bob Crane as Hogan.

In releasing the survey results, the NAACP offered an example of what it considered an ideal commercial, one that Condon said "deserves some kind of award for pioneering zeal and imagination." It was for Schaefer beer and showed a white man and a Negro man playing handball, then throwing their arms around one another's shoulders and going off to enjoy the sponsor's brew together.

As for the use of Negro performers in normal network programming (a number of local stations are adding Negro reporters, to help cover ghetto areas, if nothing else), there is disagreement even among Negroes as to what to applaud and what to criticize.

There is agreement that few Negroes are employed in broadcasting, verified by FCC Commissioner Nicholas Johnson's report that while Negroes hold 10 per cent of all jobs in the

U.S., they hold only 3.4 per cent of the jobs in broadcasting.

But while the percentage of Negroes in TV is expected to grow, many Negro leaders regard the presence of Negro actors in current programs such as "Mission: Impossible," "Star Trek," and "Ironside" as merely another form of tokenism. A prime example, they point out, is the use made of Ivan Dixon, who plays a minor role each week as one of "Hogan's Heroes," but who is an excellent actor who has drawn critical acclaim for his performance in a film, "Nothing But a Man" (a warm study of a Negro worker and his wife), and in a CBS Playhouse dramatic special last season, titled "The Private War of Oly Winter," about the problems of a Negro master sergeant.

Big Breakthrough  
The Negro performer's biggest breakthrough in network TV has undoubtedly been "I Spy" (although there might be some votes for "Sing Along with Mitch," which made a star of Leslie Uggams), in which the onetime Negro comedian Bill Cosby co-stars with Robert Culp as a pair of undercover agents.

Although the popular series avoids racial "problems" in the weekly plots (no one questions their association, they are never denied access anywhere because the Cosby character is Negro, etc.), the character played by Cosby subtly — and sometimes not so subtly — tears down some stereotypes.

In several episodes, for instance, "Alexander Scott" (Cosby) has been especially diligent in his attempts to destroy the narcotics racket — to offset the

# 44 Ex-Glenmary Nuns Continue Dedicated Lives

Milwaukee (NC) — Three young women residing in a house of studies on Marquette University's campus are living a unique experience. They are former Glenmary nuns who have taken on a lay life while still pledged to community and to celibacy.

They are not Sisters. They are members of the Federation of Communities in Service, a development out of the Glenmary community of Sisters in July of this year, when 44 nuns withdrew from the organizational structure of the community to form a new lay organization.

The three now living in Milwaukee had made only temporary profession of vows which were simply not renewed. They are Beth Busam, 22, from Cincinnati; Kathy McCrady, 23, from Fort Wayne; and Kathleen Harkins, 24, from Cincinnati. All are at present university students.

The three agreed that the changeover to lay life was not too overwhelming, since the Glenmary Sisters a year ago were already leading a less structured program.

"The Glenmarys never have been a forever and set community," Miss Busam noted. "I mean we've always been a part of the flux of the world, changing with the world. We can't refer to a then and now."

As Sisters, the community had already adopted a contemporary gray suit and had relaxed the rigidity of its prayer life. So now wearing lay clothes appropriate to their work, and experimenting with different prayer forms, the women have found the pattern of living has undergone a comparatively smooth transition.

A different order of nuns with a longer tradition of regulation might have experienced more problems, they agreed.

The three share the house of studies with eight other students and teachers, taking turns with household chores. So in a sense their community is absorbed into a slightly larger community.

In the Glenmary religious community, the three goals were religious education, nursing and social work, primarily in rural areas, Miss Busam explained. Now in the Federation the goals have been broadened.

"We go into a community and try to see the needs of the

people there. We feel our responsibility is to bridge the community and the Church. Hence, much of the Federation's work, while representing the Church, is with non-Catholic people."

How do the women differ from any group of women who happen to live together? The key difference is the word happen. These women live together, completely share their lives and their resources by designed choice, they said.

Their pledge to community embraces the former vows of obedience and poverty, they explained. "We obey each other and the demands each makes on the other," Miss Busam said. "We feel in today's society the individual should be able to respond to each other's needs without the intervention of a superior."

As to poverty, Miss McCrady explained, on one level, they pool resources. On another, they strive to live in simple, though artistic surroundings.

As to the promise of celibacy, the possibility of some day marrying is not ruled out. But they said they are different from other lay women who are single until they marry in that they have freely chosen a "life style" for celibacy. Living in community with a directed purpose makes their lives tend toward celibacy.

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## Chicago Cardinal Cites Role of Religion Today

Chicago (NC) — John Cardinal Cody of Chicago said here that Judaism and Christianity are today embarked on a "common voyage" and are "inviting mankind to have a hand in rebuilding the world according to the designs of God."

Cardinal Cody addressed the congregation of Chicago's Temple Shalom — the city's largest Jewish Reform congregation — as part of the temples' centennial celebration. Protestant ministers, priests and nuns were also in attendance.

Rabbi Louis Binstock of Temple Shalom told the congregation "this marks the first appearance of a Catholic churchman with such rank as a cardinal in a Jewish temple in Chicago," and said Chicago's Jewish community is "highly honored."

"I am not convinced that our age is any more irreligious than many another in the past," Cardinal Cody said, "despite the claims that the world is losing religion."

"There have been many funeral orations read over religion," he continued, "and there will very likely be many more in the future. Still, religion seems, somehow to survive its obsequies."

The cardinal emphasized that "both Judaism and Christianity are in the process of reviving elements of their traditions

which, though never completely lost, have for some time been less adequately emphasized.

"It is my conviction," he went on, "that these great faiths are today embarked on a great voyage. They are appraising mankind of the dignity of the individual, and at the same time are celebrating the wonder of the community..."

"They are inviting mankind to have a hand in rebuilding the world according to the designs of God," he said.

Cardinal Cody lauded Rabbi Binstock and his congregation. "Religion," he said, "is moving forward in the ecumenical spirit. Certainly, in Chicago, a leader in the forward march of religion will continue to be the congregation of Temple Shalom and its gifted teacher, Rabbi Binstock."

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