



Janet MacLachlan stars as Wanda, the rebellious daughter of the first black President of the United States, in Paramount Pictures' "The Man".

## Virgin Islands invite Americans

Governor Melvin H. Evans has extended invitations to Americans, especially to America's Blacks to come to his U.S. Virgin Islands and stop by and visit with him upon arrival.

To make it more economical for families to visit the Virgin Islands, during the month of September, hotel directors are offering a special "Two for One" package.

Visitors to the three islands of St. Croix, St. John or St. Thomas, during September, will be given double accommodations at the single room rate.

According to John P. Scott, Commissioner of Commerce, "This will mean tremendous savings to the traveler during this period," Scott said, "With rates already at their low off season level, up to 400 per cent off peak season rates, this added reduction will certainly be a dollar stretcher."

Rates will be available from as little as \$7 per day to an average of \$24 per day," Scott added.

This special fall package has been made available to coincide with the first "Miss Twins U.S.A." beauty pageant to be held in the Virgin Islands during September. Twins from many

of the states and territories will be converging on the three islands to compete for the title and the chance to represent the U.S. in the "Miss Twins World" pageant to be held in 1973.

Bargains are not unusual to the Virgin Islands. As a free port, merchandise from all over the world is available at much lower prices than the same items can be

purchased for in New York. The U.S. Virgin Islands is still the only place in the Caribbean where one can bring home \$200 worth of merchandise duty free.

In addition, each visitor 21 years of age and over may return with one gallon of liquor.

Other counties are only allotted one quart by U.S. Customs.

## First black governor a Howard graduate

Melvin H. Evans, the first native Black Governor, won in the Virgin Island's first gubernatorial election in November, 1970.

He was born in Christiansted, St. Croix, on August 7, 1917, and attended public schools there. He completed his secondary education at Charlotte Amalie High School in St. Thomas, where he was valedictorian of his class.

Governor Evans was graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1940 from Howard University in Washington, D.C. He won his medical degree with honors from Howard in 1944.

Following his medical internship in New York City, Governor Evans became Physician-in-Charge of the Frederiksted Municipal Hospital, a position he held until 1948. Then he was appointed Senior Assistant Surgeon in the United States Public Health Service, Washington, D.C.

In 1950, he resumed his position at the Frederiksted Municipal Hospital and in 1951 was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Health for the Virgin Islands and Chief Municipal Physician for St. Croix.

In 1956, Governor Evans became a Fellow in Cardiology

at John Hopkins University. He was appointed Commissioner of Health for the Virgin Islands in 1958, resigning that position in 1967 to enter private practice. In 1966 he took a year's leave of absence to earn his Master's Degree in Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley.

Governor Evans is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the College of the Virgin Islands and a member of the Board of Directors of the Good Hope School.

He is also a charter member of the Rotary Club and has served as Chairman of the Board of Medical Examiners, President of the Virgin Islands Medical Association and Chairman of the Governors' Commission on Human Services.

The Governor is active in American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, the National Medical Association, and the Pan American Medical Association, and is a charter member of the American Association of Public Health Physicians.

He is married to the former Mary Phyllis Anderson. They have four sons.

## Drug problem aired

For the first time in television history, a critical problem shared by two nations will be explored via transatlantic satellite as England and the United States simultane-

ously present DRUGS VIA SATELLITE on Sunday, September 10 at 2:00 p.m. The program will be seen live on KPTV, Channel 12, and will originate from London, England and from New York. David Frost, well known on both continents, will host the telecast.

In the United States President Richard Nixon has labeled the drug problem "Public Enemy Number One." Britain shares the problem of drug abuse but handles it differently. Viewers of DRUGS VIA SATELLITE will meet the street addict in New York, who must steal to support a habit that may cost him \$200 a day, and the British addict who has a legal medical prescription for heroin. The addicts will confront each other on the program, comparing their lives under the two systems. Other experts of each nation will also discuss their divergent points of view on the best way to handle a problem that is destroying lives, increasing violent crime, and invading the entire social structure of our world.

Through this examination of two societies it is hoped that some light will be shed on where both America and Britain have been and where we are going in relationship to heroin and other dangerous drugs.

## Theater seeks teens

The Theatre Workshop of the Portland Bureau of Parks announces the formation of a new group to teach the elements of musical comedy production through direct participation. The group, called TW#2, will produce its own shows in addition to taking classes in acting, singing and dancing.

Any teenager wishing to participate is invited to attend any of the rehearsals or classes which are held every night, except Saturday, at 7:30 p.m. in the Laurelhurst Park Building, S.E. 39th & Stark. TW#2 is designed so that a student may participate as much or as little as he is able. There is a two dollar registration fee.

## Davis publishes bibliography

Lenwood G. Davis, who is on the faculty of Portland State University, was notified recently by the Council on Planning Librarians of Monticello, Illinois, that the publication date is set for November of this year for his latest book, **BLACKS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST: 1788-1972.**

His book is primarily designed as a reference for those who wish to learn more about the achievements of Blacks in the Pacific Northwest from their earliest arrival to present. The bibliography attempts to list everything that has been written about Black people in that section of the United States, whether books, articles in newspapers, periodicals, and official government documents, as well as manuscripts.

Professor Davis wrote a similar comprehensive and exhaustive bibliography on **BLACKS IN THE STATE OF OREGON** that was published last year. He is considered the leading authority on the history of Blacks in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. He has published several articles on Blacks in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest for the leading professional quarterlies and journals. The author and pro-



Lenwood Davis

fessor has also taught classes on "Blacks in the Pacific Northwest", as well as lectured all over that area on the history of Black people.

Besides teaching, traveling, speaking, writing articles and book reviews, the brilliant young and dynamic professor is doing additional research on Blacks in the Pacific Northwest and hopes to complete it

within the next year. The PSU African and Afro-American historian is the author of three other bibliographies, **BLACKS IN THE STATE OF OREGON, PAN-AFRICANISM, BLACKS IN THE CITIES, 1900-1972.** He is also the author of **I HAVE A DREAM: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**, which was published in 1969.

## On being black in Oregon

THE QUALITY OF HURT, By Chester Himes, Doubleday, \$7.95

Several weeks ago before a meeting of the Oregon Black Caucus, I had the good fortune of talking with an articulate, middle-aged Black woman (mother of four) who expressed her life-long "ambition to write a really good novel . . . mainly, about Black people in Portland." I reiterated my inclinations in that direction, and we both lamented the fact that Oregon Blacks in their more than 300 year history in the state had produced no creative writer of major significance. The woman said that she had known "one talented young Black writer, in his early twenties . . . who had fled the state for Paris . . . and there married some French woman . . . and never wrote a single important line!"

I told her that this had become a common practice of a considerable number of Black authors since the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920's. That some of our very best authors like James Baldwin, William Demby, Richard Wright and others; had believed that the social, political and psychological environs of America were so intolerable and repressive to their creative and psychic consciousness, that they returned to Europe or Africa to discover sanctuaries where they could be in relative peace with themselves and their "necessary work."

One such exceptional Black talent is Chester Himes, the author of **THE QUALITY OF HURT**, an important autobiographical first volume of forty-five years of his life and literary works. Chester Himes, who now lives in Alicante, Spain, was born in Jefferson City, Missouri in 1909, and after too many frustrating years of "searching for peace" in racist America, left the country for Europe in 1953.

Himes writes: "This volume of my autobiography recounts all that memory retains of the forty-five years of my hurt. America hurt me terribly, whether rightly or wrongly is not the point. When I fought back through writing it (America) decided to kill me, whether because I was a degenerate ex-convict (his words) who refused to wear sackcloth and ashes, a Negro who refused to accept the Negro Problem as my own, a 'nigger' who would not conform to the existence prescribed for niggers, or a Black man who pitied white women, I will never know. I do know that when America kills a nigger it expects him to remain dead. But I didn't know that I was supposed to die. I still had hope. I still believed the devil. But at age forty-five, while trying to make a white woman feel safe, I suddenly realized I had never been safe. Fear erased my hurt. I became afraid to live. Fortunately, the desperate struggle for life informed me that the only place where I was safe was in my skin. 6 June 1971, Alicante, Spain."

And thus, Chester Himes takes the reader through a happy-bitter sojourn of the life of one bright and sensitive young Black through the white snake-pits of American society. He tells us that as a child he was an ambitious and superior student, but that the schools with their inadequate facilities and incompetent teachers - bored and angered him; and he was often in trouble with the administration. Yet, since his father had been a professor in a Southern Black college and his mother was a dynamic lady of considerable influence in the Black middle class of Cleveland, Ohio, Chester was encouraged to attend Ohio State University where he seldom went to class. Instead he spent much of his time with the "hipsters, pushers and prostitutes" off-campus where he entered a life of crime and violence. And it is here that the young Chester Himes learned the tricks and connivings of the criminal elements in Cleveland and desperately seeking money because of his gambling obsession, burglarized the home of a rich, white suburban family and had to flee to Chicago where he was apprehended while trying to peddle the stolen jewelry. As long as Himes crimes were confined to the Black community, he was largely free of harassment from the law; but since he committed a crime against wealthy and powerful whites - he was tortured into making a confession by the tough Chicago police who were not interested in the crime he had committed back in Ohio, but wanted him to confess to having stolen jewelry from a white woman in Chicago, who was a girl-friend of one of the police officers. (Shades of Portland!)

Himes resisted the Chicago policemen's intimidation and dishonesty, but he was finally transported back to Ohio where he was imprisoned for seven and a half years. It is in prison that Chester Himes began writing his first novel, **CAST THE FIRST STONE**, in 1952, which is still one of the definitive works on Black prisoners in America. It is here that he decides that he had something important to say about the Black Experience in White America. Himes writes: "The seven and a half years I actually served did not seem to hurt me at all . . . the only effect it had on me was to convince me that people will do anything - white people, black people, all people . . . up to the age of 31. I had been hurt emotionally, spiritually and physically as much as 31 years can bear; I had lived in the South; I had fallen down an elevator shaft; I had been kicked out of college; I had served seven and a half years in prison; I had survived the humiliating last five years of the Depression in Cleveland; and still I was complete; functional; my mind was sharp, my reflexes were good, and I was not bitter."

Yet, Himes fled to Europe (England, France, Spain) because he "just wanted out of the United States . . . I had had

### James (Doc) Rogers

it!" Yet, in Europe, far distant from the Black community and its oppression and problems, Himes discovered no lasting peace. Many Europeans he discovered were as racist and unreasonable as American whites. Yet, Himes in his wisdom is grateful that his "entire life had conditioned me to a constant expectation of catastrophe . . . and I didn't expect Europeans to be greatly different. After all, Americans were their descendants. I just wanted out from the United States."

He met some of the great writers of this or any time; including Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Jean-Paul Sartre, Andre Malraux, Robert Frost and others; and he had a number of sexual adventures and affairs with women of all races and ages and interests. And I shall here allow Chester to speak for himself: "Where women are concerned I have always been an ass . . . just to put a Black man into a white woman's bed is to suggest an orgy . . . outside of her body, the most appealing thing about a woman is her sense of humor!"

I'm afraid I can't agree with Chester on all of his conclusions. He is much more impressive when he writes: "The American Black is a new race of man . . ." and he believes that in time we will conquer our oppressors and our problems. I heartily suggest you buy and read this remarkable biography, if you wish to know the author of **IF HE HOLLS LET HIM GO: THE LONELY CRUSADE: PINK-TOES** and other valuable contributions to Black literary art.

Young Black poetess, Nikki Giovanni told Chester Himes during an interview on the television show, "Soul", that "he was the Father of contemporary Black novelists." I don't agree with that either. Yet, Chester Himes' **THE QUALITY OF HURT** is an important landmark in Black biographies.

Get yourself a copy. And, hey . . . take care. These are dangerous times for our people.

By James (Doc) Rogers

Too much sun can be a danger, the American Cancer Society warns. Use hats, beach umbrellas and lotions to safeguard against skin cancer.

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