

## SECOND OPINIONS

### Negative Images: Can We Help Make Them Positive?

by Vincent Woody

Why is it that whenever I turn on the radio or television for African-American entertainment my ears and eyes are greeted by sex, violence and money? Is the African-American community limited to these subjects for entertainment purposes? Are we nothing more than ghetto hoods, athletes, drug dealers, pimps, prostitutes and men and women in 'heat'?

I can remember when hip hop songs were positive and creative. Now they are "copycats" in search of the almighty dollar. "Keeping it real" apparently means, "keeping it real dumb."

If you listen to music by Lil' Kim and Foxy Brown, you'll never see them stray from sex or money as subjects in

their music. Is this the way most African-American women feel? Are they being misrepresented?

Yes, I understand that there are many females who only live for sex and money, but what about those that don't? Why don't record companies promote and sign more positive female acts like Bahamadia and push to have their music played on the radio? Wouldn't this better reflect African-American females?

I also understand that there are African-American males and females who live the life styles displayed in songs by Nas, Mobb Deep, AZ, the Notorious BIG, Jay Z, and even the late Tupac Shakur; but what about those who don't? Why don't rappers like Jeru the Damaja or

KRS - 1's songs, "You're Playing Yourself" and "My Philosophy" get on the radio ahead of the Notorious BIG with a song like "Big Poppa." There is nothing wrong with radio playing these types of songs, it's just that the African-American community is diverse and the music should reflect that diversity.

Why do film companies make mockeries of the African-American community in what I like to call "collard green movies," like "High School High" and "Don't be a Menace to South Central while Drinking your Juice in the Hood?" Movies like these set us back 100 years. Why are most "collard green" movies set in the "hood"?

However, when positive movies like

Spike Lee's "Get on the Bus" or Mario Van Peebles' "Panther" comes out, we don't support them. Maybe it is true. Maybe all we want to see is "hood and buffoon" pictures.

We also say we want more positive representation on television shows. But a modern day "Amos -n- Andy" show like "Martin" gets higher ratings than "Roc." "Roc" presented positive images that we didn't support.

It seems to me that if we start supporting positivity and positive images, then maybe the entertainment industry will present more positive images. The changing of the African-American image in the film, music and television industries starts with us.

### Sometimes The Truth Hurts

by Douglas Clark Jr.

It is really sad that a federal jury awarded \$5.5 million to Food Lion Inc. in punitive damages against ABC Inc. for using deception in an undercover investigation.

The legal issue at stake when Food Lion Inc. sued ABC Inc., was the breaking of invasion of privacy laws. I think it's terrible for any investigative reporter to be charged with the related crimes - trespassing and fraud, while attempting to serve the public's best interest. Should a ABC News producer, Lynne Dale, who worked on the hidden camera Prime Time Live investigation concerning sanitation problems at Food Lion stores, have told the truth on her job application to Food Lion in December 1992? If so, the application would have read, "I am a skilled undercover journalist from a major television network working on a story to uncover potential health code violations in your

company." What would the public have gained using that tactic?

What I find most disturbing in the results of this case is that the First Amendment was not served in the jury's decision. The video footage and information gathered from the employees by Dale were NEVER CHALLENGED FOR THEIR TRUTH OR ACCURACY. How can we hope for the media to serve as the public's watchdog when it is slapped with a \$5.5 million penalty for telling unquestioned truths?

Clearly, the right to freedom of speech has been limited in this case to the right to tell the truth only if Food Lion had knowingly allowed alleged violations to be reported. I doubt that would have happened.

Art Roone, the president of ABC News, realizes the jury was punishing the network for trespassing in Food Lion supermarkets and that the company did not

contradict the accuracy of the information.

Ida Rosen, the executive producer of Prime Time Live, says that the show will continue to use hidden cameras to inform the public and that they will review their electronic news gathering policies. I think that ABC Inc., which is owned by the Walt Disney Corporation, is being punished for believing and practicing high journalistic standards as stated in The Society of Professional Journalist' Code of Ethics:

"We believe in public enlightenment as the forerunner of justice, and in our Constitutional role to seek the truth as part of the public's right to know the truth."

I support ABC Inc. in its legal battle for a landmark decision for the future of mass communications law.

### Coed

on in the residence hall. You have to learn respect from your roommate, suite mates and neighbors.

Over the years, students have voiced various concerns about coed visitation. Some of these questions/concerns include: Why is coed always canceled during exams? Why does coed start so late in the semester? Why is there a policy on same sex visitation? Why can't children or younger siblings visit over night or over a special weekend?

"Coed is canceled during exams

because people have complained that they can't study if their roommate has a guest. Coed also starts right after registration because we want to establish who is living in the building and is properly registered. The same-sex rule basically applies out of consideration for roommates and in case people decide to let their friends live with them. Children can't spend the night because of liability purposes only," explained Patton.

Still the \$64,000 question remains, "Is WSSU ready for 24 hour visitation?"

"Along with 24 hour visitation comes

greater security issues, greater roommate conflicts and more disturbed parents," said Patton.

Patton gave this scenario: Imagine you have 24 hour visitation in Wilson Hall, you have two roommates and one of their boyfriends is over all the time. What happens when the other roommate feels his/her privacy is being violated? According to procedure, you report it to your residence director and go through a mediation process to try and resolve the problem. Then the problem gets worse because your roommate is mad that you

even reported him/her in the first place. What would you do when you complain to housing and they can't do anything to help because the rules say he/she is allowed 24 hour visitation privileges? How would you handle that situation?

Does this scenario leave you confused? As mature students we assume we are all mature enough to handle these situations, especially since we all want a new coed policy, but maybe we aren't. Are we?

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