

# *Letters to the Editor of The Times*

## Symbolism of Bethel

To the Editor:

It is curious that in your extensive coverage of the Woodstock Festival no mention is made of the fact that at that fantastic outpouring there was an almost total absence of Negro youth. This is remarkable in view of common rhetoric and popular myth.

Is there latent in the "youth" scene the racism of which the elders are accused? "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh; but . . . there is no new thing under the sun."

Perhaps the most peculiar aspect of this event, if we are forced to regard the festival as symbolic, is the awful mindless conformity of external appearance and behavior, and the manifest desperation of this lonely herd of pilgrims doing what Dharma demands—the lack of personal will or spirit as these enchanted "wedding guests" cannot choose but follow on.

RALPH MARVIN ABEE  
Santa Monica, Calif.

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