

## 'NEW NEGRO'

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# Letters

unpredictable but it will probably be unconscious of color and ancestry.

FRED BRONNER,  
New York.

## 'NEW NEGRO'

### TO THE EDITOR:

The New York Times Magazine is to be congratulated for confronting in a single issue Hilgard Muller's defense of apartheid with John Oliver Killens's equally extreme advocacy of a "black psyche." The two statements have much in common. Both favor a certain separation of races, both rely on tailor-made versions of the past, both soft-pedal significant trends of the present. Both tend to confuse race with culture.

H. F. Verwoerd's Foreign Minister argues that Bantu rights require the setting up of "Bantustans" [Bantu homelands where Africans will live sealed off from whites]. Just as paradoxically, novelist Killens would advance integration by asserting a Negro ideology, a kind of "négritude" in the style of the Martiniquan poet Aimé Césaire. In fact, U. S. Negroes, like South African Negroes, are moving rapidly toward a way of life that is neither racist nor traditionally African.

"The new Negro," who defies the ideologues and eludes the planners, is the office and factory worker, the foreman and professional, of New York City and Johannesburg. His heritage—our common heritage—lies in the future. It is