


# CLASSIC IMAGES



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

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March 10, 1993

Mr. Winston Tabb  
National Film Preservation Board

MOTION PICTURE, BROADCASTING  
AND RECORDED SOUND DIVISION

Dear Mr. Tabb:

Classic Images is one of the oldest and most widely circulated publications for classic film buffs. Our readers and contributors feel passionately about film, and it is this shared passion which gives us a sense of community. As editor of Classic Images, I would like to convey something of the frustration that we feel on the matter of preservation and public access.

Film buffs feel terribly frustrated by the current state of affairs. We desperately want to view the films that have been denied to us. While we greatly appreciate the preservation activities of great institutions like the Library of Congress, in our more pessimistic moods we wonder if their work ultimately will be pointless. We can easily imagine a dismal scenario in which films will be preserved, stored for a few extra decades, viewed by practically no one, and finally allowed to decompose in the darkness of some vault.

Fortunately this terrible waste of national treasure can be avoided easily. The Committee For Film Preservation and Public Access, of which I am a member, has made five recommendations to the National Film Preservation Board. If these recommendations are heeded, film lovers around the world will celebrate.

We believe that the rights of the donors of film properties must be respected, and copyrights should not be infringed. However the people's right to enjoy their film heritage has been neglected under current law. This must change or the whole program of preservation will seem senseless and will ultimately fail.

We urge the National Film Preservation Board to listen to our recommendations, and to make a stronger commitment to public access. Without this commitment our heritage will be lost, even if our films are preserved.

Sincerely,

*Bob King*

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