

The Strawberry Statement has constant shifts in tone throughout the movie going from a romantic standpoint and ending with violence. The movie also gives us the opportunity to see how luck can strike at any time and we just have to be smart about our decisions. This was shown to us in one of the scenes when Simon gets into a fight with a fellow student which he later magnifies into an instance of police brutality.

One of the positives is the fact that women have a major role to play. This movie was shot in the late 60's so the fact that more women were involved in the film goes against the stereotype at the time. I even see that sex in this movie is not a taboo. The idea of free love does thrive and is not really judgement of promiscuity.

With all the negatives aside, I feel the most powerful scene in the film was the last one. The riot - a scene of cops wearing gas masks, shooting tear gas and brutally clubbing the students while saving the worst for the black student. Making the police look like animals and the kids like idiots.

To describe the Strawberry Statement in one word and that would be flawed. But even this flawed movie is something the people connected to because it gives us a taste of the following the "true" American dream.

(519 words)

Citations

The strawberry statement; notes of a college revolutionary-James S Kunen-New York, Random House [1969] Pages 26-27