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FSU BUDGET APPROVED

(Excerpts taken from the Fayetteville Observer, October 23, 1973)

The University of North Carolina Board of Governors approved funds for capital improvement projects at Fayetteville State University recently.

Included in the improvement projects are renovations on the Taylor Science Building which was funded at \$25,000; \$25,000 to inclose the drainage ditch at the south end of the campus; \$25,000 for the demolition of the Newbold School Building and \$50,000 to resurface roads on the west campus.

However, all requests by FSU, are subject to approval by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

The Board of Governors recommended appropriations of \$21,085 for improvement of a general educational program for baccalaureate candidates; \$22,190 for increasing clerical staffs within the academic program; \$11,000 for increase in structural supplies and equipment; \$29,636 for the increase in enrollment; \$19,388 for upgrading the library (an option of upgrading the library in a four-year program would cost \$58,175) and \$24,291 for maintenance and utility personnel supplies.

The Board approved increases in fees at all of the state supported schools of higher learning except FSU and Appalachian State University in Boone. Fees on these two campuses average about \$16 below what they are at other schools in the system.

FIRST LYCEUM SERIES A SUCCESS



FIRST PERFORMERS AT FSU LYCEUM -- Dr. Lemuel Berry, extreme left, Head of the Department of Music and Humanities at FSU, and music major Mevelyn Hughes, second from left, greet music artists of The Descendants of Mike & Phoebe after their performance recently. The artists are Consuela Moorehead and Bill Lee, who are brother and sister.

(FSU Photo by John B. Henderson)

FAYETTEVILLE -- The Lyceum Committee of Fayetteville State University featured "The Descendants of Mike & Phoebe," Wednesday, October 3, 1973.

The presentation, which took place in J. W. Seabrook Auditorium, turned out to be a sensation with everyone attending. The audience consisted of approximately one hundred FSU students and several faculty members.

Getting in to a melancholy mood, the audience was given the impression that the three members of the jazz group put into their music all the "soul" they had.

The musical group consisted of one brother and two sisters who really are "The Descendants of Mike & Phoebe." All three members of this musical family are directly associated with The New York Bass Violin Choir.

Bassist composer, Bill Lee, credits the woods of Snow Hill, and the streets of Atlanta, Chicago and New York as his sources of learning. To date he has written five operas in the jazz-folk idiom and numerous jazz compositions.

Consuela Lee Morehead, pianist composer, not only played the keyboard of the piano but also the strings, a technique she acquired through her friendship with Lance Heyward. He is a fellow associate of her brother's William James Edwards (Bill) Lee.

A. Grace Lee Mims, soprano vocalist, has worked with a variety of organizations and theaters and has recently published an article titled "Soul, The Black Man and His Music."

"Coltrane," a composition by Bill Lee, is about John Coltrane, the first jazz musician who acknowledged that "the music he played was coming from God." Bill Lee played this piece, as many others, from memory and with his eyes closed, which gave the audience the impression that his music was also a gift from God.

Mr. Timothy Brown of the Music Department at FSU claims that this kind of "concert approach to jazz" has proved to be sensational. "When the bass is plucked with the fingers rather than played with a bow," continues Brown, "it functions as a rhythm instrument as well as a melodic one. This creates a pleasing effect to the ear." The musical term that applies to this technique is "pizzicato."

The whole performance was a soul-searching experience. The story of Mike & Phoebe was told as it really was. Phoebe and Mike were married and in 1819, when Alabama became a state they were separated because they worked on different plantations. It took Mike four years to buy his freedom. He then established his family "One Mile East" of the family's present home.

The language of the anecdotes and the anecdotes themselves related directly to the Black man.

"Better be glad you don' have to pick no cotton.

Yea, Boll Weevil done took care o' dat.

First time I seen Boll Weevil, he was standin' on the square,

Next time I seen Boll Weevil, he had his whole family dere."

"The Depot," one of Bill Lee's folk operas, was performed in its entirety by the students of Hampton Institute. The three talented artists have been working together since 1968, but this is their first year of touring. They will tour south to Alabama and then back North to New York giving an average of two or three concerts weekly.

Bill Lee claims to have written his operas for the Black students in colleges because "they have talent but don't know how to use it." They will begin cutting records with Strata East Company of New York in December of this year.



TOURING FSU CAMPUS -- Dr. Charles "A" Lyons, Jr., Chancellor of Fayetteville State University (right) guides William Dees, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Consolidated System of the University of North Carolina, around the campus of FSU. The purpose of the trip by Chairman Dees was to get a first hand look at the needs of FSU.

(FSU Photo by John B. Henderson)



BRAINY AND BEAUTIFUL is lovely sophomore Fayetteville State University coed Clararene Jacobs. A native of Salemburg, N.C., Clararene made all A's during her first year at FSU. A mathematics and an honor student, she would like to teach at the high school level upon completing FSU.

(FSU Photo by John B. Henderson)