

PERSPECTIVE JAZZ

The Respectable Mr. M. Davis By HAROLD FOSTER



Anniversary Review

(continued from page 1)

undergraduate school presented the main speaker, Arthur S. Flemming, for the honorary degree, calling him an "educator, public servant, and a man unreservedly devoted to the welfare of our country and its people."

Flemming Speaks

Following ceremonies in which he was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, Arthur S. Flemming, U. S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare said that "The insistence by our colleges and universities upon the pursuit of academic excellence is essential to the welfare of America and the free world." Flemming, the main speaker in the second day of the Golden Anniversary activities, also strongly endorsed sit-in demonstrations in the South.

Speakers on the Thursday afternoon symposium on "The College and Accentuated Social Action" included Harry Golden, editor of "The Carolina Israelite"; Dr. Douglas B. Maggs, professor of law at Duke University; Mr. Daniel H. Pollitt, professor in University of North Carolina Law School; Mr. McNeil Smith, chairman of the North Carolina Civil Rights Advisory Commission; Dr. Asa T. Spaulding, president of North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company; Mr. J. Nelson Strawbridge, chairman of the Durham Committee on Human Relations;

Mr. D. G. Sampson of the NCC Law School faculty, and Mr. Marion Wright, vice chairman of the Southern Regional Conference.

Choir Presented

The North Carolina College Choir presented "The Death of Minnehaha," by Samuel Cole-ridge Taylor, Broadway show hits, and spirituals at 8:00 p.m. A reception for guests was held at 9:30 p.m. in the Women's Gymnasium.

Dr. John Hope Franklin, professor and chairman of the department of history at Brooklyn College, delivered the climaxing Convocation address on Friday, November 11 in the R. L. McDougald Gymnasium. The famed historian, who once taught at NCC, said a liberal arts college "is dedicated to constructive contact between the human mind and spirit and the world in which it dwells. It is fully aware of the great dimensions of knowledge. It knows that knowledge is freedom, it is virtue, it is independence, it is power; and it is thus anxious to see to it that the best possible use is made of knowledge."

Degrees Conferred

President Alfonso Elder conferred honorary degrees upon two local business executives, Bascom Baynes, and Asa T. Spaulding, before a host of dignitaries including Governor Luther Hodges and presidents, deans and administrators from

more than 100 colleges, universities, and learned societies. The impressive ceremony, marked by Medieval pageantry, also featured greetings from the State, city, colleges and universities, music by the college choir and deans and administrators from band, and a candle-lighting ceremony dedicating the College "to the next half century."

President Elder also addressed the Anniversary Scholarship Luncheon at 1:00 p.m. He challenged teachers and students to address themselves to the problem of accelerating Negro students, most of whom exhibit lower levels of academic attainment.

Referring to the students' recent demonstrations against segregation, Dr. Elder said they should be challenged "To feel equally strong about academic inequality."

The 7:00 p.m. alumni symposium featured the question "What shall be the new dimensions in college-alumni relationships in the challenging new educational era?"

Homecoming activities were in the spotlight on Saturday, November 12. The NCC Eagles defeated Virginia Union University's Panthers 32-0 in the 1:30 p.m. Homecoming game.

Golden Featured

(continued from page 5) of the Durham Committee on Human Relations; and Mr. Daniel G. Sampson, teacher in the North Carolina College Law School.

The Respectable Mr. M. Davis
Recently I had the pleasure of attending a "dig" session held within the walls of the house of ill repute (Chidley Hall.)

The session was "swinging." Our vivid imaginations had extended to the point where we played make believe that the jazz artists were there in person and the session was being recorded (we had a tape recorder of course). Everything had gone fine until yours truly made the drastic mistake of addressing one of the musicians wrongly. The conversation went thus:

Foster: "Well, we'll listen to some Miles Davis now."

Opponents: "What do you mean some 'Miles Davis', don't you realize that he is god around here and is to be addressed "Mr." or "The Honorable Miles Davis?"

I was shot out, killed, and humiliated to the extent that I was prompted to write this article and title it, "The Respectable Mr. Miles Davis."

Mr. Davis, born 34 years ago in Alton, Illinois, is definitely, without a doubt, one of the modern jazz giants of today.

The honorable Miles plays an extremely "soft" horn, which is far from the Roy Eldridge-Dizzy Gillespie school. He has consistently been overlooked by jazz critics because he "lacks the virtuosity of his contemporaries." Some critics even go farther and say that he has entirely deviated from jazz to "cool" music.

Perhaps all this controversy began because Mr. Davis rarely uses the upper register, preferring to play almost wholly "within the staff." His tone is round and warm.

In an interview titled, "Self-Portrait of the Artist by Miles Davis," conducted by George Avakian and taped and released by Columbia Records Biographical Service, The high priest concedes that his sound

and sense of chord changes and rhythm suspensions are very close to the Charlie Parker style—as he got his start and was influenced by the same.

Since the time the music instructor back in Mr. Davis' hometown had convinced Miles' father to buy him a trumpet and told him, "Play without any vibrato," that's how he has tried to play—fast and light—and no vibrato. Says Miles, "This is one reason why the evolution of the cool era began. I always wanted to play with a light sound, because I could think better when I played that way. But, I don't think there's any essential difference between bebop and what they call cool; they just dropped that label on me."

As is evident by the session held in Chidley Hall, as an idea man and influence, the honorable Mr. Miles Davis has come into his full powers. If his grasp of the instrument still leaves something to be desired, he has shown considerable professionalism in Barbados, 'Round About Midnight) since his first record (Billie's Bounce) and is certainly the trumpet man of our times.

Men's Weekend

(continued from page 1)

Ezra Totten, Dr. J. Neal Hughley, Mr. William Holloway, Mr. Roamless Hudson, Mr. Rubin F. Weston, and Mr. Elizamon Coley. The special Men's Day Vesper, held at 3:15 in B. N. Duke Auditorium, was addressed by Dr. William Stuart Nelson, the Dean of Religion at Howard University, who took as his topic, "The Greatest Things in the World." Dr. Nelson was met informally by students and visitors in the climaxing "After-Vesper" reception, which was held in the Chidley Hall Social Room at 4:30.

SG Crippled

(continued from page 1)

by anyone in authority that talent shows have been prohibited on this campus, nor has anyone forwarded to me a formal complaint to that effect."

The SG President mentioned that plans were being made to send representatives to the North Carolina Student Legislature, to be held later this year at Raleigh. Housing facilities, according to Mr. Streeter, are presenting a problem. He indicated that the student body will be informed of the Student Government's policy concerning that Legislature.

Salem refreshes your taste

—"air-softens" every puff



Created by R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company

- menthol fresh
- rich tobacco taste
- modern filter, too

Take a puff... it's Springtime!

Yes, the soft, cool smoke of Salem refreshes your taste and Salem's special High Porosity paper "air-softens" every puff. Get acquainted with the springtime-fresh smoke of Salem and its rich tobacco taste. Smoke refreshed... smoke Salem!