

Dancer Declares Negro Artists Being "Loved to Death" by Critics

By GEOFFREY HOLDER

Editor's Note: The celebrated actor, painter, and dancer displays some personal and pertinent indignation at the way the socially conscious are loving the Negro theater to death. His comments will be carried in the TIMES in three installments, part one of which appears below.

The off-color, on-Broadway, back of the bus part of this past musical comedy season has now been officially certified as a disaster area. It's the K.K.K. season: "Kicks and Co.," "Kwamina," and "King Kong." Three nearly-all Negro musicals. No hits. A double disaster which dragged the third down the drain before it got on the boards. Three errors. The two that deserved to die killed the one that deserved not to. (Only the non-musical play "Purle Victorious" showed any powers of survival, and that because it didn't try to belabor the paying customers.)

The fallout from the flops has spread nausea among producers, backers, audiences, critics, performers. In the beginning, everybody was talking about them. At the end, nobody was. Fools rush in from whence the fleeced angels have fled. It is necessary, I think, for anybody who cares about theater to deal bluntly with these dead ducks that once flew so handsome and so high.

Months ago, gypsies (a gypsy, in classic Broadway terminology, is a skilled dancer who performs intermittently in the choruses and ensembles of musicals) used to stop me in the street, telling me we'd all soon be back on Broadway. "So many wonderful Negro shows are coming in." Well, a year later, the gypsies are back on unemployment insurance incoming Negro Broadway shows have been called off. Claudia McNeil and Langston Hughes are back on Broadway. This is where we came in.

VARIETY, says "Kicks," a \$400,000-plus fiasco, which raised some of its money in a celebrated television audition (on Dave Garroway's edition of "Today") has probably ruined that particular kind of audition stunt for all time. Others make so bold as to predict that the K.K.K. season has buried the interracial Afro-musical for all time. If they are right, then it's a bargain at a two-million-dollar loss. For it is a fact that the recent African trend in the theater has been practically killed by kindness—a sort of cockeyed charity which assumes that any artistic endeavor involving Negroes must be rapturously praised, and shielded from impartial criticism.

For several seasons, from "South Pacific" to "Siris Wong," slant eyes were in fashion on Broadway. The only Negroes working were those who weren't too yellow to play whorizontals. The switch from the Asia bit to the Afro was signaled early in the Kennedy era, at the opening of the new headquarters for the United States delegation to the UN. It didn't make the big splash of the Jackie Kennedy look. It didn't make Pate Davis, Jr. (delayed until after the election so a Kennedy brother-in-law could be best man without

naking Kennedy lose the South).

I spotted the first official sign of the Afro trend when there was unveiled the décor of the lair of Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, chief United States delegate to the UN, Broadway, the Met, and the City Center. Instead of being a mélange of all nations, as might have been expected, Mr. Stevenson's office was decorated in what might be described as Dark Continental: African masks, African sculpture, African prints and knickknacks. Stevenson confessed the effect was consciously political. "It's all Africa this year," he quipped. A political seductarium where uncommitted African delegates to the UN could be wooed, wined, and dined. Never mind if the Africans might be as sick of masks as I am and might be more entranced by all-American mink rugs than Afro-leopard ones, more charmed by one of Eisenhower's paintings or a shrunken head of John Wilkes Booth "It's all Africa this year" was the slogan.

Among American influentials, there are few more influential—especially with the Broadway crowd—than Mr. Stevenson. Consciously or unconsciously, people began to take their cues from him. Confounding the Kremlin by being kind to Africans became as contagious as the Twist. Giving money to Radio Free Europe or the International Rescue Committee wasn't enough. It was "Love Thy African Neighbor time." The political atmosphere got so thick with Brotherhood that a Harlem sharpie, failed earlier for running up a huge tab at the Waldorf by impersonating an Ethiopian diplomat, again boldly emerged from the Catskills, where he was working as a bus boy, posed as the UN delegate from Ghana, and rocked the Hotel Commodore and several other slick city operators. With the wisdom of mother wit this 1961 con man knew that when there are not enough black celebrities to go around, some of them have to be invented.

A&T To Get \$6 Million For Improvements

GREENSBORO — Permanent improvements of nearly six million dollars, requested for A. and T. College, were approved last week by the A. and T. College trustee board.

Included in the proposed construction program are five new structures, other improvements to buildings and grounds, new instructional equipment and the acquisition of additional land area for future expansion.

The proposed new buildings include: a dormitory for men, a student union and a physical education-gymnasium plant, at one million dollars each; dormitory for women, \$600,000; a biology building, \$870,000; and a mathematics and business administration building, \$450,000.

Leading the list of improvements are: additions to the power plant of \$113,000 and air conditioning of the library, \$80,000.

Survey Shows Chemicals Fast Replacing Hoe

Will chemicals do the same thing for the hoe as tractors have done for the mule?

For some crops, at least, it looks as if the answer is "yes".

A. D. Worsham, extension weed control specialist at N. C. State College, has just completed a survey which shows how fast Tar Heel farmers are abandoning the hoe - and often the cultivator - for herbicides.

Here are some highlights of his survey: In 1961, North Carolina corn growers used herbicides on 22 per cent of their acreage as compared with only 7 per cent in 1957. Total corn treated last year reached an estimated 313,000 acres.

Cotton growers have switched to chemical weed control at an even faster pace. An earlier survey showed that only 1 per cent of the State's cotton acreage was treated with herbicides in 1957. Last year, the figure was 12 per cent.

In 1957, Tar Heel peanut growers used herbicides on one acre in 500. Four years later they were using the chemicals on one acre in eight.

Worsham pointed out that it was impossible for agricultural agents to know the precise acreage treated within their county. He believes most of the estimates are conservative, however.

Here are some more facts brought out by the survey: Small grain acreage treated with herbicides rose from 3 per cent in 1957 to 7 per cent in 1961. During the same period, treated grain sorghum acreage went from 5 per cent of the total to 14 per cent.

As for pastures, only one acre out of each 1,000 was treated with herbicides in 1957. By 1961, it was one acre out of 100.

Also, during the four-year period between surveys, Tar Heel farmers began to use their first herbicides on such things as soybeans, hay and horticultural crops. The percentage of treated acreage for these crops is still quite small, however.

Dr. Robert P. Upchurch, professor of field crops at State College, predicts that 25 per cent of the State's cotton acreage will be chemically treated for weeds this year.

Frankly, Worsham was surprised that treated corn acreage is as low as the figures revealed. "It's a shame we're not using more 2-4-D on corn," Dr. Upchurch said. "It's so cheap that every corn producer should use it to kill weeds, especially broad-leaved weeds."

At present, Worsham's survey showed, farmers are most interested in additional herbicide information for soybeans and horticultural crops. Peanuts, cotton tobacco and alfalfa ranked next on the interest survey.

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Tshombe politely poured us coffee cold, because there were no servants in the house and over the chill drink disarmingly declared:

"You may announce that I am declaring Katanga independent of the rest of the Congo tonight."

The Home Front

MODERN FABRICS

Homemakers in Granville County have been gaining knowledge on modern fabrics. They are studying bymanship, use and care of today's fabrics, how to handle fabrics, and special fabric finishes.

Miss Mary Parham home economics agent, reports the women studied different fabric swatches, looked at labels and learned how to purchase fabrics and clothing which will be economical, serviceable and appropriate.

FRUITS FOR MEALS

How often do you use fruits in your menu planning? Mrs. Ida Hinnant, home economics agent in Harnett County, has been stressing the importance of using fruits in the diet.

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THE FASTEST MAN IN VIRGINIA—Jimmy Johnson (left), Virginia State College sprinter, who won the 50-yard dash in a record breaking time of 5.4 sec. in the recent Phila-

delphia inquirer games, shows his plaque to Virginia State College Athletic Director, James A. Moore. Johnson is a junior from Cumberland, Va.

Tshombe Has Risen From Obscurity To Potent Influence in World Events

EDITOR'S NOTE — When the history of the United Nations is finally compiled, few men may show the impact of its existence of Katanga's Moise Tshombe.

The Congo War, the death of Hammarskjold, Russia's "Troika" campaign, crisis in the U. N. and the shape of emerging Africa itself are all entwined in the quiet personality of this African. Now Tshombe, barred by the State Department from visiting the United States, is a threatening issue in U. S. politics. The story of Tshombe and the African crisis is told in the following dispatch by a veteran foreign correspondent of United Press International who knows the Katanga president personally and who witnessed most of the Congo war. The dispatch was filed from Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, by RAY J. MOLONEY

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To a pair of reporters, Tshombe had handed a virtual declaration of war for delivery to the rest of the world.

The date was July 11, 1960, and the scene was the former Belgian provincial governor's headquarters in Elisabethville. The Congo crisis was just beginning, six days earlier, the "Force Publique" Congolese army had mutinied Moise Tshombe, "son of an African businessman of great wealth and graduate of an American Methodist missionary school, was hardly a name to conjure head-lines yet.

In the 20 months since then, Tshombe proved to be Africa's most active volcano, the center of a deadly civil war, and a lot more:

—Dag Hammarskjold died on a flight to plead peace with Tshombe.

—A major crisis of confidence erupted under the very foundation of the United Nations.

—Tshombe even became a domestic political issue in the United States, where serious congressional criticism burst over President Kennedy's firm support of U. N. action against "President Tshombe's anti-Communist independent Republic of Katanga."

—He confronted the U. S. State Department with a crisis of sorts by deciding on an American tour complete with a Madison Square Garden rally to be held in New York March 7.

That plan was squelched a week ago by the State Department.

4-H Trains For Better Living

By L. R. HARRILL
State 4-H Club Leader

Here in North Carolina where 4-H has grown from an idea into the world's largest rural youth organization, we point with pride to the imagination and ability of the pioneers who laid the foundation for an organization that has captivated the interest of people in all parts of the world.

Its greatest achievement is reflected in the lives of people better trained to serve as good citizens in their community.

North Carolina can proudly count its outstanding citizens, leaders in agriculture, business, industry, politics and education who have come from its rural community. Many of these leaders have attributed their present prominence to the start toward leadership which they were given in the 4-H Clubs in North Carolina.

For more than fifty years our young people through 4-H Clubs have been learning by doing, striving to daily live the 4-H motto, "To Make the Best Better," as they enjoy play and recreation as well as interesting worthwhile work as they join together in building both personal character and group citizenship. About one of every five rural boys and girls eligible for membership in 4-H is engaged in the varied activities of this program which has as its objective "Training Youth in the Art of Better Living."

4-H continues to open new doors of opportunity for farm boys and girls and serves to broaden their horizons. In addition to teaching better farm and home practices in agriculture and homemaking, 4-H offers boys and girls an opportu-

nity to participate in 4-H judging contests, team demonstrations, public speaking, and various other activities. Through the Wildlife Conservation Program an opportunity is offered to learn more about wildlife and natural resources and to participate in a State 4-H Wildlife Conservation Conference.

Through the medium of state, regional and national events, 4-H members are offered an opportunity to come in contact with the outstanding leaders in various professional fields. In the health improvement program every 4-H member in the state is expected to conduct a health improvement project. In the farm and home safety and the automotive care and safety programs they have an opportunity to participate in programs designed to eliminate traffic and farm and home accidents.

In the state-wide observance of 4-H Sunday and in practically all 4-H programs and activities, 4-H members learn the importance of spiritual growth and development in the lives of individuals, communities, states, and nations.

It would be impossible to describe the total impact of this program on the lives of millions of boys and girls who have participated in the various activities of the 4-H program. But so long as the 4-H program is geared to fit the economic, social, physical and spiritual growth and development needs of the individual and the needs of the community, 4-H will continue to serve in helping young people grow into better individuals in a better community, in a better state and in a better world.

King's "People to People" Tour Sweeps Delta

ATLANTA, Ga. —The three-day tour of the Mississippi Delta County by SCLC President, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was an outstanding success, according to reports from the area.

Beginning at Clarkdale, Mississippi on February 7th, Dr. King met with twenty ministers from the surrounding area at his first stop. He then proceeded to Higgins High School where he visited 15 classrooms and chatted informally with the workers in the school cafeteria.

Later he made a quick tour of the campus of Coahoma Junior College, stopping to talk with students and faculty members along the way.

The same day, he was a guest of the Baptist Student Union at the Chapel Hill Baptist Church. Without stopping, he went on to the Immaculate Conception Catholic School, where he visited with the students and faculty. That evening he attended a Mass meeting at the Centennial Baptist Church, where Reverend Wyatt Lee Walker, Executive Director of SCLC, was the guest speaker before one thousand members of the Coahoma County Federated Council of Organizations. At each of the stops, Dr. King and his entourage were greeted with a tremendous reception.

The second day, February 8th, the group moved on to Jonesboro, Coahoma and Sherard. In each of these places, Dr. King made it a point to get off the beaten paths and talk to the residents on a man to man basis.

In Jonesboro, he talked to one group of farm people who gathered around, staring at him in awe and unbelief. Dressed in overalls, "rathans and worn shoes, they listened to the words about registering and voting, and asked innumerable questions. Twenty of this group signed up as volunteers for the voter registration drive.

At Sherard, in front of a country store which had been designated as the meeting place, only one man showed up. He had walked 13 miles to get there. When questioned, he said that dozens of others had been notified and wanted to come, but were afraid they would be put off the land if they met with Dr. King.

At Mount Bayou, Mississippi, the all-Negro town of 1,200 persons, Dr. King met with a group of community leaders and officials in the home of Dr. Edmund Burton, the town's only physician.

He then toured the town, stopping on front porches and along the roads to talk with the towns people.

That night, Dr. King was the guest speaker at the "Trammell for Congress Rally" presenting Reverend Theodore Trammell, the first Negro candidate for Congress from the Delta area since Reconstruction. Nearly 300 people were unable to get into the First Baptist Church where the rally was held. The meeting had been scheduled for 8:00 p.m. By 7:00 p.m., the church was filled to capacity.

Most of the last day was spent in Jackson, Mississippi. More informal talk with plain people. More visits to places off the beaten path. The day climaxed with a nonviolent workshop at Tougaloo College, directed by Reverend J. M. Lawson.

5 Students at A&T Get Awards From Sears Store

GREENSBORO—Five A. and T. College students were last week honored at the annual Sears Roebuck Scholarship Awards Program.

Presented with freshman scholarship awards for study in agriculture or home economics were: Alexander Dawson, Belhaven; Willie Frank Faison, Clinton; Alice Jean Key, Tarboro; James Carlton Kearney, Tarboro, and McArthur Newell, Jacksonville. All were top students in their high school graduating classes last June. The awards were presented by Dr. B. C. Webb, dean of the School of Agriculture.

The program, held in the Carver Hall auditorium on Thursday, February 22, was enhanced with the appearance of Lawrence Zollcoffer, a senior in the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, a former A. and T. graduate and winner of a Sears Roebuck scholarship.

Speaking from the subject, "How The Scholarship Helped One A. and T. Student," Zollcoffer told the audience, "There is very little more important to the college student, in his college experience and those years which follow, than high academic achievement."

Other main speakers on the program, both of whom gave special emphasis to scholarly attainments, were Dr. Cecile H. Edwards, professor of nutrition and research, and Dr. Howard F. Robinson, professor of agricultural economics.

Daniel Godfrey, president of the A. and T. Agricultural Association, presided.

And now with Maryland joining in the competition, the battle for top flight talent is expected to be even sharper.

Situated at College Park, Maryland might have an additional selling point for Negro athletes in the area who don't want to go too far from home. On the other hand, the very fact that the school is located below the Mason-Dixon line and is a member of the Athletic Coast Conference which has teams in South Carolina, might also work against it.

All young Negro athletes might not think of themselves as latter day "Jackie Robinsons," and might prefer to go to schools at which the ground has already been broken in integrated sports competition.

working for civil rights. He is a member of the board of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, New Orleans, a south-wide interracial group working for integration.

The Shreveport new home was almost completed when agents blew it up. Local officials said they were looking for the dynamite but were unable to find them.

Meantime, four student leaders remained in jail at Baton Rouge, La., on charge of criminal anarchy, or trying to overthrow the government by working for integration.

Integration leaders asked friends everywhere to contact the Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., about catching the bombers and releasing the students engaged in work for peaceful change.

New Home of La. Leader is Bombed

SHREVEPORT, La.—A home being built in the suburbs for Dr. and Mrs. C. O. Simpkins, integration leaders, was destroyed by a dynamite bomb recently. The bombing was the latest in a series of attacks on integrationists and their buildings in this area.

Dr. and Mrs. Simpkins are active in several organizations

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