

ALL-AFRICAN PLAY 'FREEDOM' OPENS IN LONDON

London — Recently the new All-African play called 'Freedom' opened triumphantly in the Westminster Theatre, London. As the curtain fell the audience, which packed every corner of the theatre, rose to its feet for a ten-minute standing ovation. They would not sit down, but went on standing while the cast sang a specially written song called 'Freedom' and then the Bantu National Anthem, 'Nkosi Sikeleli Afrika'. The African play began in darkness with the throbbing African drums and a haunting new song for Africa. When the curtain opened on a magnificent blaze of light and burst into a Royal Palace the audience burst into prolonged applause.

Hundreds of Africans were in the theatre. The whole audience followed every line of the play with sensitive attention. Each colorful moving scene carried everyone into the heart of Africa. A Nigerian Trade Union leader said, "This play shows exactly what we Africans feel in a way no speeches or newspapers could ever do." The Chief who founded the West African Student Union in London stated, "Now we understand what MRA is — it means unity." One diplomat said, "This is the best play I have ever seen."

The High Commissioner from Central Africa changed engagements to be present and stayed three quarters of an hour afterwards. The Minister of Education from Sierra Leone was present. Fourteen African countries were represented. Also present were the officials from the High Commissioners' offices from Nigeria, the Gold Coast, India and Pakistan.

The Information Officer for the Nigerian Government rushed to the telephone in the first interval and rang a British National newspaper and told them, "You are missing an unforgettable experience." The paper had a reporter and photographer there in a half hour.

Cabled congratulations from two Nigerian Federal Ministers were read to the audience. A Pakistan industrialist gave two thousand pounds to help keep 'Freedom' on the road.

Hundreds stayed late in the theatre. A veteran theatre fireman summed up the unique quality of the evening, "You have blown the top off this theatre tonight. I've never seen a first night like it."

John McGovern, Member of Parliament from Shettestone, in introducing the play spoke of the challenge which Africa and Asia are bringing. His closing words were: "Frank Buchman is the greatest living statesman of our generation. If he had been listened to by myself and others thirty years ago the world would be a different place. But let us make amends and stir the hearts and minds of men to save the world from the destruction that faces us."

'Freedom' was written and produced in six days by Africans from South Africa, Nigeria, the Gold Coast and East Africa. In the cast there are three West African M.P.s, the National Secretary of a Nigerian Trade Union, the Chairman of the Enugu Urban District Council, a bank manager, Nigerian, Cameroonian and Somaliland students, teach-

TEMPO LOOKS AHEAD

Watch for thousands of phony tax experts to set up offices across the country this spring. The Internal Revenue Service, as an economy measure, will stop helping tax payers prepare their income tax returns—except for answering broad general questions. As a result, many so-called experts will help taxpayers with their returns—possibly to get them into trouble.

Look for the West German Government to crack down on Communist infiltration in labor unions. The West German government will admit that there are over 2,000 Communist cells operating in the area's industrial plants.

If Congressman Clarence Brown (R., Ohio) has his way, there will be a Hoover-Hoover presidential ticket. Brown is privately boosting the man J. Edgar Hoover for president and Under Secretary of State Herbert Hoover, Jr., for vice-president.

The Republicans boast they are the party of Abraham Lincoln. But the Democrats have coined a new slogan for them — "The Party of Lincoln—and Cadillac."

If you plan to travel in Russia you can expect the Central Intelligence Agency to interview you upon your return. Tourists often pick up information that our best agents inside Russia have been unable to get.

You can expect the United States to hold another series of H-Bomb tests in the South Pacific in May. The most spectacular explosion will be staged by the Air Force which, for the first time, will try dropping an H-Bomb from 50 thousand feet.

America may find itself dragged into a war by its own allies. U.S. interests in the northwest African protectorate of Morocco are trapped between hostile French and Spanish forces which are spilling for a fight with each other. The U.S. would like to keep peace between these NATO allies, but both are bent on humiliating each other. If their antagonism turns to open warfare, Uncle Sam may have to choose sides and GI's may find themselves fighting—not the Communists—but their own friends.

RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP FROM MICHIGAN STATE U.

Howard McCurdy, better known to Londoners as Junior, has received his M.Sc., and a scholarship from Michigan State University that will enable him to work toward his Ph.D. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. McCurdy, formerly of London, Ont. After receiving his B.A. at the University of Western Ontario in 1953, Mr. McCurdy received his M.A. at Assumption in 1954. He has been named assistant in microbiology and public health at Michigan State University.

ers, American Negroes, the leader of the Market Women of Lagos and the President of 10,000 African teachers.

At its premiere in Caux, Switzerland, at the Moral Re-Armament Assembly there, Mr. Albert M. Bethune, son of Mary McLeod Bethune, and Assistant Grand Exalted Ruler of I.B.O.E.P. (Order of Elk), stated, "After you are through with Africa, come to America and help us. This is a great play and it will fulfil its world task."

DR. NORMAN VINCENT PEALE URGES CHURCHES TO BECOME 'COLOR-BLIND'

New York — Dr. Norman Vincent Peale urged all Christian churches to become "color-blind." "God made his children of various colors and His house is for all of them," Dr. Peale said in the new issue of Look Magazine.

The Evangelical Reform minister's statement that "people are all the same in our church, whether Negro or white, rich or poor, Jew or Christian," came in answer to a question from a worshipper in Dr. Peale's church.

The question was, "Do you invite Negroes to attend your services?" Dr. Peale's entire answer as follows: "We invite everybody. There are no barriers in a Christian church. We are color-blind. God made His children of various colors and His house is for all of them. People are all the same in our church, whether Negro or white, rich or poor, Jew or Christian. The church is there to help them all."

NEGRO HONORED BY NAVY LEAGUE

TORONTO — (CP) — For the first time, a Navy League of Canada scholarship has been awarded to a sea Cadet who is a Negro.

He is Lemuel Boyd, of Edmonton, who will attend the University of Alberta, the Navy League said today in announcing award of seven more university naval training division scholarships.

Last year Lemuel won the President's Trophy, awarded annually to the Canadian Sea Cadet who has shown the most outstanding qualifications for leadership.

Other winners of the scholarship, with the universities they will attend: Robert N. Gordon, Toronto; Robert Scarth and Robert O'Hara, Edmonton; David C. Kerridge, Sackville, N.B.; Dalhousie; Merrill R. Conrad, Bridgewater, N.S.; Acadia; Louis Seratti, New Victoria, N.S.; Xavier Junior College, Sydney, N.S.

Valued at \$250 each, the scholarships cover first-year tuition fees at universities and colleges.

JEWISH MUSIC MONTH COMMENCES JAN. 28

Jewish Music Month will be celebrated during the period of January 28th through February 28th, 1956. The Canadian Jewish Congress, in co-operation with the National Jewish Music Council of America, has prepared materials for celebration of this month dedicated to Jewish Music.

The theme of the Music month this year will be the Music of Ernest Bloch in honour of the Composer's 75th birthday. A manual and list of program aids to help celebrate this event is available from the Congress, 493 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal.

Jewish music is as difficult to define as the Jewish people itself.

There are those who deny the reality of a Jewish music. They say that what is called Jewish music is really Slavic or Balkan, or Babylonian or Egyptian. Some are willing to admit that in the far distant past in the land of Judea, there was a Hebraic music. They will identify certain chants of the synagogue as its legitimate descendant. But they maintain that there has been no Jewish music since the Jews left their land in the first century of the Common Era.

Who are embarking on a month of Jewish Music Festival do not share this view. We begin our festival on the day which is called The Sabbath of the Song, the Sabbath on which the Synagogue Bible-reading contains the Song of Moses after the crossing of the Red Sea.

The Jews, at the very beginning of their career as a unified group, felt the need to give voice to their great experience in music. From then on until the present, the people has had its high dramatic moments, its deep tragedy, its religious faith, its simple joys and sorrows, and always it has needed to give them utterance in music. Whatever of the music has survived has helped them to remember and share the emotions of generations past, who have lived in widely scattered communities all over the world.

Professor Stresses "Color" Education

New York — A Georgia professor and a prominent Negro editor today stressed that it is the parents' job primarily to see that their offspring do not acquire prejudice against colored people.

Assistant Professor James W. May of Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, and William Gordon, Managing Editor of the Atlanta World, described their views in an article entitled, "What I Tell My Child About Color," in the new issue of Look Magazine. Both are fathers of nine-year-old boys.

Mr. May teaches his boy Jamie through "attitudes and experience" rather than through lectures. The issue is "discussed on the level the boy can manage," he added.

The best approach is "to provide normal boyhood experiences shared with Negro children," Mr. May said. He currently is arranging to have his son Jamie play with colored children at his home in Atlanta.

Mr. Gordon, who lives in an all-Negro neighborhood, said the color question "haunts every Negro parent who wants to bring up his youngster without fear and the crippling stigma of inferiority."

"Very few whites realize the trouble which some Negro families go to avoid hurting their children," Mr. Gordon said. "Some buy automobiles, even at a sacrifice, to take their children to and from school — just so they won't have to ride in segregated buses."

The Atlanta editor's son, Bill, Jr., had his first direct experience with prejudice while visiting the park with his teacher and a group of youngsters. A counterman in the park restaurant refused to serve him a sandwich. Fortunately, the boy "did not become embittered," Mr. Gordon said. He has "acquired no hostile feelings toward whites."

According to Mr. Gordon, "the day is not far off when none of us will have to explain color to our kids. Almost every day now, we get the feeling that more humane elements are at work all over the South."

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