

Negro Janitor's Portrait Is Presented--Newton Speaks

"His life was light, light that dispels darkness." With those words, Dr. Louie D. Newton, pastor of Atlanta's Druid Hills Baptist Church, began his formal presentation of a portrait of Lee Battle, Negro janitor at Mercer for 40 years.

Dr. Newton centered his talk around the three words which he said best described Battle, who died in 1939 after befriending two generations of Mercerians.

The words were:

1. **Integrity**—"He was an open book of unquestioned integrity." Dr. Newton said that Battle was the banker of Mercer students, who left with him anywhere from one dollar to hundreds and never asked for a receipt.

2. **Sincerity**—"No one ever questioned the sincerity of Lee Battle who was always on call to help anyone who needed him. He was on duty every hour of every day, leaving the campus only on Sunday afternoons to go to church. Morning, noon and night he was ready to be of service to his boys."

3. **Fidelity**—Lee Battle was faithful unto the end." Dr. Newton described Battle's final moments on the evening of his death.

The portrait depicts Battle in his customary attire of white cap and apron and with his broom brush delivering one of his spontaneous speeches on the campus. It was painted from an old photograph.

Dr. Johnston Absent On Crow Study Leave

Dr. David Johnston, associate professor biology here, has received a grant of \$3,400 from the National Science Foundation and left March 13 to begin a three-month research project on birds of Washington and California.

Dr. Johnston's investigation will concern the American crow and the Northwestern crow. He will study systematics of crows—defining characteristics which distinguish species of crows from diverse parts of the new world.

Dr. Newton described it as the "portrait of a real Mercerian and of a Christian gentleman."

Lee Battle was honored at his death at the age of 74 with a nationwide radio broadcast of the erection of a monument at his grave near Forsyth. His body lay in state in Mercer's Willingham Chapel—customarily reserved for university presidents.

An avid Mercer sports fan, Battle was known for his pre-game pep talks to the team and for leading the cheers during the action. He accompanied the school's football team, at their insistence, on a trip to play Army and Navy.

The portrait is to be hung in the Student Center.

Shirer...

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nerable to attack from abroad with nuclear weapons." The Soviet has both the atomic and hydrogen bombs, the means to put them on target, ballistic missiles and sputniks.

It is estimated that in an enemy attack, four out of five enemy planes would get through to their targets. Such an attack would kill about one-half of the citizens of the United States. An American retaliation would probably kill hundreds of millions.

3. "The German problem is still with us. It is the main bone of contention between Russia and ourselves. Germany is the great prize."

Mr. Shirer said that peace is now being kept by threat of mutual destruction. "It isn't a very Christian way of keeping peace, but it's better than none at all."

Debaters...

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enrolled in Mercer last quarter and plan to take degrees, after completion of 1958-59 work. They are making the tour as individuals.

Both debaters are veterans of two years on the Mercer debate team. As a team and as individuals, they have consistently scored in the highest brackets. Layfield is vice-president of the Southeastern region of Tau Kappa Alpha, national honorary forensic fraternity.

The two said they intend to urge understanding of the Southern position, emphasizing that conditions in the South are not propitious at present for integration.

Layfield wrote last week that their first debate (at Princeton) had drawn a heavy attendance and said it was a success.

At Mercer, the scheduled tour drew both commendation and condemnation. Some accused the pair of "treachery" and muttered words like "hanging." Other observers were inclined to attribute this to a misinterpretation of Layfield's and Bates' position. And most of those who were not pleased by the students' action had a word of praise for their initiative in this possible first direct communication of this type between North and South.

Choir Elects New Officers

Norman Burns has been elected president of the choir for the coming year. Technical vice president is Larry Boyd, enlistment and social vice president Doug Davis, personnel vice president Mary Jane Griffith, secretary Patricia Bateman, treasurer Jack Wood, light technician Elbert Coleman, stage technician John McElvey, and stage manager Wallace Dorn.

Robe committee is chairman Wesley Edwards and Dick Porter, Grace Otto, and Jean Marshall.



"IT'S A BASKET!"—Practicing in new girl's gym recently converted from old Co-op building. The \$20,000 renovation is not quite complete yet. —Photo by Robinson

One On The Aisle

by Haywood Ellis

The Mercer Glee Club came through with some of the most solid entertainment to ever hit this campus in their presentation of Cole Porter's Kiss Me Kate. From the resounding overture and the highly unusual and effective entrance of the cast to the final solving of the dual plot, the pace never slackened.

James Woodward romped through the elaborate sets, colorful and plentiful costumes, and hundreds of Broadway and 'Shakespeareo-Italian' aborigines with the complete command, wild abandon, swash-buckling, and wit of a George Gobel. Errol Flynn. (The flat-top haircut helped this effect, especially in the Shakespearean costumes.)

He cried out in groans of mental and physical anguish against those vile creatures of the night: women. (The opinions expressed here are not those of myself, the Cluster, or the Mercer administration. They are supposedly those of either Petruchio or Shakespeare, but I doubt even that.) and when he could no longer defend himself against them verbally, he slapped their eyes out.

Annette Robinson was the extremely vocal recipient of all these primitive passions, but she managed to get in a few good licks of her own. Surely the beating Woodward's cardrums took was far worse than the licking he derved out to Miss Robinson's derriere. This punishment, incidentally, didn't appear to be very faked. I wonder how the leading lady made it through the long weeks of rehearsal.

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