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Stars Light Up the Roger L. Stevens Center

By Ann Corrigan

Staff Reporter (Staff reporter Tracie Cone also contributed to this story.)

Like the show business trouper that it is, the Roger L. Stevens Center for the Performing Arts played its openingnight role to the hilt.

It was as glamorous, as shiny and as star-filled as Winston-Salem has ever seen, bringing the artists, the stars, the wealthy and the well known together for a special performance and the chance to

see and be seen. The city had its own taste of the Oscars last night as the arrivals were dropped off in front of the center by their limousines, Rolls-Royces, antique cars and sta-

tion wagons. The notables and not-sonotables alike were treated to an entrance of spotlights, a red carpet and

Police estimated that about 500 people lined the south side of West Fourth Street and hundreds of others watched from second-story windows.

"So who is it?" called out Ronnie Valenti of Clemmons, in her native Brooklyn accent as the first car arrived. "Nobody I know from Clemmons,"

said Dena Share, straining against a bar-The first applause of the evening went for a brown, antique Rolls-Royce that, on

its first trip around the block, dropped off an apparent unknown.

The car and some limousines made

several passes by the Hyatt Winston-Salem and back to the Stevens Center, prompting one stargazer to remark: "We got all three limos in Winston working full count."

Gregory Peck was the first celebrity greeted by cheers and waves from the crowd, which was disappointed when he did not return its gesture.

The crowd's enthusiasm returned when actor Cliff Robertson walked a half block from his limousine to the center's front door, waving politely along the

Word passed rapidly when a limousine carrying former President Gerald Ford and his wife, Betty, rounded Spruce Street onto Fourth.

They were among the last to arrive,

stepping to the red carpet behind Lady Bird Johnson, wife of the late President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., who followed the Fords, probably was the most responsive to the crowd, waving excitedly as people called out his name.

The guests themselves did not want to leave the theater entrance or its front steps for fear they might miss something. The schedule hit a snag about 7:30 p.m. when the arrivals backed up.

The theater did everything it was supposed to do. The furs, bared shoulders, seguins and ruffles reflected well in the lighted staircases of mirrors leading up four stories to the balcony.

The staircase, visible to Fourth Street through the large front window, gave

traffic passing by and people planted in surrounding buildings a perfect view of the show and made entrances and exits as dramatic as they were meant to be.

Before the performance, the guests were offered drinks from bars set up in the upper and lower lobbies. The crowd on the open-air front porch on the second floor sipped champagne, smoked cigarettes and looked at the people on the street below, who were looking back at

Another snag developed as packed elevators carried people to their balcony seats. The elevator nearest Fourth Street got stuck five feet below the third floor, trapping 12 guests inside.

Winston-Salem fire marshals cut the power to the elevator and forced it open.

The men and women, dressed in long gowns and tuxedos, stood on a chair, and marshals pulled them out and up to the third floor. There were no injuries.

During a 30-minute intermission, the crowds packed the lobbies, forcing smokers to hold their cigarettes high in the air. The balcony lobby, the highest one in the theater, was warm and stuffy.

Even Lady Bird Johnson stood at the end of a long line for the restroom although several women in the line offered to give her their place. Two Secret Service men stood close to her until she

neared the restroom entrance. Asked if they were going to follow her inside, one of the Secret Service men

said, "We have someone in there." See Glamour, Page 7

Stevens Center North Carolina School of the Arts Staff Photo by David Rolfe Roger L. Stevens, Isaac Stern and Gregory Peck - old friends and stars of the show - pose outside the theater.

Theater's Opening Is a Night of Glitter

By Jim Shertzer Staff Arts Reporter

With pomp, circumstance and all the stars it could muster, the N. C. School of the Arts opened its \$10.2 million Roger L. Stevens Center for the Performing Arts last night.

The gala honoring Roger Lacey Stevens, a real-estate magnate and theater producer, drew a capacity crowd. All but a handful paid \$250 for a ticket to the show and a formal dinner afterward at the Benton Convention Center.

About 500 people gathered along West Fourth Street to watch the stars turn out for the tribute to Stevens, who is chairman of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington.

Among those participating in the gala were Oscar-winning actors Gregory Peck, who dedicated the renovated theater, and Cliff Robertson; conductor and composer Leonard Bernstein, who led the arts school's student orchestra; violinist Isaac Stern; actresses Jean Stapleton and Zoe Caldwell; choreographers Agnes de Mille and Sir Anton Dolin; former President Gerald Ford; and Gov. James B. Hunt Jr.

President Ronald Reagan congratulated Stevens in a letter, copies of which were in last night's souvenir program.

"This special evening," wrote Reagan, "is a most proud one for you and your family, colleagues and friends as well as More stories and pictures, Pages 7 and 21.

for members and guests of the North Carolina School of the Arts."

Reagan extended his best wishes and thanked Stevens for "a lifetime of ser-

vice to the arts in America." Praise poured out all evening for Stevens, the arts school and the arts.

Many participating in last night's gala - including Peck, Bernstein, Stern, Miss de Mille, designer Oliver Smith and Winston-Salem's R. Philip Hanes Jr. served under Stevens on the first panel of the National Endowment of the Arts in 1964 and came to Winston-Salem to honor an old friend.

Peck, who said that he was honored and thrilled to dedicate the theater, characterized Stevens as "a modest and enigmatic fellow."

The actor saluted Stevens as "perhaps America's foremost citizen of the arts" and said that Stevens, in a unique way, brought business, government and the arts together for the common good.

And he saluted all those in Winston-Salem who struggled and dreamed to make the Stevens Center possible.

On hand were representatives of four presidential administrations, Governor Hunt and four former governors. Hunt said, "We proudly call North Carolina the state of the arts, and now the state of the arts has a fitting showcase."

With the speeches came drama, dance, song and music.

Miss Caldwell, who is the wife of Robert Whitehead, Stevens' producing partner for 30 years, appeared in a scene from "Medea," for which she won a Tony. The Greek tragedy was revived last year at the Kennedy Center and on Broadway by her husband and Stevens.

Miss Stapleton, best known for her portrayal of Edith Bunker in the classic television series "All in the Family," sang a humorous number from Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta "Patience" and clowned with a cello. Two members of the New York City

Ballet - Mel Tomlinson, a native of Raleigh and a graduate of the arts school, and Heather Watts - performed a duet from George Balanchine's ballet

Bernstein led the N.C. School of the Arts Orchestra in the sparkling overture to his operetta "Candide" and in a dramatic orchestral excerpt from his "Mass," the work commissioned for the opening of the Kennedy Center 13 years

But for many, the evening's climax was Stern's appearance with Bernstein and the student orchestra in the meditative second movement and sprightly fi-See Gala, Page 7

Klan Defendants in Custody

By Michael P. Massoglia and Gary Terpening Staff Reporters

Authorities made the final arrest yesterday in their roundup of nine men charged earlier this week with conspiring to disrupt a Communist march in which five people were killed, the FBI

Meanwhile, federal prosecutors here warned a magistrate that some of the men have tried to intimidate witnesses.

The final arrest was made yesterday morning when a deputy and an FBI agent spotted Roy C. Toney in Honea Path, S. C., an FBI spokesman said. Toney was in jail in Greenville, S. C., last night. Toney's co-defendants were all in custody before he was picked up.

Toney and eight others who rode in a caravan of Ku Klux Klansmen and Nazis are charged with conspiring to disrupt the Communist-sponsored "Death to the Klan" march on Nov. 3, 1979. Five Communists were shot to death

that day after the caravan reached the predominantly black neighborhood in Greensboro where the march was to

A federal grand jury indicted Toney and eight others Thursday on charges ranging from civil-rights violations to obstruction of justice.

Russell A. Eliason, the federal magistrate here, gave three of those defendants the same Greensboro lawyers who defended them in 1980 against murder and rioting charges during a five-month trial in Guilford Superior Court.

"It may not be necessary, but it might be helpful to have those people," Eliason

The six Klansmen and Nazis were acquitted in the state trial. Jeffrey P. Farran, who defended Jack

Wilson Fowler Jr. in the state trial, said that Eliason had appointed him to represent Fowler in federal court. Fowler, a 29-year-old tire salesman from Winston-Salem, was in the Forsyth County Jail yesterday, with bond set at \$15,000. He is charged with conspiracy and with violence that led to a death.

Farran said that defending Fowler in what promises to be a complex trial will be a strain on his practice. But he said that Eliason made a logical choice. "It obviously makes sense from an efficiency's point of view to reappoint the lawyers familiar with the case," Farran

Eliason also reappointed Harold F. Greeson to defend Coleman B. Pridmore, and Neill A. Jennings to defend Jerry Paul Smith, two of Toney's co-defendants. The magistrate's secretary did not know what other lawyers have been assigned to the federal case.

The other federal defendants are Edward W. Dawson, 64, of Greensboro; Virgil L. Griffin of Gaston County; David Wayne Matthews, 27, of Newton; Raeford Milano Caudle, 39, of 4125 Tise Ave. in Winston-Salem; and Roland Wayne

See Klan, Page 2

No Inflation for Past 5 Months

Consumer Prices Up Only 0.1%

WASHINGTON (AP) - Despite soaring food costs, consumer prices edged only 0.1 percent higher in March to leave the economy inflation-free for the past five months. Private economists joined the White House in hailing the news yesterday as "extraordinary." For the first three months of this year,

consumer prices rose at an annual rate of 0.4 percent, the smallest one-quarter advance since 1965, the Labor Department reported. President Reagan, in a brief, televised meeting with reporters, said the March figures represented "welcome relief" for Americans

The president, referring to his budget battle with Congress, added that "this is no time to sabotage the recovery we've worked so hard for with a quick fix."

after the double-digit inflation of three years

The government report will mean a 3.5 percent cost-of-living increase for Social Security's 36 million recipients, the smallest since annual increases were first tied to the consum-

er price index in 1975. (Story, Page 3) The latest cost-of-living increase, averaging \$14 a month for a single retired person and \$24

for a couple, won't show up in Social Security

benefits checks until January.

Price moderation was evident throughout most of the index. Even rises in medical care costs slowed to 0.5 percent last month, the smallest gain since November 1980.

But Reagan cautioned that "zero inflation cannot last forever," especially with fuel prices showing signs of firming again. Jerry Jasinowski, chief economist for the National Association of Manufacturers, expressed concern that "the extraordinary reduction in inflation over the last five months is coming to

Prices actually went down at an annual rate of 0.4 percent from November through March, largely a result of plummeting costs of gaso-

line and fuel oil. Donald Ratajczak, an economic forecaster at Georgia State University, predicted that fuel prices would be rising in April, spurred

partly by the nickel-a-gallon increase in federal gasoline taxes that took effect at the start of the month. In March, however, gasoline prices fell a full percent to an average level 17.4 percent below their peak of two years ago, the govern-

ment said. Fuel oil prices were down a record

5.2 percent, the fourth straight monthly de-

Food prices, which had been rising little or not at all, climbed 0.6 percent last month, driven by a 4.4 percent boost in fruit and vegetable prices caused by rainstorms in California and Florida that reduced supplies.

Prices for beef, pork, poultry and fish fell slightly, but egg prices leaped 7.7 percent. Prices for dairy products were unchanged, but prices for cereal and bakery products rose 0.4 percent.

Overall, grocery store food prices rose 0.9 percent, restaurant meal prices 0.2 percent and alcoholic beverage prices 0.7 percent, the report said.

Ratajczak said the March pickup in food prices was not a quirk but the forerunner of "reasonably high food prices" in the next few months.

In the last 12 months, consumer prices over-

all have risen 3.6 percent. If the seasonally adjusted, 0.1 percent increase in March held steady for 12 straight months, the yearly advance would be 1.6 per-

People Are Ruining Linville Gorge

Almost everyone who grew up in Northwest North Carolina has heard about the pristine beauty of Linville Gorge. Recently Journal reporter Floyd Rogers spent two days there and came away almost wishing he hadn't. Story in the Sunday Journal.

Mountain Leaders Worried

The 10-story condominium being built atop Little Sugar Mountain in Avery County is really just a highly visible symbol of deeper problems in the North Carolina mountains. Reporter Floyd Rogers talks with some concerned mountain leaders, in the Sunday Journal.

Accent on Celebrities

Lady Bird Johnson, Gregory Peck and Jean Stapleton were here for the opening of the Stevens Center. Interviews Sunday.

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Lawyer Is Fined For Contempt

By Gary Terpening Staff Reporter

GREENSBORO - A federal judge cited a lawyer for criminal contempt of court yesterday and ordered him to spend five days in jail or pay a \$500 fine.

Judge Richard C. Erwin of U.S. District Court cited John B. Hatfield Jr., a former District Court judge who practices law in Greensboro.

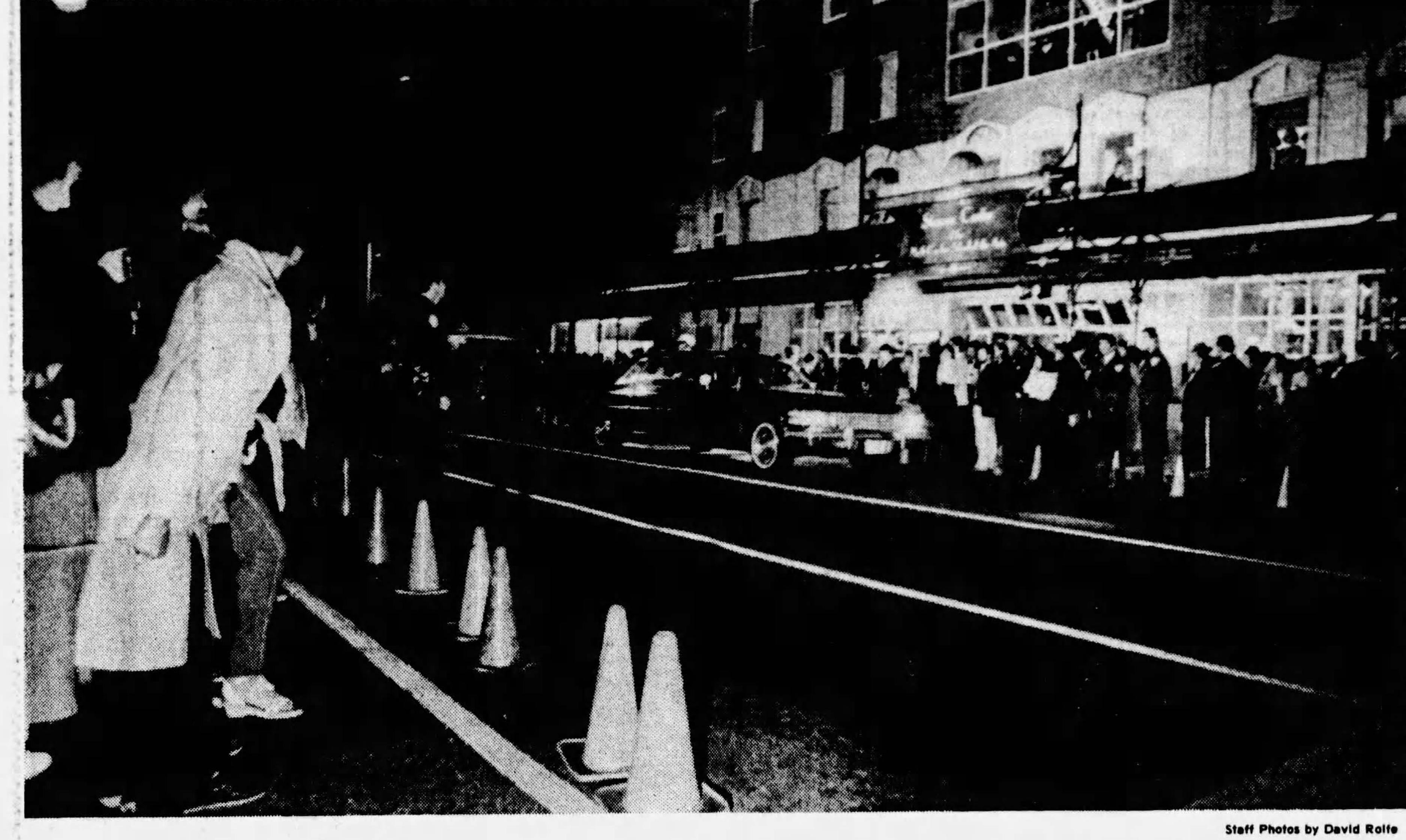
Erwin said he cited Hatfield for actions last week in the trial of two Colombians who were convicted of plotting to smuggle 649 pounds of cocaine into the United States through an air-

port in Surry County. David B. Smith, an assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted the case, also was facing a contempt citation. Erwin, though, said that the public reprimand he gave Smith at the end of the trial last week - which included a recommendation that Smith seek therapy to help control his temper - will suffice.

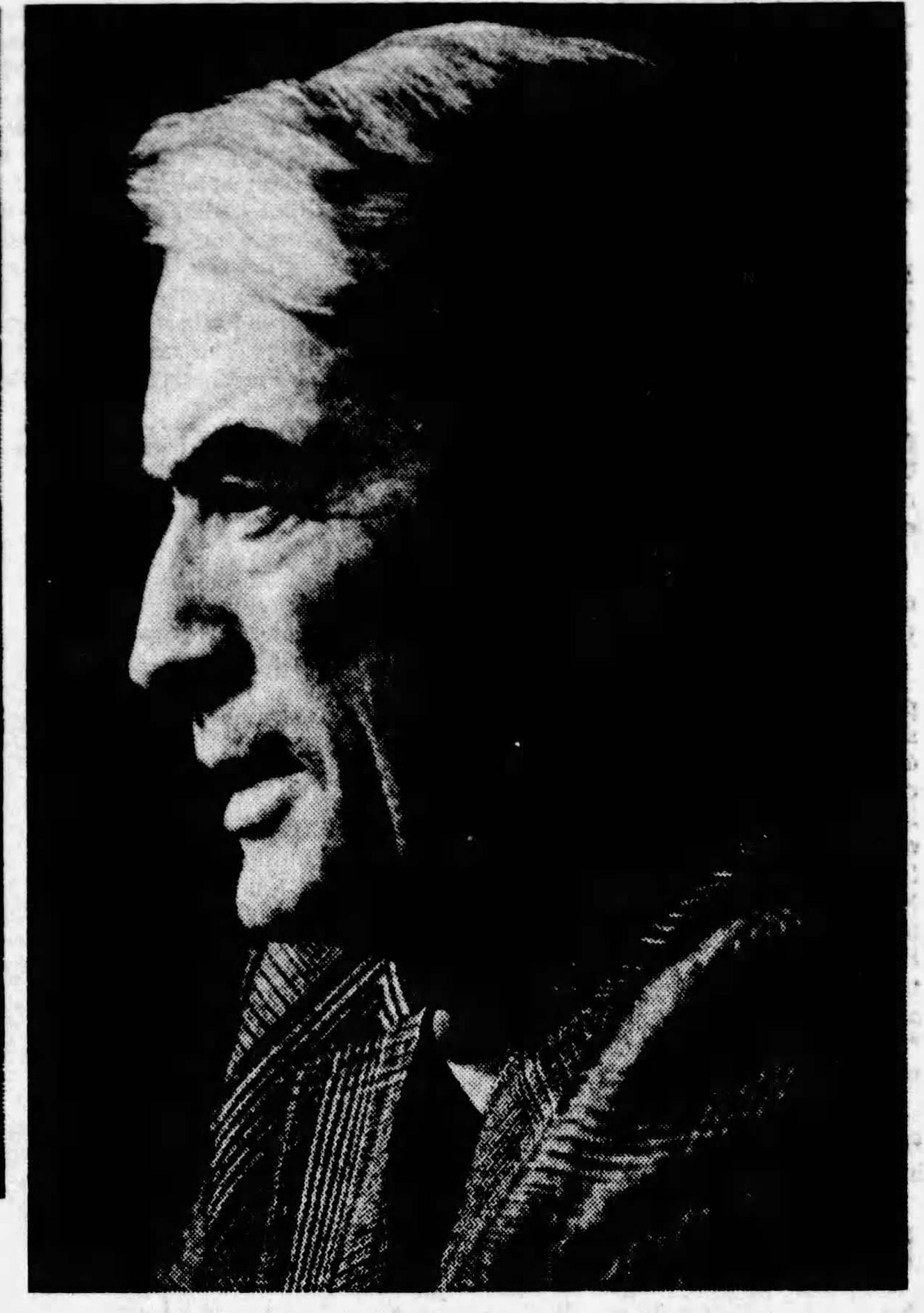
"I have determined that I have said enough with reference to your case," the judge told Smith. Erwin said that he hopes the incident will not change the professional relationship

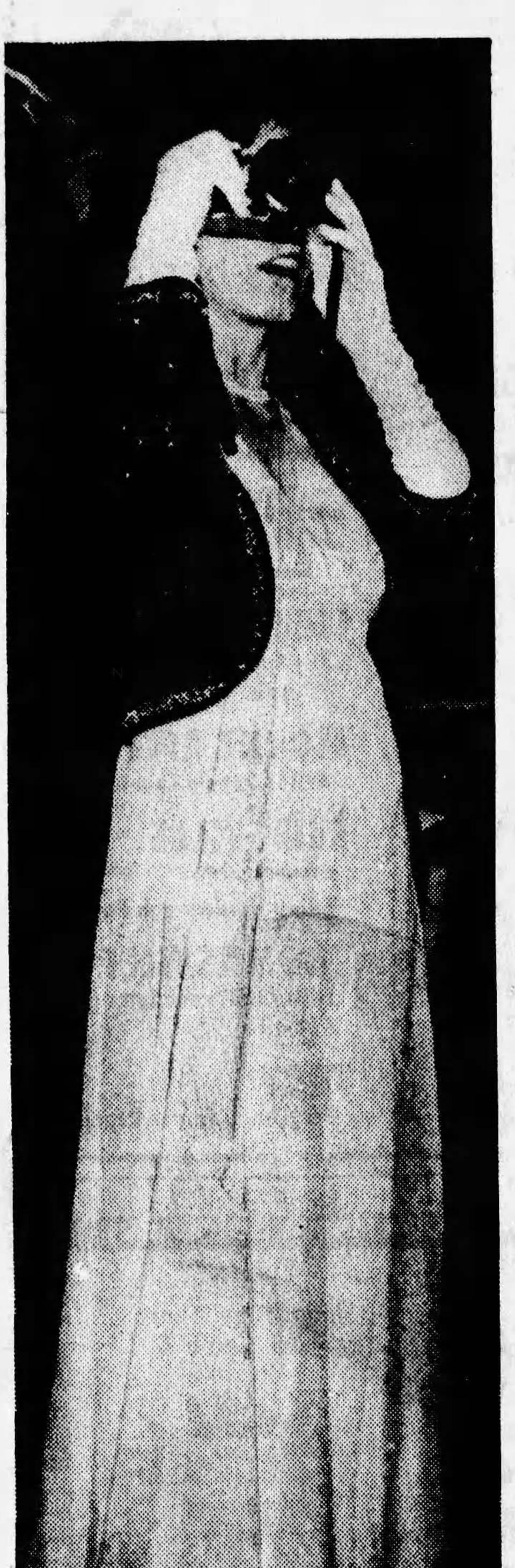
between Smith and him. Erwin gave Hatfield the choice of paying a See Lawyer, Page 2

Celebrities Add Luster to Stevens Center Opening



Crowds gathered on the sidewalk across the street from the Stevens Center to catch a glimpse of fancy cars and stars like Gregory Peck.







Staff Photos by David Rolfe



Staff Photo by Charlie Buchanan

Actress Jean Stapleton rehearses her comic cello routine.

Crowd Goes for a Stroll

Glamour, Glitter Highlight Opening

Cameras clicked for such celebrities as former President Gerald Ford and his wife, Betty.

Continued From Page 1 Meanwhile the rest of the audience filed up and down the staircase, past the golds, reds and greens of the theater, past the shells and the grapevines and past the original lamps and plaster work, much of which could be found there when the theater was completed in 1929.

The \$10.2 million theater, renovated during the past three years from its most recent state as a worn-out movie house called the Carolina Theater, is the pride and joy of the N. C. School of the Arts, a state-supported school that turned the theater into a performance center.

Last night's performance and dinner cost guests \$250 a seat, which counted as a donation to the arts school.

After the performance, most of the crowd, including the stars, strolled the one block down North Marshall Street to the Benton Convention Center for a three-course meal. Their way was guided by luminaries made by local

Boy Scouts. At one point a luminary, which is a paper bag with sand and a lighted candle inside, caught fire. It was

promptly stomped out by a Boy Scout, who was applauded by busloads of arts school students who had just performed in the gala.

Boy Scouts gathered around the entrance to the convention center to get as many autographs as they could. As each limousine drove up, people in the crowd screamed, no matter who emerged.

The guests were seated in the convention center at nearly 200 tables decorated in a white, silver and black art deco style. The tops of the tables were covered in silver mylar with white fanned-out napkins marking each place.

The centerpiece of the table was a mirror box topped with a bust trimmed in black and sequins with a single white feather perched jauntily on top. The room was surrounded by ficus trees strung with

small white lights. White candles lighted the tables, and harpists played at

either end of the room. The dinner began with a series of toasts led by Dr. Robert Suderburg, chancellor of

the arts school. Last night was the climax of months of work by the arts

school and hundreds of volunteers who were prepared for nearly everything.

The volunteers, who had been at the special guests beck and call, had set up an emergency telephone number that could handle everything from a lost cuff link to cardiac arrest. But late yesterday they said that they had not had any emergencies.

And it appeared by yesterday afternoon that they had worked themselves out of a job. Tog Newman, who headed an army of volunteers, and arts school officials reported no major problems other than

people's changes in plans. For example, arts school officials had rushed out to have program inserts printed that said that actors Cliff Robertson and Jose Ferrer and actress and model Margaux Hemingway would at-

But two of those last-minute additions, Ferrer and Miss Hemingway, canceled at the

last minute. The Stevens Center had already generated quite a bit of excitement hours before the

opening performance. If they timed it just right,

motorists caught up in the

lunchtime traffic on West Fourth Street had a chance to see why television and newspaper cameras and a small crowd gathered around three men arm-in-arm, laughing and posing in front of the Stevens Center.

Peck was posing for photos with violinist Isaac Stern and Stevens, the producer and real-estate magnate for whom the center is named.

One downtown employee, who happened to be walking by on her way to lunch, stood spellbound in the street, within easy reach of the cars going by. Clutching her chest, she said, referring to Peck, "I'll always think of Abraham Lin-

coln when I see him." Margaret Cronan of Kannapolis planted herself in the lobby of the Hyatt yesterday afternoon to get a glimpse of Peck or former President Ford or any of the notables staying at the hotel.

Mrs. Cronan is one of 350 women here for the district convention of the Pilot Clubs, women's service organizations that happened to be meeting at the Hyatt and convention center this weekend.

At about 3 p.m. yesterday,

she had gotten one wish: Peck,

the tall man with the familiar arched black eyebrows and silver hair, walked from the lobby doors to the elevator.

"I don't want to invade his privacy," Mrs. Cronan said. "1 just sit here and drool."

Many people sitting in the lobby did not even notice when these people walked through, even those with Secret Service protection, like Joan Mondale, the wife of former Vice President Walter Mondale.

At one point in the afternoon, Jean Stapleton marched right through the lobby, escaping the attention of all but a young woman seated next to a large palm plant.

The woman did a double take and then studied Miss Stapleton as she stepped into the glass elevator that took her to the upper floors.

Della Roberts, one of the volunteers welcoming guests to the Hyatt, told another volunteer who had just walked up to the welcome table, "Don't worry. You haven't missed a thing that I haven't."

Then Mrs. Roberts, who is an artist, said, "Joan Mondale walked through. I didn't see her. Jean Stapleton came through. I didn't see her...."

Senate Approves Aid For Stevens Center

An amendment that would keep the N. C. School of the Arts from having to return federal money used on the Stevens Center is part of a bill proclaiming next week as National Organ Donor Awareness Week.

The school wants to lease the center to a partnership of investors, but if it does so, it may have to pay back all or part of \$3.24 million in federal grants.

So the school needs legislative help, which Sen. Jesse Helms provided Thursday when he attached the Stevens Center amendment to the proclamation. The proclamation was passed by the Senate and has been sent to the

But Rep. Stephen L. Neal is concerned that the bill will never make it through the House.

A spokesman for Neal's office said yesterday that the House will probably not vote on the proclamation because it is to go into effect next week. What's more, the

House won't be back in session until Tuesday. He also said that the House's rules are more strict than the Senate's. A House committee could kill the amendment if it isn't relevant to the total bill.

A spokesman for Helms' office said that the senator added the Stevens Center amendment to the proclamation because he thought the bill would be non-controver-

Neal is trying to get the amendment added to another

bill, the spokesman said. The amendment would go a long way toward cementing an agreement to let the First Stevens Limited Partnership lease the Stevens Center. It would lease the center back to the school. That would allow the partnership to take advantage of special investment tax credits and give the school more money to cover operating expenses.

But the Economic Development Administration, which gave the school \$3.24 million to help create the center, has not been entirely in favor of such arrangements between private and public organizations.

Gala Opening An Evening Of Glitter

Continued From Page 1 nale of Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor. The performance drew a standing

Stevens got another as he came to the stage to close the program. He kept his remarks brief. "I'm honored and overwhelmed that such an evening has taken place and that my name is attached to such a beautiful structure."

In closing, he offered this advice: "Don't be afraid to fail, because out of it can come great success."

The decorative curtain designed for the theater by Smith, designer of "West Side Story" and "My Fair Lady" and other theater classics, was also on view last night.

The performance started about 25 minutes late but went off without a snag.

Festivities at the Stevens Center continue today and include a performance at 7 p.m. of Cole Porter's musical "Kiss Me Kate" and afterward the presentation to Stevens of an award from The American National Theater and Acade-

The musical will be repeated at 3 p.m. Sunday and at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. All performances are sold out.