

Local Junior Colleges Seats of Learning, Cultural Activities

By Ralph R. Gompertz

Everyone sometime in his life rubs shoulders with education.

The degree varies, ranging from grammar school to college.

At the top of the educational ladder stands the university. The university, in a way, is a world in itself. It is the storehouse of man's intellectual treasures.

It is the home of scholars delving deeply into the human heart, mind and soul.

It is the parent training the child, transmitting the tools which the race has found indispensable.

The university, while seemingly remote from the every day activities of the community, is actually the life-line that keeps society going.

It is the seat of culture. In addition to the formal curriculum through which it transmits man's cultural heritage, it also serves as an important center of cultural activity in the community in which it is located.

It does so by offering lectures, art exhibits, musical events, plays, and related activities to the public.

Torrance, while somewhat removed from nearby universities, does have two junior colleges close by whose cultural activities throughout the year enrich the life of this community.

Looking to El Camino college, many Torrance residents find the answers to their favorite cultural pursuits.

The college, located on the northern boundary of the community on a 90-acre campus in the northwestern corner of Redondo Beach and Crenshaw boulevards, provides an activity program which extends throughout the calendar year.

Current attraction of art lovers of the community is the unique Christmas display which is gaining recognition throughout the Southland, Madonna Row. Initiated largely through the efforts of Miss Mildred Walker of the art faculty, the art presentation will be made for the eighth year as reproductions of well-known Madonna paintings are lighted for the first time this week (December 10-14).

Each of the 8 by 10 foot reproductions is placed in an attractive simulated gold frame by the college maintenance staff and then placed in a row fronting the college Administration Building at 16007 So. Crenshaw boulevard. Floodlights illumine the paintings for the benefit of late passers-by throughout the holiday season.

Twice, this year and in 1954, Miss Walker has deviated from the practice of presenting paintings in the public display. A mosaic, "Madonna and Child," was added to the row in 1954. Consisting of more than 2,000 pieces of tile and glass, the mosaic represented over 150 working hours by the instructor and members of her art classes.

This year's addition promises to crown all efforts of the department. Miss Walker and Joe Gadden, both of the art department, have completed work on their stained glass window, "The Blue Madonna of Chartres." Starting their voluntary work on the project in July, the two instructors completed their work this week. The result is a window estimated worth \$7200.

Among the paintings reproduced in previous years were

works of Raphael, El Greco, Van Eyck, and Piazzetta.

Christmas Concert

Another seasonal production of the college is the annual Christmas concert in which college soloists, college and community orchestra, vocal ensembles, a capella choir, and community chorus combine in a public performance of seasonal and other music. This year's presentation was made in two performances December 9 in the Campus theater.

A second concert, featuring the same groups, is offered late in the spring. No charge is made for either of these presentations.

Spring Musical

Considered by many the outstanding program of the year, the spring musical combines talents of musical, dramatic, and dancing groups on campus. Last year's production, "Brigadoon," was the first to be staged in the new Campus theater.

Prior productions staged by the college include "Carousel," "Allegro," "Finian's Rainbow," and "Of Thee I Sing."

Sponsored by the Associated Students a series of lectures and public programs was initiated in 1955. Foreign diplomats, dramatic artists, musicians, and radio and television commentators have appeared on programs sponsored to date.

Another innovation since the opening of the Campus theatre on campus is the showing of outstanding films. This series, sponsored by the Associated Men Student, is presented on a season ticket basis with additional tickets available to the public for 25 cents.

Drama

Dramatic performances, once staged in the auditorium of Torrance high school, are now produced on the college campus, with performances given several times for two or more consecutive weeks.

"Angel Street" ran on the campus during late October-early November. Opening in January will be Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing."

Many of El Camino's graduates of music and dramatic classes have gone on to professional work in the theater, where its instructors have also seen extensive experience.

Supplementing the major productions are occasional performances by members of speech, music, and dramatic classes—most of these open to the public and announced on the two lighted signs on Crenshaw and Redondo Beach boulevards.

Climaxing the college year is the annual open house at which instructional exhibits are viewed by the public. The event will occur early in May, 1957. Here, oils, ceramics, charcoals, and other art forms are displayed and judged.

Even summer months, usually relatively unimportant on college campuses as far as cultural activities are concerned, are highlighted by activity at El Camino.

The major activity last summer was the premiere performance of the "Lincoln Douglas Debates," now going on tour throughout the nation.

Featuring an El Camino college cast, this production was first seen at El Camino college.

Robert Chapline, Mary Blahey, and Bill Flatley enacted the three roles included in the play.

A community college, El Camino welcomes the community to enjoy the fruits of its cultural endeavors.

Lomita Man, Burned In Fire, Dies

A Lomita man, burned in a flash fire in the Union Oil Co. Wilmington refinery last Tuesday, died in Seaside hospital Monday.

Dead is Carl Smithen, 65, of 25019 Cypress ave., Lomita. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Gamby Mortuary in Lomita.

Leonard House, 55, of 3805 E. Bennett st., Compton died earlier from burns. A third victim, William Skrivan, 30, of 3645 Gondar ave, escaped with minor burns.

4% Interest For Next 6 Months Told

Directors of American Savings & Loan Association today declared the interest rate of 4 per cent per annum for the six months ending June 30, 1957, it was announced by S. Mark Taper, chairman of the board.

"This action reflects the American Savings' policy of paying the highest rate of interest consistent with insured safety and conservative financial management," stated Taper.

Taper also pointed out that American Savings' resources are at the all-time high of over \$112,000,000.00, with reserves in excess of \$9,000,000.00, the largest in the association's history. The association maintains offices in Whittier, Friendly Hills, La Puente, Temple City, Montrose, Redondo Beach and Manhattan Beach.

HARBOR JC PRESENTS PROGRAMS

Los Angeles Harbor Junior college, a technical institute located at 1111 Figueroa St., Wilmington, also does its part in providing cultural activities throughout the year.

In October, Harbor JC presented a play at the Homer Toberman Settlement House in San Pedro entitled "Hangs Over Thy Head."

The play presented the difficult and startling question of a person having to decide whether to stay on earth and see it completely destroyed or escape by taking a rocket ship to Venus.

The play was performed by the Drama Work shop class as part of a program in honor of United Nations Day.

An unusual exhibit of children's art from all parts of the world was also displayed in the library of the college for a period of about two weeks.

All areas of the world were represented. The display featured a collection of dolls in native costumes and 26 pictures.

Of special interest was some of the work done by children living in Israel. The work was done as part of a therapeutic program for disturbed children.

Art work showed evidence of the cultural and historical heritage of the countries represented.

Also during the year the Extended Day students sponsored Dr. Wendall Miller who spoke on his recent travels through Russia and his experiences in mingling with the people of Russia.

Meetings of professional organizations were held on the campus for the American Nurses association and the association of Childhood and Youth Education.

El Camino To Present Much Ado About Nothing

Shakespeare's comedy, "Much Ado About Nothing," will be the mid-winter presentation of the El Camino college theatre arts department, unveiling in the college Campus Theatre January 10.

Heading the large cast are Tony Castano and Joy Griffith in the lead roles of Benedick and Beatrice, respectively. Also featured are Lou Margadonna as Claudio and Carole Peterson as Hero.

The play is a fast-moving comedy, combining its plot with an equally important sub-plot. "Much Ado About Nothing" is set in Italy in the early part of the Renaissance.

Also participating in the play are James Engle as Don Pedro, Ben Ybarra as Don Juan, Roland Short as Leonato, Bob Goldsborough as Antonio, Bob Raupp as Balthasar, Conrad

Weidman as Conrad and Eugene Paslov as Borachio.

Others featured include Irving Joseph as Friar Francis, Charles Fox as Dogberry, Bruce Scott as Vargus, Rollie Dimitrion as the first watch, Richard Cameron as the sexton, Gary Diehl as the messenger, Lucille Liberatore as Margaret, Joan Kirkendall as Ursula, and Judy Hardisty, Penny Phillips, Noreen Azdavinis and Sandra Eddy taking the parts of attendants.

The entire production is under the direction of David P. Shannon, El Camino theatre arts instructor, while Sandra Yates will help in production as the student assistant to the director.

Acting as stage manager will be Bonnie Flagg. Stage properties and costumes will be handled by Sally Jensen and Barbara Clark, respectively.

Robert Crutchfield, Stella Herman and Kay Haga are in charge of sound and music while Lucille Liberatore will plot the choreography.

Three students, Rande Rash, Jensen, and Margadonna, are handling publicity for "Much Ado About Nothing."

SPEBSQSA ORGANIZES

The former Centinela Valley chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, now of the South Bay, held its first meeting in the music room of the Mira Costa high school recently.

Members of the Huntington Park Chapter were on hand to add to the harmony. "Songs for men," a publication issued by National headquarters, was distributed, and after a few chords rang out, it was noted that all

of the visitors had joined the singing.

All that is required to join the SPEBSQSA is the ability to carry a tune and a desire to sing in harmony.

Interested men are invited to attend the songfests every Thursday, 8 p.m., at the Mira Costa high school music room, located on Gould lane (westward extension of 174th street and Redondo Beach boulevard, east of Pacific Coast highway.)

HEY KIDS!

CAPTAIN ZODIAK will be at SAV-MART SATURDAY, December 15. Free rides, balloons, and lots of fun for all . . . DON'T MISS IT! 9:30 To 12:30

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EXHIBIT
Madonna Row, traditional presentation of El Camino College, is now on display to the public. Fronting the college administration building on Crenshaw boulevard, the art attraction is lighted throughout evening hours. Reproduction of famed paintings will remain on display until New Years.