The comprehensive community college, also known as the "open door" college, is a truly American evolution in education. The mission of this 20th Century innovation is to put higher education within the reach of everyone, and its purpose is to serve the needs of the people in the community.

Being a multiple-function institution -- offering transfer programs for students who wish to pursue a baccalaureate degree, career programs for students who want to enter the job market upon completing their education, and adult education courses for those who wish to continue their education at any time -- requires that the community college must be both flexible and innovative in its approach to education.

Most people were unaware of the significance of what was happening in education in 1965, when the Illinois 74th General Assembly enacted legislation known as the Public Junior College Act which in effect extended educational opportunities two years beyond the high school level.

The Act, with its well-defined two-year comprehensive community college system as an integral part of the "Master Plan for Higher Education in Illinois," found Harper's citizenry poised and ready for action.

Within a matter of a few weeks after the legislation became law, Harper's constituents had passed a referendum establishing a college district to encompass the townships of Elk Grove, Palatine, Schaumburg, and Wheeling school districts 211 and 214). Barrington High School District 224 joined the district two years later.

In fall, 1967, classes began on an evening-only basis in Elk Grove High School. The following year, classes were also held at Forest View High School.

In September, 1969, classes opened on Harper's new campus with over 5,000 students. Phase I of the campus master plan -- six contemporary buildings on 239 acres in southwest Palatine -- was completed on time.

A year and a half later, on March 31, 1971, Harper was granted full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The community college is rapidly becoming a national goal, with more than 1,000 now in existence throughout the United States. In Illinois, more than 40 community colleges are serving the needs of students of all ages.

It is expected that by 1990 there will be a comprehensive community college within easy commuting distance of all Americans, wherever they may live.

New course offering

A new Harper course offering in Training the Severely Handicapped will be taught at the Countryside Center in Palatine next semester. The course is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis and should appeal to teachers of the handicapped as well as to parents of handicapped children. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Countryside Center or Charles Joly at Harper College.
Pre-schoolers, hand-in-hand with mothers, will enroll in Harper classes next semester.

It won't be long before mothers with small children will be a familiar sight on the Harper campus. The children will be attending Harper, along with their parents.

Beginning January 31, 1972, the college is offering pro-school care for children of adult students attending classes at Harper. Three, four, and five-year-olds are eligible for care.

Students enrolled in Harper's new two-year Child Care career program will assist professional childcare personnel in the "lab school" to satisfy the nursery care portion of their curriculum.

Children attending will be required to participate in a complete program of two and one-half hours a week, and will attend either morning or afternoon sessions (but not both).

A low fee will be charged to pay for refreshments and supplies, and the mothers will be billed monthly.

Under the supervision of a professionally-trained director, children will take part in such activities as painting, art projects, music and songs, table toys, supervised play, and "story time" to develop listening skills.

Charles Joly, Harper's Child Care coordinator, points out that this will not be a day care type of organization.

"Instead, we will provide a developmental type of education for the children," he said. "Classroom activities will include free play, opportunities for creative expression, and role-playing activities using puppets and dolls as well as home-making toys." Mr. Joly added that there will be plenty of blocks available for spatial and mechanical development.

Youngsters will use the Harper campus for outdoor projects and for scientific exploration.

Mr. Joly noted that the child care teacher is also interested in assisting social, emotional, and mental growth of the pre-schooler.

Starting time for the pre-schooler will be 8 a.m., with both morning and afternoon sessions scheduled to conform with Harper's daytime class schedule.

Further information may be obtained by calling Mr. Joly at 359-4209, extension 353.

If there are any questions you would like to have answered concerning Harper College, please call 359-4200 and ask for the Community Relations Office, extension 261. If you would prefer to write, please send us your name, address, telephone number, and your question, and we will send you a reply as soon as possible.

Harper College Board Meetings, held the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 8 p.m., are public meetings. They are open for general attendance except for certain discussion topics covered by law that should be closed. Citizens are encouraged to attend these meetings when they can.

Puppets created by students in Harper's Dental Hygiene career program teach good dental habits as they perform their skills for Mrs. Mary Catherine Edwards, coordinator of the program.

Puppet troupe entertains while teaching dental health to children in Harper district.

Harper's Dental Hygiene sophomores are hoping that their pirate sails will stay glued and that their fuzzy green friends' one and only tooth will stay where it belongs while the class puppet troupe tours district elementary schools to present dental health instruction.

The puppet troupe was designed to demonstrate, in storybook style, the do's and don'ts of tooth care. This is the third year of free dental health instruction presented by Harper Dental Hygiene students as a part of the requirements for their community dentistry course. It is the first year the puppets have made an appearance.

The instruction is given at Banting school district 4, Palatine district 15, Schaumburg district 54, and Arlington Heights district 84. Included in the presentations is a puppet show, by the visiting hygienist, and "brush-ins" with new toothbrushes for each child.

The puppets, which include such characters as a pirate, a golden-haired lady, various monster types, and even animated gloves, were created at the suggestion of Mrs. Mary Catherine Edwards, assistant professor of Dental Hygiene.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO OUR READERS

Is HAPPENINGS being received by more than one member of your family? If so, share Harper's newsletter with a neighbor. Pass on the extra copy. Encourage your neighbor to fill out the coupon below and return this entire front panel to the address shown above (cut or tear at the fold).

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READERS
HAPPENINGS

Dec. 2 Lecture: "Al Koran Presents the Sixth Sense." Prophecies and predictions by internationally-known master of the occult and kindred sciences who has given off-duty command performances for royalty. 12:00 noon, Room E-106. Free and open to the public.


Dec. 5 Concert: Harper Jazz Band Concert. Current tunes, including MacArthur Park and Porgy Sound, featuring original compositions by members of the band. Under the direction of Jerry Davidson. 12:00 noon, College Center Lounge. Fee and open to the public.

Dec. 12 Concert: Harper Orchestra and Choral Concert featuring Bach's "Magnificat," under the direction of Jerry Davidson. College Center Lounge, 8 p.m. Fee and open to the public.

Jan. 10 Lecture: Dr. Bollo May, psycho-analyst and author of "Love and Will." Dr. May is an existential therapist who espouses the principle that awareness of death is not opposed to, but essential to life. This principle illuminates his life and unites the psychotherapeutic school of which he is perhaps the most noted and articulate American. Dr. May brings his background of psychotherapy and theology into focus in his topic, "Human Power and Violence." Admission: $2.00 for adults and $1.00 for students.

Harper students, faculty, and staff free with ID card. College Center Lounge, 8 p.m.

Mrs. Edwards says, "The puppet show will be a good addition to our educational program. The class has extended themselves in doing the job -- the students have been so creative and innovative. Use of puppets in dental health education began recently and is now being more widely adopted!"

The puppets are also television stars. The show has been video-taped in Harper's educational TV studio. The tape will be shown on a television monitor for children who attend the Harper Dental Hygiene Clinic.

The Clinic serves the public as well as Harper faculty, students, and staff. Clinic services include X-ray, cleaning of teeth by ultrasonic equipment, and charting of dental caries.

The Clinic is open on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A nominal fee is charged for services.