## COLLEGE REPORT

By ROBERT M. BERSI

We hear much these days of our colleges and univer-sities struggling to redesign their curriculum to meet the demands of a changing so-ciety. This is nothing new in American history. Such a currently established field as engineering did not have an easy time finding a respected place in higher education.

The ancient Greek think-ers of the Hellenic and Helers of the Hellenic and Hel-enistic age, whose ideas un-til quite recently pervated all institutions of higher education everywhere, de-plored all studies related to the work of the field. Almost the work of the field. Almost to a man, these academies unyieldingly believed that "banausic" (vulgar, menial) men engaged in such activities; and hence they would have been shocked at the suggestion that agriculture, engineering, and commerce should be studied in universities.

Not until the 19th cen-turies would these subjects be reluctantly admitted to lowly status in European universities, and to this day those of Gen. of Germany typically

THE SAME attitudes ham-THE SAME attitudes ham-pered their cultivation in American colleges, but the passage of the Land Grant College Act led to suppress-ing the antagonism of all but who still believe that they do not belong in universi-ties. Like-minded men all but monpolized higher edubut monopolized higher cational policy at the time that President Lincoln sign-ed the Act in 1862; and thus its promoters succeeded in their arduous campaign for its passage and for the re-modeling of American col-leges only because the ter-rain had been readied by rain had been readied by pioneer educators and lay-men, cheered on by discern-ing men of wealth. During the late 18th and early 19th Centuries, Benja-min Franklin, Thomas Jef-tersee Benjamin Push and

ferson, Benjamin Rush, and a number of other leading Americans resolutely advo-cated what later came to be called technical education; but not until Stephen Van Rensselaer provided funds did it begin to make head-

Impressed by the work of Amos Eaton, whose lectures and investigations in New England and New York aroused a swelling interest aroused a swelling interest in science, Van Rensselaer in 1824 established a school in Troy, New York, headed by Eaton, "for the purpose of instructing persons... in the application of science to the common purposes of the common purposes of life." Toward this end he then and later gave more than \$20,000 to found what developed into Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. It opened primarily devoted to agriculture but soon became

famous as a civilian engi-neering school, the first in the English-speaking world. A DECADE earlier that extraordinary American ex-patriate, Count Rumford (Benjamin Thompson), be-queathed Harvard funds "for the extension of the industry, prosperity, happi, ness and well-being of So-ciety" by means of "the useful arts." He stipulated the founding of a "new insti-tution" related to Harvard which would train applied scientists like himself; but the corporation decided to assign the income of the be-quest to a professor of medicine for delivering occasion al lectures on technology. Had Rumford's intention intention honored, Harvard would have become the first American institution of higher education to foster engineering. That distinc-tion, instead, belongs to R.P.I.

Van Rensselaer, a Harvard Van Rensselaer, a Harvard graduate and one of the promoters of the Eric Canal, glimpsed the momentous importance of applied science; and so did the second philanthropist to subsidize it, namely, Abbot Lawrence, a Boston merchant, textile Boston merchant, textile manufacturer, and railroad builder who had not attended college. In 1847, he gave Harvard \$50,000 with which to establish the Lawrence Scientific School. That same young enthysiasts year two young enthusiasts contributed their meager

savings and all their time to projecting what developed into Yale's Sheffield Scientific School.

ENGINEERING education encountered hostility. For example, the Yale authorities would not permit Shef-

field students to live in the same dormitories as the students of Yale College, or to belong to the same fraterni-ties, or until the mid-1880s to play on Yale football teams. President Noah Por-ter and most faculty mem-bers recognized the necessity of technical education, but they insisted that it be completely isolated from the classical education given in

classical education given in Yale College.

This "what is useful is vulgar" bias accounted for the rise of a score of pio-neering engineering schools unconnected with universi-ties and financed by public spirited men of wealth.

## **Mom-Daughter Twins** Sought for Contest

Do you and your daughter look alike . . . really alike?

If you do, you'll be interested in the new contest on tap this year at the Los Angeles County Fair. It's a Mother-Daughter Look-Alike

Age won't count at allin fact, you won't even be asked how old you or your daughter are. It's important, however, that the two of you look alike, walk alike, and even talk alike.

The contest will be one of the features of the new Ladies Day program Tuesday, Sept. 17. The fair runs from Sept. 13 through

The contest itself will be held promptly at 5 p.m. at the Amphitheatre, but all contestants must be present by 4:30. Entry blanks may be obtained now by writing the Fair office, Box 2250, Pomona 91766.

### Suggestion \$83 Check

Robert G. Sterner, 4528 Talisman St., a mechanical repairman at the Bureau of Sanitation's Hyperion Treatment Plant, won \$83 for a suggestion that resulted in prolonging the life of cross-collectors at the plant

collectors at the plant He is a frequent winner in the Board of Public Works' program to save money through incentive re-wards for improvement sug-restions.

#### Nets Worker Carson Library The Carson Library will

reopen as the provisional ent with those at all regionregional headquarters li- al headquarters libraries brary of the South Bay Re- and are necessary to provide gion next Monday with increased hours of public service, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn announced today.

The new hours will be from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 1 to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

According to County Li-brarian William S. Geller, terials.

the new hours are consistthe full spectrum of serv-

The Carson Library is located at 22102 S. Main St. It will reopen with a sub-stantially increased book collection and a number of new services, including the loaning of audio-visual ma-



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