

Hahn Report

Freeway Telephones Get Credit for Saving Life

By KENNETH HAHN
County Supervisor

There are 2,009 emergency call boxes on the freeways of Los Angeles County to serve the motoring public.

These phones are being used by approximately 8,000 persons in distress each month — or 96,000 a year.

To me, these statistics are among the most satisfying I have seen in the nearly quarter of a century I have been in public office.

They represent the climax to a 15-year personal effort I have made to see that a source of help is available to the stranded freeway motorist.

AN EXAMPLE of how the call boxes are serving came to my attention recently when I received a letter from Russell Hiles Jr. of 4173 Jasmine Ave., Culver City.

"On May 12, 1969, at 7:10 a.m., I was driving to North American Rockwell on the San

Diego Freeway," he said.

"The reason for this letter is to inform you that because of you, I am alive today.

"My car stalled in the outside lane and I spotted a telephone call box. I coasted to a stop by the box and picked up the receiver. Within one hour, I was at work.

"Only your interest in people and travelers saved me."

THERE IS no other project I have undertaken which has

caused me more frustration with state and county agencies than the establishment of emergency call boxes.

However, since their installation, they have given me a great deal of satisfaction knowing that they have helped stranded motorists such as Mr. Hiles.

Our plans are to continue installing emergency call boxes as needed.

We presently have systems on the Harbor, Pasadena, San Diego, Hollywood, Ventura,

Santa Monica, San Bernardino, Santa Ana, Golden State, Pomona, San Gabriel, Terminal Island, Marina, and Long Beach freeways.

TWENTY-FOUR will be placed north of Victory Boulevard on the Hollywood freeway this year, 24 are being installed on the Ventura freeway between the Golden State freeway and Pacific Avenue in Glendale, and 50 are being placed on the San Bernardino freeway.

Another 95 will be placed on the Colorado, Ventura, and San Bernardino freeways during the next two to three years.

Because of the success of the emergency call box system in Los Angeles County, other counties in the state have our program under consideration.

I urge that a system of boxes be installed on freeways statewide.

Many lives have been saved in Los Angeles County and many more could be saved statewide.



COLLEGE REPORT

By ROBERT M. BERSI

Assistant to the President
California State College, Dominguez Hills

California State College, Dominguez Hills, as many people know, possesses a unique academic plan. Its concept of dual majors for undergraduates and its interdisciplinary approach to learning merits explanation. The chairman of the college's Academic Senate, Dr. Jud Genier, does this in the following statement he prepared for our undergraduates:

"Interdisciplinary fields themselves are not new. In fact, many are older than disciplinary fields. It wasn't until the 19th Century that college education began to break up into separate units like chemistry and geography. Broad fields like 'classics' (made up of language, literature, philosophy, mathematics, history, geography, sociology, military science, etc.) are typical of interdisciplinary studies which are long-established and traditional.

range widely over a variety of subject matter connected with the American past. He also may wish to examine more closely certain aspects of the American culture in order to gain better appreciation of his heritage and identity or that of minority groups within society. But to concentrate upon American Studies alone tends to make the history major parochial and limited in his outlook.

"IF, INSTEAD, he chooses for his interdepartmental major to study another area of the globe such as Latin America, or Africa, he is much better able to draw comparisons and contrasts and to place his own culture in a broader frame of reference. Or if he were to study behavioral science, his history would have greater scientific validity; if he picks urban studies, his history would be of greater value in facing modern problems; if he selects business and economic systems or foundations of natural science, he would be very much in demand as a specialist in a given field; if he selects 20th Century thought, he could bring the attitudes and approach of the philosopher to his judgments about man's past performance and present condition. Even information systems, with its emphasis on contemporary information storage and processing, would give the historian the kinds of tools he might well need to work in his field in the future.

"Dominguez Hills' interdepartmental (interdisciplinary) fields may be classified in four categories:

"A. Area Studies (example: American, Asian, African, Latin American)

"B. Historical Periods (example: 20th Century Thought, Medieval Civilization)

"C. Professional Fields based on several disciplines (Theatre Arts, American Business and Economic Systems, Physical Education)

"D. Newly emerging fields which are interdisciplinary (Information Systems, Urban Studies, International Relations, Linguistics)

"Hopefully, a student who chooses a traditional discipline which is narrow will choose an interdepartmental major which is broad and vice versa. Also there is no reason to choose an interdepartmental major from the same school as the departmental major, for majors are housed in 'schools' for administrative purposes only.

Bernstein To Conduct Symphony

Elmer Bernstein, one of the leading innovators in motion picture film scoring, will conduct a unique Symphony Under the Stars Aug. 5 as an event of the fourth annual California International Sea Festival at Long Beach.

Composer of such memorable film scores as "The Ten Commandments," "Man With the Golden Arm," "Hawaii," "Exodus" and "Thoroughly Modern Millie," Bernstein will lead the Long Beach Symphony in a program of sea-oriented music at the Recreation Park open air band shell. The concert will be free to the public.

Eighteen events comprise the total Sea Festival program, ranging from sailboat and power boat races to such cultural events as the symphony concert and an art exhibit. The event is a city-wide project involving 5,000 active participants and some 200,000 spectators.

Bernstein has created music for over 70 films in a prolific career which also includes concertizing as both a pianist and conductor, lecturing, teaching, television music and work with the federal government on special films.

New York is a resident of Malibu.

"IN CHOOSING an interdepartmental major, a student may follow what we might call the road of least resistance, that is, select a field closely related to his departmental field. For example, it is not unusual to find history majors choosing American Studies; philosophy-20th Century thought; psychology-behavioral sciences; French-linguistics; economics-American business and economic systems; sociology-urban studies; political science-international relations; mathematics-information systems; chemistry-foundations of natural science. These are 'normal' combinations. But to exchange combinations in these pairings should be encouraged. An unusual choice of majors might well enhance the student's awareness and certainly enable him to make unique contributions to the expansion of knowledge.

"Let us cite one example: a major in history normally might choose American Studies because he wishes to become a secondary school teacher and may be asked to

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