

Photography

from page C1

chooses a word from Focus: HOPE's mission statement to concentrate on so they're also learning about diversity. The project's a celebration of diversity: they live the diverse experience as they explore."

For the third session of the project, students went on a field trip which explored a variety of places from Elmwood Cemetery and Tyree Guyton's Heidelberg Project in east Detroit, to the Mexican Town area in southwest Detroit, and a mosque and the Arab Community Center in Dearborn.

"I observed a real passion," said Granger. "The students really got involved with the project. And students can actually find a new interest or even a career."

Talla and Aaron were two of the students so inspired by the project that they plan to study photography in college after graduation. Through Focus: HOPE both are now involved with a national girls photography and writing project which culminated with an exhibit opening in Washington, D.C. in spring 2000.

Aho initiated the photography project in 1995 after Focus: HOPE hosted the "Countdown to Eternity" exhibit of photographs taken during the last years of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life. The touring exhibit brought him

into contact with Pittsburgh's Manchester Craftsmen's Guild, who coordinated the tour and encouraged him to write a grant for the prospective project. Focus on the Mission and other community arts department programs are now part of the Ford Foundation's national Community Development Corporation Arts Resource Initiative to incorporate art and cultural programming into community development organizations. Aho, a published photographer in his own right, is assistant communications officer along with being staff photographer for Focus: HOPE.

The photography project was a take-off on the annual Journalism Olympics we hold for 150 high school kids with professional journalist mentors," said Aho, a Westland resident. "The objective wasn't to teach photography but to bring young people together from different racial and religious backgrounds. We were using photography as a way to

interest them into looking at people of different cultures."

Aho and Bathish have learned along the way. For the third project beginning this spring, they plan to a lot more time for students to spend together.

"We found that while the students listened to the professional educators and photographers sharing their experiences, they were anxious to get out there and start taking photographs. Some of them were coming to Detroit and Dearborn for the first time."

Focus: HOPE's photography project: Focus on the Mission, is open to all metro Detroit high school students, selected by their teachers to participate. No experience or interest in photography is necessary. The only criteria is students must attend all four sessions and be willing to learn and actively participate. For more information about this year's project, call Annette Vanover at (313) 494-4376.



Through the arches: Candice Polk found the exterior of Holy Redeemer Church artistically interesting.

Hood

from page C1

Hood and the Monk, Robin Hood and the Potter, A Gest of Robyn Hood (and a condensed Lyttel Gest of Robyn Hood), Robin Hood's Death, and Robin Hood and the Curial Friar – tell stories of adventure in the greenwood but according to scholar C.J. Holt, whose text is used by Sax, only briefly introduce the idea of an avenging thief.

Holt concludes that there wasn't a real Robin Hood, though two conflicting legends flow from the early poems. One identifies Robin as a commoner, Robin of Locksley, who sets out to avenge the murder of his father by the Sheriff of Nottingham. The other identifies Robin as a noble, Robert, Earl of Huntington, who

is unjustly stripped of his inheritance when he tries to bring justice to the people.

"A lot of the stories and some of the incidents in modern-day versions have some truth in them," said Sax. "Guy of Gisborne, for instance, was a henchman for the Sheriff of Nottingham. There was a John Little of Hathersage and he's from one of the original five tales."

John Little, a mod Little John, Will Scarlet and Much, the Miller's son, appear in all the Robin Hood stories. The fair Maid Marion was added in the 1500s. The stories always include a friendly friar but the name Friar Tuck was taken from an actual historic figure, a rebel-

ious cleric who lived 200 years after the setting of the Robin Hood stories.

But some modern versions add characters and situations that are more fitting for the times they were created. In the 1930s, Errol Flynn made a dashingly romantic Robin Hood. While more recently Kevin Costner's version had Little John, a minor character so that Morgan Freeman could be his sidekick.

Sax said he prefers the gritty British television series from the late 1980s, shot in cinema verite style. An episode from this series and the Flynn version are shown to demonstrate Robin on screen. Sax said students enjoy the

course because it allows them to look at the character from so many different perspectives and he enjoys teaching it because it gives him a chance to teach something other than the American literature.

"I've always loved history and I'm able to teach some British history in context and make it relevant," he said.

The course is offered 6-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 22, and 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday. The non-credit fee is \$100. It is also open for credit. Sax said that in addition to undergraduate Madonna students, graduate students and people in the community have taken the class. Class is limited to 25.

For more information, call (734) 432-6731.

Conversations

from page C1

ever since.

And O'Neill, a multi-talented free-lance writer from Birmingham, has guided the editing and publicity of "Evolve Yourself."

Personal evolution times two.

An open mind

Rahn leans back on a comfy sofa in O'Neill's brightly lit living room. He's pleased that the bibliography in "Evolve Yourself" has been called "impressive."

The list includes books by Campbell, Fritjof Capra, Henry Miller, among others.

It's not the kind of reading list you'd expect from an author whose other published writings were joke books.

Yet there's something poetic and real for Rahn about balance-

ing humor with the proverbial search for meaning.

Perspective doesn't necessarily require "deep thinking." Just disciplined approach and an open mind.

And Rahn has seen his share of open vistas.

"You're not always in control of your experiences, but you are in control in how you react to them."

It's that kind of common wisdom that the book distributors of "Evolve yourself" found refreshing.

And it's that kind of perspective Rahn hopes readers will find a quick read and enlightening.

In common parlance, he can only hope that readers will have one response to his book.

That's right. "Duh!"

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Tenors

from page C1

was part of every Three Tenors concert. He hinted that a Motown medley might be included during their July performance.

Detroit is only one of three venues this year for a Three Tenors concert. Tokyo hosted an early January concert, and in April the legendary tenors will perform in Pretoria, South Africa.

Ford has been a longtime MOT sponsor. Nasser's wife, Jennifer, is on MOT's board of directors.

The sponsorship of the Three Tenors concert, according to Ford spokesperson Carolyn Brown, is \$2 million.

"In the 21st century, corporations understand what they do for the arts is what they do for their constituents," said David DiChiera, MOT's managing director.

The sponsorship, said DiChiera, will help MOT complete renovations at the opera house, retire its capital debt, further develop educational programs and create an endowment.

DiChiera credits MOT long-time board member and philanthropist Frank Stella with persuading Pavarotti to come back to Detroit. Stella and Pavarotti have a long and storied friendship.

Pavarotti marks his return to Detroit after performing at the inaugural concert at the renovated opera house in April 1996. Carreras last performed at the opera house in March 1997, while Domingo performed in 1994 at the Masonic Temple.

Tickets for the July 17 concert are expected to begin at \$100. Further information and the concert site will be released within weeks.

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