

School Peeks at Three R's in A.D. 2000

By Mary Kelly Special Correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

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New York

"Who wouldn't want to go to a 'way-out' school?" is a question which the Hall of Education at the New York World's Fair will tacitly put to millions of visitors.

An "electronic wonderland," New York State Commissioner of Education James E. Allen Jr. has called the School of Tomorrow.

The entire Hall of Education has been described in language daring to many educators namely as "fun-filled" in one breath, while to other observers it is a crowning achievement in learning improvements which will signal the triumph of mental light over darkness.

Intrigue and Instruct

Aiding and abetting the creative dreams of a school in the year 2000 have been some of the major industrialists.

Feats of the electric brain, teaching machines, and a nursery of the future have been assembled to intrigue, enthrall, and instruct.

The Hall of Education occupies a 50,000-square-foot

Hall of Education Filled With Fun

plot in the center of the fair's industrial sector.

It is a wedge-shaped building, which with other plots fits into the area that surrounds the Pool of Industry, spectacular lagoon with a \$2,500,000 water spectacle, the Fountain of the Planets.

Working Studio

Audio-visual devices—a department of American educational activity which has proved to be of never-ending interest to many visitors from other countries—will be displayed in one of the outstanding features of the Hall of Education.

These are housed in the Demonstration Center.

The center has been conceived of as a working studio where some of the most sophisticated technology can be applied to small group teaching.

In this connection the operation of the home-learning console has attracted advance interest.

The center has been designed so that an audience of 200 can overlook the demonstrations which bring to sight and hearing live exhibitions of the latest products in the audio-visual field.

Children to Take Part

Adding to the liveliness from time to time will be the groups of local public and private school children who will participate in the lessons.

The hope is that there will be a permanent staff of teachers, technicians, and program coordinators at the Demonstration Center. The technology available to them will be applied to various disciplines. One of the programs now in preparation is that to be offered by the Syracuse University Center for Instructional Communications.

Many special events involving educators and organizations

of educators from far and near are envisioned for future spring and summer meetings at this center.

Perhaps the most headlined of the activities will be the series of what are called Dialogues in Depth.

This audio-visual presentation of some of the world's leading personalities in discussions of topics within their area of specialization is planned for the enjoyment of worldwide television audiences as well as for fair visitors.

The speakers, each of whom will be interviewed by a recognized scholar, will include persons of achievement in government, natural science, industry, medicine, art, theater, and every other field of human endeavor," says a statement from international fair consultants.

Playground Offered

The mutation of the schoolhouse will be further indicated in model classrooms, a library of the future, an adventure playground, teen-age lounge and a display, the Story of Reading and Writing.

The adventure playground

will accommodate children whose elders are visiting the fair. Here a safety coating is used to cover the playground.

Exhibits at the Nursery of the Future are coordinated by the Baby Career Institute which operates three schools in the New York area, training women in home nursing for the new born and preschool child.

At ground-breaking ceremonies last year, Sen. Kenneth B. Keating (R) of New York spoke of this as a "Century of Light."

Victory Symbol

In a plea to conquer illiteracy and lessen ignorance, the Senator said:

"This Hall of Education will stand before us as a symbol of the sublime victory of light over darkness."

The Hall of Education, he continued, "will serve as a dynamic workshop wherein the teaching and learning process will in a sense go to school for the purpose of improvement.

"The doors of the future will be opened here, leading to new methods, new techniques, new advances designed to meet the new needs, challenges, and opportunities of an expanding nation."