



Bailey Hall at BCC Central Campus will be Broward's first fine entertainment center.

Bailey Hall will be a fine complex

Broward County has been choked by "theaters" which are nothing more than lavish train station's. People get shoved in and out and don't really get much for their money. But Broward County soon may emerge as the cultural capital of Florida . . . and the country.

The reason is the anticipated opening of the Bailey Concert Hall on the Central Campus of Broward Community College, near Davie.

Most entertainment centers in Broward rely more on quantity than quality. They are designed to pack in as many people as possible, to sell as many tickets as possible, without paying special attention to the quality of the theater.

An example is the Sunrise Musical Theatre. Fine entertainment is offered at the theater, but the stage is miniscule, and some seats are positioned so it is difficult to see or hear the performer on stage.

footlights

by gary s. philipson



I personally don't get excited about the Sunrise Musical Theatre. The dark, gray walls are gloomy; it reminds me somewhat of a high school gymnasium. I keep thinking that at any moment basketball nets will descend on the audience.

War Memorial Auditorium in Fort Lauderdale is so mammoth, that when a person sits on either extreme side of the auditorium, he needs a hearing aid and opera glasses to benefit from the performance. The same holds true for its next-door-neighbor, Parker Playhouse, although the situation is improved at Parker.

The Ralph R. Bailey Concert Hall, meanwhile, has a seating capacity of only 1,200 persons. The Sunrise Musical Theatre seats 4,300.

The Bailey Hall stage is not much smaller than that of one of the grandest concert halls in the country: Radio City Music Hall in New York.

The theater also features a fly loft and a trap room,

which provides the opportunity to create special effects on stage.

The addition of the Ralph R. Bailey Concert Hall to Broward will be an excellent opportunity for both young and old to experience top-notch entertainment in a grand fashion.

I look forward to the June opening of the Bailey Concert Hall. It will be an edifice that all residents of Broward County can be proud of and enjoy for years to come.

Tom Doran

