

# Opportunity knocks, so Loyola dean quits

**P**eter Clothier, dean of the College of Fine and Communication Arts at Loyola Marymount University for the last four years, has resigned to pursue writing and other "professional opportunities." Those opportunities seem to stem, at least in part, from a pet project that many working stiffs have dreamed of but few have been able to bring off.

During his time at Loyola, Clothier oversaw the building of LMU's Burns Fine Arts Center, which opened in November, but also used his inside knowledge of the art world for his own ends. He rose every morning at 4 a.m. to work on a mystery novel set in the "bicoastal" art world. Called "Chiaroscuro," it was enthusiastically received by St. Martin's Press, despite the author's amateur status as a

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detective novelist. The book will be published this fall. Clothier, also a poet and art critic, reports that he has nearly completed his second mystery, "Trompe l'Oeil," set in the art world of Los Angeles.

Jocelyn Fisher, director of Beyond Baroque for the past four years, has stepped down. Poet Dennis Phillips, author of "The Hero Is Nothing," has taken over the considerable responsibility of

overseeing artistic programs and trying to raise funds for the organization. Beyond Baroque, the primary support group for poetry and avant-garde, small-press literature in L.A., was hit hard by cutbacks in federal grants this year. The organization is beginning a new membership campaign.

"Duet for One" will close Sunday at the Hollywood Playhouse and Cafe, well ahead of schedule, because of "lack of audience response."

The Theatrum Botanicum, that bucolic amphitheater established by Will Geer out in Topanga Canyon, has announced both a benefit and a season. The benefit, an annual event, will be a "Country Fair" June 2, with folk

music (bluegrass and otherwise), mime, indoor and outdoor swimming, and dinner. The event will be hosted by Ned Beatty, Richard Dysart, Ellen Geer, Julie Adams and David and Meredith Baxter Birney. The season proper begins June 16 with "Twelfth Night," which will be joined later in the summer by "The Skin of Our Teeth" and "Dory: A Musical Portrait," a world premiere concerning the music of Dozy Previn. For information about either event, call 455-3723.

"Split Second," a new play by Dennis McIntyre, starring Denzel Washington, Alfre Woodard and John Amos, will open June 18 at the Mayfair Theatre in Santa Monica.

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