

Juvenile Delinquency

Police officers in Franklin Township, near Middlebush, New Jersey, have tried a new system to curb acts of juvenile vandalism. After rounding up a group of children who had carried out various escapades in their neighborhood, the police took them to headquarters and made tape recordings of their confessions.

Then the police scheduled a date for parents of the children to come to headquarters and hear their children's confessions. The idea is that the parents upon hearing how their sons and daughters spend their spare time, will best be able to correct the wayward inclinations of their offspring.

No doubt many of the parents will be surprised at their children's free-time activities and the tape recordings should be an educa-

tional experience for them. The police believe that if the juvenile delinquents are not corrected in time, one or more of them could develop into a serious case.

The police plan to erase the tapes after parents hear their children's confessions. They are trying this remedy rather than sending the juveniles to a judge, but if this recourse does not produce results, then the delinquents can "tell it to the Juvenile Court judge."

We endorse the method being tried in Franklin Township, New Jersey, long having believed today's juvenile delinquency is the result of two things: A lack of supervision and care from parents and an ignorance on the part of parents as to what their children are doing in their free time.

Annual Baseball Prophecies

This is the time of year when baseball managers were optimistic on their chances for improving 1953 records. Before mid-April, when the major league baseball season begins, there will be six or eight first-division clubs in each of the two major leagues.

This is only natural and that part of human nature which makes the game so interesting. On opening day, no doubt, there are at least six or seven managers in each league hoping to have a first-division berth. And baseball being a game of many unexpected developments, covering a long period of time, often an underdog ups and surprises everyone.

This year both the leagues will stage pennant races, carrying with them somewhat unusual interest. In the American League, of course, there is a new club—Baltimore. It has been a long time since the Orioles were in the major leagues and baseball fans everywhere will be watching to see if the Orioles can do what the Braves of Milwaukee did last year.

This year there is obvious pennant fever in Milwaukee and the Braves are expected to push the Brooklyn Dodgers all the way, even though the injury to one of their star hitters, Bobby Thompson, is a mildly discouraging note to Braves fans.

In the American League, there is also abnormal interest because of the fact that one team—the New York Yankees—is entering season play with an all-time record of six straight pennants in World Series victories going for them. Naturally, the question is whether the Yankees, who recently disposed of one of their big-name pitchers, can make it seven in a row.

The enthusiasm of the managers this time of the year is only a parallel to the enthusiasm of fans. It looks like a great season and although it would be nice for six or seven teams to wind up in the first division, in each league, that is an impossibility. Only four will be there in the fading days of September, when this year's pennant races end. That is a long time off, however, and, in the meantime,

there will be many challenges from the underdogs through the stretch of hot summer months.

Like Spring, we always welcome baseball—the two arriving almost simultaneously—and we are looking forward to an unusually interesting year of it in 1954. And we suspect the Yankees and Dodgers will win again.

The Four Minute Mile

Gunder Haegg predicted recently the man who would break his record, and run a four-minute mile, would be Great Britain's Roger Bannister. Haegg said he thought Bannister might accomplish the feat this year.

Haegg said outstanding runners in the world today included Bannister, John Landy of Australia, West Santee of the United States, Gordon Pirie of Great Britain, Josy Barthel of Luxembourg, and Werner Latog of Germany.

Of that group, he thinks Bannister has the finest chance to run a four-minute mile. He compliments the British runner by saying Bannister has the brains and physical ability, and that he does not over-train. Haegg says mankind's long-sought four-minute mile will be run when one of the younger runners forgets the one-minute mile psychological barrier, gets into the right race—probably a four-minute effort—and has a good track and plenty of people to cheer him on.

He says he thinks the four-minute mile definitely can be run and that, if he had concentrated on it in his prime, he believes he could have accomplished the feat. The present record, set by Haegg, is 4:01.4. It would seem the one and two-tenths seconds—all that stands between the world's greatest runners and a four-minute mile—is a small enough obstacle to overcome.

However, it has defied the world's best for many years. Like the last mile, the last second is the hardest to overcome and Haegg is probably being a little over-optimistic in his appraisal.



Criswell Predicts

An Accurate Glimpse of the Future

Criswell will answer your questions if you will write him in care of the Torrance Herald, signing your full name and address. Only initials will be used in the answer which will appear in rotation as received and as space permits. There is no charge for this service. Write Criswell Predicts today!

JUST FOR YOU GIRLS:

The Plumbers Union will be almost frightened out of its wits by the increasing number of women who seek to join this profession. Many of you girls are adept plumbers, without even knowing it, for you are able to face any crisis in your own home. You girls are more thorough than men, work more rapidly, and by natural instinct, know the seat of the trouble. Whether they like it or not, the Plumbers Union will be forced to open their membership to women—within the next three months! . . . Some owners of unsavory hotels will not hire you women as managers any more, for you will not permit the shocking vice and immorality to continue with your natural sense of decency. When a job of this kind is refused you, 9 out of 10 times, unspeakable conditions may exist in that very motel!

1955 will be the year of dramatic footwear made of designed fabrics to fit every mood—stripes, polka-dots, checkered, zebra, and all the national patterns! . . . Preview: The rage this summer will be the monk's coat with the attached hood, made of silk, giving you the long slender line with just the right amount of feminine mystery. Too many of you girls have pushed aside the usual summer fashions as too "plain" and "that they do nothing for the figure" but here is a definite improvement

which will be most welcome! . . . The next diet fad will center around cabbage juice, boiled cabbage and raw cabbage. If you will eat cabbage with every meal you will be amazed at its thinning effect! . . . The next hostess fad will be the "Low-Calory Buffet" which will delight your feminine as well as your masculine guests! . . . Spring is nearer than you think!

Dear Criswell:

What kind of work should my husband try to get? Mary D. M.
Your husband will soon get work in aircraft, and will make very good money. You will find that the coming three months will be the most eventful for you. You will soon have a visit from old friends.

Ida: You will go to your doctor immediately for you should have this wretched neck taken care of immediately. I know this is not serious but you should not neglect it. I know you will be healed within a very short time, and this medical bill should be sent to your husband regardless of his attitude. One day your husband will need medical assistance and then the sky will be the limit as far as expense is concerned, so do not let this bother you.

Nellie: This man is in love with you and you will marry him, but remember it is the woman who marries the man,

the man never marries the woman. You will work up this man's emotions and before he knows it, you will be man and wife. Saturday night he was quite worried about reverses in his business which accounts for the way he acted.

Lilly Dew: By all means report this to your local authorities for they are eager to receive all news of flying saucers. Pay no attention to your husband for it is your first duty to believe in yourself. You will get quite a few letters from other people who have spotted saucers and you will build up quite a collection of facts and will later join a flying saucer group.

Linda: You will remain there for the time being, but the house will be sold by mid-year. You will make a move for the better, as you will rent a house with an option to buy. Your husband's faithful to you.

Victor: Sell this property now, for you will not get a better price. There is no oil in your vicinity.

Mary C. B.: There is nothing strange in writing your newspaper for advice, for it is generally known, your paper is the pulse of your community and no one on your paper is an actual stranger to you. This column is for your use, there is no money charged, and the answers are free. I do know that you will get over your unselfishness for others. You have gone until you have practically dropped in your tracks. Do not remodel your home. You will be able to sell it and buy income property. You will buy a new car. Thank you for your kind interest in my feature and in the Torrance Herald.

LAW IN ACTION

TRUTH AND RELEVANCY

The tests of truth and relevancy which courts apply are stricter than those which we use in daily life. As a rule we don't put a man under oath. We don't cross-examine him if his story fails to hang together. We don't jail or fine him if he lies to us. But we do these things in court.

Why is that? Because we think each thing that takes place in a courtroom is important. Your property, your personal or civil rights—even your family's welfare or your life or liberty—may rest upon the truth of testimony in court.

Eager as courts are for facts, their tests fall short of those of science. When a scientist doubts the outcome of an experiment he need not rely upon somebody else's word. He just repeats the experiment in question.

But not so in court. The acts told of in courts cannot be lived over again, for the court to see first hand. For example, you cannot bring back and ask a dead man whether he signed a

will or whether the accused killed a man. We cannot re-do a murder; we can only get the witnesses to tell what they know first hand.

To protect each party, there are at least two safeguards: (1) We put the witness under oath on pain of penalties for lying; and (2) we cross-examine the witness.

Lawyers may seem always to be objecting to testimony. They have a duty to their clients and the court, to see that the judge and jury hear only what is true and relevant under the law.

If a lawyer protests, the judge may rule out some kinds of facts and tell the jury to ignore them. Sometimes too, some facts seriously break the rules of evidence. Then the judge declares "mistrial" and orders a new trial.

He does this when the testimony is so unfair as to put the rights of the accused in danger. He does this also to protect the public.

NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your interest and so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

THE TRAGEDY OF FRANCE

France's failure in Indo-China can be traced to France's failure at home. For while the Indo-Chinese war is aggravating France's economic and political dilemma, it is neither the prove any remedy. It is the fault of the French government, loaded with corruption, tax-evasion, and indifference to the needs of the Nation. The picture is more depressing now because the Communists are increasing their power. I learned in France that more and more Christians, who hate Communism, are voting Communist as a protest against their own government. "We Christians hate Communism," one Frenchman told me. "But we also hate the fact that our own government is doing little or nothing about well-to-do people who refuse to pay their just taxes." I heard this complaint more than any other in France, each year, for the last three that I visited that country.

U. S. Billions Help Little

Since 1945 we have given France just under \$13,000,000,000, with another \$1,500,000,000 on the way for this fiscal year, to take care of military commitments in Africa and Indo-China. The Indo-Chinese contribution will run close to three quarter billion dollars from Uncle Sam, in addition to this France will receive another \$200,000,000, which is the 43% United States share of the 14-nation NATO program in France alone. In spite of all this financial assistance, France is on the verge of bankruptcy, financial and moral, unless a strong leader can rise and clean house.

The Indo-China Dilemma

The basic failure in Indo-China is principally due to the low morale of the Indo-Chinese troops (Viet-Namense), the colonials and the mercenary French Legion fighting the war. The regular French Army is not in Indo-China and never has been there during the entire seven and a half year war against Communist Ho Chi Minh. French law prohibits the use of any of the 500,000 regular French Army for conscript to Indo-China or any other place outside France. I found the morale of the troops and civilians at a very low ebb in Indo-China each year since 1950 that I have been there. The people appear to lack the heart to fight for the French and do so only because they hate Communism. These are the facts of life in Indo-China and all the millions we have contributed in that war have not made better fighters of the Viet-Namense who are trying to defend their soil from the Communist invader. The Communist Viet-Minh is comprised of Red-fanatics who have shown at least a zeal to pursue their Moscow-dominated conspiracies upon their fellow Chinese in the Viet-Nam. General Henri Navarre, one of France's foremost military strategists, is greatly handicapped by the lack of well trained troops and by the lack of fighting-heart in the bloody morass of the long war in Indo-China.

Atomic Cannons

Six more atomic cannons will be sent to Europe in the near future, thus giving the NATO command three battalions of six guns each. Two additional battalions might go over later.

Subversives

While he insists on clearing subversives from the Federal Government, President Eisenhower recently declared that innocent persons should not become victims of guilt by association in the process.

Prices

Emphasizing the fact that price trends were not "behaving like a business recession," the Bureau of Labor statistics has reported a slight drop—one-tenth of one per cent—in the consumer's price index between mid-November and mid-December.

1954 Budget

President Eisenhower presented a \$65,570,000,000 budget to Congress for the 1954 fiscal year. The program, it is stated, will lead eventually to "the twin goals of a balanced budget and tax reduction." However, while expenditures are cut \$5,300,000,000 below this year, the revenues are estimated at \$62,642,000,000, leaving another deficit.

THE MAIL BOX

Bond Issues Plugged

Editor,
Torrance Herald

Torrance has been growing at a phenomenal rate: population in 1940 was 9,950; in 1950, it was 22,201; in 1952, it was 31,834; and the last Special Census in 1953 showed Torrance to have a population of 44,914. All of this tremendous growth has gone on without any real expansion of the park and recreation facilities. While play space has been growing less, the number of youngsters looking for a place to play has increased.

Your City Council is anxious to do something to provide for the happiness of our children. As a member of that council, I ask you to vote YES on the recreation bond issues. Unless the voters support these two bond issues, the hands of the City government are tied. You must vote to spend the money for recreation or you won't have any.

We can afford to build one centrally-located swimming pool that will serve all areas in the city equally. If we get the pool, there will not only be recreational swimming for all; but there will be swimming and life saving classes for the children and adults who are interested. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, YWCA, YMCA, etc. will be able to add the healthful sport of swimming to their programs. The city is also anxious to work out an agreement with the Torrance Unified School District so that they can use the pool for the High School and Elementary School Physical Education programs. A swimming pool has been needed in the City of Torrance for many years, and this is the time when you voters will be given an opportunity to build a pool that you can use in your time. The amount of the Swimming Pool Bond is \$250,000.

The \$150,000 Bond Issue for improvement of recreation facilities in the City of Torrance has been planned so that all the areas in Torrance will benefit from it. Included in planned expenditures of the bond money are such things as: night lighted all-purpose game courts, improved picnic areas, and clubhouses. All of these improvements are designed to

provide a place to play for all members of all the families in Torrance.

I ask you to vote YES on the recreation bond issue so that the children will have a safe place to play off the street, and so that Torrance families will have a park to go to for family recreation. Remember, families that play together, stay together. Provide for parks in your neighborhood. VOTE YES ON THE RECREATION BOND ISSUE.

VICTOR E. BENSTEAD JR.

"Affairs of State"

Editor Torrance Herald:

Several weeks ago this reporter (?) sent an item to the Herald telling of the Hampton players next production. I very properly told you who was in the play, namely, Jim Reeves, Mary Woodson, Bruce Sutton, Pat Rodgers, Carl Rodgers, and Frank Callahan. I mentioned that it was a sophisticated comedy set in the Washington scene. I pointed out that Bob Farnsworth was directing it. Twice, I mentioned the dates of the performances: April 2nd, 3rd, 9th, and 10th. Then, very impressed with my literary ability and the crafty methods that I used to sneak in all of the pertinent facts, I sent the article off and relaxed, confident that my journalistic ability career had been launched auspiciously.

I was rudely awakened when the article was published, however. I had neglected to mention the name of the play. Puzzled by the faux pas, the editors ran it in the "Mail Box" with the caption "Nameless Drama." The shame of it all!

But I have grappled with my despair and bounced back, in the "show must go on" tradition to tell all interested parties the name of the play. It is "Affairs of State" by Louis Verneuil.

So don't plan dinner at eight because the curtain will go up at eight-thirty at the Redondo Union High School. For the same money that you would spend on a movie you can come down and see real live people acting. The settings are designed by Raymond Wallace, who has done fine work on several shows for the Los Caneloneros Choral Group.

WARREN LAVENDER

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WILLIAM E. KING JR.
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