

# EDITORIALS

## The School Question

Torrance voters will be asked to make an important decision Tuesday—will the Torrance Unified School District be permitted to enter the State Loan program to secure an additional \$14,000,000 to finance new school construction, and will the district be permitted to add up to 75 cents additional tax levy to finance purchases of equipment for new buildings, and to make teachers' salaries competitive with those in comparable districts throughout the area.

Operation of the school system is a vital matter in the minds of a majority of Torrance residents who have children now attending one of the city's many schools.

That tremendous amounts of money are needed to finance the building and operating budgets of the district to keep pace with the booming population growth of Torrance can not be denied. How the district is going to get this money has been a continuing problem.

A general feeling of agreement in favor of the two issues before the voters Tuesday, however, has been evident during recent weeks. Torrance's largest industries, who will pay a large share of any tax increases, have endorsed the two measures through the Torrance Industries Tax Committee.

The Chamber of Commerce, which represents industry, business, and commercial segments of the city, has endorsed the proposals.

Major labor organizations, including the Steelworkers local and the Oil, Atomic, and Chemical Workers local here, have added endorsements to the measures.

Substantially all of the city's score of Parent-Teacher groups have endorsed the measure.

Education of Torrance's thousands of children must go on unhampered by shortages of school facilities and teachers, and the proposals before the voters Tuesday should receive the sound endorsement of the public: The school's board of directors has made an effort to find other means of financing the facilities to care for the explosive growth of students—and the proposals now before the voters appear to be the only alternative.

The HERALD recommends a "Yes" vote on both measures Tuesday.

## The Key to Freedom

"Your Newspaper—Freedom's Key to Better Living" is the theme of National Newspaper Week which began last Monday.

The theme is rephrasing of that which has been displayed in the HERALD Building since its construction in 1948—"Your Right to Know is the Key to All Your Liberties."

Implied in both slogans is one of the mainstays of American democracy, freedom of the press.

It is appropriate during National Newspaper Week that this newspaper recognize the freedom it has enjoyed in Torrance when seeking information from public officials—many times information which it is not pleasant to publish. Almost without exception, however, representatives of the HERALD have found open doors, throughout the city, a condition which has been threatened on higher levels in recent years through the establishment of restrictions for one reason or another.

So long as America's reporters can question those in high places and report factually on the deliberations of public officials at any level of government and can take or leave the diluted announcement of press information officers, America's reading public can be assured that threats to other liberties will be at a minimum.

To this end the HERALD will continue to be vigorous in its pursuit of news, and will be honest in presenting that news to its thousands of readers.

## The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ

Instead of strong muscles, American youngsters are getting weak eyes.

That's the conclusion of Eugene Gilbert, president of a youth research firm. He has discovered that the delights of TV seem to be enticing many of America's small fry from the athletic fields.

Instead of exercising their leg and arm muscles, the younger set are using their eye muscles more and more. This is good news for the optometrist, but whether it's good news for anybody else is questionable. It could leave the sports goods manufacturer on the short end of the proverbial stick.

Whether this decline in both arm and eye muscles is leading to a corresponding increase in the brain muscles of TV-watching youngsters hasn't been determined. Most TV programs for kiddies are exactly in the "challenging" category. Or would you call Superman and Davy Crockett "challenging"?

In a sports-crazy age, it makes you wonder who's going to play baseball and football, especially if the present trend keeps up. Everybody will have his eyes glued to the television set.

There's no question but that TV has caused a major revolution in the habits of the American populace.

It has furnished a cheap (\$10 down and 100 months to pay) source of entertainment for the average person, bringing top-notch talent into practically every home.

It has brought comfort and

happiness to shut-ins and cripples.

It has made virtual shut-ins of a large part of the population who were previously healthy.

It has become a good conversation piece. (Say, did ya see Jackie Gleason's show last night? It'd a killed ya!)

It has virtually destroyed conversation as we used to know it. Many's the time, to my irritation, that we've gone to see somebody, said "hello" as we walked in the door, watched TV all evening, and murmured "goodbye" as we left. It has made a virtue of silence, which isn't always a virtue.

It can be educational, with some of the greatest entertainment and cultural programs to be found anywhere.

It is often pure junk, with programs that you sit and watch through, sheer inertia, not because they are good at all.

It helps to occupy spare time and relax the tired worker.

It helps to keep the house dirty, the breakfast dishes unwashed, the car unpolished, the lawn unmowed, and the leak in the kitchen sink unfixed.

TV is a mixed blessing. If what Gilbert found in his survey is true, Americans may have cause to cuss out the inventor of TV, instead of praise him. Is it making of us a nation of weak-musled, weak-minded, weak-eyed people who spend their time propped in an easy chair?

## Not Everyone Likes A Free Press



## YOUR PROBLEMS

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: Please tell me what a respectable woman who runs a nice clean rooming house can do to protect herself against some of the funny stuff certain people are pulling off?

Last week a decent looking couple rented some furnished rooms. Two days later a sweet gentleman came by and said he was trying to find his wife. He described this same woman—but I didn't have the heart to say anything.

When I informed the cheap trollop her husband had been looking for her she said to mind my own business and stick to collecting the rent.

I run a respectable place, Mrs. Landers and I don't want any trouble with the law. Do you think I should ask every couple who checks in to show a marriage license?—Please advise.—S. E. B.

Dear S. E. B.: It's the ONE way to be sure.

Dear Ann Landers: My problem is serious and I hope you won't laugh it off. Please try to help me.

My sweetheart has insomnia—and just because she can't sleep, she thinks no one else should. I see her about 4 or 5 evenings a week and

try to be in bed by midnight. I'm a lab technician and need my rest.

She phones me every night at least three or four times, anywhere between 1 and 5 a.m. "Just to talk," my roommate tells me this girl must be nutty as a Christmas cake. Please give me some advice.—BLEEDING EYES.

This girl has more than insomnia, she's slightly sadistic. Those nocturnal nudges (between 1 and 5 yet) are strictly "punishment"—she figures why should YOU have it so good?

Tell her to stay off the horn and see a doctor.

Dear Ann: You think you have heard everything—well wait! If it weren't for my two kids I'd walk out this minute. I baked my husband a birthday cake (the first one he's had in his life) and he smacked me because it did not have the right kind of frosting.

He's not much on sweets and I'm not a mind-reader. He wouldn't even taste the cake—but sat there making cracks because it was slightly lopsided.

We can never discuss things like normal people—he knows it all. The car is HIS the furniture is HIS the kids are HIS. He claims it's

cheaper to go out alone when he wants recreation. I'm supposed to get plenty of recreation at home with the kids all day. He lied to me about schedules all summer so he could take the car to work. He was afraid we might enjoy a ride without him.

What can I do with such a man? I've been married four years and it doesn't seem like a day under forty!—JERKY

What happened in four short years to K. O. your romance? Search your memory. You two got married for SOME reason... what was it?

You ought to sit down with a clergyman or a marriage counselor and air your beefs in turn. Sounds as if your husband needs to rearrange his alphabet—(large I and small U). A man who goes out for recreation alone "to save money" should be told that for free he can stay home WITH his wife—which is where he belongs.

Dear Ann: Please print this as soon as possible. I imagine it's happening in a lot of factories all over the country.

During lunch hour in our shop we play cards for small stakes. We know for a fact the superintendent and foreman cheat openly. If we called these fellows on it they could make it plenty tough for us. What can we do?—JAKE

If these fellows are "cheating openly" this is a quiet kind of blackmail. You're better off to drop your money in the creek than hand it over to cheaters in a card game. Where's your self respect? Either be men enough to call a spade a meat axe (in honor of the chopping up you're getting) or cut out the card-playing.

CONFIDENTIALLY: RED-FACED RUBY: You're wrong. They do!

SILENCE IS NOT ALWAYS GOLDEN: So— you married a clam with a broken hinge. Tell him how unhappy you are and insist on a partnership instead of a dictatorship.

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## Critics Hail Performance Of Gifted Torrance Artist

By MILDRED C. HUNT

HERALD Staff Writer—Dale Reubart, gifted pianist of Torrance, received tumultuous applause at the conclusion of his presentation of "Concerto In A Minor," as guest soloist with the Beach Cities Symphony Orchestra, Friday evening in the Redondo Union High School auditorium.

The large audience, made up mostly of civic leaders, high school and college faculty members as well as local music enthusiasts, called the 30-year-old pianist back for repeated bows after he had played the lengthy musical composition, accompanied by the orchestra in parts, to an enraptured audience. According to seasoned musicians in the audience, the talented artist possessed a velvety technique in his interpretation, and was most impressive in his attacks and releases of the playing of the highly difficult scores.

His appearance was coupled with the first seasonal presentation of the local symphony orchestra made up of 60 musicians and ably directed by Louis Palange. This well received orchestra of amateur and professional musicians from Torrance, Lomita, Redondo Beach, and South Bay cities, will present four more concerts during the coming months in the various local communities.

derwood, Margaret Hall, Pat Woodling and Dorothy Felkel. Officers of the Beach Cities Symphony Assn. are Clifford A. Webster, president; Dr. John Backus, first vice president; R. M. Norris, second vice president; Mrs. Mrs. Milo Van Eaton, recording secretary; Mrs. E. R. Sweringer, corresponding secretary; Shelby Parmenter, financial secretary; Mrs. Lisa Eichel, social chairman; Mrs. K. V. Hinckley, ticket chairman; Mrs. Kathleen Warren, orchestra representative; Robert Peterson, publicity; and William Jackson, staging.

A reception in a Manhattan Beach school auditorium, followed the concert. Mrs. K. V. Hinckley, press chairman, presided over the refreshment table centered with a large sheet cake uniquely designed with a piano key board offset with musical notes and pink, sugared roses. Crystal candelabra holding tall, white tapers graded each end of the table. Dainty cookies and portions of the cake were served with coffee. Assisting Mrs. Hinckley were Mrs. Lisa Eichel, Mrs. Edna Henkel and Mrs. Chloris Richmond.

Attending the reception were orchestral personnel and their guests which included Mrs. Edna Clark of Wilmington, Robert Turner of

USC and Hollywood Bowl; Clement Hutchinson of Torrance, Otto J. Moldenhauer, formerly of Frankfurt, Germany; Hyman Gold who was a member of the orchestra providing music for the Hans Christian Anderson movie starring Danny Kay; Mr. and Mrs. R. M. North of Torrance, former member of the Meredith Wilson band and now under contract with Republic Pictures, as well as many other guests.

Clifford A. Webster, association president who introduced the orchestra director at the start of the program, later spoke briefly on the background and future plans of the orchestra. He cited that the personnel of the Beach Cities Symphony orchestra consists of residents of both local and outlying communities. Some are professional while others are non-professionals who have spent years in the study of their instruments. The common bond joining them together is their love for, and the performance of fine music. The orchestra meets in open rehearsals on Tuesdays from 7:30 to 10 p.m. in the music building of the Mira Costa High School of Manhattan Beach.

## Schoolosophy Corner

### JUNIOR HASN'T MADE IT YET

Junior High Schools normally cover the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades. Some communities have seventh and eighth graders in separate so-called intermediate or junior high schools. Many cities in the United States, however, have retained the K-8 system of elementary and senior high schools with no junior high school organization.

Theoretically, a junior high school is supposed to offer certain special advantages to an early adolescent child. Among those supposed advantages is a variety of exploratory subject matter, a variety of teachers, and special organization of the program to meet the junior high school child's needs. Some junior high school organizations achieve these advantages for children in remarkable fashion. Others do the job in mediocrity and many fail entirely to achieve these desired objectives.

As is always the case, the quality of the teachers and their attitudes and the program and organization administratively determine the degree of success. It must be admitted that the junior high idea has helped all seventh and eighth grade schools to enrich and expand their curriculum. A junior high, however, is in and of itself no guarantee of a good school program for early adolescent children.

Some 45 years or more have been having junior high schools in America and still many people object to them, and they have not necessarily proven themselves. INVESTMENT FACTOR GREAT

Once a community has invested in costly junior high school plants (they are almost as costly as a high school plant), the expense factor makes it difficult to do anything but maintain and operate them. It costs too much then to change their minds.

The fact of the matter is that the organization itself is not the educational program. The educational program is as good as the teacher who does the teaching and carries out the program. It can be of high or poor quality in any kind of an organization. The schools are as good as the people who man them and the leadership they have. The junior high is more complicated to operate than is an elementary school and one of the new problems encountered in administering a junior high program include the teacher personnel problem.

There is no training school for junior high teachers. In California the junior high teaching credential is a substandard credential permitting the holder to teach up through the ninth grade. It requires only 4 years of training whereas a high school or regular general secondary credential requires five years of training.

This leads to a real personnel problem in staffing a junior high school.

Most junior high school teachers seem to really want to be high school teachers—as do the students. This results in an aping of the high school program which is not what junior highs are supposed to do, and it makes for the wrong kind of a program.

BEST TEACHER SOURCE The best source of junior high school teachers seem to be experienced elementary school teachers who have learned to know and understand children of this age. The poorest source seems to be those trained for teaching high school subject matter.

There has been observed a tendency in some school systems to transfer the best junior high teachers to the high school in order to hold them in the community, and to transfer the poorest and weakest high school teachers to the junior high because the high school didn't want them any more.

This is a natural trend but it does a very bad thing for children at an age when they need especially good teachers. High school teachers tend to look down on junior highs and junior high teachers tend to look up to high school teachers.

A high school teacher is usually a career teacher. An elementary teacher is usually a career teacher. Too often the junior high teacher is there temporarily until he can qualify for something else.

Maybe the mistake was to make it a "junior" if it was ever going to have status. More next time on the problem of the junior high school age child.