

Check Gas-Vented Heaters, Health Officer Advises

By ROY A. GILBERT, M.D.
County Health Officer

The weather has been unreasonably warm of late, but it probably will not be long before chilly weather is here again. Subsequently, deaths due to carbon monoxide gas poisoning, which most general-

ly results from faulty heating units, will no doubt occur. It is therefore advisable to make sure that all such units, as well as other gas-operated household appliances, are operating properly.

Although unvented heaters are most often the cause of

such fatalities, they occasionally occur in the case of vented heaters when the vent is not functioning properly or is not vented in the outdoors.

It is only in the last few years that the operation of unvented gas heaters has become contrary to law. Landlords can now be made criminally responsible if a tenant meets death through the operation of such a heater. However, there is no such control over the heaters in single dwelling units. The responsibility rests with the householder.

ALL CASES of this poisoning that are caused by improperly operating gas appliances are unnecessary, since all such equipment can easily be checked for safe burning characteristics before use. This service may be obtained from the various gas companies or from a local gas appliance store. It is especially important to have this examination if the heater happens to be second hand or has been in storage for the summer months. Forced air heaters and other vented units also should also

be maintained properly in order to remain safe.

At this same time any existing vents can be checked for blockage or leakage, and a check also made to ascertain whether or not the heater is vented to the outside and not to another room or the attic.

CRACKED OR BROKEN radiants should be replaced, and it is also important that they remain in proper position at all times during heating. It is also advisable to make certain that the heater is connected to the gas supply with an approved metal tubing.

The first symptoms of car-

bon monoxide poisoning are usually headache, a feeling of grogginess, and shortness of breath on exertion. When such symptoms are noticed in circumstances which point to the possibility of a carbon monoxide hazard, fresh air should be sought immediately.

Although carbon monoxide gas poisoning may occur from a number of sources, including car exhaust, the greatest danger is the unvented gas heater. The best protection against this type of poisoning is to get rid of the unvented heater and install an improved type vented model as a safety measure.

Three Local Students Join Long Beach Frate

One hundred eighty-three men have been pledged by Long Beach State College fraternities, according to a list released yesterday by Karl A. Russell, dean of students.

Among them are three Torrance residents: Barrett H.

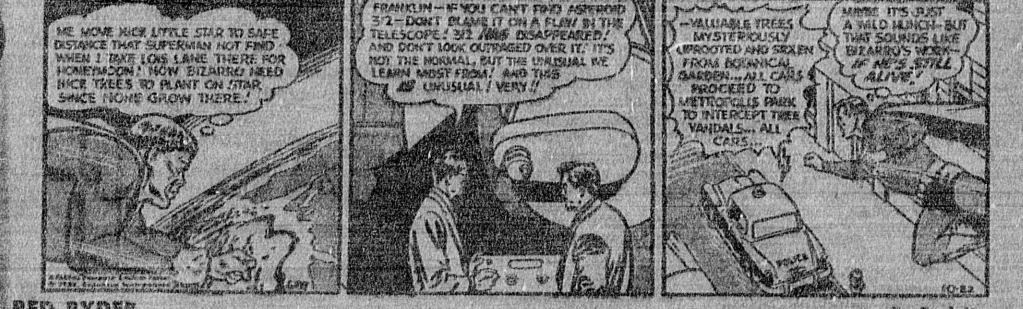
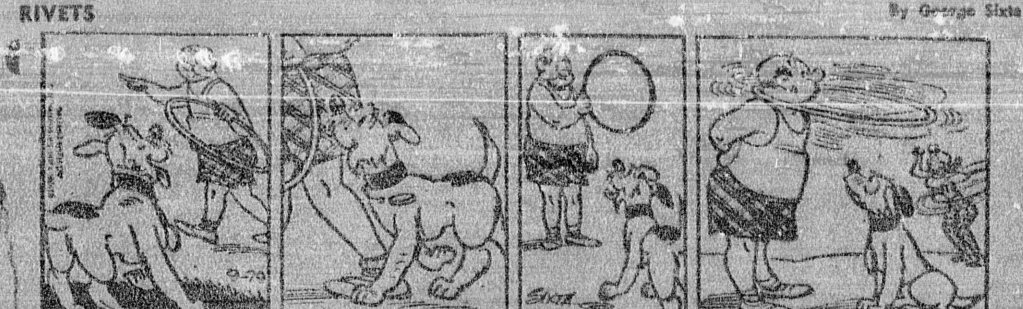
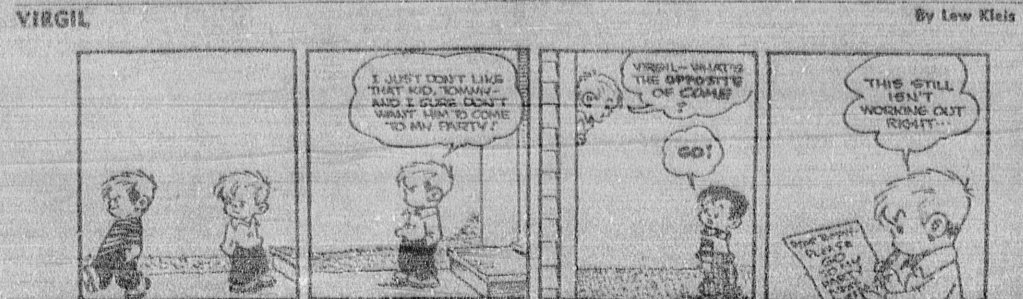
Lee, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Lee, 8426 W. 171st St., who has joined Phi Kappa Tau; and Bud Hickman, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Hickman, 1517 W. 215 St., and Richard J. Hollis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Long, 1364 W. 222 St., both of whom have affiliated with Tau Kappa Epsilon.

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