

Torrance Herald

Co-Publishers
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Tuesday's Election

The campaigns for seats on the City Council which will be decided at the polls Tuesday have been marked by two obvious features—an almost complete lack of meaty issues on which to wage a campaign, and an almost complete lack of interest among the great majority of the city's residents.

There has been no great turnout of voters at the many forums presented by civic-minded groups to give candidates a chance to explain their views, and Friday's Jaycee-sponsored forum, while drawing the largest crowd to date, could have accommodated many, many more people.

Elections of city officials are not to be taken lightly, and the HERALD believes the city can be assured of sound municipal government only with the election of qualified candidates to these important offices.

As is pointed out again in a Page 1 editorial, the HERALD recommends the re-election of Mayor Albert Isen. On the basis of his record as a mayor, the citizens of Torrance are assured of having a receptive ear for all of their comments on city affairs.

At the same time, the HERALD believes the campaigns presented by Ken Miller and George Kurtz, when considered with their educational and professional backgrounds, eminently qualifies them for seats on the City Council.

Miller, a native of Torrance, has demonstrated a desire to see his community developed soundly, and through his Planning Commission votes, has given notice that he is a man of principle and courage.

Kurtz, who has been a leader in the fight to upgrade the city's library system and at the same time a leader in the fight to retain the city's industrial land as a basis for favorable tax balance, has impressed many with his deliberate stand on civic issues.

Many other candidates have impressed those before whom they have appeared and are worthy of consideration by intelligent voters. Among these are Jean Clawson, who has an enviable record in civic and business affairs; Naomi McVey, Torrance's "Citizen of the Year" and active in a score of civic organizations; and attorney David Lyman, who has made a vigorous campaign for the Council.

In any event, the value of any Council is diminished if only a small percentage of the city's electorate bothers to vote. If the people don't make the minimum effort on one day, why should those elected make a maximum effort for four years.

Whatever you do, vote Tuesday. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For the Record

In support of the campaign of their candidate, the City-Wide Committee to Re-elect Mayor Albert Isen, in paid political advertising published Thursday, compared the record of Mayor Isen and his principal opponent, Willys Blount, with a series of statements purportedly taken from official minutes of the City Council.

In these statements, the committee charged that Councilman Blount had been "rude, uncivil and discourteous to associates and to persons in the audience during council meetings," that he had "read books and magazines and listened to a transistor radio with earphones while meetings were in session," that he had "abruptly departed while meetings were in session," that he had "intimidated city employees," and that he had benefited from the "Water Main Affair" wherein water main extensions were installed to serve four apartment houses constructed for Blount and that neither Blount, nor the builder, Robert Jahn, had paid the required deposit, and that Blount "has made repeated attempts to play politics with our City Commissioners."

The allegations contained in the advertisement included other indictments, but Councilman Blount has objected specifically to those enumerated.

It is Councilman Blount's contention that the advertisement is in error.

Wherein the advertisement implied that the source of all statements were official minutes of the City Council, some came, instead, from general public knowledge and the advertisement should have so stated.

The HERALD takes this opportunity to clarify the source of the statements and to express its regret that the matter was not made clear in the paid advertisement.

Out of the Past

From the Pages of the HERALD

40 Years Ago

No greater impetus could be added to the slogan "Torrance Means Business" than the presence of surveyors and engineers of the Santa Fe railroad on the ground and working out rights of way for their railroad through this city and on to the harbor at San Pedro.

The Torrance Tennis Club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard R. Smith Monday evening. A game of 500 followed the regular business meeting of the organization.

30 Years Ago

That Torrance may in a

few years be located upon or within a very short distance of deep water transportation became evident this week by the announcement of plans promoted by Supervisor John Quinn to undertake a survey and thorough study of the possibilities of extending the present Los Angeles Harbor through the Bixby slough to a point east of this city and perhaps as far as Gardena.

The Torrance Relief Society will share in the government's distribution of free flour, according to an announcement made this week by Mrs. Caroline Collins, president of the society.

20 Years Ago

Three large caravans in as many days completed the evacuation of every person of Japanese ancestry from the Harbor district as far north as Carson Street and Torrance Boulevard with the exception of four given temporary exemption from the Army's order due to illness or work problems.

Another Torrance high school graduate answered his country's call for men this week when Bob Tolson, son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Tolson of the Mayfair apartments, enlisted as an aviation cadet.

Somebody Has to Do Lowest Paid Jobs



James Dorais

Free Enterprise Behind Legislative Eight Ball

There are many Americans who do not believe in the free enterprise system. There are many Americans who believe that the most effective way to destroy free enterprise and achieve its opposite, state socialism, is by a policy of gradualism, attacking one industry or profession at a time, pressing for legislation to weaken them by establishing competing government programs.

Opponents of free enterprise, of course, have every right to advance their beliefs and to promote legislation before Congress and state legislatures to achieve their goals, just as believers in free enterprise have every right to defend their beliefs and oppose socialistic legislation.

As each battle of the continuing war is joined, the victory should go to the side that presents the best case. And in a fair fight, no one could complain.

Unfortunately, the fight is no longer a fair one. Consider the ground rules under which a company faced with the threat of legislation designed to put it out of business must operate:

The company must incur the expense of presenting testimony before legislative committees. If the proposal is of such importance that it becomes a national issue, it may need to take its case to the public in the form of advertising or direct mail. If the legislation must be approved by the voters at a state or local election, the company must undertake a campaign to present its side of the controversy to the public.

But under U. S. Treasury

Department rulings, corporations are not allowed to include such necessary costs of defending themselves from legislative attack as business expenses; all such costs, therefore, must be paid from net profits, if any, after taxes.

On the other hand, if the promoters of the legislation are organized as a non-profit group, such as a labor union, vast sums can be raised from dues to propagandize their side of the argument.

Government, which should be neutral, often is not. The executive branch of the gov-

ernment, with all the publicity resources at its command, may be promoting the legislation. Department heads of agencies that would administer the program actively lobby for its adoption.

Even civil service employees, prohibited by statute to use public funds for "publicity or propaganda designed to support or defeat legislation," have been recently directed by the present federal Civil Service Commissioner to "explain the position of the Administration in the proposed legislation before interested public groups."

Morning Report:

In just two years an unknown French painter sold about \$200,000 worth of pictures. His technique was simple. He just signed his works with the names of famous modern artists like Picasso. So the Paris cops arrested Jean-Pierre Schecroun.

None of the art lovers who bought his stuff complained about the quality of his work. In fact, they loved everything about his paintings, particularly the signatures.

Now forgery is a crime, and crime is a sin, and naturally I'm against sin. But it's pretty hard to get very angry at this young painter. It's very easy, however, to envy him — 200 grand in two years.

Abe Mellinkoff

ROYCE BRIER

Painters Keep Occupied At Venezuela Politics

CARACAS, VENEZUELA—Youth here doesn't stay up all night doing the Twist. It has a better game with paint buckets.

On the bulkheads of the freeways which sweep about this extraordinary city, a party will paint "Viva Castro!" This is on view for a day, whereupon another party will paint it over with "Los Comunistas Assassinos!" — "Communist Assassins!"

As the paint tends to run, one is never quite certain who won a given skirmish, but that is only characteristic of the time and place—the place being what may be termed a cock-pit. Here, competent observers believe, will be determined the great struggle between Western self-government and Eastern despotism, so far as concerns our Western Hemisphere.

The other day President

Romulo Betancourt, a very tough figure indeed, opened his Congress with a tough speech, and a frank one.

He said that while he is in office, Venezuela will keep democracy, and he excoriated both Right and Left. Despite political realignments lately unfavorable to him, he is apparently not afraid of the Right, which means some army officers and a remarkably small segment of businessmen. But he is concerned, as he has a right to be, about tactics he politely said were "arranged in Havana" by a "certain soldier of fortune."

January 1960, the Reds raided six police stations, 19 dead, 37 vehicles burned in the streets, many business firms sacked in an effort to overthrow the government. Two months ago there was a

A Bookman's Notebook

Updike Prose Gives Rise To Sense of Excitement

William Hogan

The current conversation piece in fiction is a new collection by the remarkable young talent John Updike, "Pigeon Feather and Other Stories." Updike is a former Harvard boy from Pennsylvania who began publishing glittering stories in The New Yorker at the age of 22. At 30 he has published two novels ("Rabbit Run," "The Poorhouse Fair"), two previous collections of stories and a book of humorous verse.

As prolific as the early William Saroyan, he uses the English language with daring and dexterity as few have done since the dramatist Christopher Fry let loose with "The Lady's Not for Burning."

I find a sense of excitement in Updike's prose — the same excitement that Irwin Shaw generated in the middle 1930, or Hemingway did in "Men Without Women." (DeMaupassant, I think, can still do this, if the reader is young enough.)

What are these stories about? Some are so elliptical that you can't describe them. They are comic, wry, unhappy, sophisticated and not always pleasant. They are about anything and everything.

Take "The Persistence of Desire." A young married man runs across a girl, now married, he had known in school and arranges to see her a gain. Updike leaves much unsaid, and in this case it is the unsaid that is memorable. The same again in a story titled "A & P." A grocery-counter checker is so disturbed by some scantily clad girls in the store that he simply ups and quits his job. Here again more is implied than is written.

One review of "Pigeon Feathers" noted that Updike has very little to say, but he says it very well. I disagree. He says plenty, by looking for life's meaning in the brief moment, the incidental action, the commonplace. His prose is so full of fire and ice that it almost breaks through to some "fourth dimension" in writing, as do some of J. D. Salinger's stories, most notably his recent "Seymour: An Introduction."

Well, this is virtuosity, no question about that. And if some of Updike's jack-nimble trickery gets in the way of his subject matter once in a while, we will have to put up with it until this remarkable young writer drains off some of the electricity that lights his prose like a Christmas tree.

As in Peter DeVries' comic novels, one often finds him? self watching the performance rather than the substance. With Updike you simply cannot object. For I think this energy, indeed this genius, will be channeled into a very big novel one of these days.

Along with Salinger, John

Updike seems to be the talent to bet on — and the sustained performance in this collection is as good a place as any to start catching this superior literary act.

Pigeon Feathers and Other Stories, by John Updike, Knopf, 279 pp., \$4.

Around the World With



DELAPLANE

London

"Can you tell me if I can take gifts to relatives in England?"

The Customs people always ask me if I am bringing in gifts — and I usually am bringing small things. They never took them away from me. But I get the feeling they wouldn't like to have you bring the Hope diamond or a GE freezer. Small kitchen gadgets are good here.

"Is there any family plan in hotels along Waikiki? Can you suggest a bungalow-style hotel for a family of six?"

Best one (and I imagine it has a fairly high price) — is the Halekulani, soon to be wrecked for another of those skyscrapers. The Waikikian (reasonable rates) has rooms along a tropical runway, somewhat on the bungalow style. And the Hilton Hawaiian Village has a few that looked good to me.

If you write Hawaii Visitors Bureau, Honolulu, Hawaii, they'll send you a list of hotels and other accommodations with prices.

"Three of us are planning a trip through Mexico and South America — driving as far south as we can and then shipping the car. Suggest clothing and tell us conditions of road..."

The AAA has a section on Central American driving in the back of their book, "Motoring in Mexico." Dan Sanborn's Travel Service has best free information on Mexican roads and may have something on the Central American route. Write him at McAllen, Texas.

Best clothing I've found is cotton-dacron khaki pants and shirts and cotton baseball-type cap. This sheds dust pretty well and dries overnight. Open-toe slippers (scorpions on those floors, so don't walk around at night without care), flashlight, rubber-soled shoes, mosquito repellent — "Off!" is good. Sweater and corduroy jacket for the highlands. One suit for the cities.

Road info is pretty scarce on this route. The big question is always El Tapon Pass between Mexico and Guatemala. When it's wet, it slides. Should be okay up to the rainy season starting in April or a little later.

You will have to ship from Costa Rica, probably from Puntarenas. The road doesn't go down to Panama City. Get ALL your documents for shipping and ALL visas and tourist cards BEFORE you leave the States.

These countries want lots of paper and it's easier to get it here than in the other countries. Even in San Francisco with all the Consulates, it will take you two days.

"Would like to spend some time in a Spanish Atlantic town where I could get in some swimming and sun at reasonable prices."

San Sebastian at the French border is the Biarritz of Spain. Might be expensive; it looked it when I drove through. Why not try Portugal? Has a lot more Atlantic coast than Spain. Good town close to Lisbon is Cascais. Farther north a bit, Nazare with the plaid-dressed fishermen. Cheap country, maybe \$10 a day would do it.

If it's Spanish language you want, Portuguese speak it or understand it spoken slowly. Or you can try the Costa Brava of Spain in the little towns above Barcelona.

Stan Delaplaine finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"I don't suppose you accept trading stamps?"