

The Press Editorials

● OPINIONS ● FEATURES ● COLUMNS

Get the Best Men

The police and fire committee of the Torrance city council has under study a recommendation by the city manager to open up the examinations for police and fire chief.

Such action would permit the city to obtain the services of the best man available anywhere in the country. One of the chiefs has announced his retirement, and the other one had indicated his readiness to retire until he and his department recently came under criticism.

At any rate, both jobs must be filled before too long with new leaders. The present low limits selection of a successor to the next two men in the department.

Chances of these men for promotion will not be limited but enhanced by widening the competitive field. If they should turn out to be the best candidates, their stature will be greater if and when they take over.

And no matter who takes over the public will be assured that the departments will have first-class leadership. This kind of assurance is necessary vital, particularly in the case of the police department, whose public image has been badly tarnished.

Hannah's Harpoons

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

Today I made an A-Line Shift for myself of a lovely pastel - stripe material. I skimped on nothing: the finest thread, and my most careful workmanship. And



there it sits. And there it SHALL sit until the cows come home. Oh, why does this thing look like a patio awning on me while ON THEM these things always look so charming? THEY always look so afternoon-at-the-poolside, while these dopey fashions make me look as though I had got into the wrong stall at Hollywood Park. Oh well, back to the classic shirt-waist. Basic black, of course.

Sanitizes Premises

I know not what course others may take, but as for me, when I have an argument with my breadwinner, I wash the woodwork in the kitchen.

Some gals sulk; some weep; some run home to mother. But the madder I get, and the more engrossing the fight, the faster and harder do I scrub the paint. What's more, I seldom recall even getting my hands wet!

The Brain who said that argument cleanses the soul was only half right. At our house, the faster the accusations fly, the sooner the kitchen is sparkling. Besides clearing the air, argument sanitizes the premises.

Cheesecake

It doesn't pay to press for a recipe when your hostess appears genuinely reluctant. My Aunt Annie is a case in point. There never was a cheesecake to equal hers (Lindy's and Sardi's notwithstanding), so I pleaded and cajoled and flattered until she finally gave in. After I made the cheesecake several times (and each time it tasted like Firestone's favorite product), I found out that she had "inadvertently" left out an ingredient. My husband said he really didn't blame her too much, "She's got the patent, and she has no intention of putting it in the public domain."

Summer Fairy Tale

I found the following among some notes I had made several years ago. "Once there was a girl who kept running into the house and wishing: 'I wish I had an apple.' (All right, take an apple from the refrigerator.) 'I wish I had a new skate key.' (No more skate keys... go and look for the other 500.) 'I wish I had blondey, curly, ringlets like Jeanine.' (Allright, have blondey, curly hair like Jeanine, only leave your red hair alone, you hear?) Her fairy Godmother appeared suddenly and said, 'Have three wishes, child, because you are so good and beautiful!'

It occurs to me that I would like to know how this ends. Therefore, I will award three (3) Blue Chip stamps for the three best endings to this story. Fifty words or less.

The Man at the Keyhole

By Operative WB

The public accommodations section of the President's civil rights bill was deliberately included to provoke a Southern filibuster, some Washington sources believe — the strategy being to let the Southern Democrats win a victory in return for dropping opposition to the rest of the bill.

The self-opening beer can is being heralded as one of the hottest inventions since Eli Whitney's cotton gin: not only has it boosted beer sales, but manufacturers of bandages for cut fingers are enjoying an unexpected boom.

Dissension in state Administration ranks over the condition of the Number One state's business climate — announced as highly favorable by the State Economic Development Agency — is indicated, Sacramento insiders report, by decision of a Senate Committee to make the business climate the subject of a study by an interim committee.

IT'S AMAZING!

IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN, THE SWALLOWING OF SALT WATER IS CONSIDERED A SURE-CURE FOR STOMACH AILMENTS, AMONG THE NATIVES!

CAMEL HAIR BRUSHES ARE NOT MADE OF 'AMEL'S' HAIR, BUT FROM THE TAILS OF SIBERIAN SQUIRRELS!

CHOCOLATE BARS SOLD FOR \$10 EACH, PAYABLE IN GOLD DUST, DURING THE CALIFORNIA GOLD RUSH.

EVEN THOUGH A REAR TIRE HAD COME OFF, A RACING CAR WAS DRIVEN 2 MILES..... ON 3 WHEELS ONLY!
LOCKPORT, N.Y. 14394

SKULLS OF BEHEADED CRIMINALS WERE PLACED ON THE ROOFS OF THEIR HOMES, IN 17TH CENTURY BULGARIA, AS A WARNING TO FUTURE TRANSGRESSORS!

SPRINTERS UNDER WATER! (FLORIDA) RUN 50 YARDS IN 25 SECONDS — EACH SPRINTER PUSHES AN ADDITIONAL 8900 LBS OF WATER!

The Public's Voice

Disturbed at Forum, Police 'Neutrality'

To the Editor:
I am writing this letter to alert my fellow citizens to what is happening to the freedom of speech and assembly right under our very noses. I am still shaken up over what I witnessed the night of August 17th at Torrance High School auditorium.

I was to have heard a public forum with a panel of speakers who were earnestly trying to help inform South Bayans about the hows, whys, and wherefores of integration in our area.

Since integration is now part of our national policy, and since President Kennedy urges us to make individual steps towards making our democracy one for all Americans, I attended the forum to inform myself further and to perhaps ask a question or two.

The speakers represented government agencies: the Attorney General's office, the County Human Relations Commission, the State Real Estate Commission's office, as well as the National Association of Colored People and the Community Service Organization, a Mexican-American group.

I was sure that a meeting of this type would go a long way towards easing tensions, answering questions and taking the emotional lid off attitudes and stereotypes.

I was glad that some group (the Centinela Bay Human Relations Committee) had taken the initiative to sponsor such a meeting in the public service. What happened that night still has me shaking inside.

Hurl Animosities

Right after an inspiring benediction for the task ahead, a carefully dispersed mob of only thirty five or so set up a clamor of vile accusations, hurling animosities

at a staccato rate and interfering with the proceedings with such violence that a detective in the audience quickly stopped the meeting to avert physical violence.

No amount of calm, responsible, reasonable action was able to stem the tide of vituperation.

Police officers were hastily summoned and many of the speakers remained, determined to have their say.

The meeting was resumed but the incredibly disgusting behavior continued. The speakers were drowned out by the caterwauling of the few but determined rabble rousers.

Others than myself had seen many of these vocal hoodlums attempt to do this sort of thing unsuccessfully at other important meetings.

They were careful not to identify themselves but some of them are self-professed Birchers and Nazis. The others were obviously following a planned strategy of attack.

I was shocked at the neutrality of the Torrance Police force. They could have stopped the disgraceful exhibition in short order by escorting the offenders outdoors.

What constitutes disturbing the peace in a free assembly anyway? A handful of rabble rousers can disrupt any peaceful assembly, even the peaceful functioning of government if they are permitted to feel strong and effective at their nasty business.

Freedom of Speech?

What good is the freedom of speech if it cannot be exercised in a democratic assembly with protection of the law?

The meeting was played through to the bitter end but it was a mockery of its real purpose. Educational meetings must continue to take place in all our communities.

Attend the next one and let your local city council know what type of police protection you expect in your community.

Mrs. Roy Seidler (Betty Seidler)
26644 Shadow Wood Dr.,
Palos Verdes.

Mrs. James E. Pierson
5620 Bartlett Dr.
Torrance.

The Art of Living

By RED LOCKWOOD

The Wrong Lesson

The young British officer, resplendent in bristling moustache, armed only with a swagger stick, strolled the beach where the fury of a world gone mad rained steel upon the sand.

Pressed tightly and wriggling deeper still into the wet and clammy sand a young boy soldier watched the young officer.

"Sir," said the boy when the officer came near. "I wish like you I had no fear."

"Ah," replied the officer, "my boy, my belly is tight with fear but I have a duty to do."

"And what," asked the boy as the officer walked away, "is your duty?"
"To show you, my son,"

replied the officer over his shoulder, "how to die."

The boy watched the officer walk as the fury mounted along the beach talking to men who lay crouching there.

What He Wanted

Finally, that first wave of men upon the beach found their feet and inland they began to go.

On the second day, the young boy soldier found the body of the young officer.

"What's the matter?" asked a sergeant as he found the boy kneeling beside what was once the young officer, his face wet with unashamed tears.

"He wanted," said the boy, "to teach me how to die when what I want to know is how to live."

It Seems to Me

By BOB LUPO

Free speech is one of the most expensive commodities known to man.

In this country — one of the strongholds of individual liberty — the price of free speech, and indeed, of all our precious rights, has been paid for in blood many times over.

Men have sacrificed their lives, gladly; have withstood character assassination and other personal onslaughts; have braved the terrors of the unknown and the predictable perils of the known in the name of freedom.

In a truly free society no man need fear any other. Each can say what he thinks about any subject and conduct himself accordingly. As long as no man does harm to his neighbor, he is free to think and say what he pleases. The best ideas withstand the test of time. Justice and truth win out in the marketplace of free exchange because those are the valued commodities of the people.

TRUTHS TO PONDER

Were they not, there would no longer be any hope for the United States and for the valiant battle she wages for the preservation of freedom throughout the world.

When you lose confidence in the people, you lose confidence in the United States.

In this country, no one can be forced to believe what he does not, nor to pay lip service to what he mistrusts or opposes.

These are truths which the rabble-rousers, who broke up an attempt at a serious discussion of civil rights Saturday night at Torrance High might well ponder.

As far as has been determined, the hecklers were John Birchers and American Nazis. This was the statement of the Torrance city prosecutor.

The meeting offered views of speakers of a varied number of groups and public agencies, all quite respectable citizens. It is easily possible to disagree with some or all of their views.

It is not so easy to disagree with their right to express themselves in peaceful assembly.

Councilman Ross Sciarrotta, on page one of this issue, says he feels the hecklers interfered with the right of free and peaceable assembly, and should have been arrested.

THE RIGHT TO DISSENT

I'm not sure that arrests would solve the problem. Obviously, the hecklers' mental processes are already arrested. It would be better if their minds were freed than if their bodies were jailed.

The important thing is whether it is still possible for an individual to speak his mind at a public meeting in this country.

The Birchers constantly talk about preserving American ideals and freedoms. America would be no different than totalitarian countries in a very short time if the right to dissent were to die.

If the actions were typical of Bircher philosophy — and I have every reason to believe that they were — dissent would die as quickly as the Birchers took control.

It was the leader of the Birch Society, Robert Welch, who viewed, publicly and in his writings, Presidents Eisenhower and Truman, the late John Foster Dulles, and other distinguished Americans as traitors.

WHERE DANGER LIES

If there are traitors to the American way of life in this country, they are more apt to be found — intentionally or otherwise — in the ranks of the John Birch Society, than in the White House.

I won't label all Birchers as traitors. In fact, I won't label any of them in that fashion.

I will label them as extremely dangerous, even the well-intentioned but misled followers of Welch.

The danger lies in their extreme lack of appreciation of what democracy really is. It seems as though they fear democracy more than, or as much as they do communism.

LIFE IN THE ROAR by KANE

