

A Letter To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,
Are school open houses really worth while? Although many kids, parents, and teachers alike groan at the thought of attending a school open house, I think they serve a useful purpose. It gives parents and teachers a chance to see the people the kids have been talking about, I sometimes tell parents, "If you promise me to believe everything your kids tell you about me, I won't believe everything the kids tell me about you."
At high schools, the story stays pretty constant every year. Biggest attendance is by freshman parents. More girls' parents attend than boys Still, although they deny it, most kids secretly appreciate their parents' attendance to find out what's happening.
Parents who show up are, by and large, parents of students who do pretty well anyway, but quite probably the reason they're doing well is because their parents are interested.
Parents of "problem" kids usually don't come, and in some cases, the problem kid's problem is that his parents just don't care what he does. Sometimes, Junior has intercepted the invitation to open house, just so parents won't find out the truth.
Several years ago, I had a student who obviously was quite bright, although he never volunteered anything and did just enough to get by. I asked why.
"I used to go home and try to talk to my parents about what we were doing in school," he said. "But every time I did, my dad would say, 'Don't bother me, kid. Those teachers are all a bunch of dam Communists anyway.' So I quit."
Yours for parents who care,
YOUR DAD

Tartar Teen Talk

By Betsy Tomita

Seniors voted for the top 15 Wednesday in their government classes. The entire school will choose the Top Five girls, who make up the Homecoming Court on Oct. 30.
Representatives from Teen Challenge were guest speakers at Torrance High Tuesday. Teen Challenge is an organization designed to help drug addicts kick the habit through religion.
Robert Rico, director, discussed the history and functions of the organization and introduced the other two speakers, Kenneth Mota and Robert Urmston, who were both former drug users.
Mota explained to the students how he started smoking marijuana at age 12 purely out of curiosity, and this resulted in 13 years of appearing in and out of court along with the constant need for drugs. After he lost all hope, Mota went to Teen Challenge and found hope and love in Christ.
"And to think that it started with just two little red pills," he said.
THE GIRLS volleyball team now has a terrific record of 3-0. They beat Palos Verdes in a meet Thursday with a score of 15-4 and 15-5. Tuesday they played Rolling Hills and won 15-12 and 15-11.
Sgt. Mel Horn, juvenile officer for the Torrance Police Department, spoke to student Congress Wednesday about the function of the police around campus. He commented on laws concerning curfew, loitering, and criminal records.
"The only way a record can be sealed is by a court order and this is a difficult process."
The rest of the lecture time was devoted to questions.
If the band seems to have game with Rolling Hills, it is because the Torrance Elementary Band will play during half time.

Couples Club Will Discuss Proposition

URNSTON SAID that he had started using pills, also for curiosity's sake. After going through psychiatric hospitals, psychiatrists, and other means to seek relief, he reluctantly went to Teen Challenge and found help.
Urnston said that at one time he was taking eight bottles of cough syrup a day for the codine.
The pros and cons of Proposition 9, the Watson Initiative, will be aired Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at a public meeting of the Resurrection Lutheran Couples' Club.
The meeting will be held at the church, 330 Palos Verdes Blvd., Redondo Beach.
Speaking in favor of the measure will be Fred Kimball, chairman of the Citizens Committee for Property Tax Limitation. Opposing the measure will be Noell Marble, executive director of the Torrance Education Association.

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Human Relations Council To Discuss Fair Housing

The second organizational meeting of the Torrance Human Relations Council will be held next Thursday, 8 p.m., at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davis, 3606 Sara Drive. A temporary chairman for the group will be chosen from the recommendations made by the nominating committee.
Temporary officers and chairmen for the group are Mrs. John Lundgren, secretary; Mrs. David Hall, treasurer; Mrs. Stephen Rhoads, membership; and Mrs. Jerold Turner, public relations.
Membership information can be obtained from Mrs. Rhoads, 16811 Fonthill, or Mrs. Welch, 3216 W. 180th St.

Mrs. Charles Dougherty and Mrs. Harvey Rosener will lead a discussion on fair housing laws and community attitudes.
All Torrance residents who are interested in the field of human relations are invited to attend the meeting.

Dennis Welch served as organizing chairman for the group, which had its initial meeting last week at the Davis' home. "The purpose in forming a human relations council," he stated, "is to foster a dialog among those people who are concerned about the problems of minority citizens. Our goal is to increase communication within our own community and with others in the greater Los Angeles area. Distrust between groups can be alleviated by achieving understanding through meaningful experiences and discussion."
Following next week's meeting, regular program meetings of the group will be held on the second Thursday evening of each month.
Serving on the nominating committee are Mrs. Alice Hammond and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davis.

County Relocates Power Lines

A program to relocate overhead utility lines to underground was announced this week by County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.
Hahn reports the County Counsel is drafting an enabling ordinance under guidelines set forth by the California Public Utilities Commission.
The Southern California Edison Co. has allocated a total of \$971,000 to be used to relocate power lines in unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

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