

# DEAR EDITOR....

**CHICKEN LITTLE, BAMBI... BAH!**  
Editor, Torrance Press:  
I am incredulous that anyone could have written the editorial "Let's Take a New Look At Our School Names" with any serious forethought.  
I am a high school student who knows first hand that American education is already too disproportionately a farce without hanging on our high schools such names as: Three

Musketeers, Captains Courageous, or, can you be serious? Pled Piper! As for Showboat and Ramona, I say why not Macbeth and Othello, which, while not musicals, are better plays. Then there is Pilgrim's Progress, which few imaginative people have read for 50 years.  
I italicize: STARMEN! How Hyperimaginative! What do we do, bring rayguns and pressurized suits? Adam Bede

is a good try, but Winston Churchill would be more easily recognized by most.  
Torrance rightly or wrongly has been named the All American City. Now shall we be hailed as the city where starry-eyed administrators make students ashamed of their Alma Mater with romantic names?  
What is wrong with Franklin Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower or Woodrow Wilson; with Albert Einstein, Werner von Braun or John von Neumann; or with Louis Pasteur, William Jenner or Wilhelm Roentgen?  
Fantasy is fine for children, but children must mature. I wince to think of a businessman, doctor or engineer wearing a class ring bearing such a name as Starmen H. S. Shall my son, when I have one, try to live up to a man like Thomas Edison, or run from a bugbear like Bambi or Chicken Little?  
It is the spirit of these names carried over into administration which is actually wrecking our education today, and turning our schools from places of learning into day nurseries.  
Education must be modernized! The dimly lit classroom with its dreaded atmosphere shall be replaced by better books, better films and television. But we can't afford the blatant mockery of a circus.  
Sincerely,  
(s) Lester A. Rice  
2047 Kathy Way  
Editor's note: We're incredulous all right.)

We are expected to pay our own expenses which we estimate will cost around \$25,000.00. This amount will cover transportation and lodging for the 7 day trip for 82 musicians, chaperones, and staff members. This means about \$275.00 per person.  
The band members and parents have already begun an intensive drive to raise the necessary funds with which to make the trip, however, we feel that financial assistance from others able to help will be needed to make our fund raising campaign a success. We need your support.  
If you feel that you are able to "pay the way" for at least one band member or any part thereof, your donations to this worthy cause will be greatly appreciated. We would like to have any contributions or pledges of

**Choir Director**  
Wendell Grove, formerly director of the choir at the Redondo Methodist church, and with choral experience while in the service in Japan, has accepted the direction of the Chancel Choir at the WALTERIA Community Methodist church.  
Former director was Mrs. Wm. Mitchell of WALTERIA.  
contributions by July 31, 1957, since that is the date we must definitely decide whether or not it is worthwhile to continue preparations for the trip.  
Yours very sincerely,  
(s) James Van Dyck,  
director, Torrance Area Youth Bands, Inc.

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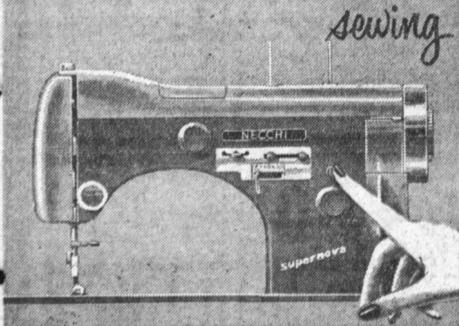
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### Band Sends Out SOS For M-O-N-E-Y

Editor, Torrance Press:  
Our Torrance Area Youth (Concert) band has been invited to play at the Mid-West National Band Clinic to be held at the world-famous Sherman hotel in Chicago on December 18, 19, 20, and 21, 1957.

Only eight bands from the United States and Canada are selected each year to perform for this clinic—the nation's largest annual music teachers convention of its kind. Our band was the only band chosen this year from the Western States and this year marks the first time in the history of this convention that a youth band, outside the ranks of schools and colleges, has so been honored. Around 5000 band directors and music educators attend this convention each year.

We will be expected to prepare and present at least one two hour concert for convention visitors. Pictures of our band, articles and announcements of our appearance there will be published in several national music magazines. All concerts, including ours, will be recorded on the spot and made available to all visiting music teachers and students.

This event will bring national recognition to our band as well as to our community. It will mean that "Once in a Lifetime" experience for the boys and girls who make the trip.

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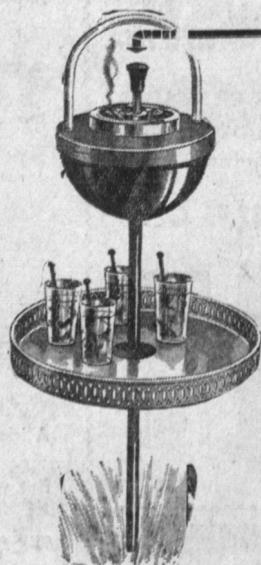
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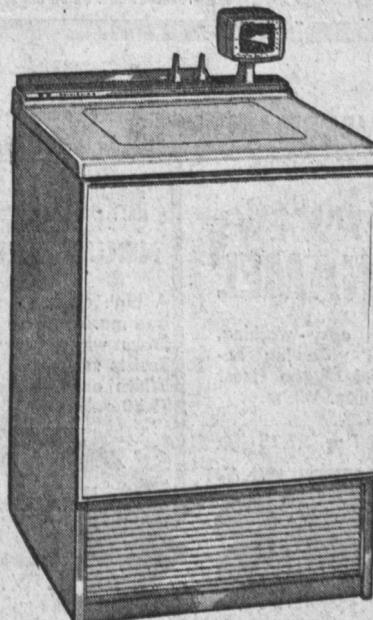
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