

Torrance High Slates Confab on Vocations

Vocational information regarding job openings, qualifications and salaries will be presented to the students of Torrance High School by representatives from more than 60 fields at a vocational conference Feb. 11, 8 a. m. to 12:15 p. m.

The entire student body of Torrance High School was polled as to the types of vocations it preferred. Letters were sent to bankers, lawyers, doctors, plumbers, electricians and service representatives, asking them to speak at the vocations conference. Approximately 60 acceptances have been received.



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WINNING ESSAY

Americanism

What is this thing millions have cried for, millions have died for, millions have tried for? Our enemies call it madness—we call it freedom.

Freedom and America are synonymous. From the days when this young nation was founded to the present, leaders of these United States of America have tried to express in words the emotions they feel toward this country.

It is not so easy to express an emotion about your country. An eighth-grade student, such as I, can only gather glimpses of what great men have seen so clearly. I must look back and see what history can tell me about Americanism's beginning.

It began when, in the hearts of men, there grew a chance for freedom. They nourished this small ember to a flame, fanned it to a blazing fire that erupted and became the American Revolution.

We can catch but a glimpse of the spirit of the times when we read the Declaration of Independence. We can recall what it meant to be an American when we can see Patrick Henry on trial and hear his answer to the accusations, "Give me liberty or give me death."

We can see Washington at Valley Forge with a small band of men that was all that was left of the Continental Army. On Christmas Eve he crossed the Delaware River to strike the blow that foretold the eventual victory of men who believed in their right to decide their own rulers.

Later we see men expanding westward, pushing the new frontiers in an ever-widening horizon. Everywhere they went they carried their ideals with them.

We have been called upon, time and again, to defend our ideals. Each time they have assumed we had not the strength to sacrifice nor the will to preserve our heritage.

Our foe is not always easily recognized so that we can point him out and say, "You are the enemy of Americanism." He may disguise himself as a patriot and undermine our ideals and invade our thinking until we lose sight of the true meaning of Americanism.

Each past generation has been called upon to defend the American ideal—the right of each individual to decide his or her destiny, to worship God as his heart dictates, to speak his mind without fear of persecution, and to live his life without want.

And now and for ever each new generation must be willing to fight any foe, be it from some foreign nation or be it from within.

Editor's Note: Miss Leavitt was awarded first prize for her essay in the recent Americanism contest sponsored by the Torrance Junior Woman's Club. Her essay will now be placed in competition for the Marina District award sponsored by the California Federation of Women's Clubs.



ISRAELI VISITOR—Pictured inspecting facilities of the Torrance school system are Mrs. Trudy Aldershof, curriculum consultant, and Mrs. Zahara Schachor, Israeli principal.

Israeli Teacher Impressed by School System of Torrance

School systems in Southern California and Israel are similar in many respects, Mrs. Zahara Schachor, visiting Israeli principal, told Torrance school administrators last week.

Mrs. Schachor is one of a group of educators from 70 countries who are visiting schools all over the U. S. under auspices of the Federal Department of Education. She came to Torrance because, in common with Israel, it is an area which has had tremendous growth problems.

"Children are much the same the world over," she noted. Similarities she noted included double sessions, children of widely differing backgrounds, similar educational philosophy, individualization of instruction, encouraging children to find their own answers.

Her own school, located at Nathanya, Israel, has children from 33 different national backgrounds, she said. Although all classes are conducted in Hebrew, there sometimes is a language problem when new students enroll. However, children pick up the language quickly.

English is taught in Israeli elementary schools and children sometimes wonder why the language is written "upside down," she said. Hebrew is written from right to left, while English is written from left to right. Israeli children sometimes have trouble with English because it is not phonetic.

Mrs. Schachor was much impressed by Torrance's "supermarket of knowledge," the Educational Materials Building, and its "efficiency and economy." She said she may investigate the possibilities of setting up such a system in her country.

The Israeli government supervises the curriculum of the schools, with free education for all from 5 to 14. Local authorities provide buildings and supplies.

There are three different types of high schools in her

Since much of the country is a desert which is being converted to farmland, agriculture is an important subject.

Mrs. Schachor's own elementary school has a farm, where children raise various products. Some of them even cook and eat the products in class.

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North High Pupils Awarded Honors in UCLA Contest

Three North High School students placed in the finals of the 24th annual Invitational High School Forensic Tournament last week at the University of Southern California.

Linda Harris won second in dramatic interpretation; Sandra Wegener took fourth place in humorous interpretation and Sandra Rayes copped a sixth place in extemporaneous speaking.

There were 772 students from 71 Los Angeles area high schools taking part.

Psychology Talks Slated at School

Dr. Arthur L. Bietz, psychologist and professor at the College of Medical Evangelists, will give a series of four lectures on "Psychology for Everyday Living" in Torrance Evening High School, starting on Feb. 3.

The talks will be from 7:30 to 9:30 each Wednesday night in February, with the Torrance Council PTA and the Torrance Adult School acting as co-sponsors. Tickets may be obtained from the adult school office or at the door of the Torrance High Auditorium on the nights of the talks.

Dr. Bietz, the author of six books, is a noted lecturer and is listed in "Who's Who in American Education," the "Directory of the American Psychological Association," and "Who Knows What?"

His topics will include: Feb. 3, "How to Understand Yourself"; Feb. 10, "Are You Psychologically Healthy?"; Feb. 17, "The Art of Problem Solving"; and Feb. 24, "How to Be Your Own Psychoanalyst."

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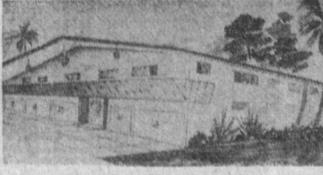
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