

Schools Celebrate Constitution Week

"What would it be like if we had no Constitution?" "What is one important thing the Constitution does for each of us?"

Sound like dinner table conversation? Not exactly! Well, that is precisely what it was at more than 30 Torrance dinner tables last week.

The occasion was Constitution Week, and the motivating force behind the table top talk were a group of 9-year olds. Fourth grade students at Fern-Grenwood School who had discussed the meaning of the Constitution in class earlier in the day served as mealtime moderators as they asked their families to think about the impact of the Constitution on their personal lives.

WHILE fourth-graders talked about why a nation has rules and laws during their classroom lesson, upper-grade students, who were electing class officers, discussed elections and the executive branch of government. They compared the factors to be considered when judging a school candidate to those weighed by adults in their selection of lawmakers. "If

he's a class officer, should he set an example?" a seventh-grade teacher asked.

In a language class, the vocabulary lesson was based on the Constitution. Youngsters were asked to rewrite the document in their own words. "Are there any words here you don't understand?" the teacher asked.

BULLETIN boards displayed the Bill of Rights, the Gettysburg Address, the Monroe Doctrine and the Constitution. Table-top displays featured historical documents, books on Paul Revere, and the history of the flag, and filmstrips and study prints pertaining to the Constitution.

Throughout the city patriotic assemblies were conducted, school constitutions were written and revised, student congresses met, and teachers and students asked one another what were the founding fathers really trying to accomplish when they drew up documents such as the Monroe Doctrine, and the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. —And hardly anybody remembered that classes hadn't even started just three days before.

New Standards

Top Students Sought in College Admission Study

California State Colleges are tightening their admissions belts next year, and right now they face the problem of where to begin.

The State Colleges hope—and are striving—to admit every high school graduate eligible under the new requirements. As a result, they are now conducting a pioneering study believed to be the first statewide admissions survey of its scope anywhere.

Every entering freshman at 15 of the State College's 18 campuses—a total of 16,779—was surveyed during 1963-64 to help the colleges formulate new admissions standards. Under the master plan for Higher Education, the State Colleges must reduce its list of eligible students from the present top of 40 per cent of the high school graduates to the top third.

AT FIRST glance, the task seems easy, simply survey a recent statewide graduating class and use that grade scale as an average yardstick for locating the one-third cut-off mark in all future classes.

The present method of se-

lecting the top 40 per cent already is more refined, and it is hoped that the new standards will be applied to an even more precise scale. The goal of the colleges is to find the best high school graduates—and it's the term "best" that is complicating the procedure.

Researchers have found that overall high school grades by themselves are not completely dependable for admissions officers. Similarly, admissions examinations alone have shown only limited value.

THE COLLEGE system presently uses both grades and test scores to select the top 40 per cent. What educators now want to know is the accuracy of the method.

Can it truly identify the top one-third of the state's high school graduates? The college program is tailored for the "best" students and failure to select the most promising of the high school graduates is failure to maximize the use of the colleges, says Dr. Glenn S. Dumke, chancellor of the system.

A significant factor in the

admissions survey is the ratio of men to women. By the time the freshmen become juniors, men outnumber women 60-40, due to the dropout rate of the women students. The result is that other students—probably men—with a greater possibility of completing college were excluded by the presence of the dropouts.

THE ADMISSIONS study is aimed at eliminating some of these, and other inconsistencies. It will work like this:

The first-year college grades of the original freshman class are to be assessed. At the same time, various phases of the students' high school academic records will be studied. By using computers, the freshman college grades and their high school academic factors will be compared to find the factors important to good college grades.

If the study is successful, it will point to a way of selecting high school students who are most likely to succeed in college. But, a level of high school achievement must be established for these

areas to divide the top third from the rest of the class.

To accomplish this, a second phase will be initiated. About 16,000 students—a cross-section of the 1961 high school graduating class—will be surveyed to determine the range of achievement in the key areas.

AGAIN, the computers go to work to arrive at a level of achievement. Once the level is found, the State Col-

Harden Elected Traid Executive

W. M. Harden has been elected executive vice president and treasurer of Traid Corp., Los Angeles manufacturer of electronic cameras and photo instrumentation equipment.

Harden resides with his wife and two children in Torrance.

The combined average daily patient load in Veterans Administration hospitals and average daily member load in domiciliaries was 137,557 at the end of fiscal year 1964. This was 310 less than the combined number for 1963.

leges hopefully will have their most promising students.

A second survey, using the 1963-64 class, will be conducted. Its purpose will be to correlate and confirm findings of the first survey.

Funds are supplied by the State Colleges, the American Colleges Testing Program, and the Educational Testing Service. Western Date Processing Center provides the computers.

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THANKS To the Businessmen Who Have So Generously Contributed to Make the ANNUAL WHITE CANE DAYS Drive a Success

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2 and 3, members of the West Torrance Lions Club and their families will be inviting local residents to share in their annual White Cane Days, says Lion Glenn Ison, Club President and Lion Jim Mechura, White Cane Chairman.

Wearing their proper identification, the local Clubmen invite others to share in the work they are doing for the sightless and sight needy, and to wear their miniature White Cane for 2 days as a symbol of recognition for the

work the club is doing all year round, they add.

More than 600 other clubs throughout the California-Nevada District are also appealing to their communities for their support. Each Club finances all expenses of the drive, and uses 100% of all donations on its Sight Conservation program of friendly help. Principal Lions Club projects made possible by local contributions to the Club's Sight fund have been fireworks, raffles, and advance contributions, according to the local Lion leaders.

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