

Assignment TV

By TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY

The current CBS preoccupation with "public knowledge" in a series of national tests on current events, taxes, health, driving and so forth, is the sort of harmless deception that is fashionable these days. It has nothing to do with knowledge and it has little to do with public opinion. It is simply another of the games that television people play.

Take the recent "National Current Events Test." It was not a test of knowledge. It was a test of guessing. With luck, even an idiot could pass it. I know because I passed it without knowing anything—for sure—about Viet Nam, Medicare, United States troop movements or Kwame Nkrumah.

The questions went like this: "Who is the leader of the Chinese Communist Party? (A) Mao Tse-tung (B) Chiang Kai-shek or (C) Ho Chi Minh? The fact that 23 per cent selected Chiang Kai-

shek is not necessarily an indication that they are stupid. They're just bad guessers. The great American mass probably never heard of any of 'em and CBS could have slipped in the name of Anna May Wong with equal success.

Any test of knowledge should have been worded: "Name the leader of the Chinese Communist Party."

THE SOCIAL studies department of the National Education Association selected a tenth grade education as the American norm for this intellectual outing and figured the average 10th grader should get 23 correct answers out of a possible 33 to pass.

Judging from the entertainment fare on CBS and elsewhere on television I would say the NEA is more optimistic than CBS about the education level. Most TV series are aimed at the sixth grade. And as it turned out CBS was absolutely right.

Seventy-three per cent of the national sample failed the entire test when graded on 10th grade standards—even in a guessing game. When you consider what might have happened to the scoring if the questions had demanded real knowledge, the mind reels.

WHEN YOU consider that we are supposed to be the best informed people on

earth, this news is discouraging.

This sort of questioning reminds me of the tests that football players were given at universities not long ago. A passing grade in chemistry required 50 per cent correct answers. The professor asked the halfback: "What is the color of blue litmus paper?" and he answered "Pink." That was wrong. The next question was "Can you give me the formula for water?" The ball player answered "No." And he was right. He couldn't.

That's how you make the team.

EVEN A QUICK look at the entertainment world today will reveal that the veil of mystery and enchantment is being hastily yanked from everything in America. The British are in even worse shape. The staid old BBC updated the Cinderella story to the point where the Playboy Prince murders the young lady in an after-midnight party. At the last moment it was withdrawn and substituted was an American version of Cinderella titled "What's A Nice Girl Like You Doing In A Place Like This?"

The BBC did allow a Christmas presentation of a psychiatric "Alice in Wonderland" wherein the heroine was less young than Jung. The adults screamed in indignation, "Protect the Children!" What happened was completely predictable: the kids were bored to death.

Marijuana At High School

Two cigarettes believed to contain marijuana were found on the South High School campus Monday, Torrance police said.



ON COMMISSION . . . Brian J. K. Bell, manager—contracts and programs administration of the Hi-Shear Corp. of Torrance, has been appointed to the city's Airport Commission. Bell, 34, lives at 4614 Cathann St. He has served on a number of Chamber of Commerce committees and has lived in this area for the past 10 years. The Airport Commission is an advisory group to the City Council.

Teacher Honored

A South High speech teacher, Bruno E. Jacob, executive director of the National Forensic League, has received the diamond award of the National Forensic League. Speech students at South High School, under Mrs. Bradley's direction, have scored more than 15,000 points in national competition.

WARRIOR TRAILS

By Robin Newcomer

Friday the 13th an unlucky number? Not so for the West High Warriors, for by multiplying 5 7/13 by 13 they came up with the lucky score of 72 and beat the Lennox Lancers by 21 points.

This, the week of elections, will end on Friday night with an election dance. The candidates' qualifications and campaign promises will be heard tomorrow at an assembly so be sure to listen and don't forget to vote!

Another foreign exchange student has joined our tribe, this vibrant personality representing Chile. Gloria Munoz arrived in Torrance Jan. 1 and will be staying at the Conrad Berwanger residence until July.

Chilean student must take, they are. . . IN CHILE the students take 13 subjects a week and nine a day. These classes are: physics, mathematics (geometry and algebra), chemistry, biology, French, English, Spanish, history, geography, art, music, homemaking, religion and physical education. (And you think you have it hard!) The school day begins at 8 and ends at 5:30 with an hour for lunch.

Gloria, who wants to be an interior decorator, finds the people in the United States, "kind and always willing to help."

If you haven't met Gloria

come to the Exchange Club meeting after school tomorrow in room 4140. And be sure to reserve Feb. 26 on your calendar for the International Buffet where you can get acquainted with exchange students from over the world who are living in the South Bay Area this year. The buffet will be held at the Torrance Elks Club from 4 until 7 p.m. Adult tickets are \$1.85, students \$1.50, and children under 12, \$1.10.



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Samples Taken From Vehicle

Theft of his sales samples was reported to police Monday by a Torrance salesman. Jack L. Evans, 2420 Andros St., told police he left several business office supply samples on the seat of his unlocked automobile.

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