

EDITORIALS

Election in Retrospect

Neither party can claim any decisive trend as the result of Tuesday's election. On the basis of still incomplete returns, the Democrats can claim victory over the nation. Yet, history shows, it simply is a repetition of the past when it has been custom for the American people in an "off" year to pick candidates opposing the administration in power.

Torrance voted much like the rest of the nation. However, a trend away from its historic pattern of voting almost en bloc Democratic was noted. Governor Goodwin Knight scored a victory here and the more popular Republican candidates were anything but snowed under. There was independence shown in many of the other races, a factor that indicates our local citizens are not voting blindly.

Most encouraging aspect of this year's election was the comparatively high percentage of the people who got out and voted. Surely, the American people are becoming more conscious of the value of the franchise and are less apathetic about government.

The Hospital Campaign

With the election away, Torrance can settle down to a very important project—that of raising needed funds to assure the growth and expansion of the Torrance Memorial hospital.

The hospital, a private institution that has served nobly and well for many years, is inadequate for the growing needs of the city. It is beset with many problems imposed by the fantastic growth of the community. Fortunately, it has qualified for a federal grant that will be at least a temporary solution to the problems.

The medical staff of the hospital already has met its obligation by agreeing to raise one-third of the \$300,000 necessary to match the sum set aside by the government. It would seem that the other interests of the community should find it comparatively easy to supply the additional \$200,000.

The drive for funds is well organized under the capable direction of the hospital board. A well qualified organization of professional assistants has been secured and, with the help of able volunteers, there is every reason to believe Torrance again will meet this important emergency.

To Miss Fraser

Although properly fearful of writing anything that might be construed as an epitaph, we cannot help but take note of an individual who has been closely allied with THE HERALD for the past 30 years. That individual is Miss L. W. Fraser, familiarly known as "Lute" who retired last Saturday as general bookkeeper.

We have known Lute just five months, but, in that time we have come to respect the remarkable qualities that have made her one of the most interesting and amazing personalities we have ever known. Despite her 76 years she had a knowledge of the mechanical processes that went into the making of a newspaper and she knew all about human beings. She was from the old school of thinking; yet, she kept her mind flexible enough to enable her to keep up with the present while hopefully eyeing the future.

But, here we are dealing in the past tense and we know she has found a comma or a semi-colon that is out of place. Lute is very much alive today and, as ever, looking to the future. It has been a privilege to have had the benefit of her services and advice these five months and THE HERALD owes much to her for the valuable services she has given over the past three decades.

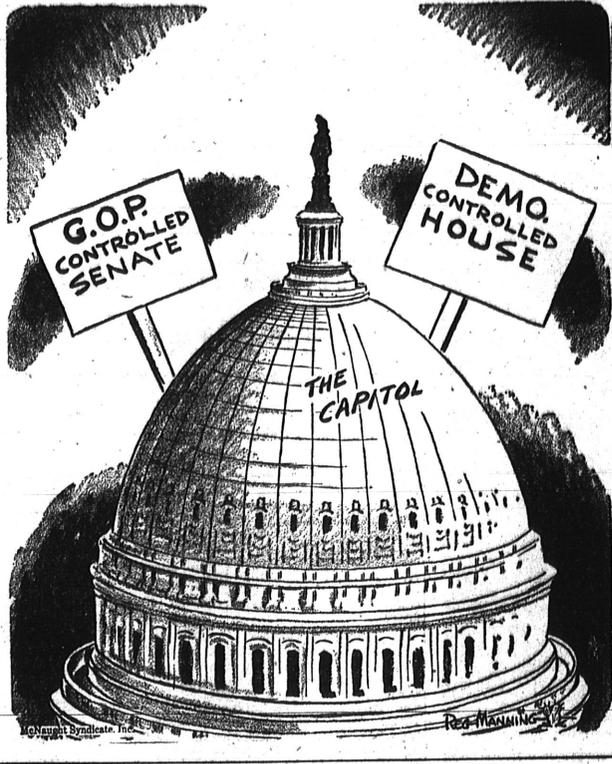
THE HERALD staff wishes her health and happiness in the many fruitful years to come. There is not one among us who doesn't respect, even envy her.

LAW IN ACTION

YOUNG LAWYERS
About this time of the year in California hundreds of young men and women get the word that they have passed their bar examination. Their first client—and he is always precious in their eyes—usually knows only that he gets and pays for "advice." But, as a rule, what study work, and time the young lawyer puts into becoming a member of the bar is not known. First, most lawyers must spend six or seven years in college. As a rule, in California this means three or four years of college and three years in a law school. During the three years of law school, the student studies literally thousands of separate cases, statutes, and monographs to get legal principles, reasoning, and court procedures to serve you. You have a right to expect your lawyer to serve you promptly and well at fair cost. You expect efficiency and sound judgment. When you present him with a

problem, he must first find out the relevant facts and how they can be proved. He must then draw upon his memory and experience to determine which principles of law govern. For no two of the problems which his clients raise are quite the same. After researching his memory, your lawyer checks his books. He finds the rules in an increasing number of statutes in the courts' decisions and in the actions of boards and bureaus. So you may not get an answer to your problem from your lawyer at once. You should give him time to look up the law in his library. But he has been doing this for many years—even though he has just hung out his shingle after passing a thorough examination lasting three full days. NOTE: The State Bar of California offers this column for your information so that you may know more about how to act under our laws.

What Iike Saw Yesterday



AFTER HOURS

By JOHN MORLEY

The United Nations is beginning its tenth year this week. In a world engulfed by one crisis after another it is important to take stock of our United Nations and find ways to make it a more effective instrument for settling controversies, for pooling technical know-how to help backward peoples, for improving the health of disease-ridden millions, and to perform other functions that make for a better life under democracy and human dignity.

Those of us who observe UN functions around the world know that it has accomplished much during these nine years. We also know that in crucial moments, like Korea, it did not live up to its full potentialities. That it did not fulfill all our expectations is the fault of godless men and selfish nations... not the fault of the UN, or the high principles on which it has dug its roots. That the positive outweighs the negative at the very brink of atomic disaster is one of the encouraging and heartening records of the United Nations, as it enters its tenth year of opportunity.

The Positive Side of the UN
The UN in nine years accomplished much. It certainly decreased the danger of spreading the crises in Trieste, Kashmir, Palestine, Indonesia, Iran, Burma. These were not clear-cut UN victories—but the UN played an important role in each case. Trieste has been settled. When I was in Kashmir in 1950, 1951, 1953, it was the UN that kept India and Pakistan in constant negotiation while their armies stood ominously at the frontiers. War between India and Pakistan is remote today. The UN has stood guard at the Arab-Israeli frontiers. It has admonished both sides for warlike attacks. It's like a magnet holding both sides responsible for the peace of the Near East. The Israel-Arab bitterness is still there and it will continue to be until the Arab refugee problem is settled. The UN recognizes that Israel has earned its right in the family of nations and insists on a settlement from both sides. In the meantime the UN is preventing an explosion in the Near East that could well engulf the whole civilized world.

The UN has been the instrument of transition of colonial peoples. It provides neutral observers in international disputes. It has contributed much to better health, more agricultural productivity, higher standards among millions of unfortunate peoples of the world. This help prevented millions from turning to Communism. The UN has maintained an open door for diplomatic negotiations between enemy countries. It could be given credit for avoiding another Manchuria, Ethiopia and Austria. It prevented a recurrence of Munich—another sell-out like Czechoslovakia. These are just a few of the positive accomplishments of the UN and they are formidable indeed in a world so

close to the brink of atomic disaster. **The Negative Side of the UN**
On this ninth anniversary it is also well to look hard at the failures, while rejoicing in the successes. Korea was the high point of UN collective security—and there it fell on its face. For the first time in history some 44 nations voted against an act of aggression. Then Russia violated the UN charter by helping the aggressor. Out of 44 only 14 nations sent to a UN military help. Some 40 of these nations continued to sell and ship to Red China, even while some of their troops were dying in Korea. In the Berlin and Geneva conferences the UN took a back seat. This was an error of the first magnitude. The UN gave return to direct negotiations—a return to power politics. The UN was made ineffective by the very nations that shouted its praises. Why was not the UN called upon to negotiate, since it was organized to keep the peace?

Indo-China was called a "local" matter by France, who refused UN aid. But India and China threatened the peace of the world. Certainly Indo-China was exactly what the UN had in mind when it organized the permanent Peace Observation Commission, ready to act in any hot spot of the world in behalf of peace. The UN suffers from lack of use like a bone in a cast. It is often only called upon when it can better serve one side or another, not the interests of peace. The UN suffers from inability to enforce the charter. What happened to the permanent "Police Force" to keep the peace? What happened to the UN permanent army to stop the atheist and the barbarian? Why should the U.S. pay so much in blood and billions to while many UN members sit on their hands and pay lip service to its ideals?

The UN Must Be Saved
Most of our world is plagued with appalling hunger and misery. We have seen little of peace in our time. In these two directions alone the UN can play a decisive role. Much has been done—much needs to be done. The UN often acts like an aspirin—where major surgery is needed. The charter needs important revision, like the elimination of the veto in voting new members. The U.S., which has the most to lose, is very vulnerable under present UN treaty arrangements. More safeguards are needed for America. The barriers of languages, cultures, ethnologies, traditional hatreds, suspicions, frontier readjustments cannot be overcome in nine short years by a United Nations. The deceit, conspiracies and obstructions of Communism were not anticipated in the organizing ceremonies in San Francisco in 1945. But through it all the UN has served a good purpose, by airing out the complexities of a civilization attempting for

the second time in history to solve its problems by negotiation, instead of by war. Toward this end the United Nations has accomplished more than any other man-made institution in history. If we could only put as much money and effort in avoiding war as we do in fighting a war, much more could be accomplished for the unfortunate people of the world and for the achievement of peace. The UN at times has been a bitter disappointment to millions of its supporters. It has set anything but united at crucial times. Russia made a mockery of its principles when it violated the charter by helping the North Korea and Chinese Reds against the UN armies. The UN presented no united voice, or voted no united action against Russia. Russia should have been expelled, fined, censured or cautioned before the world. There were crucial historic moments in the past nine years of the UN, when only the military power of the U.S. stood between the Red scourge and freedom. The UN needs more teeth... it needs a united front against Red conspiracies as well as a reaffirmation of its spiritual covenant against atheism... it needs a UN permanent army to back up its charter, resolutions and decisions... it needs to recognize the generosity and sacrifices of the American people who contributed so much in blood and billions in its behalf.

IT'S A FACT
By JERRY CAHILL
The students also went about the proposed ban in an at-home censorship plan, asking that parents see that juvenile books like "Robin Hood," "Gulliver's Travels," and other adventure and travel books are made available. They put down their findings in report form, talked with Principal Robert Dexter, and composed an open-letter to parents pointing out their findings.

In an interview with a HERALD reporter, Robert, Skippy, Sandy and Sandra, said that they actually did not enjoy reading horror comic books, but often did so if they were with other kids, or had nothing else to do. "I've never bought a horror book, but it's easy to get one if you want to read them," Robert said, "I know a boy in the next classroom who has a couple of hundred horror books."

Target of the much publicized anti-horror campaign now going on throughout the United States are books which tend to emphasize the sadistic, the sexy, the brutal side of life. Some experts feel that over-emphasis on this scary-side of life is mentally unhealthy for young people. Pictures in blazing color of a vampire sucking the life blood out of a semi-clad female, or a corpse ripping the flesh off a small boy aren't the best examples of life, they contend.

Biggest problem is to get the publishers themselves to clean up their literature, and to keep news-dealers from peddling them to young people. Neighboring cities, Redondo, Hermosa and Manhattan, all have enacted legislation making it illegal for anyone to sell any crime and horror comic book to anyone under 18 years of age. This legal action might have some effect, if police departments can spare the manpower to go door to door and enforce the law. A possible solution might be to rely on the dealers themselves, who usually are trusted members of the community. If they would refuse to display these books, it might prove too costly for publishers to have them printed. No sales—no books. That the books are full of linguistic tales of horror is not the debatable question. It's whether or not they can and do create a problem to the younger set. One comic book publisher printed a full-page editorial in his book appealing to his readers to write to a Senate Investigating Committee on Comic Books at once in order to prevent "do-gooders" from having horror books banned. Their testimonials, also from experts, said that the ghastly portrayals in their pages were a good emotional outlet for the young readers. The Riviera School committee told the HERALD that they actually were frightened occasionally by the stories in the books they had seen. "I never read one at night; they scare me too much," Skippy related. That boys and girls often get together just to read horror books was brought up by the committee. "When kids don't have anything else to do, they sometimes just get together and read these things," they said. "Lots of times we stack them away in a neighborhood hide-out and go there and read the books," they related. Odd part about the horror



STUDY COMIC BOOKS... Members of a sixth grade class at the Riviera School have conducted a survey on Horror and Crime Comic books, and came up with some startling facts. They are hoping to have objectionable books removed from the public eye. Confering with Principal Robert Dexter are, from left, Robert Hole, Sandy French, Sandra Salsbury, and Skippy Paul. Others who helped the committee were Heather Cortick, Ronda Clark, Jackie Farver, Billy McKnight, Mike Moberly, and Frank Reynolds.

Sixth Graders Ask for Removal Of Crime-Horror 'Funny' Books

By DICK FRIEND
The fight against Crime, Sex and Horror-Comic books has been brought right down to the reader level as members of a sixth grade class at the Riviera School this week asked the newspapers to help urge parents to "censor" the reading material of their children. And results of a poll which they held among classmates turned up some interesting, if not startling, facts.

Following a comprehensive study conducted by a self-appointed committee in Miss Geraldine Wood's class, pupils voted to make up a petition asking the removal of "Crime and Horror Comics from public hands." Spark-plugging the effort is eleven-year old Robert Hole, of 816 Calle de Arboles, who brought a magazine article to school describing some of the recent controversy over the so-called unfunny comics. Robert, aided by Jackie Farver, Sandra Salsbury, Skippy Paul, Sandy French, and several others, then surveyed the class to see how many actually read comic books, as opposed to "good books with over 100 pages."

This is what they learned: That in a one-week period, an average of 8 comic books per boy and girl were being read and less than one "big or good" book per child. This, of course, included the old standby funny books, like Donald Duck, Superman, Tom and Jerry, and the other magazines usually considered "not objectionable" by parent and educational groups. A petition is to be drawn up by the students, signed by them, and forwarded to civic leaders asking the removal of objectionable books from the public eye. The students also went about the proposed ban in an at-home censorship plan, asking that parents see that juvenile books like "Robin Hood," "Gulliver's Travels," and other adventure and travel books are made available. They put down their findings in report form, talked with

Principal Robert Dexter, and composed an open-letter to parents pointing out their findings.

In an interview with a HERALD reporter, Robert, Skippy, Sandy and Sandra, said that they actually did not enjoy reading horror comic books, but often did so if they were with other kids, or had nothing else to do. "I've never bought a horror book, but it's easy to get one if you want to read them," Robert said, "I know a boy in the next classroom who has a couple of hundred horror books."

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Biggest problem is to get the publishers themselves to clean up their literature, and to keep news-dealers from peddling them to young people. Neighboring cities, Redondo, Hermosa and Manhattan, all have enacted legislation making it illegal for anyone to sell any crime and horror comic book to anyone under 18 years of age. This legal action might have some effect, if police departments can spare the manpower to go door to door and enforce the law. A possible solution might be to rely on the dealers themselves, who usually are trusted members of the community. If they would refuse to display these books, it might prove too costly for publishers to have them printed. No sales—no books. That the books are full of linguistic tales of horror is not the debatable question. It's whether or not they can and do create a problem to the younger set. One comic book publisher printed a full-page editorial in his book appealing to his readers to write to a Senate Investigating Committee on Comic Books at once in order to prevent "do-gooders" from having horror books banned. Their testimonials, also from experts, said that the ghastly portrayals in their pages were a good emotional outlet for the young readers. The Riviera School committee told the HERALD that they actually were frightened occasionally by the stories in the books they had seen. "I never read one at night; they scare me too much," Skippy related. That boys and girls often get together just to read horror books was brought up by the committee. "When kids don't have anything else to do, they sometimes just get together and read these things," they said. "Lots of times we stack them away in a neighborhood hide-out and go there and read the books," they related. Odd part about the horror

circle is that very few of the children under 12 or 13 years of age ever have actually purchased one. They just seem to spring up. "Usually it's the older kids who buy them, and hand them on to us," Robert said. "I don't think any member of our committee ever has bought a horror book, or neither have our parents. But we can get them if we want to read them." Typical of the books listed as horror comics is "The Vault of Horror." Included in a recent issue were stories like "The Crypt of Terror," "The Pit," "The Witch's Cauldron," and "Bloodsuckers."

Here's part of the dialogue, which, without the illustrations, loses much of its impact. The hero speaks: "Once in my room I fell asleep quickly. I don't know how long I slept but I suddenly woke hearing terrifying cries! Two voices... the hoarse yell of a man, the shrill scream of a woman..." "Hurriedly I dressed, lighted the lantern on my bureau and followed the screams downstairs. They led me to a rusted steel door just off the entrance hall. Its ancient hinges rasped defiantly as I pulled it open and stared into the dimly-lit cellar below. My entire being went numb with horror..." "I could see several open earth-filled coffins! Bill and Lillian, now silent, lay still and white on the stone floor, while a sinister group clustered about them, draining their life blood! Vampires!" "I thought only of Marsha's safety and my own! I raced up to her room, burst through the door! Harrow was there bending over Marsha (ed, note: clad in shorts and bra), his long vampire fangs near her pulsing throat! She shrank back, livid with fright! I snatched up a chair..." "... I picked up a length of the splintered chair leg... a stake! As the entire vampire canteen lunging toward me, I drove the wooden stake deep into his heart..." "I turned instinctively, then recoiled as Marsha came toward me with long drooling fangs bared... her flesh ashen, bloodless..." "Marsha, you, a vampire. He got to you before I killed him." And on it went. These are the stories of the horror comic books—the books which at least one class of sixth graders hopes to keep off the book shelves. These are the books, and there are 60,000,000 printed every month, which the youngsters themselves don't think merit a place on our newstands today.

