

# EDITORIALS

## The People Who Count

"Everybody on both sides of the television set has now had the chance to brand the political conventions as 'TV's dullest show.'" So Terrence O'Flaherty, San Francisco Chronicle TV columnist, began his stint one day last week. "Variety" called the eight-day telecasts "TV's \$17,000,000 Goo!" O'Flaherty wrote, "and came out with an editorial blast: 'To the TV viewer it's been a poor substitute for excitement and entertainment.' Some figures seemed to back up the complaints. In areas where there were more than three stations, the independents occasionally outdrew the oratory with old films or baseball. . . . Some viewers wrote complaining 'Why do all the networks have to carry it?' and 'Why must we be deprived of our favorite programs?'"

At this point Mr. O'Flaherty's collar seemed to grow hot.

"It seems to me that all these people have missed the point entirely. We were all mighty fortunate to be able to get a look at the men who run our nation. And who the heck ever expected that it would be as 'exciting' or 'entertaining' as 'I Love Lucy' or 'The \$64,000 Question?' If the American public can't give up the sugar-coated pills of their favorite comedies and giveaways for eight days every four years, then we'd all better give up and put Elvis Presley in the White House."

Mr. O'Flaherty's point of indignation is well taken. It is comforting, however, to reflect that those people who rile him aren't worth a moment's thought. They don't vote. They don't care who may be President, or Senator, or Congressman—or Mayor. And there are millions of them.

But there are other millions! They are the millions who take their citizenship seriously, who study issues and candidates objectively and soberly, and march to the polls in a mighty army—as more than 61,000,000 of them marched in 1952.

Those are the citizens who count in our self-governing democracy. Those are the people who name our Presidents.

The others? They serve to determine the popularity ratings of the Elvis Presleys!

## The Freelancer

By TOM RISCHÉ

Noting that all the magazines these days are full of magazine articles about the late James Dean, who was killed in an auto accident a year ago, I was curious to find out the truth.

The articles bore such enticing titles as "Is James Dean Really Dead?", "What James Dean Really Was," and "What James Dean Has to Say to Us."

There hasn't been such a furor since President Roosevelt died. Dean still gets 5000 fan letters a day. What, I wondered, has this man got even though he's dead.

I decided to find out, so I looked up my friendly neighborhood spiritualist.

"James Dean?" she murmured in answer to my question. "Oh yes, we have many inquiries for him. If you'll come into my seance room, perhaps we can get the answer from his very lips."

This seemed like a good idea, so I forked over \$5 and we went in and seanced. Being a popular movie star, Dean's ghost took considerable time to call from the other world, so it cost me an extra two bucks.

Finally, a ghostly appearance floated in the air above us.

"Are you James Dean-n-n-n-n?" the spiritualist piped.

"Yes, I am-m-m-m-m," the apparition echoed.

"You may question him now," the spiritualist told me.

"Are you really James Dean, the movie star?" I inquired, somewhat taken aback.

"Yes, I am-m-m-m-m," the apparition said again.

"Where are you?"

"I am in the other world-d-d-d."

"What are you doing there?"

"I am finding peace-ce-ce-ce-ce."

"Tell me, Dean, what is it about you that everyone is getting so excited about, even though you are dead?"

"I don't know-w-w-w-w. These people always ask me that and I don't know-w-w-w-w. I was just James Dean-n-n-n-n and I appeared in several movies-s-s-s-s."

"But there must have been something special about you. You are really dead aren't you?"

"Yes-s-s-s-s. The voice grew weaker."

"My publicity agent must have worked overtime-e-e-e."

"But isn't there something you have to say? Something that you'd like to tell your loyal fans?"

"No-o-o-o-o. I wish they'd leave me in peace-ce-ce-ce-ce. I am dead-d-d-d-d. If they like my movies, let them go-o-o-o-o. I was a human-n-n-n-n. I am no more-e-e-e-e. The voice almost faded out."

"Don't go yet. What do you think of all the publicity you're getting?"

"I don't like it-t-t-t-t. Besides-s-s-s-s most of it isn't true-e-e-e-e. It was just made up-p-p-p-p. I'm dead. Let me be in peace-ce-ce-ce-ce."

At this juncture, the vision faded away entirely. Then it came back weakly.

"Oh-h-h-h-h yes. I do have one message-ge-ge-ge-ge. Drive carefully-y-y-y-y."

Then the apparition disappeared. I went home to ponder the visit.

That's the James Dean story.

## Three's A Crowd



## YOUR PROBLEMS

By ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann Landers: I'm in serious trouble and need some advice urgently. I was stationed in a remote corner of Alaska (USAF) and hadn't seen a girl in 15 months when I was shipped back to the States.

I got involved with a young lady the first week I hit the States and you can guess the rest. I said and did things I didn't mean and now the girl is five months pregnant.

I support my father and am in no position to take on added financial responsibility. I'm not in love with the girl but would like to do what I can to protect her name. Please give me some advice. —L. C. W.

If you are really interested in HER name, there's nothing you can do short of giving her YOURS. But since I don't recommend love letters to married couples, I'll suggest you write your commanding officer and tell him the whole story.

You will find the "added financial responsibility" is yours whether you're in a position to accept it or not. This is a pretty stiff price to pay for something you didn't mean—but there must be legal protection against fellows whose judgment goes AWOL.



## LAW IN ACTION

### TECHNICS AND LAW

A good legal system needs to do its everyday job well of course. But its real test comes with the new techniques of our changing world like today's "rainmakers." (In the profession "weather modifiers," please).

Twenty years ago people would think a lawyer a bit off who would go to court to sue somebody for dumping a cloud full of rain on the wrong valley or failing to put snow on the right mountain range.

For then, as Mark Twain said, everybody talked about the weather, but nobody (save the southwest Indians) did much about it—or could. But it may be different tomorrow, as if we didn't have enough problems already.

Even earlier, nobody knew what law to apply to the airplane which "trespassed" a mile high over your farm scaring your hens out of a year's eggs, or mechanical eavesdroppers offered in testimony in court, or the bus wagon that scared Old Dobbin off the road.

Today each new advance, from the insecticides sprayed from airplanes to atom power houses, must work out through courts or legislatures how it fits into our system of law.

Most likely you can use

Dear Ann Landers: My problem may sound nutty but every word is true. I'm 26 and my husband is 27. We've been married seven years and we have two wonderful children, who worship their daddy.

Last Fall he started to accuse me of poisoning his food. He said after his meals at home he suffered from indigestion and was sure I was trying to do away with him. When I asked where he got these ideas he explained he knew it through the "voodoo drums."

Please, Mrs. Landers, what does this mean? I'm desperate now because I have very little money left and the kids aren't getting enough good food. My husband has gone to live with his folks and I'm alone with the children and very worried. I need help bad. —DESERTED WIFE

Your husband is ill and needs professional guidance. He is obligated by law to support you and the children. Call Legal Aid and learn what your rights are—and what to do about them.

Ask your husband what he hears from the "voodoo drums" in regard to support checks. Tell him if he isn't getting any messages—he should start to listen for the sheriff.

—JUST A MOTHER

You may sign yourself "Just A Mother" but I have news for you—you're also chief cook and bottle-washer, maid, laundress and inn-keeper at a free hotel. These two lummoxes should be paying you at least \$100 a month each. They are getting board, room, telephone, light, heat, maid service and laundry. If they think they can do it cheaper elsewhere for less—invite them to try it.

CONFIDENTIALLY—TWEINA: You need Legal Aid. This is no marriage. Get wise.

DEEPLY HURT: Hang on and hope he gets his head on straight before too long. It's worth the gamble.

(Ann Landers will be glad to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of this newspaper. Copyright, 1956, Field Enterprises, Inc.)

My Neighbors

"When you can figure some way to give me \$5 without raising my taxes \$10—let me know!"

## The SQUIRREL CAGE

By REID BUNDY

With all the talk about Guaranteed Annual Wages (GAW) and such, a student at an Arkansas college has come up with a proposal for a rigid grade support program which, he explains, is "very similar to the Guaranteed Annual Grade—in other words, GAG."

He is advocating the plan on the theory that it will "just about take the uncertainty out of going to college."

Which reminds us of the social note for hostesses which says no formal dinner is complete without nuts. You should always invite a few.

Didn't we tell you to sit tight that the campaign oratory would warm up? Well you're beginning to get some kind of an idea of what's in store between now and Nov. 6.

Gus King, a Torrance old-timer who lives on Plaza Del Amo, likes the downtown area, but he thinks there's something missing. He wants us to help him in his campaign for public restroom facilities somewhere downtown—and he suggests the triangle park near Sartori and Cabrillo.

Gus' idea is to construct an underground facility at the park like the Pershing Square garage in downtown L.A. He thinks the facilities could be constructed, then maintaining the park-like atmosphere of the area.

It sounds like a good idea to us—if someone can dig up the money for it.

One of the city's regular guests doesn't like the new jail. He is telling Officer Archie Jackson the other day that he was so far back in the jail away from the front counter that he could yell himself into a stupor without disturbing the sergeant. It apparently frustrates him, for he delighted in rattling the bars and raising Cain in the old station where the sergeant was just outside the door.

Couple of gals returning home from the swing shift at Douglas the other evening were frightened when a light colored station wagon with a couple of guys in it started chasing them down the street. After trying to get their old clunker to get out of the way, they gave up and were forced over to the curb. "This is it," they thought, both of them too frightened to speak. It was alright however. It was only a couple of Torrance's finest with a ticket for the gals for going through a stop sign.

"I don't mind getting a ticket for traffic violations, but I don't like to be run off by the unmarked police cars in the middle of the night," the driver told us the next morning.

Off to the office for a few minutes where the second most important female in my life, greeted me with a smile. Most men need two women in their lives, you see, a secretary to take things down and a wife to pick things up. . . . Opened my mail and frowned to observe a dreaded letter from a government official. In case you don't know what a government official is, that's someone who has risen from obscurity to something worse.

And just to prove that I'm not mad at my income Tax Collector, I learned it's his birthday today, so let me be the first to wish him many happy returns.

Off to a coffee break and purposely ran the other way when I saw M.D. approaching. He's a pain in the neck and anyway I don't want to be seen in his company because men are known by the company they keep. Women are the same way. They realize they are judged by their surroundings, which is why they wear girdles.

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"Every man has an equal chance to become greater than he is!"

STRENGTH FOR THESE DAYS

Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with His hand. —(Psalm 37, 24.)

Be a man's thoughts and acts ever so evil, he is not beyond redemption as long as he earnestly reaches out for the hand of God. It will never be withdrawn from him as long as he contritely seeks forgiveness.

## Out of the Past

From the Files of The Torrance HERALD

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