

EDITORIALS

Sundials and Science

Revelation last week that the school board had received and was considering a proposal to erect a fancy sundial on the new South High campus was received with surprise by many readers of THE HERALD.

Phone calls and letters to this newspaper on the subject indicate that the school board might have chosen a more practical approach to the matter by telling the designer to come back with his plans when the district was solvent and had accrued a surplus of money.

Elaborately conceived sundials, although things of beauty as the designs submitted here indicated, do not appeal to most Torrance taxpayers as an essential item to the education of its youth.

It is hardly conceivable that the designers and builders of Sputnik I and II were educated in the finer arts of sundial watching. It is less conceivable that potential young scientists of Torrance will be spurred to great heights by having a sundial on campus.

It would seem to us that more could be accomplished by putting the \$5000 into classrooms and laboratories. We're just old fashioned enough to think study and books are still important.

Opinions of Others

The future looms as a somber time, no fun, no frills, and one is without regret that he will not long be part of it. Russia's scientists are first to launch a new moon and the inference is that the austere life is the best.

"We would not permit our high school daughter to entertain the community in a night club or a burlesque show; there is no reason why we should permit our high school sons to entertain the community by what are in effect burlesque performances on the playing field."

So said Henry Steele Commager, author and history professor at Columbia University, at a conference on secondary education at the University of Chicago.

Shades of George Orwell! In our haste to offset Sputnik are we about to create a social order no better than that of the Soviets?

Professor Commager, urging high schools to bone up on their academic responsibilities, sees abolition of the athletic program, not only as desirable, but as necessary.

"More and more," he asserted, "the athletic tail is wagging the academic dog. More and more young men are exploited for the convenience, the entertainment or the profit of adults."

Commager would hustle the young through their youth, settling them behind a row of test tubes or establishing them at rocket-launching stations at an age where they now run for touchdowns. Abandon extracurricular activities and the high school course could be reduced by one or two years, he predicted.

We are told to be alarmed and alarmed we must be, for how many can grasp the significance of a Russian moon? No sacrifice is too great, we are told, so we are prepared to sacrifice.

None will deny that this is the time for a re-examination of our values, although there has been no word here that Congress has legislated against common sense. The need is for scientists, for engineers, but is our educational system to be the whipping boy for a shortage in these skills?

Does the situation call for solution through regimentation? Are the very young to be screened, their ability to absorb further education tested before they are granted the right to enter high school? And what of those rejected, allowed no further schooling at age 14?

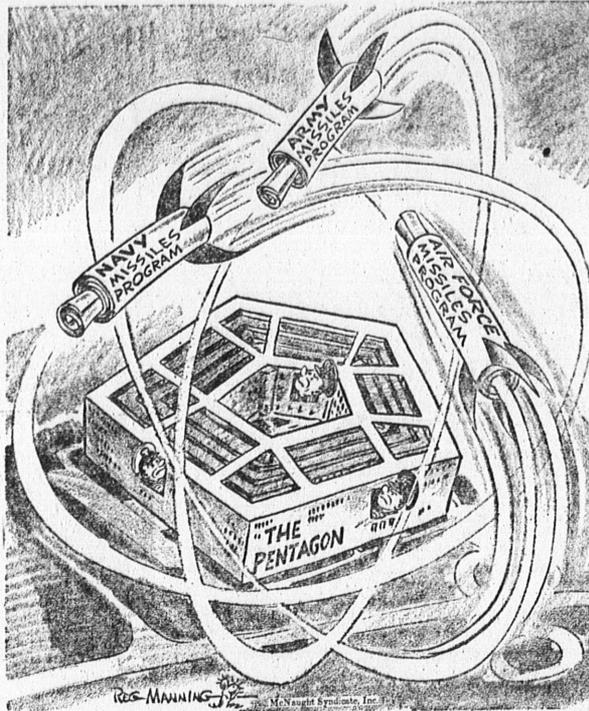
A quarter of the population indexed for common labor by a 20th Century caste system? What are these tests which can determine the future of the man who is still a boy? How infallible are those who propose such tests, or those who would devise them?

Would Henry Steele Commager be our minister of education? Commager who compares an athletic event to a burlesque show and claims high school athletics exploit the players, Commager who blandly assumes that the game is a means within itself and has no value, on or off the playing field.

Is loyalty passe? And if not, are future generations to learn loyalty in the laboratories? What of physical fitness? Is the future to be so streamlined that man will need only the strength to push a button?

Perhaps through grinding calisthenics, man will remain fit, but forgotten will be a competitive skill in which mind and body combine, replaced by competition only between minds, with the failures whisked off to Alaska, or demoted to the common labor caste.—John E. Meyers, Sports Editor, Chicago Heights (Ill.) Star.

U. S. Satellite Orbits



YOUR PROBLEMS by Ann Landers

Be Sure the Red Rug is Out

Dear Ann: Yesterday I was rushing to make a 12:30 luncheon meeting. Just as I reached for the door-knob I saw a taxi pull up. My husband's aunt stepped out.

I had no word she was coming. She explained it was a "surprise" and that she'd scheduled her trip this way in order to spend a few hours with me between trains. I didn't know what to do but felt that I should go to the luncheon since I was chairman of the meeting and had prepared a long report.

When I returned, she was gone, but had phoned in all the details to my husband describing my rudeness. She even mentioned the cab fare was \$4.80. He was furious with me and said my behavior was unforgivable. Was it?—Absent Hostess.

Your behavior was perfectly all right. Before auntie invested \$4.80 in taxi fare she should have spent a dime with the telephone company and made certain you were going to be at home.

Or, better still, a 3-cent stamp and a few days' notice would have saved some ruffled feathers and hurt feelings. People who want to blow in and holler "surprise" shouldn't be disappointed if the red rug is nowhere in sight. If they like to play

games, they must be prepared to take chances.

Dear Ann: I am a girl 20 years old who is going to pieces mentally on account of my parents. I work at a hospital and my hours are long and sometimes unpredictable. No matter what time I get home my mother and dad are up and fighting.

I'm afraid to have a fellow call for me at the house because of the screaming and name-calling. At night when I should be sleeping I'm tossing and turning. It's impossible to get any rest with all the shrieking and incessant slamming of doors.

My parents have been married 28 years and have been separated five times. They get on each other's nerves and nothing is ever settled. The battles are endless. What can I do? I'm a wreck.—H.E.

Tell your parents that unless they sign a peaceful co-existence pact you are moving out of the house. Living in the direct line of fire and trying to sleep, in a battle zone would make anyone nervous. If they don't agree to call off the fights, by all means find yourself a room or move into the YWCA.

Dear Ann: My husband got into a little trouble and is now paying his debt to society. He asked that I take our small child and go live on

the farm with my folks, I agreed.

Now the problem is this: I haven't had any income for over a year and my folks can't afford this extra expense. Both Mom and Dad are in their 60's and it just isn't fair to them.

My mother is talking about going out and getting a job. At present I do the housework, washing and ironing so Mother is able to take it a bit easier. But what we need is income. I think I should be the one to go to work—not my mother. Dad is on my side, but my husband is dead set against it. He says my place is at home with our child. Please advise me.—Mixed-Up Wife.

Your husband has no right to insist that you stay at home and live off your folks while he "pays his debt to society." Since money is the problem, YOU should go to work—not your mother. It's enough that she takes care of the child and has opened her heart and her home to you. Under ordinary circumstances a husband has the privilege of telling his wife where "her place is"—but these circumstances are not ordinary. Apparently he didn't know where HIS place was, so go ahead and do what YOU feel is right.

(Ann Landers will be happy to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of THE HERALD and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. © 1957, Field Enterprises, Inc.)

THE FREELANCER by Tom Rische

Sputniks—Best or Worst?

Sputnik could turn out to be the best thing that ever happened to America—or the worst.

In the pre-Sputnik era, America was a country which had the reputation of being the world's greatest scientific power. It was also the nation with the most cars, automatic washers, television sets, and barbecue pits. It boasted the longest tail fins on its autos and the gaudiest and sexiest stars on its movie screens.

There was nothing that America could not do better than anyone else, thought we, whether it was building better bombs or bigger ball parks.

When Sputnik I and II went into the air, we found out that the Russians weren't half as dumb as we thought they were. Although no Russian has an air-conditioner in his home, the dog in Sputnik II had one to sustain it some 1000 miles above the earth.

A slave economy, we learned, is no bar to outstanding scientific development. In fact, it may be that in Russia, where the best minds didn't have to worry about new cars, dishwashers or TV sets, the dream of the crop was free to develop better missiles and

satellites. Potentially, these are the better to destroy the U. S. with.

Those who are confident that a barbaric power (by our standards) could never destroy the United States would find themselves with good historical precedent for the other side.

Rome, which built the greatest civilization of its day, found itself by barbarian hordes which had neither the culture nor the high standard of living. Its destruction led to the virtual extinction of knowledge and enlightenment through the long and dark Middle Ages.

The barbarians had better spears than the Romans, who had spent their time building better baths and roads.

In the pre-Sputnik era, American headlines were too often filled with the antics of some movie star's romantic antics and too seldom with the important issues of the day. The headlines were filled with the misdeeds of juvenile delinquents and too seldom with the achievements of outstanding youngsters.

AFTER HOURS by John Morley

India and Its Independence

NEW DELHI, India — It's 10 years this fall since India gained her independence from Britain in 1947. In all of these 10 years the figure of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru is dominant in India and in all of Asia. His versatile genius for political acumen overshadows every other leader in the Asiatic world. His hold on the Indian Congress party is supreme, without the usual pressure of a popular leader.

Whether some of his foreign or domestic policies are inconsistent with the will of his people is beside the point. What he says and does is law in India, even though many of his 350,000,000 citizens cannot understand his words when he speaks to them over the radio. Nehru's hold on India is almost hypnotic and any suggestion of declining influence is wishful thinking and baseless.

To get a quick capsule impression of India is to consider the language problem, for it is unique in the world. India is a polyglot nation with some 15 distinctly different languages and several hundred dialects which differ as French does from English. The only other nations which could be compared to India are Russia and China. For example, 10 Indians could meet and not be able to converse in any language.

I was visiting an Indian family where the master spoke English and Tamil, but his chapparis (servant-messenger) spoke Hindi (the modern version of Sanskrit). They had to converse in bad English. This is typical all over India... and worse with the masses.

This language problem keeps India fluid, unpredictable as a nation, but held together by the sheer personality and power of a popular leader like Nehru. Britain had gotten around this hopeless language problem by introducing English as a common tongue—and it worked. But by 1950 India's new con-

stitution decreed that Hindi would become the only official language within 15 years. The confusion of the past seven years forced the government recently to recognize the practical obstacles and included English also as the official language.

By a vote of 10 to 0 (with Russia abstaining), the U.N. adopted another resolution on Kashmir last January that "the final disposition of the state of Kashmir and Jammu will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the U.N." This is the fifth time the U.N. has called upon India to arrange for a plebiscite—and it's the fifth time India has refused. The other resolutions were in April 1948, June 1948, March 1950 and 1951.

The Kashmir question came up soon after the 1947 partition of India which perhaps created Pakistan on the basis of religious grounds. Under the terms of the partition the various princely states had the option to either join India or Pakistan, but not to be independent of either. All of the Hindu states stayed with India... and the Moslem states joined Pakistan.

Although Kashmir's nearly 5,000,000 people are predominantly Moslem (about 4 to 1, with only southern Jammu province with a Hindu majority), its maharajah was bribed to stay with India, in violation of the partition agreement. Reason for this can be traced to Nehru's affinity for Kashmir, the birthplace of the Nehrus... or the beauty and cool weather of the vacation paradise in contrast to the blistering Indian summer months. At any rate, when this happened in 1947, Pakistan began to arm Moslem tribesmen along the frontier to help their "brothers."

Moslems from Pakistan swarmed from the mountains to massacre Hindus inside Kashmir and a civil war

broke out on a big scale. India rushed their regular troops to defend Hindus and repulse the Moslems, but when the war expanded into India itself, Nehru appealed to the U.N. to stop it and mediate the dispute. The result was that a U.N. commission went to Kashmir (and this reporter was with it in 1950, 1951, 1953, and Dr. Frank Graham, General Jacob Devers, Admiral Chester Nimitz and others) and gave its report which resulted in the U.N. resolution for a free vote.

In the meantime India created a puppet "Constitutional Assembly" in the part of Kashmir it controls, which in reality only represents about 25 per cent of the population, or just the Hindu minority. On this flimsy political maneuver this "assembly" voted to join India last January. It was this action that caused the U.N. Security Council to reaffirm for the fifth time by a vote of 10-0 (Russia abstaining) its decision for a national vote in Kashmir to decide its status. Nehru and Krishna Menon denounced the latest U.N. resolution by claiming the decision of the (puppet) Kashmir assembly (which they organized) invalidated all past promises of a plebiscite on the part of India and all resolutions of the United Nations.

Now Pakistan is threatening military action unless the U.N. uses its newly created expeditionary force, which served in Egypt, to occupy Kashmir and force both Pakistan and Indian armies to leave, in preparation for a U.N. plebiscite.

Kashmir is a geographical danger spot because it borders with Russia, Red China, Afghanistan, Tibet, as well as with India and Pakistan. It is too remote for constant U.N. inspection. India's refusal to obey the U.N. on Kashmir is a danger to peace—and certainly a two-faced moral standard for the peacemaker role Nehru has carved out for himself.

FROM THE MAILBOX By Our Readers

Tax Bills and Sun Dials

The Biggest Shock Editor, Torrance Herald:

I received my current tax bill and read your story about the schools considering a \$5000 sundial at about the same time last week and I don't know which gave me the biggest shock.

I can only hope that the school officers will give a second look at the sundial memorial before ordering the designer to go ahead with the thing.

That \$5000 would help a lot in getting some of our children off half-day sessions and would wipe out the tax bills of about 30 or 40 average G.I. homeowners. If that's what we're expected to cough up an exorbitant school tax

rate for, I think it's time someone did a little serious thinking on the matter. Especially the voters. L.R.S.

On Telling Time Editor, The Herald:

All along I have suspected that high schoolers these days don't know how to read and write up to snuff, to say nothing of spelling and numbers. But now I'm really worried.

Apparently the fellow who designed the South High School doesn't think they even know how to tell time. And I'm against spending \$5000 of the taxpayers'

money teaching them how to read a fancy sundial. A.P.E.

People Informed Editor, Torrance Herald:

The Lomita Property Owners and Registered Voters, Inc., wish to thank you for the space made available to us in the incorporation battle.

We feel that once the people were informed about the various aspects of this situation, there would be no doubt about the result.

DON MEYERS Secretary Lomita

LAW IN ACTION

Correcting Errors

AMENDMENTS The law well knows men make mistakes. Hence "amendments."

Every legislature comes up with a raft of amendments to "clarify" the law or patch it where it has worn thin. For who on earth is wise enough to write laws for all time? Who can foresee how old law will apply to new situations? And who can write watertight laws? Nobody, all the time.

Often the lawmakers must go back to fundamentals they had once given up to solve a problem.

For example, for a long time the law would let no present evidence in a civil suit seeking damages in an automobile accident from the record of a criminal conviction—unless the accused had pleaded guilty. In his shoes wouldn't you plead innocent and fight, even if you'd otherwise be glad to plead guilty and get it over with? So, the rule made it hard for everyone. The district attorney had to assign lawyers needlessly to prove defendants guilty by pleading guilty in the first place; a defendant had needlessly to stand the cost of a trial he otherwise could avoid; the courts had one more case to try. And the injured person may well have

had a hard time to make out a just case for himself.

So last spring the lawmakers quit tinkering and did away with the rule.

Today such evidence of a criminal conviction in motor vehicle cases may be introduced in damage suits afterwards under the old-fashioned rules of evidence. The evidence must be "relevant"—it must tend to answer a legal question raised in the lawsuit; it must be "material"—it must have enough heft to make a difference; and it must be competent—it must be given, for example, by people who can testify firsthand.

Note: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.

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