

**Dear Editor**

**Hoping to Stop Juvenile Delinquency**

Will your child become a thief, narcotic addict, robber, or burglar? Who knows. Some children start by staying out nights, cutting school, running the streets, or just playing with the kids on the block.

What is the answer? Many changes are taking place in our city today. People are moving about more freely than ever before. Community ties are fewer and roots are more shallow.

Life generally is more complex. Families are finding it more difficult to remain strong and united.

As the city increases in size, its problems rapidly multiply. Citizens tend to leave the development of the community life to chance, or to shift the total responsibility to government.

Therefore, we are seeking ways and means of strengthening local community life through an informed citizenry and public participation.

We must and can learn from one another. The tradition of free and open discussion is as old as the history of our country.

It is perhaps for this reason that Governor Goodwin J. Knight asked the cities of California to have what he calls an old-fashioned New England town meeting.

We, who are organizing this town meeting have asked all organizations and civic-minded groups to help us in making this report to the governor.

We are requesting these groups to do the following:

1. Evaluate the existing juvenile problem in the local Torrance area;
2. Describe and evaluate whatever facilities and programs the individual and organization have to meet this need;
3. Suggest improved methods of dealing with juvenile problems.

In doing this, we hope to encourage individual thinking and to stimulate community planning. We will use the gathered information and make a report to the governor.

We feel, too, that your help will constitute a valuable contribution to delinquency prevention and control in our city.

Therefore, we hope that if you are asked to help or appear at this meeting, you will do so and not sit back and let someone else do it.

Your thoughts and ideas can help. They may not be the answer but they will help in finding the answer.

Sincerely,  
(s) SGT. D. C. COOK,  
Juvenile Officer,  
Torrance Police Dept.

**He Went 'Sniff, Sniff' After Getting a Whiff**

A mechanical pencil, which would normally bring smiles from any 11-year-old, instead brought tears to the eyes of Alfred Bash, II, who was visiting relatives at 2855 Gramercy Friday.

The reason was not hard to find for what appeared like a mechanical pencil was really a tear gas dispenser in disguise.

Alfred's mother, Mrs. Dora bash, found the pencil near the garbage can and gave it to her son to play with.

The boy pulled the release lever and suffered a burned hand and a dose of tear gas in his eyes.

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Small Size—3 Pounds or Under  
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