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Torrance High Students Learn About Courts

Student appreciation and understanding of American law was strengthened to an all-student assembly held at Torrance High school on Tuesday, December 10. American Courts operating at the whim and caprice of a dictator through the presentation of a mock trial as it might be conducted in the United States of America vs. one conducted in a dictatorially controlled country.

Richard Rice, a senior student, was accused in a mock trial of stealing a motor car from the streets of Torrance. In a dictatorial type court without the right to a jury trial as prescribed by our Constitution, Richard was judged guilty as charged by "Judge" W. H. Haslam, retired Chief of Police of Torrance, and he was sentenced to be shot. He was summarily dragged from court and the sentence was carried out by Bailiff Steve Weidinger, Los Angeles County Marshal. Proving the advantages of American citizenship and the rights to a jury trial; of hearing the actual charges and of holding the trial in open court as provided under our laws was firmly fixed in the minds of the students by having Richard return to the courtroom, scene of the assembly, before a grand jury of his schoolmates.

Judge Otto B. Willett, Judge of the South Bay branch of the Los Angeles County Municipal Court, presided at the typically American Court. Student Rice was brought before the bar and charged with a specific crime, Grand Theft Auto. His rights and privileges were explained to him by Judge Willett who appointed former Torrance High School Associated Student Body President Don Hitchcock, Attorney-at-Law in Torrance, as the Defense Attorney for Richard. The role of Prosecuting Attorney at the mock trial was ably portrayed by Robert A. Goetz, a Torrance Attorney. Goetz has had experience in local courts as City Prosecutor.

JURY CHOSEN
 In keeping with American ideals and legal principles a jury of twelve students was chosen from the student body: Kiyoko Takeuchi, John Bentwood, Kenny Ehlers, Judy Sherwood, Mary Smiley, Mike Derouin, Pat Derouin, Jackie Scherer, Paul O'Kain, Kent Bartolic and Mindy Strater under the foremanship of Mary Alyce Mewborn listened to the evidence of witnesses, Victor Masaki and Barbara Salow for the prosecution, and of Dick Ryan for the Defense. The charge to the jury was explained and condensed for the assembled students by Judge Willett. The defense claiming mistaken identity and circumstantial evidence, based its conduct of the trial on the sworn testimony of the prosecution. The jury brought in the verdict of not guilty and Richard was freed of the charges.

The mock trial conceived by Mr. Hitchcock was presented to the Torrance High School students by the Torrance High School Chapter of the California Scholarship Federation as a part of the observance of Bill of Rights Week.
 Mrs. Alice Hammond, teacher-sponsor of the Scholarship Society co-ordinated the program. Mr. Hitchcock, former Tartar Student Body President, was elected President of the Associated Student Body at the University of California at Los Angeles for the 1944-45 term. Tom Carter, member of the Scholarship Society acted as master of ceremony for the program.

Torrance Wrestlers In Tourney

By DICK RICE
 Punishment of the ring pads starts promptly at 2 p.m. tomorrow as the annual High School Novice Wrestling Tournament gets under way. Roughly 200 wrestlers of all shapes and sizes from the five Bay League wrestling schools, and South High will match holds in this grueling event to be held in Redondo's gym.
 Wrestling was a new sport at Torrance High last year, and although the Tartars didn't compare with veteran schools like Mira Coast, Redondo, and Leuzinger, they laid a good foundation for this year's team. Coaching in his second year at THS, Bill Hoop has built his team up from scratch to a squad that should bag several places in tomorrow's tournament, and do well all through the coming season.

Tartars who will be seeing plenty of action tomorrow are: Carl Wood, Adolf Duran, Dick Augenstein, Sam Hirose, Gerald Goin, Roger Baker, David Nelson, William Patterson, Wayne Hughes, John Bentwood, Stuart Buckalew, Rick Hanson, Dan Fulton, Larry Miller, Andy Green, Russell Defields, David Woodward, Art Hausen, Bob Grajeda, Steve Humphries, Dick Rice, Carlos Acosta, Bob Smith, Ronnie Jones, Bill Tilley, Max Benton, Melvin Woolter, Steve Foster, Ben Mitchell, Charles Felix, and Dennis McMasters.
 South High, Torrance's little brother, will participate in the Bay League Novice meet since they are as yet not established in their own league. Coached by Bob Bonheim, the Spartans have good material and potential, but their lack of experience is working against them as indicated by their lopsided loss to Lennox last week, 53 to 3. Three former Tartar grapplers who will see action tomorrow on the South High squad are: Steve Dessau, Robert Labit, and Roy O'Hara.
 The novice tournament is unique in the fact that it gives all boys a chance on the squad to participate, excepting any former Varsity lettermen. In usual matches only the best man in each weight has a chance to wrestle.
 The Tournament will consist of three minute matches, with the winner of each match wrestling until he is defeated. The finals, usually held sometime in the early evening, throw the last two undefeated grapplers together to determine the winner of each weight division. The first four places will be rewarded by medals.

New Hospital Selects Six Department Heads

H. Melvin Tupper, administrator of the new Pacific View Hospital at 1845 Pacific Coast Highway, Hermosa Beach, which will open its doors on Monday, January 6, announced the appointment of Department heads.
 Directing the Department of Pathology will be Edmund R. Kielman, M.D.; associate heads of the Radiology Department, John Pryor, M.D. and Lawrence Wilks, M.D. Supervisor of Nurses will be Mrs. Marie Roberts of Manhattan Beach; Supervisor of Obstetrics, Carolyn Belben of Torrance; Operating Room Supervisor, Margaret Bryant of Inglewood.
 The Hospital's Open House will be held on Sunday, January 5, from one to four p.m.

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 and
 A HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR

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