

A Lesson in Human Relations

West High Speech Class Aids Student Thinking

By RONNIE SAUNDERS
Woman's Editor
(Editor's Note: The following article, which deals with Speech curriculum at West High School, is seventh in a series concerning what is being taught in the Torrance. Previous articles high school classrooms of have dealt with home economics, English, and social studies at South High School, advanced placement and boys' physical education girls' physical education at North High School, and

Torrance High School.)
Unlike courses discussed in previous articles in this series, speech is not required. No student in Torrance is in a speech classroom because he has to be there. He is there by choice.
West High School, which opened its campus for the first time last September, is presently offering Speech 1 as an elective for students at all four levels. As enrollment and curriculum expand, Speech 2, 3, and 4 will be offered.

Although the new school is too young to have devised a course outline based on its own past experience, curriculum is being developed by a competent staff along lines set down in the district framework.
Within the three speech classrooms, as in all classes at West, emphasis is on using the school's library materials to add depth to learning.
It is the philosophy of the school to train all students to think in terms of sources of reference material rather than to be dependent upon the teachers to answer all questions.
For speech students, hours of library preparation pay off in speeches based on fact, rather than on emotion.

When a student is going to appear in competitive debate, teachers arrange an opportunity for him to practice in front of a class. The student benefits by the critical thinking of classmates as to why they liked or disliked a speech, why they lost interest, and their suggestions as to how to maintain interest.
Lessons in human relations are a by-product of speech class because the students are taught to accept one another and one another's ideas, to disagree agreeably, and to respect one another's right to have different opinions.

The unit on parliamentary procedure gives the students an insight as to the mechanics of democratic procedure. They are taught to be a source of authority in clubs and encouraged to participate in community organizations in their adult life.
Many speech students choose to go into public speaking and debate as an extra-curricular activity. Community service organizations such as the Lions Club, Optimists, and American Legion offer students opportunities to speak publicly in competition.

Prior to community appearances, qualified students go through eliminations at school. The winner, or top two candidates, are invited to speak in public. Time spent preparing speeches for public competition is done before, after school, and during lunch hour. Students put in many hours of library preparation and write their own speeches. Private tutoring on speaking techniques is given by the instructors on their own time.
The aim of the school, according to Roland Glover, speech teacher, is to help students develop their ability rather than to win contests. Advantages of competition, are that students are afforded an opportunity to see if they can accomplish what they believe they can accomplish, and, that they are given a chance to meet students from other environments to exchange ideas with one another.

West High School is presently a member of the Southern California Debate League, which is a branch of the National Forensic League. The school looks forward to being admitted to the national league as a school.
Another area of speech offered at West High School is speech correction, which is taught by Irene Harter, district specialist.

Students in corrective classes are offered the opportunity to criticize and be criticized by students in ordinary class situations when they come to visit. Purpose is to help them accept themselves and to help them work towards overcoming their handicap.
In addition to Mrs. Annis and Glover, speech teachers at West High School include Miss Shively and Miss Bertha Daigle.

Objectives of the speech curriculum set forth by the Torrance Unified School District are sixfold:
1. To increase ability to use the English language more effectively.
2. To overcome self-consciousness before a group by developing poise and personality.
3. To formulate and present an effective speech.
4. To develop the ability to think logically.
5. To develop better citizenship through tolerance, courtesy, and respect for other people.
6. To meet the needs of the individual student and any speech problems that students may have.

As Mrs. Annis puts it, "The area of speech has something to offer every student, regardless of ability — and to help each student to grow at his own rate."
Edwin Tillman Elected
The board of directors of U. S. Science Corp. has elected Edwin J. Tillman, of Torrance, Vice President of Operations. U. S. Science, of Inglewood, is a subsidiary of United Industrial Corporation, New York City.



CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM is one of the by-products of speech class at West High School. Students are taught art of "disagreeing agreeably" while learning to be critical of themselves and one another.

Speech is an elective course at the new school. Pictured are: Margo Redford, Shelby Peterson, Patricia Deikel, Angela Ford, Melinda Toomey, Barbara Con-telon and Miss Bertha Daigle, teacher.—PRESS photo

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ASSOCIATED CAR CLUBS have presented a check to the March of Dimes. The money was collected by car clubs under sponsorship of the Torrance Police Department which make up the Associated Car Clubs of Torrance. Left to right are shown Dave Garrison, president, Pharaoh's Pacers; John Thompson, president, Associated Car Clubs; Mrs. Clara Conners, Postmaster, general chairman, March of Dimes; and Brian Eidem, president, Torque-Winders. Officer A. L. Jackson of the Police Department, is coordinator of this year's Annual Youth Safety Run. Torrance is Host City. The run leaves here June 24, returns June 26.

Y-Wives Host Puppets
Puppet craftsmanship, acknowledged to be the finest in the world, will be seen Saturday, April 13, when the Torrance YW-Wives present the enchanting Bob Baker Marionettes in a miniature musical revue at the YWCA, 2320 W. Carson St., Torrance. Baker and his troupe will present two complete shows: one at 3 o'clock, and one at 4:30 in the afternoon. Donation for tickets is 75 cents per person and may be obtained from any YW-Wife member or from the YWCA FA 0-2255.
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