Less Social Life, Better Teaching Needed In Our Junior High Schools

By GABE KAIMOWITZ

NEW YORK (NEA) — The junior high school, a native American institution in good condition, is here to stay.

Dr. James B. Conant believes he has proved at least that much in 36 pages on "Recommendations for Education in the Junior High School Years: A Memorandum to School Boards." Based on a study of 237 schools in 23 states, the report has just been released to school superintendents.

If Dr. Conant finds any serious fault in junior high schools, it lies in his allegation that "junior high teachers are picked on."

"The junior high teachers are caught in a squeeze. Educators, primarily in elementary schools, are more concerned with children than subject matter; in high school, the opposite is true.

"These clear-cut distinctions do not exist in junior high schools so the teachers find themselves pinned between the arguments from above and below."

But Dr. Conant, former president of Harvard University, reminds everyone that the seventh and eighth grades are particularly important just because they are transitional.

"So junior high school instruction has to be better, rather than on a par or worse, than those in the upper or lower grades.

"Educators spend too much time worrying whether to put the ninth grade in senior or junior high school when they should be thinking more about the two lower grades where the children generally are first maturing."

Because junior high teachers are caught in that squeeze, "too many of them regard their present positions as stepping stones to high school teaching," Dr. Conant says. He also laments lack of coordination among faculties of elementary, junior and senior high schools.

He cites a resulting danger of junior highs being treated as "miniature senior high schools." Conant says:

"Junior high school personnel often become too concerned with student social life. So they have mimicked many of the high school customs, notably in extracurricular activities."

He urges playing down interscholastic athletics, fancy graduations and other "entertainments with no educational value. These are the frills I object to.

"But don't misinterpret me," Dr. Conant says. "I want to continue industrial arts, home economics and physical fitness programs. I do not consider these frills."

Illustrating the difference, Dr. Conant says:

"When I talked to educators about increasing the size of their physical fitness programs, at least half were reluctant because of the expense involved in expanding gymnasium facilities.

"Yet many came from schools which have vast playing fields for interscholastic competition. In those cases, the 'entertainment' obviously came before physical fitness."

The obvious optimism shown by Dr. Conant toward the present state of junior high schools will tend to make his junior high schools study less controversial than the one he did on American high schools, released last year.

The favorable position of the junior high school seems to result from student bodies which are more unified in ability than those in high schools and because more courses are rigidly required of all students.

"Now don't get me wrong," Dr. Conant says. "Elective choices by high school students are good and they are here to stay. But they have opened the door to many mistakes."

High school students too often elect to take the "easy" courses. With electives, schools frequently offer too many subjects with too few qualified teachers to teach them and with too few students to take them, Dr. Conant says.

DR. JAMES B. CANANT

GOES BOTH WAYS

NEW YORK (UPI) — Frank Gifford, star halfback for the New York Giants, is the only National Football League player to be named to the Pro Bowl game as a defensive man one year and as an offensive specialist the next year.

Belmonts Split; Dion Goes Solo

The Record Shop

By DICK KLEINER
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

NEW YORK (NEA) — The breakup of Dion and The Belmonts shocks many of their fans but it really shouldn't. The move has been in the works for a long time.

Actually it was almost inevitable; therefore the break was accomplished without any emotional wrench. Dion, the lead singer, has always wanted to be a soloist and that ambition persisted despite the success of the group.

"I realized," he says, "that it was not fair to myself or the boys to continue as a group."

Dion and The Belmonts remain friends, although they no longer are musical associates. The three remaining Belmonts—Angelo is still in the Navy, but reportedly concurs—agree that the split is for the best.

"We've had our ups and downs together," says Freddie, "and, no matter what happens, we'll always be the closest of friends. Carlo, Angelo and I prefer to work as a group, but Dion has to express himself the way he feels best. It's just that simple."

Most critics of pop music agree that one of today's finest young singers is Dick Roman—he has the voice, the phrasing and the looks.

Having a good voice isn't necessarily a passport to Famesville. Dick's current feeling is a perfect illustration of that.

"You have to pay a price for having a good voice," he says. "Whoever gave me the gift of a good voice also made it harder for me to get ahead. When you just sing straight and rely on your voice to get you across, it's tougher than it is if you have a gimmick.

"I think, in the long run, it'll pay off for me. I think eventually I'll get to the top and stay there."

But, meanwhile, he sits there and watches the sudden stars zoom past—the kids with the echo chambers and the shimmies and the ultrasonic guitars. They make one hit record and then fade into oblivion.

Dick Roman keeps working. He's never had a big hit record—although his new one, "Autumn Tears," on Epic, looks good—but he has a steady history of gainful employment in top night clubs around the country.

This is a situation which confounds him but does not embitter him. He says he takes his philosophy from Tony Martin, who has taken a fatherly interest in his career since they met on a cancer telethon.

"He called me up," Dick says, "just to give me some advice. He told me I should never envy anyone, because if I spent my time envying I would have none left for work."

This, then, has become Dick's way of life—hard work and a nonenvious smile. He still hopes for that hit record ("It would quadruple my salary") and he's working toward an acting career in the movies or on Broadway. But meanwhile he's a happy young man.

Of course, a hit record would make him even happier.

Dick's Picks — Dick Roman's "Autumn Tears" on Epic is a well-sung ballad with a lovely melody. Others: "You're So Much a Part of Me" (The Browns, RCA); "Here In My Heart" (Keely Smith, Dot); "The Gypsy" (Billy Ward, ABC - Paramount); "A Red-Blooded True Blue American Boy" (Joan Proctor, RCA); "The Flame" (Conway Twitty, MGM); "Dear John" (Pat Boone, Dot); "Telephone Numbers" (Kerry Adams, Chancellor); ""Til the End of Forever" (Danny Valentino, MGM); "Suzie Wong" (The Ames Brothers, RCA).

Two good jazz men with the same idea—Shorty Rogers' "The Swingin' Nuteracker" (RCA) and Duke Ellington's "The Nuteracker Suite" (Columbia) are both jazz versions of Tchaikovsky's work. Other good late jazz releases: "Elmo Hope" on HiFi-Jazz is a good sample of this pianist's work; Capitol has "Kenton," with Stan and his men recorded live at Las Vegas; the great trumpeter, Miles Davis, does "Sketches of Spain" on Columbia, an ambitious and impressive work.

Two new classical records spotlight the increasing interest in unusual music of other nations. Epic has The Hungarian National Ballet Co. in a program of Hungarian songs and dances. And RCA, in "The Art of Julian Bream," a great guitarist, features little-known works of several Spanish composers, in addition to creations of Ravel and Scarlatti.

TREE INSURANCE

KENT, Ohio (UPI)—Property owners have been urged to include a guarantee against "smothered trees" in any construction contract. Tree expert Martin L. Davey Jr. warned that many trees are killed by soil deposited on their roots during excavating and grading operations.

The War Between the States cost more than 600,000 American lives.

Lake Moss Major Problem

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (UPI)—One of the most annoying things to a fisherman is getting his lures draped with green, slimy moss—which actually is algae and other aquatic plant life.

Moss is especially prevalent in impounded waters in the southern part of the United States.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Department has experimented with various management techniques, including the use of chemicals. To date, no statisfactory solution has been found.

The department's fisheries division is now trying another approach—the use of fish themselves.

The department has acquired a large number of fish known as African bream from a private hatchery in Tampa, Florida. They have been stocked in Lake Catherine, near Hot Springs.

Andrew Hulsey, chief of the Fisheries Division, said the fish feed heavily on aquatic plants.

Hulsey said the African bream is a tropical species and is prolific. In a year's time, he said, they will weigh one pound, and are an excellent food fish.

The question is, however, how well will they survive the cold Arkansas winters.

Hulsey said if the fish help control the moss, and if they should die of the cold, the department will restock them each spring in other Arkansas lakes.

"We aren't expecting too much from these fish," Hulsey said. "This project is only an experiment, and unless successful, we will not stock them in any other waters."

Current Best Sellers

(Compiled by Publishers' Weekly)

FICTION

HAWAII, Michener.
ADVISE AND CONSENT, Drury.
THE LEOPARD, di Lampedusa.
THE LOVELY AMBITION, Chase.
THE CHAPMAN REPORT, Wallace.

NONFICTION

BORN FREE, Adamson.
HOW I MADE $2,000,000 IN THE STOCK MARKET, Darvas.
FOLK MEDICINE, Jarvis.
THE CONSCIENCE OF A CONSERVATIVE, Goldwater.
ENJOY! ENJOY! Golden.

Each year, more than 100,000 forest fires destroy forest areas totaling about 30 million acres in the United States.

The first Christmas card was designed in 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

"CAMPAIGN QUIZ" ?

Q—At the time of his election, what U.S. president had the record of never having voted for anyone?

A—Zachary Taylor.

* * *

Q—Who said, "I do not choose to run."?

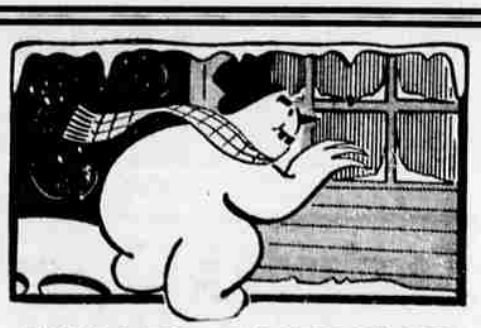
A—Calvin Coolidge.

(From: J. Doyle DeWitt collection, "America Goes to the Polls," Hartford, Conn.)

READ & VOTE

Save $$ - move yourself
RENT a new U-DRIVE truck
Local or Long Distance
• PICKUPS • VANS
• FLATBEDS
Pads, Dollies Available
Beehive System
BEACON SERVICE STATION
1291 E. Main TU 4-8304

LATEST POP HIT SONGS
RECORDINGS
SAVE 10c
CLIP THIS AD! IT'S WORTH 10c on the purchase of ANY OF THE "TOP TEN" records listed in the Herald and News feature "The Record Shop" found generally on the same page as this ad.
(Bring This Ad To Derby's)
RECORDS - ALBUMS - SHEET MUSIC
Derby's Music Co.
126 No. 7th Ph TU 4-5121



WINTER'S ON ITS WAY!
INSTALL
PLASTIC STORM WINDOWS
NOW!
Everything You Need To Do A First Class Job Is Available At . . .
Swan Lake Moulding Co.
3226 So. 6th Phone TU 4-5145