



The first part of the American Bicentennial was kicked off in Area L by the ceremony of balloons released by all schools in the area. Taft's participants were members of the service clubs, Student Cabinet, The Drill Team, Cheerleaders and a few members of the faculty.

Photo by Perry Kaniger

Area L Bicentennial 'Lift-off' marks opening of U.S. salute

By Tracy MacDonald
Tribune Liason

The American Bicentennial was kicked off last Friday at 11:00 on Goetten Field. Headed by Mrs. Jeanne Carmicheal, the lift-off of 650 balloons began the festivities of this event which will continue until 1976. The balloons, which were let-off by the members of service clubs, Student Cabinet and Spirit groups, composed of Drill Team and Cheerleaders was the effort of District Superintendent Herbert Cadwell who proposed this idea to give Area L the honor of being the first to recognize the American past. All the schools in Area L with the exception of those schools within a five mile radius of Van Nuys Airport let off balloons which numbered 36,000. The

turn-out at the event was composed of students, faculty, administrators and a few members of the community who shared in the excitement at the moment Mrs. Carmichael gave the cue for Americans in the Valley to "look to the skies."

Voter Registration Week

Director of Special Services Greg Pomerantz announced that the week of March 11 to 15 is Voter Registration Week. Homeroom teachers will receive notices or the registration cards which are necessary for the students to vote. The students are not forced to vote, but if they are planning on electing the next semester's officers, Greg urges support.

The Senior Budget Cards will go on sale starting Monday at a slightly higher cost than usual. Senior

Class President, Brad I. Goldstein said that because of cap and gown costs and other assorted costs, including the Senior Picnic and Breakfast have elevated the cost of the card.

Open Cabinet Meetings

Open Cabinet Meetings usually on Fridays at lunch are there for the benefit of the students. During the first Open Cabinet Meeting, many students attended to see the workings of Student Cabinet. Last week the motion on the floor concerned the Student Bill of Rights proposed by Glen Klein and Marty Zinkow. This Bill of Rights is to make a set of guide-lines for the students at Taft so that the school may be run more effectively. As of now, there is no Bill of Rights.

Skating pair Carey-Varvals become National Champions

Lisa Carey and Doug Varvals are the National Junior Pairs Figure Skating Champions, winning the title in Providence Rhode Island on February 9, while competing against nine other couples.

They had won the Southwest Junior Pairs title in December, before they went on to Nationals.

Lisa and Doug practice and take lessons six days a week at the Pickwick Ice arena. Ice time is so hard to find, that they practice early in the mornings before school and early in the afternoons after school.

In competitive skating there are three divisions, which are the Novice, Junior, and Senior divisions. The best of the Juniors are at the bottom of the Seniors. Lisa and Doug after winning the National Championship, are almost automatically seniors, but must first take the test.

Pairs figure skating is much more difficult than singles skating. In pairs, you must depend on your partner so much, because if your partner makes a mistake the whole

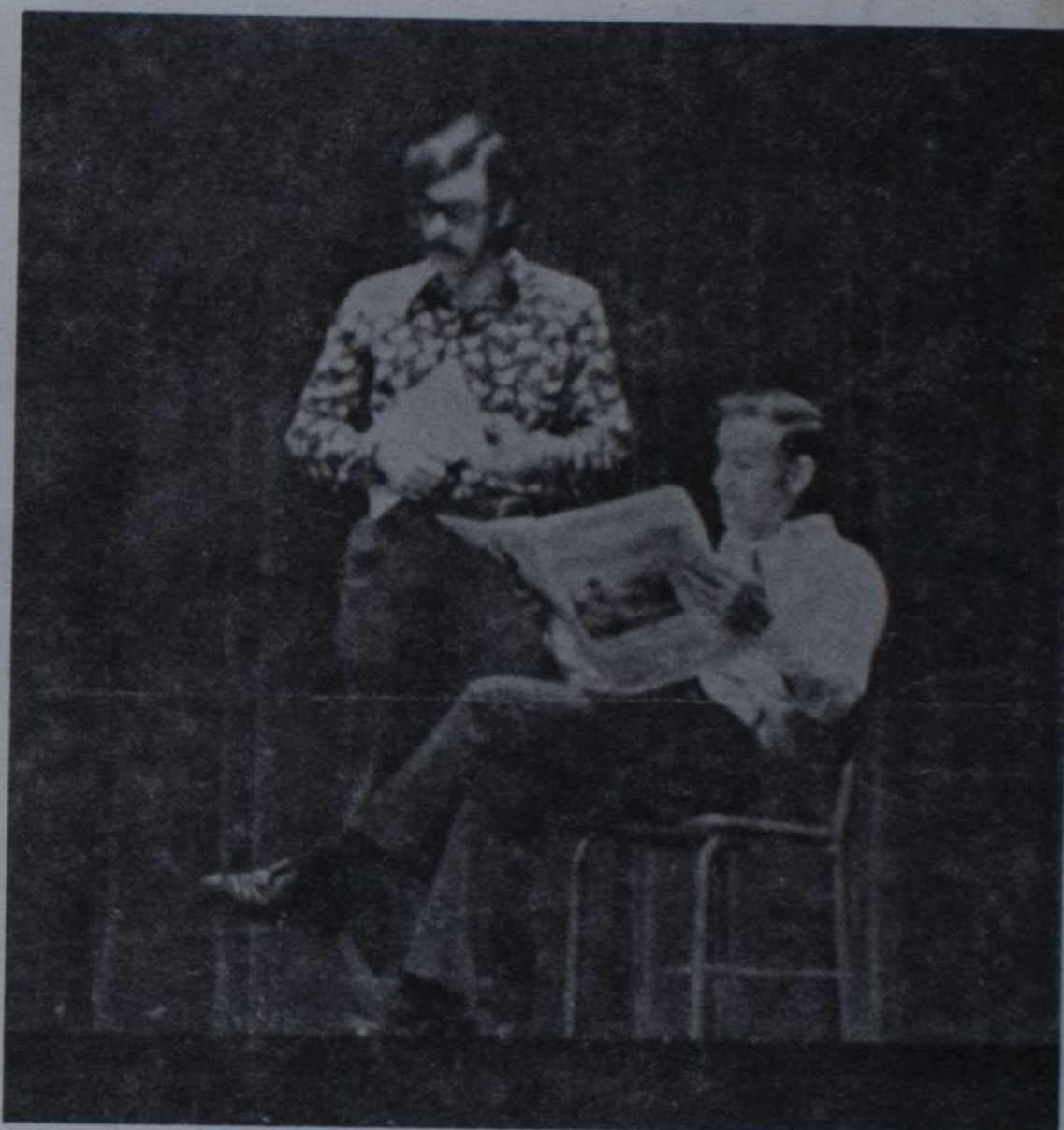
routine would be in jeopardy. Timing is the most important aspect to master because if the girl jumps at the wrong time while the boy is lifting her over his head, a spill is almost guaranteed.

Accidents are quite common with pairs skaters. Lisa has broken her tailbone and has been spiked by her partner requiring fifteen stitches. In the Senior figure skating finals, the favorites got hurt and had to miss the Nationals. Sometimes, the screws, which hold the skates on will come loose and

the skates come off in mid air.

Pairs Figure skating is very demanding. A person must have great will power because it can become very frustrating. It becomes more dangerous the better you get. Everybody is trying to out do themselves and will try almost anything to win.

Doug and Lisa may have a chance to go to France this summer. The purpose of this trip would be to give the Juniors a taste of international competition and to give the judges a chance to see them.



Peter Iverson and Mel Melahouris of the world-traveled Covenant players perform for students during an assembly, February 26. The Players' self-composed skits created new perspectives in communication.

Photo by Greenfield

Pre-Spring Concert presented on Wed.

The annual Pre-Spring Concert, featuring both instrumental and vocal divisions of the Taft High School music department, will be presented this March 13, Wednesday in Taft Hall. One activity-lengthened period has been scheduled for the lunch performance falling on the 13th. The more complete evening performance, open to the public, will fall on the 13th at 7:30 P.M. Tickets for this evening performance cost \$.50 per student, \$1 per adult and may be obtained by any member of the music department, at the student store or at the door.

The instrumental department, under the direction of Mr. Kenneth Kamp, will highlight its presentation with several solo firsts. Among these five numbers are featured an original composition on the piano by Ned Ginsberg and a woodwind ensemble featuring Karin Carter, Kris Klavick, Larry Kaplin, George Golitzin and Jeff Knecht.

Performing for the vocal department under the direction of music chairman Mr. George Turner, will be the choir and ensemble. Among the planned pieces for choir be

the planned pieces for Aaron Copeland's "Stomp Your Foot", written in colonial square dance style with a two-part piano accompaniment played by Kathy Howell and Mary Kramer. The ensemble will sing a French madrigal written by Orlando Lassus entitled "My Heart is Offered Still to You". For a more modern touch, an arrangement of Carole King's "Sweet Inspiration Where You Lead" with drum and bass accompaniment. Vocal soloists, still to be chosen, will also be featured.

There is still time for girls 8-18 to sign up for softball with the Mid-Valley League, affiliated with the Miss Softball America Program.

Final signups are scheduled for Saturday, March 9th, at 10:00 A.M. at Portola Jr. Hi School on Yolanda Avenue, 2 blocks south of Ventura Blvd. in Tarzana; or by writing Virgil Aikey at 19135 Welby Way, Reseda, 91335.

Registration fees are \$15 for one, girl, \$25. for two girls from the same family, and \$5 for each additional girl.



Mr. Fred Gershbein, Graphic Arts Advisor, checks over Taft's new Heidelberg Offset printing press, before first run of Tribune is made. Today's Tribune is the first to be printed on the school's new press.

Photo by Greenfield

The Taft Tribune

Published Every Friday Morning During The Academic Year

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Established at William Howard Taft High School 1960

The Tribune position is presented only in the editorials on this page. Columns and cartoons are the opinions of their creators and are not necessarily those of the Tribune's.

Editorially Speaking

PA decision correct

The Tribune wishes to congratulate student council on their recent decision regarding the Pledge of Allegiance. It is about time that the daily reciting of the Pledge was done away with. The Pledge's daily recital caused it to lose its meaning and significance.

After going through elementary and junior high the Pledge of Allegiance loses its effect on the student. The idea of replacing it with a quotation from a famous American is an excellent idea and will do more for patriotism than the Pledge ever could. While the Pledge and its reciting have become mechanical and meaningless for most, it is our opinion that the quotations to be read daily will do much to help bolster a positive feeling for the United States. Interest in America can only be enhanced with quotations from great statesmen such as George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Student Cabinet has not completely pushed the Pledge out of the school P.A. It will still be said once a week, giving all who want the opportunity to join in its recitation. It is our opinion that cutting down the weekly number of recitations from five to one can only be beneficial. Since the saying of the Pledge will now come at weekly instead of daily intervals, it is our belief that students might think about the Pledge's meaning instead of reciting it in a mechanical manner.

With the approaching of our country's bicentennial, it is important that the spirit of America reach new and lofty heights. The Tribune feels that the new school policy towards the Pledge of Allegiance will cause students to have a higher regard for their country.

New Taft security guard speaks about school job

"I'm very pleased to be here," replied Mr. John Grant, our new Security Guard, when he was asked how he likes Taft.

Mr. Grant, who had been a Police Sergeant for thirty one and a half years before retiring, dealt with investigations, burglaries and auto thefts. He just recently took the Security Guard examination, so this type job is new for him.

When asking Mr. Grant what the typical problems of high school students were, he mentioned loitering, sex crimes, smoking on campus, violence towards teachers, drug pushing and possession of narcotics. Taft's most serious problem. Violators are dealt with specifically by warnings, suspensions, transfers, or arrests, depending upon the seriousness of their crimes.

So far the only problems that Mr. Grant has come across with Taft students have been truancies and narcotics. He asserted that some of the high schools in the

valley have a graffiti problem, as well as the problem of students burning the toilet seats with cigarettes in the restrooms. As for the smoking problem in the rest rooms and stairways, Mr. Grant stated that it is now being discussed that we have a smoking area on campus in the future.

When asked if he carries a weapon, Mr. Grant answered that by being a peace officer, he can only carry a weapon when in the process of investigating burglaries.

Our new security guard said that the majority of the people here at Taft have been very courteous towards him, then added that the students seem to respect authority here. Mr. Grant said the student and teachers often come over to talk to him.

It wasn't easy for Mr. Grant to leave the Police Department since it was there he made a lot of friends. However, we welcome him to Taft and hope he will be happy working here.

Taft student fakes death in recent mock earthquake

By Mark Rogers
Staff Writer

About 200 victims of an earthquake lay suffering on the grounds of the Sepulveda Veterans Administration Hospital. The victims were actually volunteers of "Operation Prepare", a simulation of an earthquake disaster in the San Fernando Valley. They were not suffering from the simulated injuries which included broken legs, charred third degree burns, and stab wounds, but from the cold blustery winds in the early morning of Feb. 9, the third anniversary of the '71 quake.

The imaginary quake with a magnitude of 6.1 was delayed almost a half hour from its scheduled time of 8:53 a.m. because of breakdown in radio communication from Valley Presbyterian Hospital, the control point for Operation Prepare. The center was then switched to Northridge Hospital and operation prepare was underway.

Victims were rushed into the ambulances by Triage and were taken from there to ten West Valley hospitals. When they arrived at the hospitals the victims were checked for their injuries and then

sent to the various rooms in the hospital. Most of the casualties were wheeled into the emergency room and then placed outside the intensive care facility.

The mock victims were never actually taken into the intensive care unit for fear that they would contaminate real patients. From there, the dirty, bloody, walking-wounded went to the employee cafeteria.

At lunch Operation Prepare was discussed and how it could be improved. People told of being dropped off stretchers and having other victims dropped on them in the ambulances.

By about ten o'clock there were about 30 people left at the Veterans Administration. One person, a victim of smoke inhalation and who should have been taken to 'emergency', was told, "You're not one of the worst ones, go sit over there."

Debbie Wilson, a Taft student, had a critical back wound but was left lying on the ground until 10:30, when one of the disaster drill officials told her that she was dead, reason being that she had bled too much. A much distressed Debbie cried, "But I'm too young to die."

One girl, who was taken to West Valley Hospital had a different opinion of the operation. She felt that it was well run and that, "It was really very good."

Operation Prepare was done as a practice drill to prepare for a real disaster and was done with the hope that service can be improved.

J.P. Getty Museum now open to public

J. Paul Getty has been surprised by the criticism received by his Malibu museum. The oil billionaire built this home as a replica of a Roman villa in Herculaneum near Mt. Vesuvius.

One of the objections raised by critics is the recreation of an ancient building. Mr. Getty defends his museum with the fact that it is authentic, representative of the way things existed in ancient times. He feels that there is a surplus of modern architecture and that it is fortunate that there is still private, ancient building of authentic spirit in the United States.

Another criticism is that the building should be neutral, and not in competitions with the art works displayed there. Mr. Getty is opposed to this because he recognizes the fact that great works of art in the past were not created to be exhibited in museums, but in private homes, churches and public buildings. He feels that they lose some of their effect if transported to a museum.

Judging from public response, many people enjoy the Roman villa and art to a great extent. Due to traffic, the museum has been closed on the weekends, however, it remains open during the weekdays.

Mr. Getty presently resides in England, near London. The palatial estate is baronially impressive but carefully guarded with gates, dogs and other security devices. He plans to return to California with more of his art objects, after completing his work. He enjoys California because of the pleasant weather and the beautiful landscape.

Mr. Getty has been happy in England for the ten or twelve years he has been there. The winters are difficult to endure, and he says that people are very conservative, and haven't changed much in the last decade.

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2 Week Summer Trip to Hawaii

This trip leaves after summer school so as

to provide an exciting, fun filled trip for those students who must go to summer school. We will see Hawaii, Oahu, Kauai and Maui on this trip planned exclusively for teenagers.

MEETING

A 30 minute movie previewing the above trips with a question and answer period following: Wednesday, Apr. 24 7:00 P.M. Glendale Federal Savings 12191 Ventura Blvd., Studio City, Monday, April 29 7:00 P.M. Coast Federal Savings 18751 Ventura Blvd. Tarzana

WHO IS INVITED

Anyone interested in the tour, their parents and friends.

RESERVATION

Reservations may be made on either trip at the conclusion of the meeting. To receive additional information or a brochure, please call and leave message with, or write to:

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Teenage Biker circuits U.S.A.

By Bruce McWilliams

Douglas Bordewieck, age 19, on a remarkable energy saving trip, rode his bicycle all the way from upstate New York to Santa Monica, California. His fantastic feat ended a week ago after travelling for over seventy days on the roads of America averaging about 110 miles per day.

When Doug left Swarthmore College in Virginia, he felt that the school created an artificial atmosphere, eliminating contact with people of the real America. Doug wanted to go beyond the superficial surroundings of his life at school. The way he thought best was to tour the United States on a bicycle. Doug set out with two companions, who later quit, with forty pounds of tools, food and personal equipment. This was in early November. He made all the repairs on his Raleigh Grand Prix himself.

Incidentally, Doug mentioned

that he would not recommend a Raleigh bike to anyone. Throughout the duration of the trip, he had 33 flat tires, 11 broken spokes and numerous other breakdowns. In fact, the parts he replaced were enough to rebuild another bike.

His route covered most of the Southern portions of the United States. From upstate New York, he went directly south to Pennsylvania. This was the only place on the whole trip where he had to get off his bike and walk. From there he went to Florida, where it rained every day. He was appalled by the extreme poverty of the South and he also noted a large amount of discrimination against Blacks in practice. All over the South, he saw signs saying "No Negroes" in restaurants and store windows. Strangely enough, though, the Blacks were the friendliest people he encountered. They graciously offered food and lodging, and recommending

friends to visit along the trip.

The most treacherous single event of the trip was outside of Banning, Calif., where he rode up a hill that rose from sea level to 2200 feet. "I was offered a ride by a Highway Patrolman but flatly turned him down." After Banning it was all down hill to Santa Monica, where he visited his great aunt. The entire trip covered 5500 miles. Not quite your average jaunt down to the supermarket, but something he'll probably never forget.

Doug's net gain from the trip was a reinterest in education. He saw a need for all the learning he had previously shunned. This had come about from meeting so many different types of people all over the country. The rich vs. the poor, the educated vs. the ignorant, he met them all. When he goes back to school he plans to take courses in auto mechanics, psychology, computer programming, nuclear physics and law. Not bad for someone who quit school for a lack of interest.

Doug's big goal is for a bicentennial bike ride of about 3000 people, during the summer of 1976, in which he hopes to lead a large group of people for Washington D.C. all over the country. The way the energy crisis is going bicycling could be only means of transportation in America by then. His recommendation for other people thinking of taking a similar trip is "do it, it's fun."



Bob Woodlock and Douglas Bordewieck, left to right, examine road maps of Doug's recently traveled cross country trip. It lasted about seventy days, and Doug covered over 5500 miles from upstate New York to Southern California.
Photo by Greenfield

Program judges media

Ever since the November, 1969 attack on the news media by former Vice-President Spiro T. Agnew, there has been a perpetual furor and controversy over the accuracies the strengths, and the shortcomings of T.V. journalism. Each of the three major networks present three different views, images, and analysis for every development. Now, Dr. Joseph Ebb and Dr. Samuel Feldman, both professors of journalism at Cal State University at Northridge, have created an innovating new concept called **Network Newspeak**, a 40-minute film analyzing the three network's methods of broadcasting, their similarities, and their differences, and presenting us with an analysis of the quality of coverage the media gives us. The show is an expertly, if not fascinating idea, and both Webb and Feldman expertly demonstrate the diversity of major networks.

The first program probed the news services of October 10, 1973, four hours after Spiro T. Agnew announced his unexpected resignation. What both commentators, and moderator Nicoe Pierce pointed out, was that all three networks were caught totally off guard by the event, and each one failed to present an entirely accurate report of the incident.

Newsclips from each network from the night of October 10 were successively shown, followed by a comparative analysis. What the study showed, was that each network presented three entirely different perspectives of Agnew's resignation, not only separate analysis, but each station disagreed on some of the important facts. For example, all three quoted different figures for the amount of money Agnew had evaded, or "cheated" on his income taxes. It seemed that neither of them bothered to look at the 40-page report given to newsmen outside the federal courthouse, which spelled out the amount, Webb and Feldman proved the occasional ineptness of T.V. broadcasting.

Their next comparison dealt with the closing commentaries of the newsmen from each station. Walter Cronkite of CBS sympathized with Agnew, denying that he was revengeful in any way about Agnew's 1969 attack, while NBC's David Brinkley and ABC's Howard K. Smith examined the crime itself, and wondered how many others could have possibly been involved. ABC was the only one of the three networks to bring up President Nixon at all, other stations leaving him behind the scenes and unmentioned.

Charlie Tuna, radio D.J. interviewed by Taft student

By Eileen Steres

Charlie Tuna, the affable, well known disc jockey from KKDJ radio was interviewed at one of his studios located in Woodland Hills, by Eileen Steres, the Tribune's new feature editor.

When asked when and why he went into broadcasting, Mr. Tuna explained "I started back in my hometown of Kearney, Nebraska. When I was five years old, there was a gentleman on my home town radio station. You have to understand, too, that this is a town with about 12,000 people and the only thing we did was watch the ground thaw in the spring time back there. The guy had a weird sense of humor, he was always talking about UFO's, which I guess shows you how maybe society really hasn't changed that much in 20 or 30 years."

"I got my opportunity when I was fourteen years old. We had a youth center in Kearney where the kids would come Friday and Saturday nights at this rendezvous point, and we'd all hang out and play records and drink coke. I had the opportunity to play some records and introduce them and that sort of was my baptism into broadcasting. The kids all suggested that I go down and audition for the local radio station. So I did when I was sixteen years old. And I cut a tape for them, and eventually they called me. So while I was a junior in High School I was on the radio my hometown. I loved every minute of it. I look back on

those years as probably some of the favorite of my life."

He gave excellent advice for high school students interested in the broadcasting field. "Radio disc jockeys are really born and not made. You will get some made, obviously, through radio schools, broadcasting classes, and it will possibly uncover some talent that might have been lying dormant all these years. Many people say 'So what do I do to wind up sitting there playing records and getting paid for like you do?' The only thing I can suggest is to pursue it if you're in high school right now. Get a taste of the business, because it's all gonna pay off one day soon. Pursue the college four year course, if you want to, in broadcasting, if you have the time. But you'll have to start at some small station. Eventually you'll get maybe to Los Angeles, Chicago, or New York."

The disc jockey was asked about extra activities he's been working on. He replied, "Five days a week I do my American Forces Radio Shows. They're an hour show each day and they're heard on American radio network around the world which covers a 1/2 billion people."

"I'm in partnership with a friend of mine, Jeff Alan. We've been together now about three years and we produce radio specials; one a month. They range from every topic in the world covering for instance, we just completed one on ecology. We had guest stars on that, Bill Bixby, Carol Burnett, Michael Cole, Rod Serling, and all the music that relates to the ecological concerns that's being expressed nowadays. We wanted a station where we could reach the majority of the people and so the specials will be starting on KKDJ around the first of the year and you'll probably hear one a month that way."

It's important to add that Charlie Tuna is the recipient of the Los Angeles Times contemporary personality of the year award, five time nominee of Bill Gavin's jock of the year award, has been voted personality of the year by thirty three program directors in the Billboard poll, and has the top-rated program in the world over the American Forces Radio Network, reaching 1/2 billion people each week. Charlie Tuna's wife's name is Shari, his children are Michelle, Christine, and Danny.

Goldwater Jr. hopes for liasion

What kind of relationship do high school students have toward the government? Is it one of apathy, mistrust, or hope?

These were the questions posed by Barry Goldwater, Jr. (R-Tarzana) at a special student conference in his district office on Ventura Blvd. last Friday. Approximately twenty students showed at the discussion, representing Thousand Oaks, Granada Hills, and Canoga Park High, along with several older students from Pierce College.

The conference was surprisingly very informal. The energy crisis gathered most of the one-and-

a-half hour meeting. Goldwater is a firm believer in big business, and he strongly stated that it is profit that makes the country run. He suspects the oil industries, but at the same time, supports them.

What Goldwater is striving for in these type of conferences is a working program between student leaders and his office, in order to develop a stronger liasion with education and government. He seems earnest in his attempt, and urges students to visit his office or call his secretary to discuss any problems one may suspect in the educational system.

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Steve Bitterly, Taft's two mile star, in action. Steve posted the City's best two mile time, 9.37.3, last week against Dos Pueblos.

Photo by Kaniger

Track spikes Pueblos Taft's V, B and C win

By Jack Kerrigan
Tribune Sports Writer

All three of Taft's Track Teams posted wins. After slow starts they came through to win handily.

VARSITY

The Varsity attack began and ended with Brian Donohue who found himself running in three events. Brian started the day by winning the 880 with a time of 1:56.7, then he won the 220, and he anchored the mile relay team which was also won.

This was going to be a day of surprises as Greg Brown found out. Brown was leading in the Varsity mile and thought he had the race wrapped up when Bob Matlock made a stunning come from behind move to pass Greg at the tape and win with a time of 4:39 flat.

The Two Mile Run is usually not the most exciting event of a Track Meet but it turned out to be very close race. Cross country star Steve Bitterly was expected to walk away

from the field but a Dos Pueblos runner kept it close for at least the first mile. The real contest was between Simentz and Flories for third. The fight for third was finally decided in a 180 yard sprint for the wire with Simentz just being edged out.

For the second week in a row Taft's 440 yard relay team was disqualified for dropping the baton but Taft went on to a 68-45 win anyway.

BEE and CEE

Taft's Bee Team rolled all over Dos Pueblos 81 to 19. The strong point for the Bee Team has to be the 70 yard high hurdles. Steve Zipperman was leading the race but lost his timing, right behind Steve finishing one, two, three were Bruce Hornstein, Zev Morantz and Charles Puett.

The Cee Team also slipped by Dos Pueblos 54-47. Fine performances were turned in by Kirt Swanson, Rance Sanders, Joel Silbar, Craig Stevenson and Tony Pinkney in leading the team to victory.

Sports

The Taft
Tribune

Varsity batsmen promising

When coach Ray O'Conner's varsity baseball team takes the field this season, some question marks must be answered should they hope to capture their second consecutive West Valley League title.

The first question mark is the pitching. Unfortunately there are no returning varsity pitchers. Junior Dave Aronow is expected to

emerge as the ace of the staff as he did one year ago for the JV team. Behind Aronow is the vastly improved Jeff Dworman who should take some of the burden from Dave. Filling out the staff will be Juniors Rick Douce, and Charlie Young and Sophomore Scott Hergott.

The infield looks sound. It will be led by pro prospect Phil Varner

at second, Varner is one of only two players returning from last year's starting team. Kelly Paris seems to have the shortstop position in hand. Paris was an all-league JV last year. Pat Visiglia will most probably open at third. Lou Demmerle, another JV standout, will be at first.

Rick Howerton, the other returning starter, will handle most of the catching chores. Behind him will be Paul Jannson. Jannson has been moved up from the Junior Varsity team of last year.

The 3 outfield positions have been pretty well nailed down by 3 juniors. O'Conners will probably start Tom Simpson, a power hitting transfer, in left field. In center there will be last year's JV All leaguer and leading hitter Tim Ferrin. Right field may turn out to be Paul Jannson's home for the up coming season. Other players that may end up in O'Conners outfield will be Bob Haber. Billy Calkins and Ron Helwig, both reserve in fielders, may play some outfield.

Hitting won't be a problem for the team as each player has previously shown their ability to hit. The power will come from the bats of Demmerle and Simpson while Ferrin can too come up with the long ball on occasion.

Consolo takes over JV's look strong

Steve Lane
Tribune Staff Writer

The JV Baseball team's debut was clouded by rain and bleak skies as their first exhibition game was rained out. But their future in this years season looks very sunny.

Of the 7 possible starters in Coach Consolo's infield, 5 were either backs or split ends on last years football teams. This will give this team more speed, position for position than last years team. The outfield might be as good as last year if Coach Consolo can get someone to nail down the tough left field job. This was last years Achilles Heel.

Everyone knows that pitching is the name of the game, and this years team has a pitcher that can probably match last years marvel Dave Aronow; His name is Guy Helwig, an eleventh grader. Helwigs only fault might be his lay-off over the last season. Teamed with Helwig for hill duties will probably be "Big" Jim Franklin and Bruce Rubin, 11th and 10th graders, respectively.

Hitting is the only thing in question, This years team is young and, of course, has not been tested. But hitting usually takes care of itself and if my opinion is right, Coach Co could have himself another Championship Season.

Pro wrestling: Bonafide sport or first-rate comedy

By "Weinhyena" Weinberg
"Kingfish" Rich
Tribune Sports Writers

Mention Pro Wrestling to the average sports fan and you get a laugh. "Pro Wrestling!!", repeats the fan incredulously, "You mean to say you actually watch that farce?"

Whether you watch it or not, it might come as a surprise to learn that professional Wrestling is consistently ranked among the top five spectator sports in America. Week after week, thousands of fans jam the arenas across the country to watch Giant against midget, intellect against moron, "Soulman" against "The Maniac". In reality it's good vs. evil.

Locally, wrestling matches are held at the ancient Olympic Auditorium, located in the outskirts of downtown Los Angeles. Within the grimey confines of the Olympic's locker room, promoter Gene La Belle conducts interviews with such notable stars as 625 lb. Man Mountain Mike.

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