

The Taft Tribune

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Taft chooses Sandra Birch Amer. Field Service finalist

Sandra Birch has been chosen as the Taft finalist in the American Field Service's foreign exchange program. If she is accepted regionally and nationally she will be travelling to, and living in a foreign country for either the year or the summer.

Sandra's screening began at Taft last month when she was chosen to be this school's representative in the Regional Screening. There the candidates from the area schools were screened again to make sure that the person fit the AFS guidelines. The guidelines for acceptance in AFS is a 3.0 grade point average and participation in school and community events. In general, they want a well-rounded person. In Regional Screening the student is either dropped, recommended for acceptance, or guaranteed for acceptance. From Regional Screening the student, if not dropped, will have his or her name sent to New York where they are matched with families to fit their personalities, starting with the guaranteed students and then working their way down the list until all the spaces are filled. This means that someone who was guaranteed in Regional Screening will not neces-

sarily be accepted if a compatible family cannot be found. This helps to insure an enjoyable experience for the students. There are two programs available to the students. One is a summer program and the other is a year long program divided into the Southern and Northern Hemispheres. The goal of the program is to represent America abroad and to help bring the people of the world closer together.

Sandra said that she applied to try to get to understand the peoples of other countries. She

decided upon the year-long Southern Hemisphere program as her first choice and the summer program as her second choice. She said that if she is chosen for the year long program she would like to go to New Zealand, and for the summer program France or Sweden will be desirable.

Sandra is very active at Taft. She is involved in the Inter-cultural Exchange Club and the Campus After Dark Club, and is also a member of the JV tennis team.



Sandra Birch, American Field Service semi-finalist candidate will be able to live in a foreign country if she is accepted nationally.

Cabinet clarifies by-laws Ceasing future ambiguity

By Bruce McWilliams
Tribune Liason

Student Cabinet has been hammering out corrections and amendments to the school's by-laws for the past week. "The purpose of this is to make all the rules concise and clear so that all students will be able to understand them," said Nancy Coleman, By-law committee chairwoman. She continued by saying that last semester, the cabinet changed some of the by-laws, but the wording in the changes was ambiguous and unclear.

Much heated debate has occurred over the changing of the rules. The major changes and additions are:

1. Defining the duties of the Director of Performing Arts.(The Cabinet go between).
2. Allowing the Song and Yell leaders to hold office for any number of semesters.
3. Making a recommendation that all Cabinet candidates have a free 6th period.
4. Requiring that the Director of Performing Arts, have at least one semester of participation in a performing art.
5. Defines the committee who appoints the Curriculum Advisor, Cabinet Sponsor, present curricul-

um chairperson, present president and incoming president.

All of these rules and others that will be made in the next few days make the by-laws much more concise. The revised version of the by-laws are in the cabinet room. Anyone who is interested is welcome to a copy of them.

National Humanities Program Bicentennial includes Taft High

By Tom Bolton
Tribune Staff Writer

The National Humanities Faculty announced on Monday, November 11, that Taft High School was among twenty high schools selected nationwide to participate in a two year Bicentennial study of "The American Covenant: The moral use of power."

The program, which will be coordinated by Mr. Harold Wheatley, will be in the form of a separate school for 11th grade students who have been identified as "gifted".

These students will attend classes in the same subjects as other students, the difference being that the classes encompassed in this program will be taught with emphasis on the theme of the study.

Involved in the program will be a core team of seven teachers from various fields, who now teach at Taft. In addition, several members of the National Humanities Faculty who are college professors will spend twenty five working days at Taft.

The program will seek to involve the community as a part of the learning experience, in addition to classroom study. The NHF program will also attempt to explore the key concepts of power, morality, and covenant, from the realistic point of view, in addition saying "....I believe in it."

to the abstract which is presently in use.

Mr. Wheatley who sees this type of program as the educational system of the future, feels that this study will "stimulate teacher growth and bring about more community interest and involvement in the educational process."

Some teachers involved in the program are: Helen Goldman, Philosophy; Herman Jay Film; Elliot Parlier, Social Studies; and Joe Santoyo, Art.

When questioned as to his feelings upon hearing of the selection of Taft to participate in the program, Mr. Wheatley responded, "Obviously one feels elated about getting an award like this." Finally, Mr. Wheatley summed up his feelings about the study by saying "....I believe in it."

College Opportunity Grants Benefit needing students

Taft has just received the College Board Summary Report for all students who took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in 1973-1974. According to Ms. June Sloan, Taft's College Scholarship Coordinator, the average of the verbal and mathematics for all Taft's students is 459, out of a possible 800, as compared with the national average of 462. "This is an excellent record," explained Ms. Sloan, saying that "colleges look quite favorably upon those student applications from Taft High School."

The College Opportunity Grant program will provide special grants for those students who generally, though not exclusively are ethnic minorities, coming from low income families, and who are not necessarily able to obtain scholar-

ships by the use of conventional methods. There is no minimum level of grades nor test scores required for acceptance in this program, which offers 3,100 possible grants. Ms. Sloan emphasized the significance of this program, stressing that "it's extremely important for those students of low income or ethnic groups to take advantage of this opportunity."

See Ms. Sloan about the College Opportunity Grants Program.

These grants may be used at either two year or four year colleges or universities, but it is mandatory that the applications be postmarked to the State Scholarship and Loan Commission no later than December 16, 1974. Ms. Sloan urges everyone who qualifies to see her for applications in the Counsellors Office or in the Annex.

Taft Ski Club is offering a free "dryland" Ski program designed for the beginning skier. This program which is open to all students will be held in Oral Arts, December 9th at 3:15. The first session, which will not require ski equipment, concerns bindings, clothes, ski equipment and safety. Skis, boots and poles will be required for the December 11th and 12th sessions, located on the upper gymfield. Students will be instructed in the basics of skiing, adjustment of bindings, walking, wedge and tranverse positions and the method of falling and getting up. Ski equipment may be stored in E133.



An important election is in the making as Taft students place their votes in choosing the Spring yell

and cheerleaders.

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Commentary

Charity Drives

Although it may be unfair to say in many cases, it is a well-known fact that Taft and the surrounding Tarzana-Woodland Hills environment is a fairly affluent area. It is well-known by the P.T.A., the United Way Organization, as well as many other charity groups. Therefore, when these groups hold their respective drives here at Taft, they expect some very heavy output from the students and parents.

Earlier this semester, the P.T.A. held its annual membership drive, with results maybe not as high as they could have been, but nevertheless, Taft did respond. Within a very short time, it was time to give again, this time for the various United Crusade organizations. There were some very commendable individual homeroom responses to the Crusade's pleas, but at the same time, there were many students and parents who had exhausted their supply of charity spending in the P.T.A. drive a few weeks back, and were unwilling to give any more, regardless of the cause.

Considering the wide-range importance of an organization which thrives on volunteer contributions as the United Way does, and realizing the potential giving power of the Taft community, one important move must be made next time the drive rolls around. The time span between the two drives must be far enough apart so that the thought of charity does not become a tired one. The United Crusade drive is important, and it may have been somewhat neglected by Taft students this year. It is a simple matter of dollars and sense.

Required Speech Class?

The people in charge of the curriculum at Taft have done an outstanding job creating many new and innovative classes in the past few years. However, while these classes are becoming acclimated to the times, the list of required courses is lacking in one important respect: A course dealing with communication.

We agree that there are electives such as film, journalism, debate, and Instructional Media offered, and plenty of opportunities for students to take them, but a course in the most simplest form of communication; that of speaking, is usually ignored. Too many people will graduate high school and even college with a deficiency in speaking, not only in groups, but among themselves. We recommend that Cabinet and/or the administration look into the possibility of a speech class that must be taken sometime in high school.

A required speech class would enable every student to be better equipped to handle himself or herself after graduation.

Privacy Questioned

It has never been a fact that teachers are omniscient, but it has now become a part of their profession. In the recent Ethnic Survey that circulated throughout the school system, teachers were expected to play God in determining what ethnic background their students came from. And in respect, educational bureaucracy has gone too far.

It was an observation assignment for the teachers so that the Board could find how its school system is divided and how to divide its teachers accordingly.

It would have been fine if all the teachers had just "observed", but for some teachers that wouldn't do, so they asked how many Negroes and how many American Indians there were. That in itself is a direct violation of the right of privacy.

-LETTERS TO THE EDITOR-

Restrooms at Taft unfit

Dear Editor,

Upon returning to Taft this fall as a senior, I noticed that the price of food in the cafeteria had risen considerably. I wondered why this was necessary, and where was this money going. Well, after visiting the restrooms here at Taft I do know one thing - the extra money is **not** going towards the upkeep of these restrooms, or towards the general health of Taft's students.

From the time a child is toilet trained by his parents, he is taught the absolute necessity of washing his hands afterward. Little does this child realize that one day, when he finally grows up, and enters Taft (one of the best schools around), this habit will be threatened.

I've discovered that at least half of the boys restrooms here are **without soap!**

A student in the boys P.E. class often plays volleyball, basketball or football, then does situps and pushups on the ground. After all of this, and then possibly going to the bathroom, his hands will inevitably be filthy! Unless he goes out of his way to search for one of the few restrooms **with** soap, he will be forced to handle his nutrition and lunch food with those same dirty hands.

Although very few boys in P. E. will take a shower, I've discovered that even if they did take a shower, it too, would be a soapless one. "After school, when the football players come in from practice and want to clean up and take a shower...there's no soap!", complained J. V. football player Scott Newton.

The problem, however, doesn't stop with soap. There are often no towels, no trash barrels, and no toilet paper.

"They stink...the whole place stinks! You walk in...you walk right back out", said Andrus Benton.

"There's no toilet paper.", complained Sue Spencer. She explained that all she could do was keep kleenex in her purse. The only solution that I can offer to those of you who can't find toilet paper, is to go over to the senior quad, there's plenty in the trees down there. Is it a matter of value? Are the students at Taft considered lowly second to the teachers? Apparently this is the case. The teacher's restrooms are spotless; equipped with towels, toilet paper, seat covers and - yes, even soap.

And consider this - if Taft is thought to be one of the best schools in the area, imagine what some of the other schools are like. How many more students are being subjected to these unclean, unsanitary conditions.

Something must be done! Whether it's the custodian's fault the student's fault or the result of a lack of money... something must be done... and fast!

Jerry J. Biederman

Dear Editor:

The editorial in last week's Taft Tribune was outstanding. Not only would it give fair justice to many students, but the experience for the people judging the "criminals" would be excellent. My hat is off for Bruce McWilliams - now let's see if anything comes about as a result of it.

R. Carter

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A Look at Pre-School

By Laurie Miller
Tribune Staff Writer

Have you ever seen little kids running around Taft and wondered where they came from? Believe it or not, these children are registered Taft students.

The children are part of one of the aspects of the Taft Pre-school-Child Educational Aide Program, which has been going on quite successfully for six years. This career education program has not only been progressing at Taft, but at many other West Valley schools as well.

In the pre-school program, the parents bring their children to room C 4 three times a week for two hours, during periods four and five. The children are supervised by Mrs. Nancy Cornell, coordinator and sponsor of the program, along with 17 or 18 Taft students, some of whom are training to be teachers in various pre-schools. Mrs. Cornell feels that the pre-school is in some re-

spect better than a private pre-school, because not only do the students seem to have an excellent rapport with the children, but the student-teacher ratio at the pre-school is at a very productive level. Taft also provides many excellent features, such as microscopes from the Science Department, a vegetable garden, and animals to pet from the Agriculture Department.

Required Prerequisites

The program begins in Mrs. Cornell's Child Development class, one of the prerequisites for the Child Educational Program, which also includes working in the Children's Center and in local and elementary schools. The development class is designed to help students recognize various stages of development of children and to be aware of language, sensory, motor and perceptual skills of each individual child. Techniques such as using a flannelboard for storytelling, teaching music and

media through texture are introducing different art taught by Mrs. Cornell through experience in working with the children. The students take no shortcuts or "easy ways out" in teaching the pre-schoolers.

The child aides balance nutritional snacks, plan curriculum and field trips, and hold parent meetings with Mrs. Cornell's advice and guidance. They learn through practical, on the job training.

Although the program is a part of the Home Economics Department, Mrs. Cornell stresses the fact that men are most welcome. The class is definitely not for women only. Men are, in fact, more desirable and hireable than equally qualified women in this particular section of the job market.

Credit for success of the program goes to Mrs. Cornell and the patient, understanding, self-motivated students. Without these qualities, a program such as this would not be possible.



Carmen Holdridge, one of Taft high's students working on the pre-school program works with an infatuated student near the slide machine, while

another youngster sizes herself up next to a donkey. The pre-schoolers meet three times a week during periods four and five in C4.

By Glenn Adler

What would you do with ten bucks?

"The whole revolution," says comedian George Carlin, "is about values, what you'll do for ten dollars, what you'll do with ten dollars."

This simple phrase humorously sums up the major difference in people's values. Coincidentally, it is spoken in one of today's most popular comedy albums, *Class Clown*. Often criticized for its graphic descriptions and crude language, Carlin's humor ranks with that of other great American humorists for important reason: It is a precise, truthful and often shocking reflection of our way of life.

Learning and enlightenment can come from many places. teachers, school, and even comedy albums. Recently, I remembered Carlin's quote on values and I applied it to the various groups, stereotyped as they are, at Taft. Someone can spend ten dollars in infinitely many ways. One group member might spend the money on an upcoming concert, another might buy some grass, one might spend it on his motorcycle, and yet another might save it for college, or a pocket calculator. Granted, these are narrow-minded and stereotyped generalities, but one can't escape the reality of a Grand Canyon rift between various students at Taft. Every day the rift grows greater and greater, alienating and discouraging people in the process. One group member, professing the cliché qualities of liberality and openness often reserve those qualities only for fellow group members, turning away from outsiders and strangers. This chain of events is not unique to one group, rather it is a quality of humans in general. the need to seek refuge in a safe, familiar environment. For self-preservation or a bruised psyche, this isolation may be beneficial, but in public school it is damaging, depriving people of valuable interaction with other people of differing backgrounds and opinions. Another undesirable aspect of isolation is apathy and dislike towards any outside element, especially Taft High School.

Realizing that the desire to group together is instinctive, we can never really obliterate the divisions between people. All we can hope for is an easing of the tensions that divide us. Cliques will always be with us, but if for one moment we can forget our egotism, shelve our stubbornness, and disregard our group identity, then maybe we can open our eyes and learn something about the world around us, not to mention ourselves.

PART 1: THE SET UP

The Great Bull Ripoff: Study in Apathy

Editor's Note: The following is the first installment of a three part special called "The Great Bull Ripoff". Exclusive story rights, at the expense of anonymity, were granted to the author by the participants in the crime. The story is a work of nonfiction, and the views presented represent those of the author only.

By Dan Turner

No one would have thought it possible. It was like stealing the Empire State Building from New

York City. It was like taking Disneyland from Orange County. It was like pilfering apple pie from the American people. But the odd thing about it is that not many people even noticed the Herculean ripoff, and of those who did, few even cared.

The story I have to tell is none other than the "Great Bull Ripoff", or "How to Ruin a Good Prank in Three Easy Lessons". Earlier this fall, the very root of all Taft

spirit, Porker, the Taft bull, was stolen. How this was possible and how he was recovered is a bizarre story that warrants re-telling. The villains responsible for this deplorable deed have come to me with their tale, their only price, anonymity. For the sake of identification, I have labeled the three accomplices who conspired in the theft, X, Y, and Z.

The plot began on the night of

September 27. X and Y had attended the Taft-Monroe football game, but they devoted their attention to something that didn't even play a significant role in the attending. With all the plotting game's outcome. They were watching Porker with the inscrutable eyes of hardened criminals. It had been a pet peeve of X to get that steer for two years, but he was yet to find two worthy accomplices. On return from the game, X and Y racked their brains for a way to procure the beast. "He must surely be kept under lock and key at all times," they thought. Little did they know that Robb Grant, Taft Yell King, was to take it upon himself that weekend to repair and repaint the mascot at his home. Here is where fate stepped in. X and Y, on their way home, saw Grant driving his Datsun truck with Porker proudly riding in the

back. They followed him to his house. The two were so astounded at this stroke of luck, they contemplated returning to the Grant residence that very night to pilfer the beast. Y's good judgement and cunning criminal instinct won over on this occasion. It was decided to incorporate Z into the plot and wait until the next night.

The three spent the next day scheming. This was no easy task, stealing the bull of Porker's size. (Porker stands five feet tall in flats and is over seven feet from horns to tail.) Their plan must be perfect. There must be alibies, tools, diagrams, getaway routes and counter getaway routes if trouble should arise. That afternoon X and Y case the Grant home checking lay out, location of the bull, fence dimensions and getaway possibilities. They employed a clever "walking the dogs disguise" to obtain this information, even as the Grant family worked in the front yard.

At this time a key observation was made by Y. It seemed as though the Grant family were Bruin fans as UCLA stickers were pasted over every car. The Bruins were entertaining Iowa at the Coliseum that night; perhaps the Grants were planning to attend the game...



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Eagles wing Taft 28-20

Long Bell scampers prove Toreador's demise Footballers finish with fine 8-2 record

by Dan Turner
Tribune Sports Editor

Quarterback Charlie Young lay crumpled at the Bell 28-yard line. He and his Toreador teammates would fail to rise again. The clock showed nothing left with the Eagles ahead by eight. The Taft varsity football team had come as far as they would in 1974. The first round of the LA City playoffs would be as high as they would ever rise.

For the team, there is no tomorrow, only yesterday and their memories of the season. They were a team that won together, sang together, fought together and lost together. But all there's left to do is remember together. Remember an 8-2 season and a disheartening loss to the Bell Eagles on November 22.

But in all actuality, it could be the Bell team that would be at the end of their road now. They were not a superior team. They might not even have been better than the Red White and Gold. They were outgained by Taft, out-passed by Taft and generally out-statistics by Taft except in one vital department, the score. And they won there, 28-20.

The Toreador demise lay in their inability to stop the Bell backs Canady and Pennington at the line on just three occasions. Those three plays were runs of 39, 56 and 61 yards, and they accounted for 21 Bell points. The Taft "Little People" defense did a pretty fair job except for those plays, considering they were up against a line that fit Darwin's description of the "missing link" and averaged 250 pounds a head.

The only other Toreador problem was found in the offense that "played" in the first half. While the defense, led by the charge of Steve Lane, Dave Rosenberg and Tom Simpson, held the Eagles in check, the offense failed to move.

The Bell team scored first on a well maneuvered drive the first time they laid hands on the ball. The drive was the only offense of the first half, so the halftime score read Bell 7 Taft 0. The Eagles gave the Taft fans even less to cheer about when they scored again in the third quarter to bolster their lead to 14-0.

Then Charlie Young and company took over. They struck for two scores quickly. The first was an excellent effort on the part of Jeff Fisher who ran 47 yards with a screen pass. Minutes later, Mr. Young snuck the ball over from the one behind the block of Bill Plaskett to knot the score at 14 all.

However, the Eagles soared right back, this time on the wings of a 61 yard blast by John Pennington. The conversion left Bell with a 7 point advantage.

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Half the Touchdown Twins. Bill Spooner displays the form that enabled him to snare 53 passes this fall and a spot in the All-Valley team. Photo by Stern

Footmen falter in early going

One of the traits possessed by a winning team is the ability to comeback and win after trailing and last Tuesday the Toreador Varsity soccer team succumbed to a second half rally by Van Nuys High School 2-1. Taft led through most of the game 1-0 before faltering to the number one team in the Valley League. Van Nuys has a perfect 4-0-0 mark now while Taft sagged to 1-2-1.

The only goal for Taft was scored by Guillermo Sosa in the first quarter but the key play of the game was in the second quarter when the Van Nuys goalie fell down and Sosa took a shot that hit the pipe.

Besides connecting for the only goal in the first quarter the Toreadors played very well. They were penetrating effectively on Van Nuys and getting off many shots with crisp passing.

However the defense must be given a lot of credit for the improved offense as they bottled up the V.N. offense kicking away just about everything while goalie Kilfoil was making the needed saves.

This inspired play against such a highly rated team as Van Nuys continued in the second quarter as the defense of Taft was clearly the key for a 1-0 lead at halftime. The Toreadors truly outplayed Van Nuys in the first half but Taft was guilty of missing scoring opportunities and it hurt in the outcome.

In the third quarter Taft showed little offense but this was completely different for Van Nuys as they showed why they are undefeated. They put a lot of pressure on the Taft defense but the red and gold continued to sparkle in the field.

Then V.N. was awarded a penalty kick near the end of the period and scored on it to tie the game at one. After tying the game Van Nuys threatened even more seriously to take the lead but the Toreadors held out to end a lackluster 18 minutes tied at 1.

As the final quarter opened Taft was struck by lightning again and Van Nuys had the lead for the first time in the game 2-1.

The Toreadors became very aggressive after the goal and came out of their offensive shell with a lot of fire power.

But Young was back knocking on the door the next time he had his hands on the ball. This time he rifled a 47-yard strike to Gary Kishimoto to draw the Toreadors to within one point at 21-20. Coach Hal Lambert elected to go for the tying point as his team had the momentum and could probably score again. Tom Grimes, who previously had run a string of 29 straight conversions together, got a bad snap from center and failed.

Bell had the momentum back.

The Taft defense took the field following the kickoff with their biggest series of the year. Their job was to get that ball back and hurry. They got the ball back, but in the meantime gave up a game-icing touchdown. A 43 yard burst by Don Canady.

Young and Company took the field for one last series, with 46 seconds remaining on the clock and no time-outs. They put on a

valiant effort, but fell short when Charlie was sacked at the 28-yard line with nine seconds left. The clock ran out, as did all out Taft's championship hopes.

Before the game Lambert made the statement, "We are going to have to play football if we want to beat Bell." The Toreadors came with some players limping, others not walking at all, but they gave 100% none-the-less. Taft obviously came to play football.



The other half. Quarterback Charlie Young delivers behind good protection by Brad Dexter (33) and Bill Plaskett (50). Young was named to the second team

All-Valley squad by the Los Angeles Times on the wings of his incredible year for the Red White and Gold. Photo by Stern

CC competes in city Squads fair well

The Taft High Cross Country teams fared well in the league finals held November 21 at Los Angeles Pierce College. The Cross Country teams upheld the Taft tradition of greatness. The varsity team, on the wings of a miserable performance, finished second to Chatsworth but still qualified for the City playoffs. John Simenz, Kirk Swanson and Roger Watkin all placed in the top ten.

The JV's placed second in the league as did the tenth grade

team. These teams will also advance into city competition.

The city quarterfinals will be run tomorrow so at presstime their results were not known by the Tribune. The varsity pairings, which is primarily the luck of the draw, matched the Toreadors versus not too formidable adversaries so they are expected to advance.

Should they advance, the City semi-finals will be held next week and a good student turn out would be appreciated.

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