

Happy Holidays from the Tribune Staff and Graphic Arts



Student Cabinet favors new system

By Bruce McWilliams
Tribune Liaison

In a surprise move, Cabinet voted 14-5-1 to completely alter its present make-up a week ago last Tuesday. The purpose of this action was to make student government more efficient by cutting the size down from 23 to 15. The motion, altering the present system, was made by Cathy Maron after many

"It's going to be much more efficient than our present system."

hours of committee work. It included changing the titles of most offices as well as their respective jobs. It was the first step in a projected plan to change Cabinet into a self-checking system molded somewhat after the Federal Government.

The arguments for the changes were as follows:

1. It allows Cabinet to become a tight-knit group which would become efficient in its duties. It also affords less buck passing, which is a common occurrence now.

2. It gives the offices more duties to keep the officers busy throughout the entire semester. As it is now, some offices have only one major function and when the officer is finished with that project there is nothing left for the rest of the semester. This new plan would end that problem as it allows for discussions to be more productive.

The arguments against the changes were as follows:

1. It limits the number of people who can be involved in student government to an even smaller number than it is now.

2. It throws too much responsibility on the shoulders of some offices.

3. The effects of a non-productive person would be an even greater burden to the other members.

Much debate occurred during the changes with some meetings lasting well into lunch as the various members hammered out minor differences in the plan. But at the end of the discussion, most agreed that the positive side of the plan well outweighed any negative aspects of the question. The major changes included the following:

1. Eliminating all offices except

"We worked long and hard on this change. We spent many long hours hammering things out... we convinced a majority of Cabinet members that this was a necessary change."

those of President, Vice-President, class presidents and both secretaries.

2. Delegating more responsibilities to the Vice-President.

3. Because of the difficulty in deciding which offices would be eliminated, it was decided that all of them should be abolished.

In their places is a chairman who takes over two offices from the old plan.

a. Chairman of Athletics takes over the job of Director of Spirit as well as the duties of Athletic Director.

b. Chairman of Communications takes over the job of Tribune Liaison, Director of Community Involvement and Director of Communications.

c. Chairman of Finance is the same as Treasurer, but by the new By-Laws, would require this chairman to set aside one period a day to work in the financial office for credit, to understand the school finances and be able to report back to Student Cabinet.

d. Chairman of Performing Arts is the same as Director of Performing Arts.

"The new system will greatly alter the present system into a better form of Student Government."

e. Chairman of Special Services would be in charge of all Student Body elections but new job of parliamentarian would be added to the office.

f. Chairman of Social Activities would encompass Director of Assemblies and Social Director duties.

g. Chairman of Education and Welfare will combine jobs of Curriculum Chairman, Health and Safety Director and Director of Welfare.

h. Chairman of Publicity would be the same as Publicity Director.

All of these new posts will greatly increase the duties of any Cabinet position. Another precedent that this move has set, is that all candidates will be informed of their duties before they run for office. Hopefully this will make the student who is running for office aware of what his responsibilities are. Run for office week began last Wednesday. All students who want to run for an office should, as next semester's Cabinet promises to be among the most productive and interesting ever at Taft.

The Taft High English Department recently announced that the eleventh grade American Literature requirement is no longer in effect. Juniors will now be able to choose from American Lit, English Lit, Modern Lit, or World Lit, to fulfill their 11th grade English requirement, instead of being limited to just American Lit. Eleventh grade students who are presently enrolled in any of the above classes will not be required to take another literature class next semester. These classes will still be open to all Taft students as English electives, however.

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

It is time to look at our "sanitation" upgrading problem. We recently received some insolent accusations in the school newspapers and also an ironic wave of vandalism shortly thereafter. Who is really making life so hard for Mr. Biederman? Let's get our cards on the table and see what is to be done.

The Custodians submit these pictures to tell our story. It seems outrageous that many of the Taft children were inspired to heavily vandalize the bathrooms, especially after their editorial plea for some "fast" action. It was fast alright. In one day...

1. Dispensers kicked in or pried open in upper "B" Bldg. Toilet paper all taken out and thrown about.
2. Upper "D" bathroom soap dispenser torn off the wall... it wasn't even empty!
3. Lower "D" and "E" bathrooms had roll towels thrown about and many dispensers were vandalized (kicked in or forced open) again plenty of paper available to throw about.
4. The year-long problem of the missing soap dispensing valves. We assure you it isn't the custodial staff who are responsible for their disappearance. ect. ect.

Some students insinuate, along with other misconceptions, that we show favoritism towards the teachers. They complain that (the teacher's) bathrooms are kept in a superior manner than the student's bathrooms. This is not so. All bathrooms are maintained according to School Board regulations. The difference is that the teachers are proven adults, while the students prefer to act like sub-humans at certain times, especially when around "rest" rooms. The students will make the bed that they have to sleep in later. We can only offer our suggestions and do our part. What will the students do?

If the problems continue, why not administer more discipline against smoking offenses? This will both clear the air and keep the unsightly marks off the toilet seats.

Reduce the number of bathrooms open during lunch and nutrition. This will have the compound effect of not only reducing food spillage (unsanitary) on rest room floors, but also enabling a concentration of noon aides in the remaining available bathrooms.

Let's try to realize that we are all paying taxes in some form and share a mutual stake in our school property. If one chooses to destroy property, let him do so at home.

We agree with Jerry Biederman,it is a sense of "value", not a

monetary value, a moral value! Remember the words of A. McLaren, "Deeds are fruits, words are but leaves."

Ben Pennock
Taft Custodian

Dear Editor,

I firmly believe that the people of America still have faith in our Republican party and Government even though Nixon and the entire Watergate scandal have disgraced both.

The events of the past few years indeed show a loss of faith, but this loss is not as great as many people believe. Our recent elections are the best proof of this. The overwhelming Democratic sweep in Congress is the best indication of a decline in Republican confidence. But these same elections also showed that the voter turnout was heavier than expected, a sign we feel shows that the people are confident a change will do the country good.

President Ford is now trying to rebuild the confidence lost in the past few years. His recent trip to Japan and Moscow show that progress is being made to do this. Also, his WIN program (Whip Inflation Now) was enacted partially to increase our confidence in our economic situation. To find out whether or not this program is merely words or has meaning, we must wait until the future shows us definite signs.

Kerry Laufer

Dear Editor:

In the fall of last year my father complained to the City Traffic Department about the condition of the Santa Rita-Winnetka intersection adjacent to Taft. They investigated the area and agreed that the intersection was much busier than they had originally thought, and that a signal was required to ensure the safety of Taft students coming to and from school.

The signal was approved and the funds were allocated to build it. Yet the intersection in question remains without a signal. We all know the standard excuses - after all they do have a lot to do this year and they will get to it as soon as possible. But somewhere the priorities have gotten mixed up. I feel that the safety of our students should be first on our list.

True, no one has been killed at the intersection yet. But we have agreed that the chances of such a tragedy occurring would be decreased if a signal were there. How long must we delay in putting it up? Will the death of a student be the only way we will be stirred to act? I'm afraid that all the excuses in the world won't do much good then.

M. Lipow

Economic recovery expected If history repeats itself

By Tom Bolton
Tribune Staff Writer

History repeats itself! Just a cliché? Maybe not. There have been many examples in the past which seem to show that history is indeed cyclic, and does repeat itself.

One such example is the fact that, starting with William Harrison in 1841, every man who was serving as president at twenty year intervals from that point, died in office. Another example which has occurred throughout the history of the United States, is the fact that after each recession in our economy, the economy has recovered.

During every period of recession or depression there are men who deem the situation hopeless. One such declaration of despair is given below.

"It is a gloomy moment in the history of our country. Not in the

lifetime of most men has there been so much grave and deep apprehension; never has the future seemed so incalculable as at this time. The domestic economic situation is in chaos. Our dollar is weak throughout the world. Prices are so high as to be utterly impossible.

"The political cauldron seethes and bubbles with uncertainty. Russia hangs as usual, like a cloud, dark and silent, upon the horizon. It is a solemn moment. Of our troubles no man can see the end."

An assessment of our present economic situation by one of our modern day economists? Hardly. This was part of an article published in Harper's Weekly in October, 1857, during the Panic of 1857.

These words bring to mind the fact that throughout the history of the United States there has been a period of economic prosperity following every period of depression. Following the panic of 1837, the United States economy enjoyed a period of two years of prosperity. After the panic of 1857, the U.S. economy remained basically stable for a period of about twenty years. Our economy has suffered recession and depression in the past, but the fact remains that each time it has recovered.

These words printed in Harper's seemed fitting in 1857, as do they seem fitting now. But as history has repeated itself in the past, so it seems likely that the cycle will once again prevail, and that our economy will eventually right itself again.



Meskimen's
World



Artwork
By Jim Meskimen



PART III: THE RANSOM

The Bull is returned, but grudgingly

Editor's Note: The following is the conclusion of a three part story about the theft of Taft's bull. Once again, it is reminded that in order to print the story, the characters have remained anonymous.

By Dan Turner

With the first step of "The Great Bull Ripoff" complete, the second or ransom phase had to be reckoned with. What could X,Y and Z ask for in ransom that had comparable worth to the bull. The notorious three racked their brains the remainder of the weekend of September 28 with this problem.

They went to school on Monday wondering what would be told of

their crime. Would the school be in an uproar? Would they storm over to rival ECR and demand Poker's return? Would the underworld be brought in to recover the mascot? Would general havoc prevail around Taft? Nothing doing. Grant wasn't playing their game. He was keeping the whole matter quiet, which made X burn with anger. Would no one know of the great crime? He smoldered with hate for Grant. What right had Grant to spoil this most deplorable deed?

Tuesday, October 1, the X, Y and Z team swung into action again. They carefully wrote up a

ransom note. Their only request was to have someone in the phone booth at the Mobil gas station on the corner of Winnetka and Ventura at 6:00 that evening to receive a phone call. This note was given to me, at the time the Tribune's Editor-in-Chief. I relayed it on to Grant. The identity of the one who gave me the note was later found out to be none other than the notorious X. But his anonymity has been sworn to by myself so that I may relay to you, the reader, this strange tale.

Anonymous Call

Grant himself was waiting at the Mobil station that evening. The phone rang and he answered; on the other end was Z. Special background sounds were employed in an attempt to disguise the fact that the call was being made from Z's suburban home. The demands were as follows: Grant was to get Messers. Vadetsky, Luskin and Dr. Thibeault to take the microphone and to, over the P.A. system, sing the Taft High Alma Mater. This was to take place on Thursday. An ultimatum was given along with this demand. If Grant refused to comply with these orders, the right front hoof of Porker would be dismembered and sent to Grant in the mail. Grant hung up with an air of uncertainty.

Wednesday is the traditional day to paint the bull, but when someone asked cheerleader Ricki Vinyard why they weren't painting, she replied nonchalantly, "Someone stole our bull." At this time I became intrigued with the story. I asked songqueen Lori Crawley if there was any truth to the rumor that the bull was gone. She assured me that it was probably a trick Rob was playing on them (the cheerleaders). The cheerleaders consensus was that it was a Grant trick, and besides, he lost the bull, he could find it. I was convinced at this time that they must be right and dismissed the whole thing as a Grant joke.

Thursday, October 3 arrived. It was to be the culmination of the ransom scheme. The thieves came to school with the satisfaction that at last someone would know of their deed. They waited apprehensively for the fourth period announcements.

But the P.A. came on with no special event. The student body didn't realize the drama occurring at the announcements' end and the bell, X and Z simply stared at each other. Cold anger was drawn on their faces. They all vowed to make somebody pay for writing off their ransom note as a bluff.

I saw Robb Grant fifth period and he said to me, "Received any packages for me?" I looked at him strangely and thought nothing more of it.

That evening, a mysterious figure dropped some package on the Grant doorstep. He sped away into the night with his mission complete. The box was one Grant expected, but much to his delight, a flowerpot was inside instead of poor Porker's hoof. A note was also present. Grant was to get on the P.A. the next day, Friday, and tell the student body of the crime and plead for the bull's return.

The thieves were reaping no glory from their theft and were mad about it.

Again the crooks waited, but again there was no word over the P.A. They were at this time broken and disheartened thieves. They had been thwarted by an unconquerable foe, apathy. No one cared enough to get involved in agood old-fashioned prank. X,Y and Z had been crushed.

This story does have a happy ending. The three saw it fit to return the bull. But as X related, "The epitome of the whole situation was when we pulled the bull alongside our car down Wells and Winnetka Avenues, no one even looked up to laugh or even stare. Only the little ones who had not already been hit by this whole apathetic scene looked and paid any attention. We pulled the bull right into a full Taft parking lot, but no one cared enough to question us as to why we had the bull. Ninety percent of the drill team marched past, but no one raised an eyebrow." It was kind of sad.

Porker was where he belonged, at midfield when the Varsity game versus Venice began. It had been decorated by the thieves, poking fun at the whole school with its decorum. But nobody said anything about its crazy paint job. Y later remarked, "I wonder if anyone even cared."

50th Anniversary On Dec. 29 Honors Mulholland Dr.

The 50th anniversary of Mulholland Drive will be honored with a gala celebration to be held a week from this Sunday, December 29, beginning at 10:00 A.M.

The major purpose of the event is to acquaint people throughout the city with the road as a connector of the chain of parks from Griffith Park to the sea. The three new state parks which command the most interest are Topanga State Park, Century Ranch State Park, and Point Mugu State Park.

A bike ride on Mulholland will commence at Mirmar School, 16189 Mulholland, proceeding west for a short distance before heading back - a total of six (moderate) miles. Hiking and horseback riding will take place on the 7-mile unpaved part of Mulholland. The best access point for most Taft students to the section is at the southern end of Reseda Boulevard.

Meanwhile, old-time cars will meet at Tapia Park, a little south of Century Ranch, for a beautiful trip to Stokes Canyon. The sponsors of the event recommended that automobiles be kept to a minimum.

Monstrous obsession overtaking country

By Jack Kerrigan
Tribune Editorial Editor

In these times of supersonic air travel, men on the moon and Watergate, is man becoming obsessed with monsters? It seems that while the rest of the world continues to push forward, living remnants of species long thought extinct, keep popping up around the globe.

This whole "obsession" really started in 1938 when some fishermen caught an ancient Coelacanth off the coast of Africa. Since 1938, 82 Coelacanths have been caught. Now you may not find this discovery that startling, but it can be compared with walking out to your garden and encountering a live Brontosaurus nibbling on your petunias, or parking your new automobile under a tree returning only to find Pterodactyl droppings all over the hood.

Scientists are sending a six member exploration team to Mozambique and Madagascar to try and capture a live Coelacanth to put on display here in America. But I'm sure Sea World would get a hold of one and just to make a few

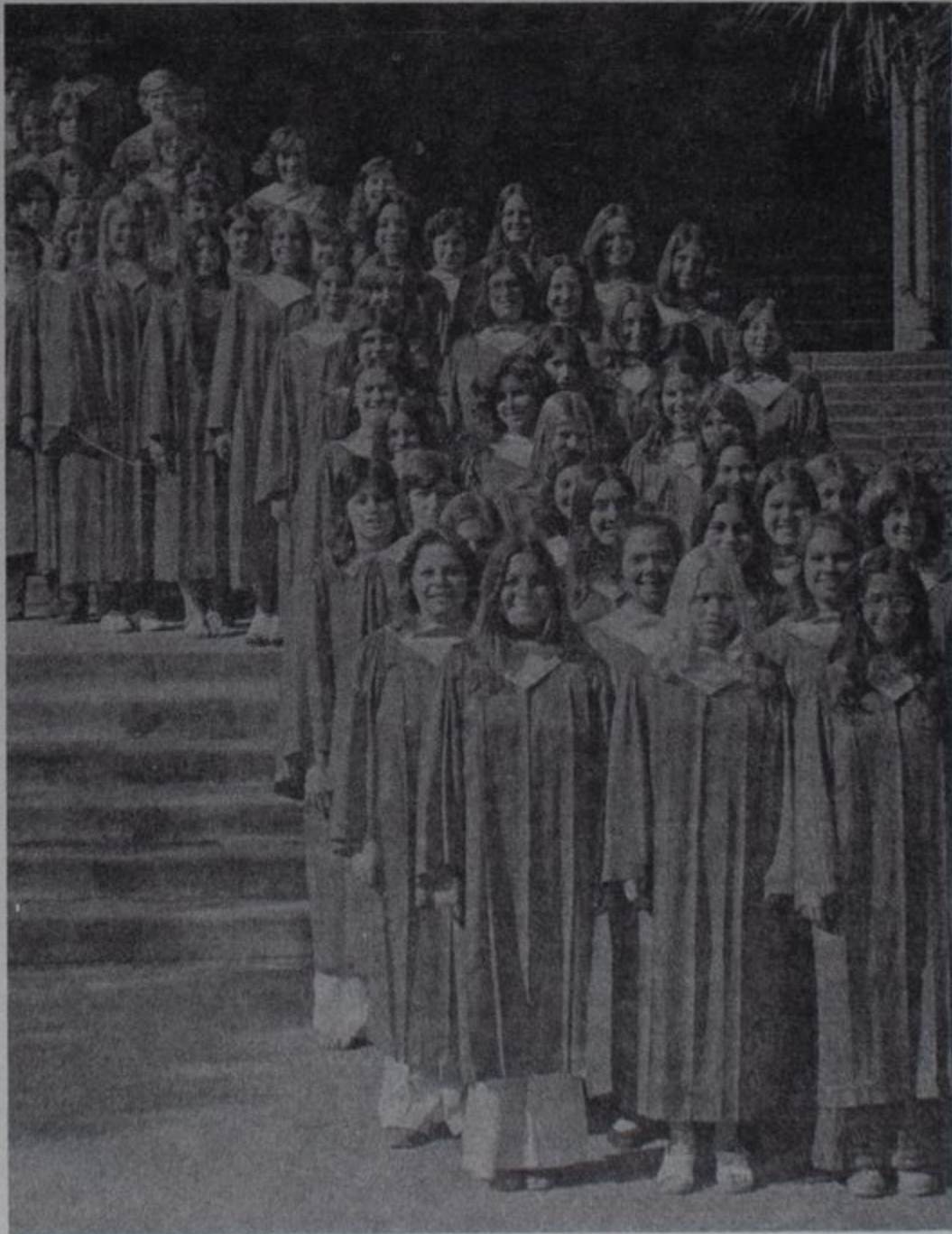
bucks, commercialize it, destroying all the fish's scientific value. Could you imagine the advertisements Sea World would have, "Shamu for Mayor", or Coelacanth for Councilman".

Remember that Smithsonian special on TV a few weeks ago entitled *Monsters! Mysteries or Myths?* Well that show finished second in the Neilsen ratings for the week ending December 1st. I'm sure the Loch Ness monster would rise from his murky retreat if he knew he was edged out of the number one spot, not to mention having to share second place with Maude. But "Nessie, Big Foot, and the Abominable Snowman can take pride in knowing they finished ahead of Rhoda, All In The Family, Bob Newhart, Hawaii Five-O, and Mary Tyler Moore. They even out-polled the Wonderful World of Disney much to the chagrin of Bambi, Pluto, and Annette Fingleton.

But is man's "obsession" with monsters total? After all, I haven't seen Rich Little master an imitation of a Big Foot, but then again, I'm sure the Coelacanth can't swim with all the grace and finesse of an Esther Williams either.

So if you're still not convinced that man is becoming obsessed with monsters, you better wait awhile before saying so. Because if you speak too soon you just might stick your "big foot" in your mouth.

Choir Hits High Note



The Taft High School Choir poses as they appeared in the annual Holiday Music Program last night in Taft Hall. The presentation of "Oratorio de Noel" was a combined effort of both the vocal and instrumental groups.

Photo by Maxwell

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The view the Taft cross country teams had of the pack last week, from behind. The varsity placed fifth in the City last Saturday at L.A. Pierce College. Photo by Wackenstedt

CC turned away in finals, Swanson places 17th in City

By Dan Turner
Tribune Sports Editor

When school opened last September Coach Dale Lythgoe looked out at his varsity cross-country team and noticed something missing—four of the West Valley's fastest legs. They happened to belong to one Greg Brown and one Mark Morden but alas they had moved away, leaving Lythgoe with very little to work with. The little he had he took to the City finals last Saturday afternoon at Pierce College and placed fifth.

For Lythgoe, the John Wooden of High school cross-country, beating out forty-four other city teams was somewhat of a disappointment considering he usually beats out forty-eight.

The Toreadors drew the ultimate

lane one for the race but it really didn't help them a bit as up the first hill Andy York was the top Toreador and he was buried in twentieth place.

Roger Watkin, who was running with nine stitches in his head, then made his move on the pack and climbed into fifth spot at the olive trees with John Simenz, the next Toreador to be seen, in fifteenth. But Watkin, not wishing to leave

excellent bid at the finish to end up in the fourteenth spot.

The tenth grade team qualified two runners as individuals but neither finished in the top ten.

The teams had traveled the rigor of the road to make it to the palace gates but in the end no one would let them in.

JV's impressive! Fernando cagers thrashed 64-42

Taft's junior varsity cagers exploded for forty-one points in the second half enabling the Toreadors to soundly thrash a hapless San Fernando team 64-42 last Friday. Don Smith led a balanced scoring attack for the Toreadors pumping in ten points as the JV's upped their record to 2-0.

The first quarter was a coach's nightmare as both teams missed several layups, made bad passes, and made bad choiced shots. Taft never-the-less had a slim 10-8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Toreadors then started the fireworks that made known the victor of the game but only the score would be in doubt. With their lead at only 11-10 Taft streaked to ten unanswered points to set the stage for a commanding 23-12 halftime advantage.

The second quarter was just a sample of what was going to happen to the Tigers later in the contest and sure enough the Toreadors opened up 31-14 lead midway through the third stanza. Huettinger was the key man as he made six of the first eight Taft points.

The Toreadors settled for a 43-25 lead at the conclusions of the third quarter. With that big of a lead the Taft JV's just went through the motions in the last eight minutes of play and coasted to the victory.

Cagers record first win; Down tough SF Tigers 79-68

Toreador basketball coach John Furlong has said on several occasions that "We are our worst enemy." For much of the 1st half of the Varsity game against San Fernando last Friday afternoon, the Toreador cagers showed exactly why their coach feels this way.

For the first three minutes of the game you couldn't be sure that Taft had sent the right team. San Fernando scored six points before Taft had even gotten the ball into the front court. But as the buzzer sounded ending the game, with the scoreboard showing Taft ahead, 79-68, you knew for certain that the team in Red, White, and Gold was indeed the Toreador Varsity

San Fernando opened the first quarter by controlling the tipoff, and scoring immediatly. Following this, the Tigers went into a full-

court zone press, which lead to numerous Taft turnovers and two San Fernando baskets. Taft finally woke up, however, and with the help of an 11 point quarter from Roger Wilson who had a game high 23 points, and a few timely missed layups by the Tigers, they were able to leave the quarter tied with the Tigers , 17-17.

The second quarter saw both teams playing very poorly. Both squads shot poorly from the floor, and committed numerous turnovers. Two bright spots in the Toreador effort during the second quarter were Paul Righetti and Bill Leonard. Righetti held Fernando center Dan Hartshorne, who had 21 points on the game, to only four points. Leonard had a team high five points for the quarter. At the half, the score was tied at 31-31.

In the second half, Taft exploded, outdoing the Tigers in every category. Along with Wilson and Righetti (Paul had 21 points and 15 rebounds), reserves Kelly Paris and Bill Leonard deserve much of the credit for the Toreador victory. Both players came off the bench to score twelve points. In addition, Paris shared team-high honors for assists with Wilson with five assists apiece, while Leonard added three.

Following the win, the Toreadors have a 1-1 record, but still lack consistency. They have yet to play more than two good quarters in a game, but in the words of assistant-coach Jim Woodard following last weeks game, "At least we put two good quarters together this week."

Sports

The Taft Tribune

his Taft buddies too far behind, dropped back to meet them. Up the switchbacks Matkin held pace 25, Kirk Swanson 26, Simenz 28 and York and Bob Matlock in the high thirties.

Swanson then made his move in the last half of the race and finished seventeenth with a 10:37. Watkin was thirty-second at 10:26, Simenz in thirty-third at 10:27. York and Matlock finished fifty and fifty-second respectively.

Taft placed fifth behind University, Palisades, Chatsworth, and Venice.

The JV team captured the eighth spot in the City last Saturday. Ben Hunnicutt again led the way as he finished seventh amongst all JV's. Overall as a team, the Toreadors did miserably with the majority of their runners placing in high fifties.

Besides Hunnicut, the only JV to finish with any respectibility was junior Todd Farris who made an

Soccer the Toreador way

