

35th Sports Nite Set Next Week At THS

The color, enthusiasm and entertainment of girls' Sports Nite — one of the most popular activities at Trenton High School for over 30 years — will unfold in the THS gym next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights.

This is the 35th year of Sports Nite and the theme "Happiness Is . . ." will mark the three nights of competition between the Red and the Black teams.

Sports Nite returned to Trenton High last year after a two-year absence because of school disturbances.

The event began in the early 1930's and since then the Red and Black Teams each have won 16 meets with two

ties. The Black team won the event last year.

Prudence Brown is Red Team captain and Virginia Moses is Black Team Captain this year and Constance Berry is mistress of ceremonies.

During the competition, points are awarded in categories such as dancing, marching, exercises, decorations, songs and band music.

Reserved seat tickets and general admission tickets can be purchased from 8:30 to 4 p.m. at the high school activities office, room A-139.

Sports Nite is sponsored by the THS physical education department.

Trenton Times, March 12, 1971

Happiness Is Sport Nite

"Happiness Is."

The competition — Sport Nite — is old among Trenton High School girls.

The enthusiasm among competitors preparing for "battle" is new. It blooms anew every year around this time. This year THS gals are rehearsing their tap dances and character dances for the Red team - Black team showdown March 17, 18 and 19 at the THS gym.

Each team wants to break the 16-16 tie created after 35 years of the competition.

Prudence Brown (Red) and Virginia Moses (Black) are the team captains. Alice Arthur and Lynda Gittleman

are in charge of the character dances. Barbara Kurilla and Diane Jones are chairwomen of the tap dance routines. Karen Aiello and Irene Hoffman lead the cheerleaders.

The boys?

They'll be on the sidelines. In the orchestra, only.

Trentonian, March 15, 1971



BLACK TEAM CHEERLEADERS — Irene Hoffman (front) and, left to right, Charlotte Smilek, Patty Genovario and Olga Gazonas, practice leg splits for Trenton High School's 35th girls Sports Nite which begins Wednes-

day. The three nights of competition between the Red and Black teams will take place in the THS gym and the theme will be "Happiness Is . . ." Tickets can be purchased at the high school activities office, room A-139.

Trenton Times, March 15, 1971

Girls' Enthusiasm Is Boundless As Sports Nite Draws Near

By **RAY ULMER**
Staff Writer

Walter Krichling's voice came booming over the speakers in Trenton High School's gymnasium and 500 girls worth of noise, enthusiasm and motion came to an abrupt halt.

That much energy could not be controlled for long, so Krichling released it again as the speakers vibrated, "Come on,

girls, start off together — everybody hit the first note at the same time."

Hundreds of strident — but somehow melodic — voices screamed out newly-composed words to a tune from the 1930s and 12 swirling girls on the floor began practicing again their part in tonight's 35th annual girls' Sports Nite.

Primarily For Girls

"This is the biggest thing

the school puts on," Krichling said, turning off his microphone and talking above the band playing next to him. "All segments of the school take part, although it's primarily for the girls."

Krichling is in charge of the production which opens tonight at 8:15 and continues tomorrow and Friday. He is also chairman of the physical education department and

does numerous other chores around the school.

But at that moment his only concern was keeping his feminine mob under control.

"All right, let's have the next Red team number," he bellowed, and about 50 girls came tap-dancing out of the stands to take their places on the gym floor. Moments later, the band to his right was playing. The girls were danc-



Staff Photos By Calvin Solliday

Members of the Red team line up, canes in hand, to practice their tap special.

Trenton Times, March 17, 1971

ing and he was talking about the kids and how much work they have done.

Specialty Teams

"We started organizing them in September," he said. "We divided them into Red and Black teams and then helped them form into committees. After Christmas they started organizing and developing the numbers, and after mid-terms in January the girls really got down to business — particularly the specialty teams."

One of the specialty teams came out and whirled through a modern dance interpretation. The members looked as if they could step onto any TV variety show stage and perform without the audience ever guessing they were not professionals.

Krichling smiled and turned away from the microphone.

"The girls do 99 percent of the choreography and arrangements," he said. "The teachers who help us put this together guide them along a little, but it's primarily the work of the girls. Which is one reason why they take the competitive feature of the show so seriously."

Only One Tie

Each production number by both teams is judged and scored and a winner is determined at the end, Krichling explained. After 33 shows (there were no productions in 1968 and 1969 because of school disturbances) the series is even with one tie. This might explain the noisy enthusiasm at yesterday's practice.

"For some girls this 'Nite'



Prudence Brown, left, captain of the Red team and Virginia Moses, who heads the Black team, shake hands before the annual competition begins.

takes the place of a varsity sports program," Krichling said. "But for most, it's just a traditional way to express their school spirit, as perhaps their mothers did here years before.

Great Deal Of Work

"The administration sees it as a way to pull the school together. Here you have about 500 girls cheering for them-

selves and each other after a great deal of work on both sides. You have about 75 boys willing to give up their time to supply the music in the two team bands, to make the decorations and work the lights.

"We feel this gives them something to work for, to be proud of. And that's so important today."

Sports Nite Mirrors All That's Good At THS

Enthusiasm, Good Will Flourishes At Spectacle's Opening Night

By LARRY KELLEY
Staff Writer

Trenton High School put its best foot forward last night as Sports Nite spectators viewed the opening session of a competition which goes back to the early 1930s.

Trenton High School has changed a lot since then but girls Sports Nite has kept its enthusiasm and it still is one of the most popular activities at the school.

Sports Nite began last night and it continues tonight and tomorrow. If you want to see hundreds of kids having fun at a high school activity go to the THS gym.

The theme of the three-nights of competition is "Happiness Is . . ." and several hundred girls, divided into the Red and Black teams are competing for points by showing in various art forms what happiness means to them.

The Red Team Won

The Red team won the first night of competition 8-4, tak-

ing honors in marching, character dance, tap dance, majorettes and modern exercises. The Red team band also won a point for its Buddy Rich style rendition of "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy."

The Black team won for cheers and cheerleading and tied the Red team in songs and modern dance.

But for most of the 1,000 viewers in the THS gym last night, the points were unimportant. The hundreds of students participating in the extravaganza showed what happiness is by dancing, singing and cheering for three hours.

The students made the costumes, hundreds of them, and they produced the dance routines and exercises and made the scenery during months of rehearsal and preparation.

Screaming For Joy

After each dance routine or song, ear-shattering screams went up from Black or Red team cheering sections.

This is the 35th Sports Nite and the two teams each have won 16 times with two ties.

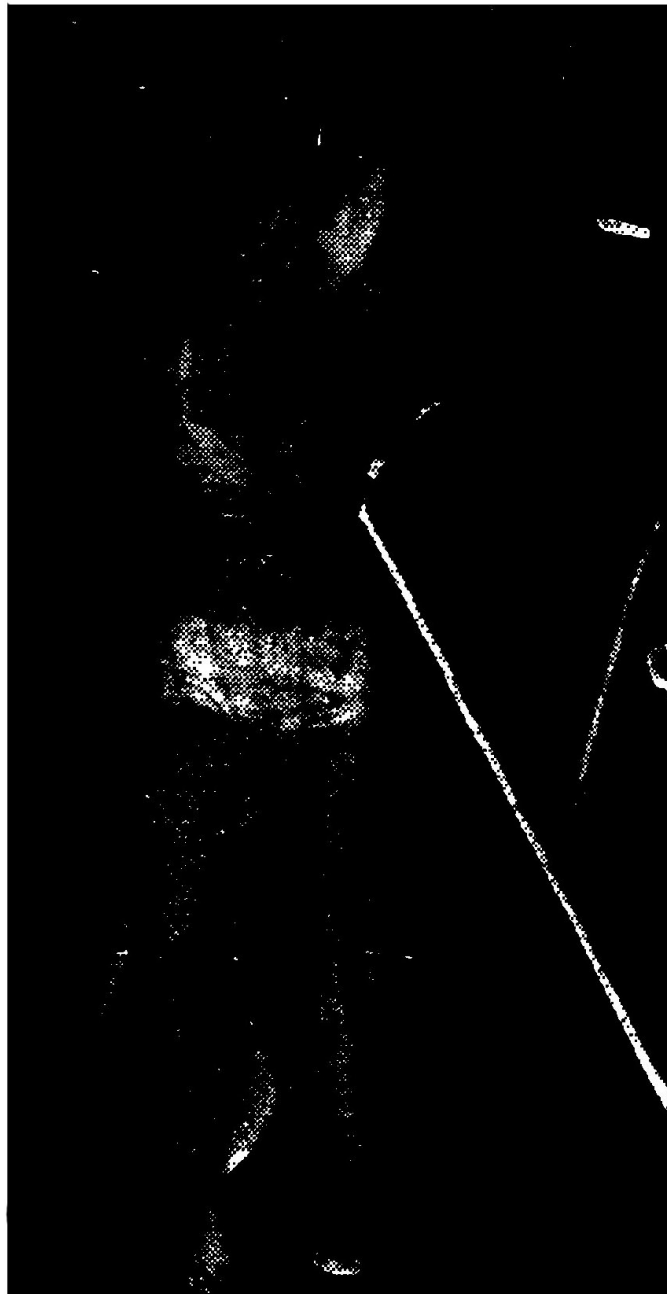
The Mistress of Ceremonies is Connie Berry, the Black team captain is Virginia Moses and the Red team captain is Prudence Borwn.

Sports Nite returned to Trenton High last year after a two year absence because of school disturbances but the lay-off apparently did not dim the enthusiasm of parents, students and teachers.

Girls on the winning Red team were crying with happiness over the 8-4 score. Parents in the stands pointed out their children to each other and school administrators watched with pride at what Trenton High students can accomplish.

It was fun and games and laughs — and tonight and tomorrow night it's there for everyone to see.

Happiness at Trenton High School these days is Sports Nite.



Elaborate costumes are a Sports Nite tradition and these members of the Red Team, at left, exhibit the 1971 styles as, at right, Black Team genie coming out of a battle performs for opening night crowd.

Trenton Times, March 18, 1971



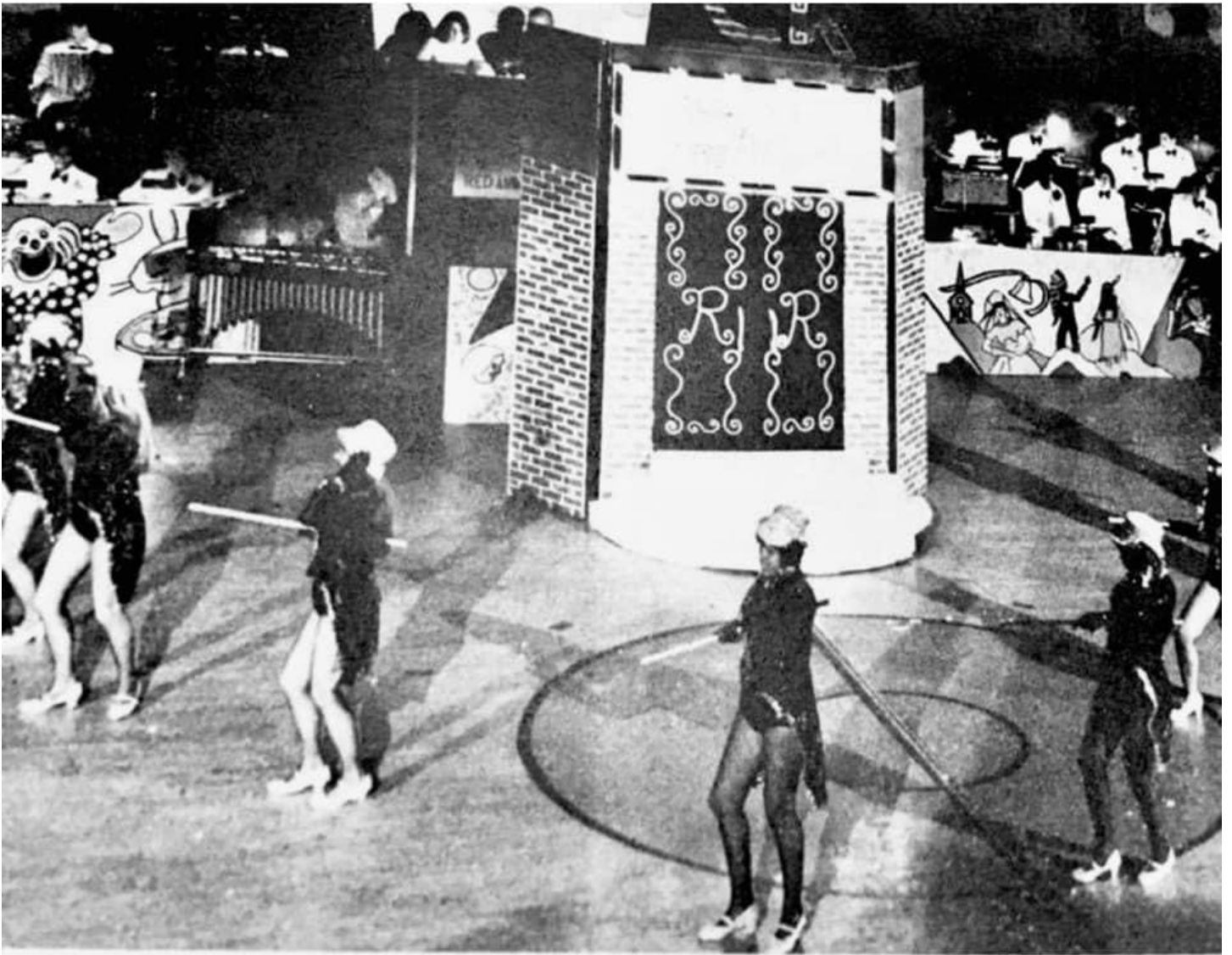
Staff Photos By Mary Cain

Determination marks the face of this participant in Trenton High School Sports Nite production number.

Trenton Times, March 18, 1971



SN1971 Prob boys from the collection of Keith Swago



SN1971 Red Tap Specialty from the collection of Debbie Rovers DeBonis

Black Team Wins One — Playoff 'To-Nite'

By HENRY BRYAN

Staff Writer

"This is us! This is us!" yelled a boy in a sweatshirt.

A girl in the middle of the gymnasium dropped a black flag and about 300 girls on one side of gym started jumping, yelling, hugging and screaming.

The Black Team had won a point. They were "us" and the boy in the sweatshirt was one of the prop boys who got caught in the excitement of Sports Nite at Trenton High last night.

Red and black are Trenton High's colors and are usually worn by the school's athletes in competition against other schools.

But every year — except for a couple troublesome years — the girls make the colors the names of two teams and compete against each other in a variety of elaborate dancing, singing, cheering and marching routines.

Play Off Tonight

Last night the Black Team captured six numbers against four for the Red Team. The score is now 12 to 10 in favor of the Red Team, which had taken an 8-4 edge Wednesday night. The playoff will begin at 8 tonight.

The band was playing the Marine Corps Hymn only the words had been changed. It went: "Here's our Black Team captain for this year. Virginia is her name. She will fight and fight with all her might to lead the Blacks to fame."

Virginia Moses did a front flip, back flip,

a round off and something called a straddle split on the hard gym floor. Then she walked over toward the "bench" to direct her team.

Virginia was kneeling, biting her lip as her girls danced for an "Indian goddess." The pretty senior, who wants to be a mathematician, said she'd really be disappointed by a loss. "If they win, they'll deserve it . . . but we're not going to lose," she added.

Want To Win

On the other side of the gymnasium, Red Team captain Prudence Brown was saying almost the same thing

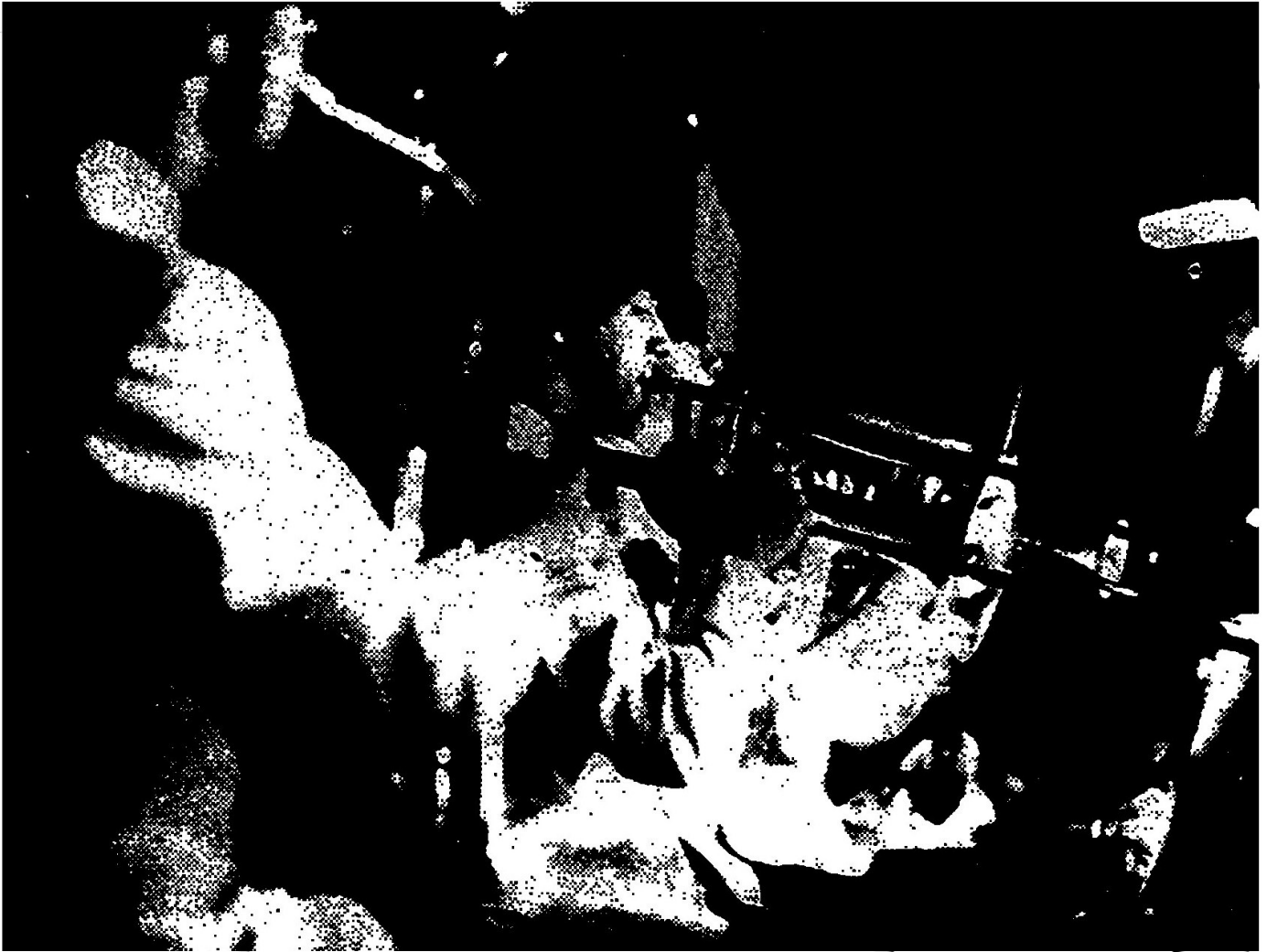
"I want to win so bad," she said clutching her hands. "I know we have a good team and we worked so hard."

Is the competition as stiff as when the boys play basketball? "At least," says the lively Red Team captain. "I've been cheering all year for them and I've never been more excited."

Prudence, who wants to study psychology after graduation, says she likes people. "Working for Sports Nite brings the girls together," she says. "I've made a lot of friends I didn't even know in four years here."

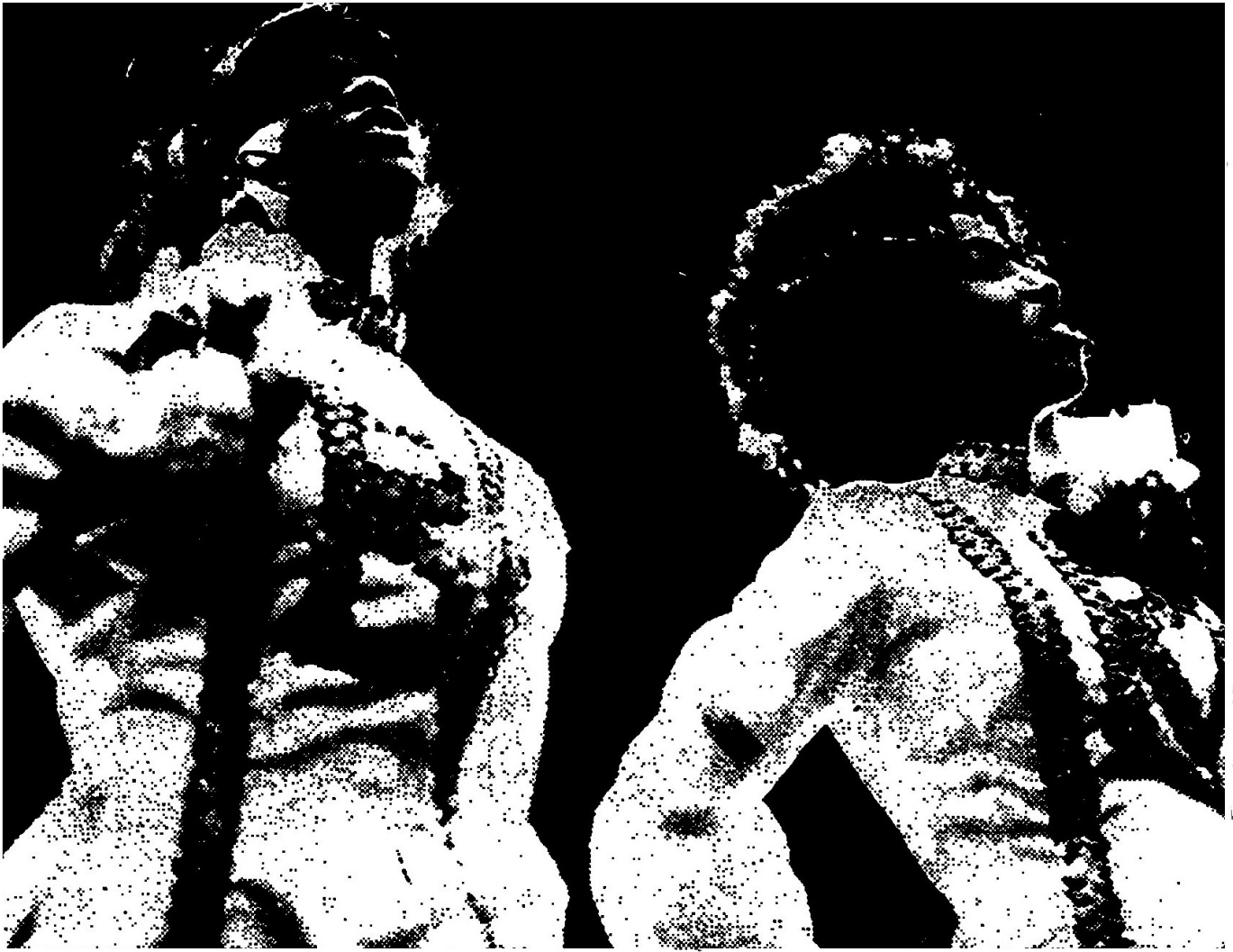
"In spite of all the things said, I'll be sorry to leave Trenton High in June," Prudence says, "it's still the best."

When the best team has won tonight, Prudence and Virginia will agree on at least one point, as Virginia had put it, "Trenton High is great."



The Red team band played its heart out to keep their side in the lead, 12-10 at the conclusion of last night's Trenton High Sports Nite.

Trenton Times, March 19, 1971



Staff Photos By Mary Cain

Black team captain Virginia Moses (left) and Red team captain Prudence Brown stand before crowd at last night's Sports Nite.

Trenton Times, March 19, 1971



MISS BERRY



MISS KISER

Trenton High Girls Honored By DAR

Two senior girls at Trenton High School, Miss Constance Berry and Miss Ann Melissa Kiser, will be the "Good Citizen" representatives of General Washington Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, at the annual DAR Awards Day April 1 at Holiday Inn.

Church where her father is minister.

The girls were selected by their fellow classmates and school faculty members.

Miss Berry is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Berry of Euclid Avenue. A varsity cheerleader, she was selected to be mistress of ceremonies for the annual "Sports Nite" event. She has received citations of appreciation and achievement from both Helene Fuld and St. Francis Hospitals for service as a Candy Striper and was given the "Young Citizen Award" from the Volunteer Bureau of the Delaware Valley for being a volunteer.

Miss Kiser, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Kent L. Kiser of 29 Fisher Place, is a senior senator in the Student Government Association. She was a semi-finalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program competition and also was a delegate to Girls' Citizenship Institute held at Douglass College last June. A piano and organ student, she is interim organist at Grace Baptist



Trentonian Photo

DANCE, ANYONE??? — It was a night for girl-watching at Trenton High School as members of the Red and Black teams strutted their stuff in the last of three nights of Sport Nite competition. Here, two lassies perform in the glint of spotlights which showed the Red team stepped best.

Trentonian, March 20, 1971

Sports Night Sees The Red

A capacity house at the final night saw the Red Team skip off with this year's Sports Night trophy at Trenton Central High School.

It wasn't what every one of the 2,000 spectators had come to see —but that's what they got.

The Black Team had an ample number of rooters, but not enough to spur their team to the victory mark, and so the Black went under for the night 7-5.

Worse than that, they came up on the short end of the three-evening total tally. The Reds took the whole basket of honors with a cumulative scoring of 19-14.

The Reds also pushed their team over to the winning side of what had been a 16-16 deadlock over the 35-year span of the happening. There have been three ties. The Reds now hold a 17-16 edge.

The Red Team took honors in Marching, Character Dance, Tap Dance, Majorettes, Band, and Marching Exercises.

The Black Team took the nod in Cheerleaders, and managed a tie in Modern Dance.

There were tears, naturally.

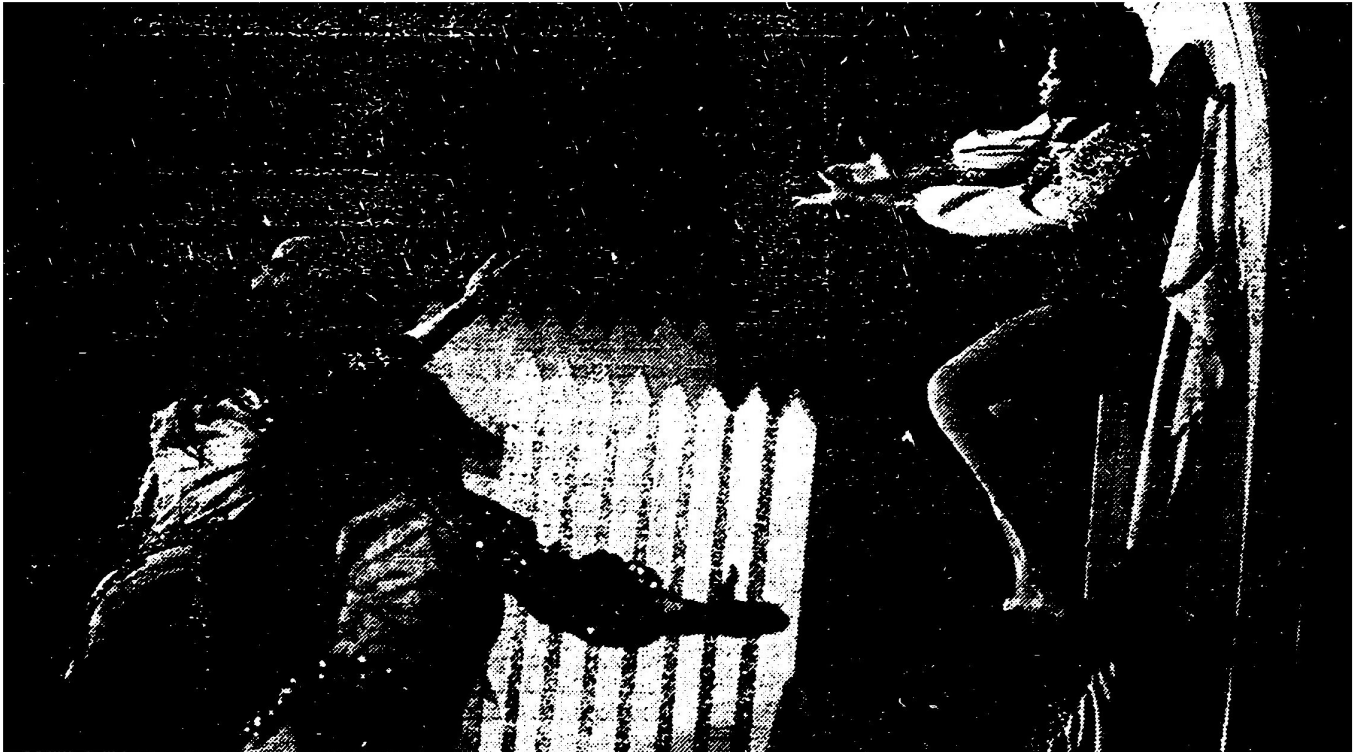
The girls on the Red Team were all choked up from the emotions of victory.

The other tears were stirred by something more provocative, defeat.

But it was all for fun and the greater glory of Trenton High School — with all of the green going into the coffers of the school's physical education fund.

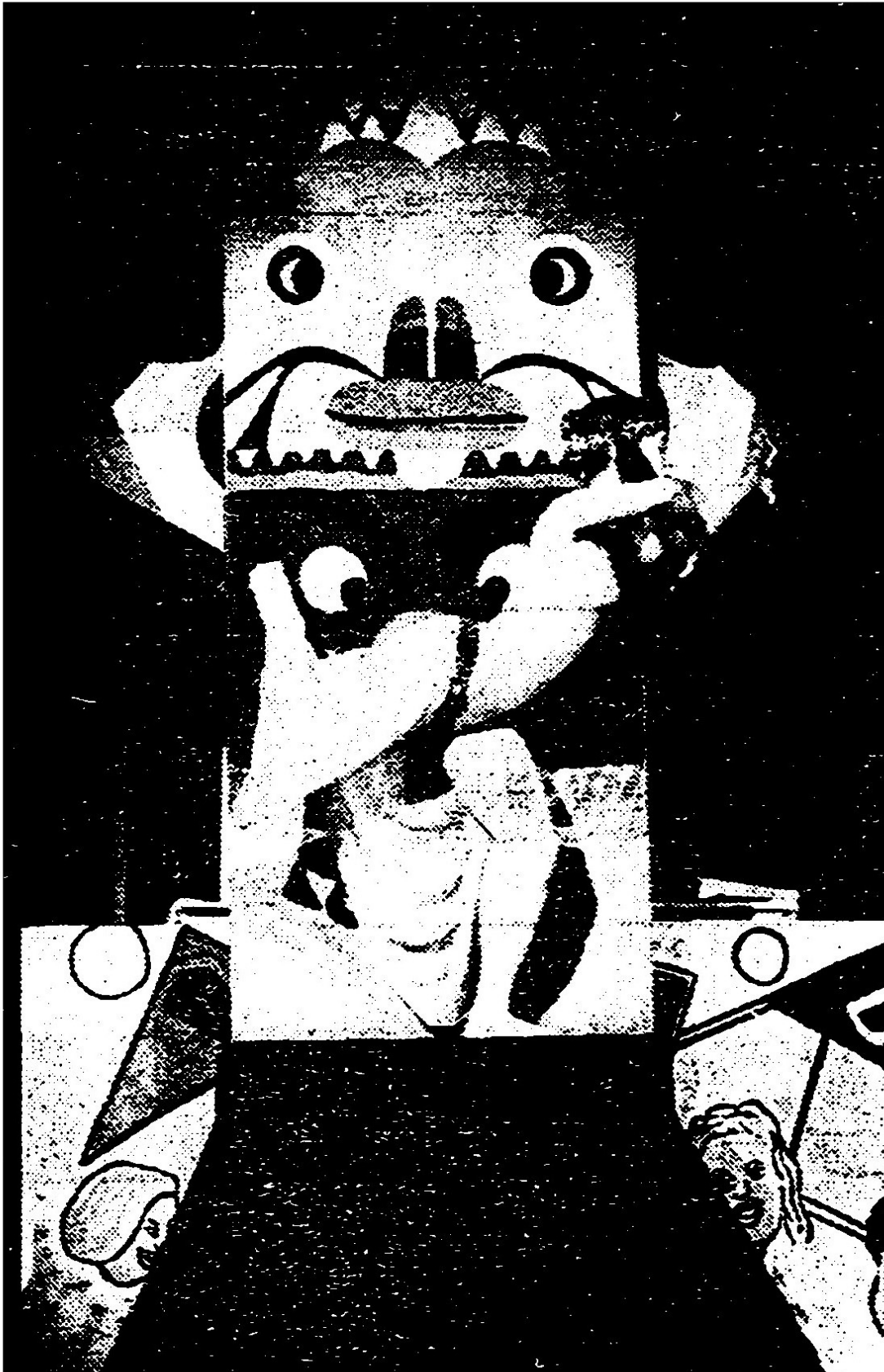
So who cares who wins or loses?

Right, girls??



Staff Photo By Rick Andrews

Chairman Sharon Latimer (right) leads winning Red Team's specialty dance routine, "Being Free."



Black Team's Jacqueline Zoldaz does her modern dance specialty.

Trenton Times, March 21, 1971



Jo Ellen Jones is 'Happiness Is' in black team character dance.

Trenton Times, March 21, 1971

School Projects

Sir: The faculty and students of Trenton Central High School have successfully completed two projects of utmost value — the drive to raise \$30,000 to send the choir to Italy, and the presentation of the 35th Sports Nite program.

The constructive publicity by the Trenton Times given to these two high school programs did much to sustain public support and student interest.

Students and teachers express to you sincere gratitude for splendid cooperation.

**Dr. Charles A. Hogan
Publicity Chairman
Trenton Central High School**

Trenton Times, March 26, 1971