

Abolish Salutatorian?

Is it fair to abolish the custom of selecting a valedictorian and a salutatorian to be honored at the graduation exercises? Recently an article appeared in the Rogue News concerning the fact that these two positions should be abolished. While the editorial stated several good reasons why a valedictorian and a salutatorian should not be chosen, there are also some reasons for why we should not abolish this custom.

First of all, if a person has worked hard enough to maintain better grades than any of his classmates, he deserves to be recognized and honored. He has undoubtedly sacrificed some pleasures and outside activities in order to maintain this average.

The fact that some students take soft courses with little or no homework should also be taken into consideration. However, every student must take some solid courses such as Biology, English, and American Problems.

Most of the students who are eligible for these two positions are planning to go to college and will take the solid courses anyway.

But what about the student with a high average who fails to make the grade? This student will usually receive a scholarship or some other aid in order that he may go to college. This aid will be more valuable to him in the future.

Let's not abolish the positions of valedictorian and salutatorian!

Student Relates History of Africa

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tribes in South Africa and so the best way in which to tell the main tribes apart is by looking at their huts. The Zulu and Swazi build their beehive-shaped huts mainly of saplings and thatch. The Basuto build huts with wattle-and-daub walls and a conical-shaped roof. The Xhosa cut sods

of turf or set up mud walls with thatched roofs. The Ndishele build elaborate little clay houses with colorful patterns covering the walls.

One custom generally practiced by all tribes is the rain-making ceremony. During these ceremonies a green wood fire is made to send up cloudy smoke into the sky. The Chief himself is the tribal rain-maker, and has his own particular rain-hut behind the hut of his "great wife." Here he mixes his rain-medicine (though he may use the medicine made by the tribal witch doctor or send messengers bearing gifts to obtain "rain essence" from Mozaji, the famous Rain Queen of the Lotshed, a tribe living in the Low Veld in the Northern Transvaal. Padi boys and girls.

This rain-medicine is sprinkled on the cultivated fields in spring. If no rain falls then the tribes think that the ancestors who control the weather are displeased and a tribal quinine-fowl hunt is held to please them.

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Recovered Alcoholic Speaks to Students

Alcoholism was the subject of a lecture presented to some of the Ashland High students by Mr. Gordon Raney. Mr. Raney is a representative of the State Board of Alcohol Education.

On March 25, Mr. Raney presented his talk to the sophomore biology classes. The same talk was given to the American Problems classes on March 27.

Mr. Raney stated that he felt he was well-qualified to talk on the subject of alcoholism because he had been an alcoholic for more than twenty years. Rather than a formal lecture, the students were invited to ask questions about alcoholism that had bothered them.

One of the questions asked was, "What makes the screwdriver such a dangerous drink?" (The screwdriver is a mixture of Vodka and orange juice.) Mr. Raney explained that the orange juice in the drink allows you to drink

much more Vodka than you would drink if you were drinking straight Vodka or whiskey. By drinking so much alcohol, the alcohol content of the blood raises abruptly in a short time. Since the blood can only absorb and hold a small amount of alcohol, the drinker is pushed very close to the brink of death in a short time.

The purpose of Alcoholics Anonymous was also explained by Mr. Raney. He told what some of their jobs and auxiliary groups were. One of these groups was a group for teen-agers who had parents who were alcoholics. This group helps the teen-agers cope with the problems which they had with their parents.

As a conclusion, Mr. Raney told of some of his experiences as an alcoholic and as a non-alcoholic. One of the most interesting facts to the students was that Mr. Raney has not taken a drink for more than 15 years.

Shakespeare Lives On

To the people of Ashland, William Shakespeare, English poet, dramatist, and actor is not dead although we celebrate the 388th anniversary of his birth this month. Shakespeare lives on in the guise of the Shakespearean Festival.

Born in 1564 at Warwickshire, Shakespeare was only 28 years old when he became recognized as an actor in London. At the time, he was married to Anne Hathaway and had three children, including a set of twins, Mamma and Judith.

After he had been acting for several years, William Shakespeare began writing his own plays. To most people, especially the younger generation, *Romeo and Juliet* is perhaps his best-loved play because it is a romance and a tragedy as well. *Macbeth*, perhaps because of the three witches, appeals even to the smaller children who cannot understand the real plot of the story. *Hamlet*, a tragedy, and a *Midsummer's Night Dream*, a comedy, are also very well-known.

In addition to being known for his narrative skill, poetry, and characterization, William Shakespeare also gained the recognition of being the only author to furnish the English language with more familiar quotations than any other, except the author of the

King James Bible. "To be or not to be" and "Things are not what they seem" are two of his more famous quotations.

Many scholars have voiced the belief that Shakespeare borrowed the plots of some of his plays from other sources. However, Ben Jonson, an Englishman of letters and Shakespeare's closest friend, would have known if his plays had not been original and yet Jonson said of Shakespeare: "A dramatist who might challenge all that insolent Greece or Rome had done."

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