

Rumor root of controversy

by Barbara Earnest
Never underestimate the power of . . . rumor.

During the past two weeks, rumors have spread throughout the school. "Race riot" and "endorsement" have become the pass-words to hours of unverified discussion and speculation.

An offhand statement before Christmas vacation, taken by many of the staff as a joke, was the beginning of the controversy over the endorsement of candidates by the editorial board of *The Grantonian*.

Somehow this information was learned by members of

the student body and, upon returning from vacation, the staff was surprised to hear that they were definitely planning to endorse one candidate for each office.

We next learned that petitions, initiated by Jack Mishler, were being circulated protesting the endorsement.

This plan was termed as "highly discriminatory and unfair toward those candidates not supported." Those signing felt they could conceive a "backlash" result in the complete rejection of the *Grantonian*-supported candidates, regardless of

their actual qualifications." They felt the editorial board is not "well enough qualified to fairly judge all candidates and make choices."

At no time did Jack visit *The Grantonian* staff to find what the "plan" was. He later withdrew his petitions, and sent the letter printed on page 2 to the staff.

At no time did any candidate for any office inquire of *The Grantonian* staff what our plan was.

Up to Monday, three students had visited the journalism room. One of these students visited Principal

Roy O. Malo before bothering the staff. The Executive Council also inquired into the question.

Another petition, sponsored by Virginia Bailey, circulated among the candidates. Those signing "respectfully protest endorsement by the *Grantonian* of candidates in the coming election. This includes ourselves as well as our opponents."

Again this was not presented to the staff. We received it only through John Stuckey, activities director.

The petition was signed by twenty-five of the twenty-seven candidates. Since

then, one has withdrawn his name and one signature has been found to be illegal.

The subject of the proposed endorsement was brought up in the General Council January 11. At this time, a resolution opposing the plan was introduced. After approximately thirty minutes of debate, the meeting was adjourned with no decision reached.

Letters from students, either opposing or condoning the endorsement have been received by the staff. Most of them are from people who have never visited our room and inquired of our policy.

On Monday, a special meeting of the General Council was called. After another twenty minutes of debate, a vote was called for. A motion to have a roll call vote so that only members of the General Council could cast a ballot was made, but defeated.

The original resolution, which was "We, the General Council, oppose the proposed endorsement of candidates by *The Grantonian*," was voted upon and passed by a margin of nineteen to six.

Even assuming that these twenty-five votes were legal, a quorum of the General Council members was not present and therefore, the decision was neither legal or binding.

Another eleven General Council members would have had to be present in order to form the required fifty-one per cent of the body.

One of the main objections of the General Council to the proposed endorsement was that no other organization could offer their opinion. It was pointed out to the General Council that it had been and still was the policy of *The Grantonian* to print all signed letters-to-the-editor.

In this case, the rumor came partially true. Our endorsement of several candidates, not necessarily one for each office, appears in the editorial on page two.

The second example of the influence of rumor is more serious than the first.

On January 11, two boys fought in center hall and attracted a large crowd of observers. These boys were suspended from school, arrested, and taken to court.

The next morning, another fight occurred. From then on, rumors of approaching "race riots" spread quickly throughout the school.

That same Thursday and the following Friday, large crowds of students gathered after school.

"Some desired to see if anything would happen, others wished to see something happen," commented Dr. Malo.

The presence of a large group of people adds to a potentially dangerous situation.

"Some people are unaware of the fact that the laws read that if there is a riotous situation, your mere presence makes you part of it," continued Dr. Malo.

"Some people take great delight in spreading rumors of any and all types. Some are always ready to believe without question," Dr. Malo concluded. "In sum and substance, you have emotion prevailing over reason."

In view of the surprising number of petitions circulating around the school, I would like to add one of my own.

"We, the responsible students of Grant High School, respectfully protest the policy of certain students which allows them to spread rumors, and therefore confusion, throughout the student body . . ."

Students to meet during art festival held by university

The eleventh annual high school Speech Arts festival will be held January 26-28 for advanced speech and drama students at the University of Portland.

Sponsored by the university, the festival is for students throughout Oregon and Washington. This year four \$200 scholarships will be awarded to students by a board of judges from the University of Portland and recommendations of their teachers.

Approximately 32 students from the speech department and 35 from the drama department will be in attendance. Speech students will compete in a series of three rounds in oratory, extemporaneous, oral interpretation, and radio commentary.

"Drama students will present single and dual cuttings," commented Mrs. Betty Foster, drama instructor. "The single cuttings are divided into boys and girls, but the dual can be mixed."

Cuttings for the festival must be based on American Heritage from the 20th century. Only oral interpretation in the speech section is limited to the American Heritage.

"The University of Portland festival is tremendous," stated Mrs. Opal Hamilton, speech instructor. "Last year we won the speech sweepstake and brought back all of the trophies."

Some of the dual cuttings to be presented at the festival are Casey Coughlin and Alex Newton, "A Patch of Blue;" Terry Cunningham and Rita Rusen, "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf;" Marilyn Best and Chris Curry, "The Children's Hour;" and Pete Borho and Jeff Perel, "Inherit the Wind."

Single cuttings include Judy Ransom, "Ile;" and Dan O'Donnell, "Bury the Dead."

Kampus Kapers

Friday—

BB, Grant at Cleveland, 8 p.m. Wrestling, Cleveland at Grant, 8 p.m. End of grading period.

Saturday—

Winter Semi-formal, 8-11 p.m., old gym.

Tuesday—

BB, Grant at Wilson, 3:45 p.m. Wrestling, Wilson at Grant, 3:45 p.m. Election Assembly.

Wednesday-Thursday—

Elections in reg rooms.

Thursday-Friday—

Speech, drama meet at University of Portland.

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'Bridge the Gap' program to include visits

by Mary Jane Hulett

Eighth grade visitation is one part of the totla "Bridge the Gap" efforts that are put forth in activities to make the transition of eighth graders to high school easier.

Beginning on Monday morning, eighth graders from schools feeding into Grant will begin visitations to help them become oriented to high school life.

Each school will meet for two hours and begin the program by gathering in the auditorium for a general orientation by the administration. They will then be taken in groups of ten to twelve students on a tour of courses which are electives rather than required courses.

Led by student guides, mostly from National Honor society, the eighth graders will visit the music, art, home economics, industrial arts, and language departments. Each visit will last from ten through fifteen minutes.

"The program this year has been revised to take into account several constructive recommendations for improvement of the "Bridge the Gap" program, made by the teachers last

year in their evaluations," stated Gust Kanas, curriculum Vice-Principal.

"They will be organized into smaller groups for better communications and control and they will undoubtedly derive more value during the brief but well planned visits."

'Starlight in Rhapsody' to be theme of annual council dance tomorrow

"Starlight in Rhapsody" is the theme for the second General Council dance to be held tomorrow in the old gym from 8 to 11 p.m.

Ross Marsch and the Starlighters will be playing for the semi-formal dance.

Committee chairmen for the dance are Jeri Cohen and Carolyn Cohen, decorations; Michelle Rex, refreshments; Vance Hodnett and Kim Patterson, bids; and the General Council officers and the Art department, publicity.

"A princess to represent each class will be voted on for the dance," commented Kim Patterson, General Council secretary. "During the dance a queen will be announced by General Coun-

The counseling staff will host the eighth grade teachers on these visits and will have opportunities to discuss matters of mutual concern in such things as forecasting, grading, curriculum and other areas in which eighth grade teachers will be seeking information.

cil President Vance Hodnett."

Bids are still on sale for \$2 a couple. Students from other schools may be taken with no previous signing up necessary.

Honor group names four semi-finalists

Semi-finalists in the National Honor Society Scholarship program are Jerianne Cohen, Steve Hiebert, Robert McCrae and Paul Pferdner.

The program is sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals and is based on the result of the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude test.

Staff announces new leaders

Selection of the new editors and editorial staff of *The Grantonian* have been announced by advisor Willard Mohn.

Co-editing the paper for the second half of the year will be Gayle Fleming and Elaine Wolfe. They will alternate between editing the paper and editing the second page.

Other new page editors are, Cecile O'Rourke, first page; Mary Jane Hulett, third page; and Cynthia Froom, fourth page.

Changes in the paper include changing the first page from a five column to a four column page and changing the sports page from the fourth to the third page.



SPRING LEADERS of the *Grantonian* have been announced. They are Lorna Viken, business manager and Co-editors Gayle Fleming and Elaine Wolfe.