

Annual spring holiday advances with hearts, flowers

"Hello, young lovers, wherever you are!" St. Valentine's day is scheduled for February 14 again this year. It appears that although the methods of celebrating and the public's opinion towards a holiday change vastly, certain of its aspects must remain relatively the same.

The name and very little else of the holiday can be attributed to St. Valentine—or rather three St. Valentines. First was St. Valentine, a doctor and a priest, who was beheaded in A.D. 269. Then came St. Valentine, a bishop and martyr, who was also beheaded, this time in A.D. 273. Thirdly was a little known martyr in Africa.

Actually, the holiday that we know is a survival of a February 15 Roman festival. Lovers are tied in with the holiday because it was believed that birds began to mate on this day.

One old custom was for the young people of both sexes to gather on the eve of St. Valentine's day and draw the name of a member of the opposite sex from a common hat. This person then became their valentine for the year—exchanging gifts, perhaps even becoming engaged. Apparently modern young people don't like games of chance and have replaced this custom with one allowing a basic freedom: that of choice. They prefer to ex-



Illustration by Reed Literski

change valentines with whomever they please.

Originally, the valentines exchanged under this procedure were of a sentimental, romantic nature. However, this charming custom has been replaced by the sending of off-beat, off-color examples of mass-

produced, standardized humor.

But even these slightly sullied traditions can't stop cupid—love shall overcome. So let us say, as we dip our arrows in LOVE POTION, "Happiest of Roman festivals to all and three cheers for each of the St. Valentines!"

Movie censorship for students criticized

A few years ago, back when we were reading those movie magazine-scandal sheets, I remember reading an article about Sue Lyon, the star of the controversial movie "Lolita." It seemed that she was not allowed to attend the gala premiere of her own movie because she was not yet 18—the legal age to see a so-called "adult movie."

Even then, in our innocence this seemed like a pretty stupid law. If you wanted to see a movie bad enough there were ways of sneaking in, and most of the movies were trashy anyway. But now, this isn't the point.

Why should a whole countryful of high school students and teen-aged people who riot, who serve in Vietnam and other troubled areas, who protest and burn draft cards, who are Eagle Scouts, band members, debutantes, student nurses, NHS members and who are all innately capable of good judgment be restricted from choosing the movies they pay to see?

For good, enjoyable entertainment we can see a Walt Disney animal adventure or a good, wholesome musical. Is the law made to bar us from seeing the unpleasantries of life such as out-of-wedlock pregnancy? There are more pregnancies among teenagers than in any other age group. We know what's going on, and seeing cartoon elephants isn't going to hide the "raw and seamy side."

Although a number of the adult movies are trashy and on the line of being obscene, there are also the art films, war stories, romances and all varieties that are great movies but

contain things that "teenagers really shouldn't see."

An argument for the over-18 regulation is that teenagers would copy what they see in the movies. Would a girl get pregnant just because she saw "Splendor in the Grass"? What about the bad influence of the Huntley-Brinkley report? Would you go out and shoot a dozen people just because you saw it on the news?

The time for a change in this regulation is long overdue. Today's teenagers are old enough and intelligent enough to decide what is trash and what isn't.

Separate classes begin for education in health

The health classes are trying a new program this year. Instead of co-educational classes as this school has always had in the past, there are separate boys' and girls' classes. We were one of the few schools in Portland that still had co-educational health classes.

The teachers will also take the same class for the whole year. Usually at the end of the first semester, the gym classes move to the portables for health and to different teachers. Now both the teachers and the students make the move to the portables or to the gym.

Several points have been brought up for and against this system by the health and gym teachers. The majority of them agree that there is freer and sometimes better discussions in the one-sex classes; but they also agree that discipline is harder.

"When there are boys in the classroom, girls start acting like ladies and boys act like gentlemen," stated Miss Joan Egbers, co-chairman of the physical education department.

"Yet, because there are no boys in the class, we can talk a lot more freely," continued Miss Egbers.

Mr. Dennis Sullivan, co-chairman of the physical education department, also agrees that the program has its good points.

Generalities

Recent graduate Beth Boylin and partner took honors in the International House of Pancakes pancake eating contest at Portland State college. They gulped down 219 pancakes in a half hour. Their prize—two free dinners at the International House of Pancakes and all the Alka-Seltzer they need.

Memorial murals tout principles, personality of William Fletcher

by Gayle Fleming

Memory of William Thomas Fletcher, Born XXVII March MDCCCXXXVI, Died IX of July MCMXXIII, First Principal of Ulysses S. Grant High School MCMXXIV. Teachers and students were his friends. He trusted them and they trusted him. By precept and example he taught that good citizens are the nation's strength, and that life itself is a sacred trust.

The memorial of virtue is immortal, because it is known with God and with men. When it is present, men take example of it, and when it is gone, they desire it. It weareth a crown and triumpheth forever, having gotten the victory. Striving for undefiled rewards, honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time nor that is measured by number of years.

Those are the inscriptions beneath the two murals placed on either side of the auditorium stage. Though you may be one of the few who have bothered to read these inspiring words, it is still doubtful that you can comprehend the degree of respect in which Mr. Fletcher was held or the pride of the students and administrators who unveiled the murals in 1932.

An article in the Grantonian of September 8, 1932 began, "Under the extended hand of those blazing gold figures which represent the aspiration to victory of young men and of young women on the memorial murals, 1800 of the student body stood with bowed heads in their assembly hall last Friday

Though perhaps slightly emotional, this passage expresses the feeling of one at the first presentation of the murals.

He goes on to say, "These young people bowed their heads in reverence to the memory of a man whom most of them did not know, but whose personality and deeds live in their minds."

"It was to this man—William Thomas Fletcher, principal—and to his memory and to the brilliant success of his life that two murals, carrying on to those he taught and to all who attend his institution, his principle and his ideals, were dedicated."

Carl Hoeckner, an eastern mural artist and a member of the faculty at the Chicago Art Institute, painted the memorial murals. It was revealed at the time that they portrayed a striving of young men and women toward their goal—ideal manhood and womanhood.

On November 17, 1932, exactly one hundred years after the Oregon educational system had its birth, the students held an open house to allow others to see the murals as part of the celebration.

An article in the paper the previous day foretold, "As long as Grant continues, these murals will be admired and appreciated not only for their beauty but also for the high ideals of which they symbolize."

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

The General Council is the voice of the student body, but some of the students of Grant would rather be voiceless. There will still be roads open for petition if the General Council is abolished, but none of the roads will provide the easy access given the student body through the General Council.

And this is only one of the important dividends afforded the students through the General Council. Other advantages include the following: 1) A voice in student government; 2) Safeguard system of checks and balances; and 3) Leadership training.

Experience is important in making anybody or anything a success. Trial and error is one way to gain experience. The General Council admittedly has tried and erred, but these mistakes give this branch of student government the basis on which to build a better framework for the benefit of the students.

Granted, the General Council has been less than effective in discharging its legislative burden this year. But remember what Ralph Barton Perry once said, "Democracy is both the best and the most difficult form of political organization—the most difficult because it is the best." We must not abolish this organization, but rather we must stand behind it and improve it and produce the best student government possible.

Sincerely,
Ralph Bakkensen



Seniors Judy Woodward and Leyton Jump from Mrs. Margaret Hubbard's Shakespeare classes are painting backdrops for the 'Taming of the Shrew' production. The play will be shown to students on Thursday and Friday and a night performance will be held Saturday.

The Grantonian

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