

Military draft, riots date back to Biblical days



—Cartoon by Leslie Frey

School's reputation defended

In 1954 Grant high school was rated among the top ten high schools in might comment, "Ah, but that was in 1954, over thirteen years ago."

Since then the school has had a reputation to live up to, but many people have felt that Grant was slipping.

When someone would mention Grant's high rating, another person might comment, "Ah, but that was in 1951, over sixteen years ago."

The general consensus of opinion seemed to be that Grant was still great in sports, but had slipped in other areas.

Now, thanks to the fine efforts and hard work of five students, Sterling Bennett, Brian McCune, Scott Swope, James Winkler, Larry Wheeler, and of four faculty members, Mrs. Doris Hanlon, Gerald Merryman, Mrs. Elva Newcomer and Mahlon Reed, Grant has fortified its title.

The High Q team, after defeating Marshall, Franklin and Jackson high schools, was retired undefeated on the KGW-TV quiz show, thus proving that we still have a strong foothold scholastically.

Not only have athletics and scholastics proven themselves, but also music and drama through their excellent presentations; and art through its fine displays.

Perhaps, however, it still took television coverage to prove to the public that Grant is not slipping. After all, it's difficult, especially for the school's neighbors, to see past the clusters of smoking students and piles of messy litter into the school and its many fine accomplishments.

The Grantonian

Published bi-weekly Fall semester and weekly Spring semester by the advanced journalism class of Ulysses S. Grant high school, room 203, 2245 N.E. 36th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97212. Phone 288-5975. Printed by Modern Typesetting company with a circulation of 3000. Second class postage paid at Portland, Ore. Subscription cost \$2.00 per year.

Vol. 72, No. 2 — February 9, 1968

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Liz Klonoff selected B'nai B'rith president

To coordinate work of the chapters within the region and represent the region are the duties to be carried out by Liz Klonoff, the new president of the Northern Region B'nai B'rith Youth Organization.

Liz was elected as a result of the Regional Convention in Vancouver B.C. The region encompasses British Columbia, Oregon and Washington, with major cities being Eugene, Tacoma, Spokane, Seattle, and Vancouver B.C.

Liz recently returned from a District Board meeting in Los Angeles, where the structure of the district level "was ripped apart and rebuilt" through discussion.

by Cecile O'Rourke

With an increasing interest in the draft and military service beginning to mount as graduation nears, it is interesting to note that drafting goes as far back as Biblical days.

In Numbers the first chapter, the second and third verses, God says to Moses, "Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls;

"From twenty years old and upward, all that are able to go forth to war in Israel." Later in the chapter it states that 603,550 men were inducted into service.

In America the draft had an early start. In colonial days every able-bodied citizen was obligated to keep himself "armed and ready to fight the common foe." This was Selective Service reduced to its most primitive form.

This selecting process assigned everyone, able-bodied or not, to a definite duty.

During the Revolutionary period one of the first acts of Continental Congress was to institute men between 16-50 to be formed into companies of militia. Once again every male citizen owed an obligation.

George Washington proposed the classification of men by age and fitness, but Congress refused to adopt his recommendations.

The War of 1812 proved to be especially difficult in getting enough men and money. Many of the people were firmly against the war. "If your sons must be torn from you by conscription," members of the Massachusetts legislature declared, "consign them to the care of God; but let there be no volunteers."

The Civil War was the first war where actual drafting in large numbers took place. Each state was assigned a quota of men and that quota could be filled by the states in whatever manner they desired.

Under the state draft men could hire professional substitutes to take their place in the war. Usually these substitutes deserted, however, leaving the armies short-handed.

The states' methods of drafting also proved inefficient, because often it was run like a lottery with no attention paid to ability, age or profession.

Later in the war the federal govern-

ment stepped in and took over drafting procedures.

There was much opposition to the draft and the feelings of many were expressed when Anthony Trollope, an English novelist wrote, "This conscription is very bad. Was it absolutely necessary? My feeling is that a man should die rather than be made a soldier against his will. One's country has no right to demand everything. . . . If a country cannot get along without a military conscription, it had better give up and let its children seek other ties."

Although draft riots and opposition seem most prominent now, with burning of draft cards, illegal dodging and protests, even opposition is not new.

It dates back to Biblical days also. Long ago, however, there weren't peace marches as we have today, but instead a sign of opposition was shown in desertion.

In our country's early wars desertions and running away from home were commonplace to avoid having to serve.

The first major draft riots occurred during the Civil War, especially in New York City where the conflict was acclaimed, "a rich man's war and a poor man's fight."

Highest opposition came from the poor, who could not afford to pay for substitutes or bribe their way out of the battle.

Today, our Selective Service System is a developed, systematic and fair organization. Its classifications and methods enable everyone to serve who is able. There are legal ways of "dodging the draft" but the paid substitute system and other previous defects have been omitted.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Certainly the saddest thought in reading a good book, watching a movie, being a student body officer or even living, is that one day it must end. This last installation assembly was undoubtedly one of the finest ever held at U.S. Grant high school. We the student body watched and listened in sadness as Robert Heldfond and Elizabeth Streukens gave their last message to the student body and introduced the new Spring Executive Council. Both Robert and Elizabeth were excellent and enthusiastic representatives of Grant and we will miss them in the Executive Council. Good-bye Robert and Elizabeth and we the student body thank you.

Very sincerely,
Robin Suwol

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To the Editor:

Your editorial support of our efforts, in cooperation with the Grant High administrators, the Portland Police and Traffic Bureau, and the Boy Scouts of America, to change the irresponsible litter, loiter, and vandalism practices of some of the Grant students is much appreciated.

We know, as you do, that the bad citizenship shown by these students is not typical of Grant students generally. It is true, however, that where students drive or ride in cars during lunch, litter the streets with containers taken from the Grant cafeteria, and loiter or trespass illegally on private property to smoke—all of which are against the school rules and the law—the people of the community tend to blame the whole student body.

We are happy that your paper has done so much to identify the irresponsible minority and to expose the actions by which they bring discredit on themselves and the school.

Yours sincerely,
The Grant Community
Betterment Committee

Generalities

Four new books, *Japan In Color*, *Auguste Rodin*, *The Larousse Encyclopedia of Animal Life* and *Cities of Destiny* have been received by the library, bought with the interest accumulated from the Moorman and Wuest trust funds.

Legal alternatives to military drafting few for able men

Following the passage of a law last July concerning conscientious objectors and draft-dodging there are few legal alternatives to the draft.

According to Major Joseph Formick of the Oregon State Selective Service, a boy may (1) face a jail sentence, (2) flee the country or (3) become a recognized conscientious objector.

The trick to being a conscientious objector is the word "recognized." Since the passage of the law in July, it takes more than a moral, ethical, personal, social, or religious objection to the war to dodge combat.

To be a recognized conscientious objector, a boy must have a traditional, historical, denominational background in a peace church.

Then if his religion objects to only combatant service and not non-combatant, he is classified IOA and can be drafted as a medical corpsman or to serve in a hospital, etc.

If his religion objects to both combatant and non-combatant service, he is classified IO and still must serve his country usually by a two-year approved civilian job, such as work for Goodwill Industries, etc.

"There are practically no alternatives to the draft for the boy classified 1A, who is perfectly able to serve," Major Formick commented.