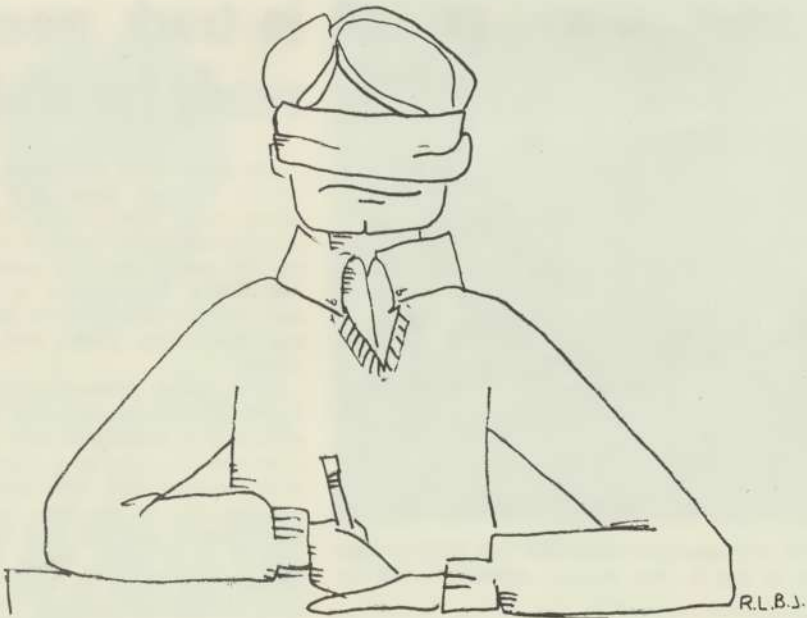


Voting system causes little interest



Democracy is a government by the people; it's rule by the ruled. The form of government in U. S. Grant high school is supposed to follow this democratic process. Does it?

Out of a student body of over 2800 there are 27 candidates running for student body offices. One of these candidates had to be drafted into running because there wasn't enough interest in one office to get two people to run for it.

Less than 2 per cent of the student body is actively participating in this election. Although almost everyone votes (they just about have to—ballots and pencils are "spoon-fed" to them), very few people vote wisely or know anything about the candidates running.

The apathy concerning student government and elections is appalling. "It doesn't matter who is head of student government, the administration will always make it run smooth," commented one student.

Whether school will run smooth with or without a strong student government is not the question here. The real concern should be the habits which the students are developing. The "let the other guy do it" policy may follow a person all his life.

What a person is now he will be tomorrow. The voters in high school elections today will be the voters in national elections tomorrow. If a person does not care enough to know who he's voting for now, will he in the future?

Maybe the answer to this problem is in changing our present voting system to one run like the national government's. Maybe voting would suddenly become more dear to students, if they had to register and go a little out of their way to vote.

It has been suggested that even the election assembly, when the candidates are introduced, be eliminated. This too might force the students into finding out about the candidates on their own.

Extensive campaigning, extemporaneous speeches, poll voting and registering, all these could be a part of the new system, a new system which will hopefully increase interest in student elections and government.

'Grantonian' makes wastebasket

Is it for paper airplanes, for lining the garbage can, to make confetti out of, or just to give you a cartoon to look at once a week? Why is there a GRANTONIAN? Do YOU know?

It's no secret that the real purpose and meaning of the GRANTONIAN is fading fast within this school. To many students it is nothing more than a "Kampus Kapers" and an editorial cartoon which keep them entertained for the last five minutes before the bell rings every Friday afternoon. One quick glimpse and then into the wastebasket is the average life span of the GRANTONIAN.

"Inform," is the key word behind the newspaper. Its purpose is to bring the happenings of sports, honors, achievements, events, individuals and groups to you. Its editorials are written about you and for you. They bring to the discussion table the prob-

lems of controversy that are facing the student body, in hopes of finding an answer to them.

There is a staff of ten people working many hours of every school day of every week to bring you the news around Grant.

Grant's newspaper has been rated among the top papers in the nation ever since it began publication in 1924. The press associations seem to think it's worth reading . . . why don't you try it sometime?

Literski makes sculpture for art scholarship portfolio

by Julie Ferry

"I've worked about 20 hours on it," commented Reed Literski, art student, about the sculpture he is designing in his art class.

To round out his portfolio for a scholarship application to the Portland Art Museum is the reason Reed decided to do a sculpture. It is the first one he has made.

When asked what the name of the sculpture was, Reed said he hadn't decided upon a name for his work. A fellow student, however, suggested the name "Agony" because the sculpture of the kneeling man "looks like he is really in pain and agony."

According to Mahlon Read, art teacher, "In order for Reed to have a well rounded portfolio we felt he needed more objects pertaining to the fine arts, besides oil paintings and drawings. We also felt he needed something three dimensional."

The first step Reed took in making his sculpture was to mold a frame from wire in the shape he desired. The next step was to shape the clay around the frame. When Reed finishes molding and shaping the clay, he will fire and glaze it.

When asked if he was getting credit for making the sculpture, Reed turned to Mr. Read who laughed, "You'd better be; you've been using my class time to work on it."

About his future as an art student at the museum Reed commented, "I haven't looked over their courses too carefully, but I think I would like to go into the field of commercial art."

Reed, who is presently art staff co-chairman, is planning a career in art, "because I've always liked art and enjoy designing and painting."

'Lock your car, take your keys' title of campaign against thievery of autos

by Cecile O'Rourke

To decrease the number of auto thefts in the Portland area is the purpose of a "Lock Your Car, Take Your Key" campaign now being started.

Car thefts have been occurring continually throughout the year, but just recently a police officer was called to Dr. Roy O. Malo's office to question a person held on suspicion of car theft.

Stereo tapes and tape decks, chrome reverse wheels, tachometers and other car accessories are just a few of the items being taken from students' and teachers' automobiles.

Craig Miller, a victim of car thievery himself, suggested that perhaps teachers should patrol the building during lunch hours. "People have been caught," he commented, "but thievery still continues."

Dan Aiken, general council president, is the only student member of the committee consisting of businessmen, insurance agents, police officers and county employees to combat thievery of cars and of the contents of cars.

Believing that people leaving their cars unlocked and leaving their keys in the car is the primary cause of car thefts, the committee is forming a campaign against such thefts.

The campaign consists of films to be shown to schools and other agencies and a sticker campaign with the slogan "Lock Your Car, Take Your Keys."

How successful has the campaign been? According to Dan, "We have already been successful in plateauing the rising statistics in this field."

To make the campaign successful, everyone must participate. "Lock Your Car, Take Your Keys."

Letters to the Editor

What is a Tom? What does this word really mean? I ask myself this question day after day. The word "Tom" to a Negro means another Negro who likes white kids and tries earnestly to get along with them.

I have always had white friends: but up until last year I never really considered them as worth having. I always figured that you'd never have a real friend that wasn't the same color as you are. This was a sure sign of immaturity and just plain ignorance on my part. The things my friends said used to bother me terribly: things like Honkey lover, Uncle Tom and others. My friends never called me these things, but there were a lot of other kids I knew who were referred to as such. I used to have a terrible fear of being known to my neighbors as a Tom. I thought that if I got too intimate with white kids I'd become sort of an outcast in my own race, but as I grew older and discovered that my life was my own and it should be lived to the fullest extent with no boundaries, I decided that friends were friends whether they were white or black.

Just recently Grant had her Rose princess selection. I was pretty upset with the choice, because there was a girl who I thought was more qualified for the position of Rose princess of Grant. I decided to write my choice a very short letter telling her of my appreciation and of the respect I had for her. Although I wasn't the only one who partook in the writing of this letter, some of my other friends would say to me as I passed them in the hall, "That's bad, Vernice, you turning to a Tom, huh, that's too bad." I would just look at them and say "What is a Tom? Doing something nice for someone you think highly of is just the same thing no matter who that person is or what color he is." Well we

wrote that letter and two days later I got an answer to my letter. It was nice to know that I had done something to make things easier for that person, because that's really all I wanted to do. There was a part in that letter that touched me deeply: it said, "This isn't the first honor I've lost, but I can tell you one thing; I'll continue to try for more even if I lose again because the friends I've made are worth it." To the person that wrote that letter these last lines are dedicated. "If being your friend means being a Tom then I'm willing, because being a friend to a person of your nature is well worth it."

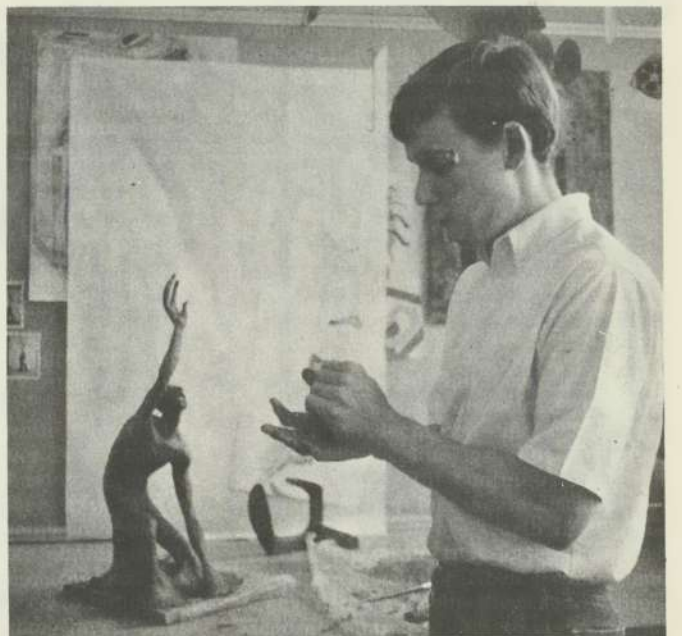
Vernice Ellis

Police officers visit; students ask questions

"A police officer has to be an optimist," stated Officer Aiken of the Multnomah County Sheriff's department while speaking to a group of students at a General Council sponsored meeting. The discussion was aimed at improving relations between the teen-ager and the police officer.

Many subjects were brought up; everything from juvenile rights to school expulsions. Officer Aiken and Officer Hagge of the Portland Police Department began the program by presenting a short film concerning police and society relations.

As citizens, there are many steps that may be taken in order to prevent such things as auto theft and burglary. Crime prevention is two-fold according to the visiting officers. It is the duty of the policeman to stimulate a sense of responsibility in the citizen, as it is the duty of the citizen to accept that responsibility and put it to use.



PUTTING THE FINISHING TOUCHES on the clay sculpture he is making for an art scholarship portfolio is Reed Literski, art staff co-chairman.

The Grantonian

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