

Editorials

Voluntary assemblies requested



The announcement reads "Assembly, schedule B, assigned seats." The students wonder what it is this time—could it be musical, maybe a play, or perhaps a guest speaker.

Mystery is intrigue—or is it in this case? The mob files into the auditorium and finds their seats. The teacher takes roll call to make sure no one is cutting. As the program progresses many students become uninterested and restless. They begin reading, passing notes, whispering to a neighbor to pass the time.

This not only is rude to the person or persons on stage but also to those students who may be interested in the assembly.

As high school students, Grantonians are old enough and responsible enough to have special interests. Can you imagine sitting through a three hour piano concert without being interested in music? Why should students be forced to sit through assemblies that are of no particular interest to them?

Voluntary assemblies is the answer. Special rooms of the cafeteria could be used for those not wishing to attend the assembly to use a study hall period. This would allow those uninterested Grantonians to get extra study and would be advantageous to those wishing to attend the assembly, as everyone in attendance would be genuinely interested in the program. They aren't there because it is mandatory.

There are still a few questions to be answered, such as; with voluntary assemblies would two assemblies still be necessary? and would all assemblies be voluntary, or just some each year?

But the idea is there and with a little work and responsible student action voluntary assemblies may soon become part of the curriculum.

Mrs. Suzanne Mayr sees invasion

Austria home as Czechs invaded

by Martha Ojard

Few Americans have been close to a country right at the moment it was invaded by the enemy, but such was the experience of Mrs. Suzanne Mayr, Russian teacher, who spent her summer in Austria, neighboring country of Czechoslovakia.

"WE WOKE UP early August 21 to discover that Czechoslovakia had been invaded by Russia. Although we realized that the situation was tense, we didn't realize that the occupation would be accomplished so rapidly," said Mrs. Mayr.

"From the moment we heard of the invasion, we had on shortwave radios and those that had televisions watched them. Vienna had monitored all of Czechoslovakia's radio and television broadcasts, so we got minute-to-minute reports.

For example — the the Russians marched into one of the radio stations in Prague, we heard crowds of students trying to defend the doors against Russian troops. We heard the door go, and the reporter continually said, 'We don't know how long we'll be broadcasting.' Shortly afterwards he would go off the air, but would soon be replaced by another station.

THE CZECHS had placed radio sta-

tions in various apartment houses throughout the city; since all the apartment houses are very close together it was hard for the Russians to trace the broadcasting. The Czechs had mobile units too, which followed the action wherever it went," Mrs. Mayr related.

She went on to say that most of the Czechs that were in Austria at that time returned to Czechoslovakia, "unlike the Hungarians in '56." She added, however, that this was before the Russians had enforced stringent measures.

"AUSTRIA IS famous for being a lover," Mrs. Mayr said, "not a fighter. She was once a monarchy and she gained land by marriage. She was not much of a fighter, and isn't now, but we continually heard the announcement 'The Austrian army is ready and prepared to meet any eventuality.'

"One Viennese reporter found the commanding general and his troops hidden in the bushes about 30 miles from the Austro-Czech border. Actually, the Austrians were trying to maintain their neutrality."

MRS. MAYR said that the Austrians had a great deal of sympathy for the Czech people, and much admiration for them—especially for measures of passive

Travel to Japan ends Shewbert tells experiences

by Debby Liesch

Robert Shewbert, manager and coach of the Oregon Cultural Exchange Wrestling Team, accompanied by Mrs. Shewbert and ten of Oregon's top wrestlers,

Generals Comment

To have to go or not to have to go—that is the question. Should students be required to attend assemblies, realizing the cut-slip penalty they may face for skipping them, or should they be allowed to choose which assemblies interest them and which assembly periods to spend in a study hall?

"I think students should be able to choose which assemblies they want to go to," commented Don Lincoln, senior, when he was confronted with the question. "Nobody should be forced to go to something they don't want to see. Different people have different interests and to me many assemblies are uninteresting."

"I'm against compulsory assemblies. Assemblies are made strictly for relaxation," junior Artie Wilson said firmly. "Education belongs in the class room. It's too hard to hear and concentrate in the auditorium. I think a more detailed summary of the assemblies should be given before they are presented," he explained. "This would help you decide whether or not you want to spend the assembly period in the auditorium or in a study hall," he concluded.

"No! Students should be forced to attend assemblies," stated Sharon Otness, senior, without hesitation. "A lot of time, planning, and work by a lot of people goes into assemblies," she asserted. "The program is composed for all the students, yet can't be expected to interest everyone. Kids in assemblies must learn to tolerate things they don't like."

"Assemblies should be attended, not avoided," declared Ralph Bakkenson, senior. "I feel assemblies serve a dual purpose," he explained. "They both educate and entertain. Students have no way of knowing what will interest them, unless they go and find out for themselves."

recently returned from a seven week tour of Japan.

After competing in nine matches, the team returned undefeated. Wrestlers from all over Oregon participated in a tournament from which the ten best wrestlers were chosen. Bob Shipley and Dave DeForrest, Grants Pass; Jerry Corwin, Redmond; Steve Garner, Coos Bay; Doug Campbell, Rex Putnam; and Dale Seavey, Newberg, left for Japan June 18.

Completing the team are Mike ones, Lebanon; Gary West, North Bend; Mark Booth and Murray Booth, North Eugene.

The trip lasted seven weeks during which they visited northern Honshu and the northern island of Hokkaido.

"I think the contrast over there is fascinating," commented Mr. Shewbert. "You see the completely western areas, then you see areas that are the same as they were 500 years ago."

During the trip, Mr. and Mrs. Shewbert and the wrestlers lived with different Japanese families. Mr. Shewbert explained that the Japanese people try to "kill you with kindness." "They wouldn't even let me buy my own underwear," he commented.

Mr. Shewbert explained that learning Japanese customs was easy because he has had a Japanese boy living with him for four years.

Japan is actually criss-crossed with railroads, according to Mr. Shewbert. The Japanese can live far outside Tokyo and commute via a train which travels 110 miles per hour and runs every 20 minutes.

Mr. Shewbert explained that the Japanese people he met loved the American people, but said that they hated the American government. One common Japanese phrase is, "If it is American, it is good."

In 1965, a wrestling team was sent to Europe. For the last four summers a team has gone to Japan. During the summer of 1969, teams will tour Japan and Australia.

This program was designed to improve wrestling, but also to enable them to learn the Japanese culture. Money for this trip was raised last year by the Japanese wrestling team.

Letters to the Editor

To The Editor,

In your edition of September 12, 1968, you ran an editorial policy statement which was nothing but a request for letters. May I ask that you print a statement of your entire award-winning news policy so students and judges will learn that your quotes are misquoted, your editorials are biased and your news is often inaccurate.

As long as you expect to maintain a monopoly on freedom of press, I feel you are conscientiously obligated to follow a liberal policy.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Martin

The Grantonian

Published weekly 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 3200. Second class postage paid at Portland, Ore. Subscription cost \$2.00 per year.

Vol. 73, No. 2 — September 20, 1968

EditorJan Kelley
Page 1 editorJune Ammon
Page 2 editorMarlene Feves
Page 3 editorBruce Fishback
Page 4 editorMartha Ojard
ReportersDebby Liesch, Katherine McGregor, Kathi Robinson, Lisa Rose, Debbie Rovech, Gary Cogill
PhotographerJoyce DeMonnin
Advertising ManagerKathy Walton
Circulation ManagerKathy Walton
AdvisorWillard Mohn