

# Generally Speaking...

## NEWS FROM THE GRANT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SUMMER 2020

U.S. GRANT HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
www.grantalumni.org

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### FLETCHER MEMORIAL MURALS UPDATE

While listening to the May 26, 2020 PPS Board Meeting, we heard Maxine Latterell, Student Representative, state that the Grant mural issue isn't going to be a resolution written by the Board since it is not a policy issue and that Superintendent Guerrero will approve the removal of the Fletcher Memorial Murals. We were stunned by that statement and as a result we have intensified our efforts to be heard by PPS decision makers.

Clearly, we need to bring you up to date on what has taken place since our last newsletter and how a decision on the murals was made by the Superintendent without any discussion with the Alumni Association and the Grant community. Last year we had the full support of both the Grant Principal and PPS to raise funds and restore the historic memorial murals. That support has evaporated. In February, at a meeting of a volunteer organization where Julia Brim-Edwards, PPS School Board member, was the speaker, we learned two Grant students representing the Indigenous People Student Union (IPSU) had addressed the school board with their concerns. Up to that point we had been told that the PPS committee formed to make a recommendation for the outcome of the murals was continuing to meet and deliberate. We had been asked by Principal Campbell not to discuss the controversy and as a result, we felt our hands were tied restricting us from presenting our position. Later that month, The Portland Tribune published a front-page story on the murals with much of the information coming from the IPSU students. The Hollywood Star News, a monthly newspaper, also has published a more neutral article about the mural controversy. Concurrently, Dan Jung, District COO, invited the Mural Committee to a February 18 meeting to discuss the murals. He stated his interest in a slow process of small group discussions to bring all parties together. This group would include the Mural Committee, the IPSU students, Grant Principal Campbell, PPS Administrators, and a moderator. We saw this group as an excellent way to hear each position and hopefully, come to a decision agreeable to all. We have not been invited to these discussions, if they took place. At the end of February, the Mural Committee was invited to take part on OPB's **Think Out Loud**, radio program. **Bob Erickson '62**, Mural Committee Member, and Nina Olsson, Art Conservator, Carol Campbell and Annii Tate, IPSU student participated in presenting the two positions on the murals.

Since then, we have contacted each school board member requesting to meet with them to present our perspective as well as options that could meet the objectives of both sides. Three board members responded and we were able to meet with two before the pandemic lockdown. Recently, our third board member met with us on Zoom. After hearing that the Superintendent would approve the removal of the murals, we have again contacted the other four providing updated information, including options. We are waiting to hear from these other four. Along the way, we have had discussions with several individuals who were concerned about the fate of the murals. These individuals include Nina Olsson, art conservator; William Diebold, Reed College Professor of Art History and Humanities; Kathleen Ash-Milby, Curator of Native American Art at the Portland Art Museum; Mark Humpal,

## MURAL UPDATE CONTINUED

Portland art dealer and authority on the mural's artist, Carl Hoeckner; and **Doug Capps '61**, former school board member. We have also had discussions with the national non-profit organization, National Coalition Against Censorship (NCAC) which has assisted other groups nation-wide dealing with similar situations. We have recently written to Superintendent Guerrero requesting to meet with him to discuss the value and benefits of retaining the murals in place. We are also ready to discuss a variety of potential mural options based upon a thoughtful document which discusses options for the outcome of the Fletcher Memorial Murals. This document was written by art conservator, Nina Olsson who has had a long involvement with these murals and prepared the original survey of the murals prior to the modernization project. Click here to access Ms. Olsson's "Overview of Alternative Solutions" [https://www.grantalumni.org/uploads/5/1/0/3/51038529/2020.23.03\\_hcg\\_overview\\_of\\_ghs\\_murals.pdf](https://www.grantalumni.org/uploads/5/1/0/3/51038529/2020.23.03_hcg_overview_of_ghs_murals.pdf)

From the beginning, we have taken this process seriously and enjoyed the support and encouragement of the school and the district throughout the fundraising period, but since then we believe we have been left out of the conversation. We wish we had been included in the decision-making process for the murals as PPS moved from supporting our initiative to restore the murals to their apparent intention to remove them. We wish PPS had followed through with the inclusive stakeholder group to discuss issues and hopefully come to a compromise. We understand that this controversy is not only an issue at Grant High School, but also a national issue about the intersection of art and history. As such, we strongly encourage the development of a decision-making policy by PPS before deciding the future of not only the Grant murals but before such issues arise in other schools. We are confident that we can find a solution that will stand as a model for other schools working toward an amenable solution.

We would like to acknowledge support we have received for our efforts to restore and retain the murals. We recently received support from the board of the Irvington Community Association, who wrote to the Superintendent and school board members stating their opposition to any plan to destroy or otherwise hide the Fletcher Murals. In their letter, they noted, in part "The board understands that some students are offended by the murals. The board accepts the sincerity of their feelings towards the murals. However, instead of destroying the art we encourage PPS to hold meetings with the students, alumni, artists, and other community representatives to discuss art, its purpose, its role in our public institutions, and its effect on those depicted. The board believes that rather than destroying the murals, Grant High should communicate to the student body utilizing different forms of communication, including, but not limited to plaques, verbal discussions prior to the first assembly, websites and boards at the entry to the auditorium summarizing the historical context of both the artistic representations of different ethnicities during the 1930s as well as the artist's intent. The school could provide history as to the murals, the artists, first peoples and their representations in art, among a great many other things. Destroying art, burning books, censoring ideas, shutting down differing views is completely antithetical to the liberal arts and teaching young people to think critically." You can read this letter, as well as other documents regarding the mural project in full at <https://www.grantalumni.org/fletcher-murals.html>

We have also received many encouraging comments from alumni to keep the murals. For example, **Dora May Reader '58** wrote "Please save and restore the Fletcher Memorial Murals for the present and future students, alumni, and faculty and staff. These murals represent a historically valuable and unique cultural treasure, created specifically for U.S. Grant High School. The Fletcher Memorial Murals are especially relevant in the twenty-first century as they point us to unity, idealism, striving for the best, and hope for our lives." **Chuck Greenberg '63** reflected on the Ideals portrayed in the murals by saying "The murals are historically significant and perhaps the most artistically valuable artwork in the school district. The murals represent the artist's vision of a more peaceful world. It was not intended to be historically accurate; it is a work of art extolling the virtues of education and peaceful contacts between peoples; the world as the artist wants it to be. It is an idealization and a goal we should all want to pursue." We thank you all for your words of support.

Please be assured that your Alumni Association's primary goal is to do its absolute best to retain and restore the Fletcher Memorial Murals at Grant High School. Our secondary goal is to continue to request PPS to develop a policy and procedure for making these decisions. The symbolism of peace, equality, and harmony through education that are portrayed by the murals are more relevant and important today than when they were dedicated September 24, 1932.

## 11<sup>th</sup> ALL ALUMNI PICNIC CANCELED FOR 2020

Covid-19 has ruined many plans this year including the alumni association's annual all-alumni picnic. The plan was to return to Grant Park on the fourth Sunday in July which is our designated day. Happily but regrettably, our attendance exceeds what is allowed even in the outdoors but we will certainly be back next year on Sunday, **July 25, 2021**. Many alums pay their dues at the picnic which will be an issue for us having no picnic this year. Your dues keep us going! We formed the association 15 years ago and want to continue. We ask that you mail your dues this year. \$20 per alum, an alum couple is \$30 or lifetime dues \$250.00. If you prefer there is a link on our website, [www.grantalumni.org](http://www.grantalumni.org), that you can pay via PayPal. We would appreciate your continued support!

## LETTER FROM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT BOB STAYTON

For the second time I am honored to lead the GHSA. It seems that the old Chinese Curse; "may you live in interesting times" has come, once again, to be appropriate. I recall the assassinations of 1963 and 1968, being drafted in 1967, men on the moon 1969, the ending of the Viet Nam War in 1974, Mt St Helens in 1980, the recession of 1984, 9-11, the recession of 2008, the recovery since 2008, the 2016 election, now the Pandemic and the national resurgence of the effort to eliminate racism in our country. Indeed INTERESTING TIMES!! Well at least we have not been invaded, hit by an asteroid, or had the BIG earthquake .....yet.



**Bob Stayton '61**

I remain hopeful that we will evolve through these challenges and emerge with a better democracy and more equitable economy that will foster technical and social developments that improve life for all who live on the planet. We must develop the skill/art of tolerance among cultures so that different value systems are tolerated and allowed to coexist without the competition that leads to conflict. Today we are more globally interconnected than ever before. Witness the Pandemic. Everyone has to do better; no one can be unwillingly left behind. We are together on Planet Earth.

The GHSA remains in support of the Grant Staff - Students and community. **Our Scholarship effort continues** – this year we again gave a \$3000 scholarship. The honor goes to **Owen De Kalb** class of 2020. Owen will attend OSU in the fall majoring in Mechanical Engineering. **We successfully raised funds for the restoration of the Murals in the Auditorium** – this effort is on hold pending resolution of the concerns raised by the Indigenous Student Union about the appropriateness of these art works. We expect PPS to resolve the issue soon. The murals were created by Carl Hoeckner -dedicated in 1932 to Grant's first principal W.T. Fletcher. **The 2020 All Alumni Picnic - has been cancelled** due to the Corona Virus problem. This event will occur again 2021 on the fourth Sunday in July mark it on your calendar. (July 25, 2021) **The Newsletter** will continue twice each year. **Our Website** (grantalumni.org)– **we need a volunteer alum to take over the maintenance of our website - John Hamnett '63** has generously taken care of this work for a few years but would like to hand this off to a new web master. If you have the inclination and skill to handle this, please contact us for details.

That's enough for today - Stay safe, have patience - we will be in this mode until a vaccine or remedy is found. THINK a lot. VOTE. What joy it will be to socialize again without a mask or 6 foot rule.

## GRANT WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL



Principal Carol Campbell is retiring after seven years at Grant and nearly four decades as an educator. Her leadership maintained the Grant community through the remodeling of the campus and two years of relocated Grant HS at the Marshal Campus in SE Portland. Enjoy your retirement

WELCOME to James McGee the incoming Principal. James comes to Grant after six years at Lincoln. James began as a Lincoln counselor in 2014 before being elevated to Vice Principal in 2018. James has earned a PSU degree in Social Science and a Certificate in Black Studies; a George Fox University Master of Arts in School Counseling degree, and a Preliminary Administrative License from Concordia University. James has over 20 years experience working with students and at-risk kids. He has held positions with The Portland House of Umoja, Friends of the Children, and Young Minds of Awareness.

At Lincoln, VP James was involved with hiring and assessing teachers, disciplining students, and overseeing athletics. His stand out achievement was the establishment of

Brothers of Color Club which provided students of color a place to connect and build a community. As a result the black male graduation rate increased from 33% to 98% in six years. McGee pushed students past their comfort zones, took on racial justice issues, and advocated in Salem.

Quoting McGee: "It's the best part of my job, when I see these students, I see my sons, but I also see myself. I want them to know when they walk in to this building they're not alone"

WELCOME TO GRANT Principal McGee. The GHS Alumni Association looks ahead with the hope that we will get back to a new normal, post-pandemic community, as soon as possible. We continue to support Grant students and the community as we near a century of excellence at GRANT HIGH SCHOOL.



## ROSE FESTIVAL PRINCESS



Grant's 2020 Rose Festival Princess is Junior Carmella Thomas. She is active in the Grant Dance Collective, voted MVP dancer by her class; and in female leadership at Self Enhancement, Inc. Carmella plans to attend an out of state college to study business.

Carmella experienced a first ever event for Grant Rose Festival Princesses when, due to social distancing guidelines, the Portland Rose Festival staged a digital ceremony to announce her selection.

## MY YEARS AS PRESIDENT OF THE GRANT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION...

or

## HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE CONFERENCE ROOM

My Presidency of the Grant Alumni Association turned out to be a most enriching experience. It started with the planning for the grand opening of the "New Grant"...3,000 alums and community friends joined us to marvel at what a magnificent structure...inside and out...Grant had become, plus an alumni basketball game in the new gym turned out to be a pretty good display of hoop skills.

In our monthly meetings we discussed up and down the merits of preserving the auditorium murals and raised \$220,000.00 in donations from Grant alums for the redo of the murals...we had clothing and food drives and maintained an excellent working relationship with the Grant administrators.

Most important of all are the members of the Alumni Board of Directors. Yep, we disagreed from time to time, but they are an awesome group. A big thanks to **Bob Stayton '61, Karyl Loback Whelan '61, Christi Rollwage Knutson '64, John Hamnett '63, Tracie Marrs Lynch '73, Rodger '47 and Jan Godey Eddy '54, Geneva Fraser '77, Kathi Stipe Swanson '61, Jack Cain '61, and Colleen White Scholz '63...**plus kudos to Dr. Carol Campbell, the Grant Principal (enjoy your retirement), and Executive Secretary Sue Davis.

It was a good run until March 13, 2020 when Grant closed due to a horrendous invading virus. Be safe...keep your distance... mask up...and wash your hands. We will get through this.



**Gerry F. Spencer '59**

## GRANT IN THE NEWS



"GRANT IN THE HOUSE" t-shirt. Who would ever have thought how prophetic the shirt would be and take on a whole other meaning when schools closed on March 13 due to the COVID-19 global pandemic?

Grant's two competitive Mock Trial teams competed in the regional tournament and both advanced to the state competition.

The Grant Constitution Team prepared for the first ever virtual National Tournament competition with zoom meetings. Congratulations to Unit IV for their first place finish!

Oregon Excellence in Concrete Awards for the Education K-12:

Grant High School Modernization was won for Mahlum Architects' transformation of a blocky high school into a light and airy learning environment.

State Swim team placed 8<sup>th</sup> overall.

Grant Gendrills placed 1st in the PIL Show Division.

Do you remember your graduation day? Imagine this as the program for this year's ceremony - seniors driving into the parking lot, exiting their car to have a photo taken and receive a Grad Bag and their diploma. The Class of 2020 are remarkable and resilient. Born in 2001, the year of terrorist attacks, and graduating during a pandemic. The Grant Alumni Association honors each of you.

Take a few minutes to see and listen to performances by Grant Choir and by the Grant Band and Orchestra. The Grant Choir virtually performing "Calling My Children Home":

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STpQ8at1mVM&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2F7\\_6qdoo-zBcaUdEf214yIWpNu1YCWzD3momNx3crmcVwzxFFclINl8k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STpQ8at1mVM&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2F7_6qdoo-zBcaUdEf214yIWpNu1YCWzD3momNx3crmcVwzxFFclINl8k)

"The Grant Fight Song" by Grant Band and Orchestra:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjF9KvII80k>

## HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT ANNOUNCES THREE INDUCTEES



**Henry Breithaupt '66** graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Pomona College after attending Grant. He graduated first in his University of Oregon School of Law class becoming a member of the prestigious Order of the Coif.

Henry Breithaupt was appointed Oregon Tax Judge in 2001 by Governor John Kitzhaber to fill the remaining term of the retiring judge. The Tax Court is a one-judge, special court that has exclusive, statewide jurisdiction of cases that involve Oregon's tax laws. He was elected to the position and remained the Oregon Tax Judge until he retired December 31, 2017.

Judge Breithaupt has given pro bono legal services to a variety of groups on organizational and charitable exemption issues, including the following entities: American Tinnitus Association, American Spina Bifida Association, New Song Russian Christian School of Music, Tongan Community Services, Portland Computer Training Institute, Center for the Study of Religion at PSU and the Portland Baroque Orchestra.

Beginning in 2006, he has volunteered to help coach the Grant High School Constitution Team. The Grant High School Constitution Team has placed in the top 10 teams seven times in the national tournament, "We the People Constitution Competition" with the Grant team winning first place three times.



**Nancy McCready Higgins '69** was an active member of her class. She performed in school plays, was a member of the yearbook staff, and was a National Honor Society commissioner. She graduated from Western Washington State University with a degree in Russian history and earned a law degree from the University of Washington. It was while she was general counsel at Boeing that she saw a need for a corporate ethics policy that provided training and monitoring. Not only did Boeing adopt such a policy but most other large corporations have as well. Nancy has headed the ethics and compliance programs for MCI and Lockheed Martin as well as Boeing. She has been with Bechtel since 2007 as their manager, ethics and compliance. Nancy is a member and past chair of the Conference Board Global Council on Business Conduct. She has been a member of the Ethics and Compliance Officer Association board of directors and is a corporate fellow of the Ethics Resource Center Fellows Program and serves on its advisory board. Nancy's

mother was **Connie Averill McCready '39**, a Portland commissioner and Mayor of

Portland. Her father was **Al McCready '35**, editor of The Oregonian.



**Robina Suwol '69** was a very active General serving on the executive council, as a class officer, as a girl's league officer, as well as competing in speech contests, and acting in school plays. Her interest in acting continued after GHS when she was living in California. While acting and raising her two boys she had a life changing experience when her younger son was not able to blow his usual kiss to her one morning because the air was so unpleasant. A school gardener was beside him spraying the hedge at the same time. Robina checked with the school to learn they were spraying with Princep, the toxic herbicide simazine. It triggered a serious asthma attack in her son and began her mission to protect him and all the children.

In 1998 California Safe Schools (CSS) was founded by Robina and she remains the executive director. CSS is a nationally recognized children's environmental health non-profit coalition of over fifty organizations located in Southern California committed to the health and safety of children and community members who reside near schools. CSS spearheaded the toughest pesticide policy in the nation at Los Angeles Unified School District. This policy called Integrated Pest Management Policy uses low risk methods to eliminate pest and weeds. In 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger signed into law a bill that closes a loophole protecting many millions of public school students as well as all school employees from exposure to pesticides whose health effects are unknown. CSS was the sponsor of that bill.

Robina is recognized as an environmental and children's health activist nationally and has been given many awards for her leadership and outstanding work.

## GOLDEN GRAD EVENT

Do you know what a Golden Grad Event is? It is a gathering of all Grantonians who graduated at least fifty years ago. Our initial plan was to hold the event on homecoming weekend in September but because of covid-19 that is subject to change. The afternoon would include a speech or two, a sweet bite, a tour of our remodeled school as well as a lot of conversation with old or maybe new friends! Anyone from earlier classes up through the class of 1970 will be welcome. We will keep you posted.

## OWEN DE KALB AWARDED ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2020 SCHOLARSHIP



Owen De Kalb is eager to attend Oregon State University in the fall which at this printing will be welcoming students in person. Owen has spent three years on the robotic team and was disappointed that covid-19 ruined the team's chances of possibly making it to Houston for the global robotics competition. The specs for this year's team contraption required that the bot "could chuck a ball through a hoop and also demonstrate enough strength to suspend itself from a floating bar for a challenge called 'infinite recharge'". As team captain, Owen was confident his team would have done well in successive competitions. Owen will study engineering either electrical or mechanical at OSU with a goal of a master's degree so he can help build a better tomorrow. If possible Owen would like to minor in aerospace engineering because space has a draw for him even being an astronaut one day! The association's \$3000 scholarship, our 13<sup>th</sup> this year, is funded by caring Grantonians. Special acknowledgment needs to be given to a few very generous alums. A special thank you to **Bob Stayton '61, Janice Bruhn Wilson '64, Bob Thompson '76**, Goudy-Powell Family Fund, and the Haley Family Fund.

### ONE OF THE THREE TOPICS POLITE PEOPLE NEVER DISCUSS!

During this time of uncertainty we recognize that there are no job guarantees, there are no health guarantees, and there are no guarantees when we will be able to provide alumni events; but we will guarantee that our work will continue for you. As always, we can only do that with your help.

Your Alumni Assn. plans to continue to publish a semi-annual newsletter, to continue to pursue the mural restoration project, to provide a scholarship for an outstanding graduate, and to continue to bridge the past and the future for the benefit of Grant and its thousands of alums.

But these plans are not guarantees without your support. We recognize that many of you pay your dues at the annual picnic which has been canceled. We hope you will continue to support our efforts by sending your dues with the form below or using this link to PayPal on the Alumni Association website:  
<https://www.grantalumni.org/dues--donations.html>

Beside money, we all know the other two are religion and politics but we can't always help ourselves!

### BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Your Board of Directors meets monthly devoting volunteer time to keep the association moving. PLEASE SUPPORT US by sending your \$20 dues by mail or online [www.grantalumni.org](http://www.grantalumni.org) at the dues and donations page. We are a recognized 501(c) 3 charitable organization. The association also offers a Lifetime Membership for \$250.00. Please fill out and enclose the form below with your annual dues and mail to:

**US Grant Alumni Assn. PO Box 13291 Portland OR 97213-0291**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden name \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed Dues: \$20 Annual dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 per couple annual dues \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 Lifetime Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed Donation: Scholarship Fund \_\_\_\_\_ General Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_

I can help: Picnic \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Accounting \_\_\_\_\_ Other Interests \_\_\_\_\_

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Class of 1965 - 55th CANCELED

Facebook: Grant High –Portland, Oregon- Class of '65 Reunion

### Class of 1966 – 55<sup>TH</sup> Reunion

Saturday, October 9, 2021 McMenamin's Kennedy School

Contact: Randi Carlson Black

### Class of 1970 – 50<sup>TH</sup> Reunion NEW DATE

Saturday, August 21, 2021 German American Society

6:00-11:00 Drinks & Hors d'oeuvres for Classmates Only

Sunday, August 22, 2021

10:00-1:00 Open House at Grant

Contact: Joe Stilwell [stilwelljoe@comcast.net](mailto:stilwelljoe@comcast.net)

Facebook: GrantHighSchoolClassof1970 Reunion

### Class of 1975 – 45<sup>TH</sup> Reunion TBD

Contact: Sara Wiedmaier Gonzalez

[gonzalez.sara90@gmail.com](mailto:gonzalez.sara90@gmail.com)

### Class of 1980 - 40<sup>TH</sup> Reunion CANCELED

Contact: Ann Nelson Kruger [annkruger@yahoo.com](mailto:annkruger@yahoo.com) or

Lisa Vandever 971.609.5928 [lisavandever@outlook.com](mailto:lisavandever@outlook.com)

Facebook: Grant High School/Class of 1980

### Class of 1985 – 35<sup>TH</sup> Reunion

Saturday, August 15, 2020

McMenamin's Kennedy School Community Room

6:00-11:00 No host event

Contact: Stacey Roberts

[sacroberts@yahoo.com](mailto:sacroberts@yahoo.com)

### Class of 1990 – 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion CANCELED

Facebook: Grant High School Class of 1990 - 30 Year Class Reunion

### Class of 2000 – 20<sup>TH</sup> Reunion CANCELED

Contact: Stephanie & Galen [grantclassof2000@gmail.com](mailto:grantclassof2000@gmail.com)

Or <https://www.facebook.com/events/476308416371522>

### Class of 2010 – 10<sup>TH</sup> Reunion

#### Tentative plans for a winter reunion

Details will be emailed and posted at

GHS Class of 2010 Facebook Group

### 29th Annual MacMillan Jones Golf Tourney RESCHEDULED

Friday, August 28, 2020

1:00 Shotgun start at Rock Creek Country Club

All welcome

Contact: Steve MacMillan

[stevemacmillan@comcast.net](mailto:stevemacmillan@comcast.net) or 503.260.7271

All proceeds benefit the Kevin MacMillan Tom Jones Scholarship at Grant

### 12th Annual Peter Moore Memorial Scramble

Wednesday, July 15, 2020

8:00 a.m. Shotgun at Eastmoreland Golf - all welcome

Contact: Gerry Spencer 503.723.5906 or [spencerworld@comcast.net](mailto:spencerworld@comcast.net)

All proceeds benefit the Pete Moore Scholarships at Grant

### 11<sup>TH</sup> Annual All Alum Picnic CANCELED