

DANDY BLANDY BUSTED IN VERSE VICE RAID

Poetparazzi track executive before dramatic cuffing in Sonnet City sting

Bland Grande XXIV, Senior Vice-President of Distribution for greeting card blandufacturer, Mall Mart Wall of Fame, was arrested early yesterday and charged with conspiracy to textport several thousand quatrains, rhyming couplets, limericks and cute cantos without a valid Poetic Licence.

The arrest took place without incident outside the offices of the Chapbook Centre, located off Alliteration Alley in the Lower East Side of Sonnet City.

The Peoples Plagiarism Police sealed off the area during morning rush hour and were seen removing file boxes of abandoned first drafts, along with printers, wastebaskets and multiple blandheld devices. Police said two authentic anthologists found on the premises had been taken in for questioning.

This is the first charge laid under the Prevention of Pulp Friction and the Promotion of Poetry Act, passed last year after the poetariat pressured the Poetburo in the wake of a plagiarism scandal of anthological proportions. The crime was uncovered by Rhyme Scheme Investigators. Artofficial intelligence sources said further arrests can be textpected.

A hastily improvised Muse Conference was set up at the Imagine National Ark-Hives where Poetician1 made an official statement.

“Bland Grande is facing a lifetime textclusion from the glorious Imagine Nation of the People’s Republic of Poetry if convicted of committing these rhymes against humanity. There will be no further comment from the Write House. The matter is before the Department of Poetic Justice. We are at liberty not to say.”

The Minister With Poetfolio added, *“Bland Grande was always textravagant whenever he visited the People’s Republic of Poetry. The poetparazzi GPS’d him the moment he entered our glorious Imagine Nation. He took pompous pride in posing as a patron of the arts, yet his fortune came from the mass distribution of mediocrity — a crime against poetry, hilarity, and humanity.”*

Poet Pressly Priest said, *“It’s an irony deficiency that he gets busted for the tiresome practice of distributing airy nothings without a valid Poetic Licence. He’s gregarious, affable, but an excruciating bore.”*

The Creative Intelligence Anarchy denied any involvement in Grande’s takedown. Sources close to the operation said Grande had been under close surveillance by Big Brat shadows, controlled by Poemland Security.

Emerging poet Tim Tomstone, who had witnessed the takedown of Bland Grande, said, *“I had always heard of quick-wit takedowns. Three plainclothes poets approached dandy Blandy and, quicker than an Oscar Wilde quip, he was in rhyming cufflets and tossed into a parody wagon. It was satisfying to see that bloated banality deflate faster than a soufflé insult.”*

Foreign sources reported that authorities in Blandland have been seen corralling hack writers and pulp frictioneers for a weekend rally to protest the arrest of Bland Grande XXIV. Given the nature of their impoverished state of mind, this should prove to be a mass bore.

The Minister With Poetfolio sneered, *“Another half-time show of prosaic proportions”*.