

Grimsley Students On Voting: Eighteen Too Young Or...?

Joe Coleman—

The North Carolina Legislature is currently considering lowering the voting age to eighteen. In order to understand how those who would be given this privilege would react, the legislators in favor of this motion has asked for a response from several high schools. Recently a discussion was held to consider this proposal. In the following article the pros and cons of this proposal are weighed and discussed. At a later date, you, the students of Grimsley will be asked to express an opinion on this issue. Read the following discussion carefully, determine the views which are most partial to you, then state your opinion on a questionnaire which will be distributed at a later date.

This question gives us a chance to express an opinion of some consequence, it also gives us a voice in a decision which will directly concern us. Consider these proposals carefully and (vote whether you are eighteen or not).

High School Panel

The panel which met April 15, consisted of Ramona Curtis, Mark Austin, Paul Levy, Joe Coleman, moderated by Matt Gibson and recorded by Pat Healy. The arguments which follow are not direct quotes, but summaries of their sentiments.

Special thanks to the student council for their assistance in this project.

Main Argument

Ramona: The main argument is that a person who fights for his country should be able to vote for it. This should not apply since a person in the Armed forces is involved in only military training. The soldier takes orders from his commander and is not encouraged in independent thought. This argument of if he fights for his country he should be allowed to vote does not apply.

If you stop and think of some of the eighteen year old kids you know then one can easily see why eighteen year olds should not vote. I'd hate to have

someone like this determining the policy of my country. We at eighteen lack experience, we have a lot to go through before we're twenty-one, experience is an essential criteria for voting.

Representation?

Paul: This question goes back to the thought about taxation without representation. Eighteen year olds are making more money than ever before and are consequently paying more taxes than ever before. Our country fought for representation, and hopefully at eighteen we are fairly well informed. If a person knew that he had the responsibility to vote he would pay more attention to the issues.

Ramona: It is to idealistic to say things will change, the eighteen year olds would not change but continue along the same course.

Joe: When a person straps on a gun, and goes to Viet Nam, putting his life on the line for his country, it is ridiculous that he should have had no voice in determining the policies that he is fighting for. It is just as ridiculous that he should pay his money for programs that he had no voice in selecting.

Protection of Home

Mark: On the surface it does seem the eighteen year olds should vote. They are fighting to protect their country of which they enjoy the privileges of citizenship.

Joe: If they vote they should pay taxes, if they pay taxes they should vote. If they fight for the privileges of citizenship they should also enjoy these privileges. One without the other is tyranny.

Paul: Are eighteen year olds responsible enough to vote?

Ramona: They can only attain essential responsibility through age and maturity.

Paul: A person eighteen is mature.

Ramona: One must live to gain experience. We speak of teenagers, we know nothing of life.

Maturity In College

Joe: When a person sits alone in his college dorm room for the first time he matures a heck of a lot. People between eighteen and twenty-one fall into this category of college, the majority of college students are capable of voting.

Ramona: The majority of college students are over nineteen. I could agree with lowering the voting age to nineteen.

Mark: Just because eighteen year

The teenage page in the Greensboro Record is looking for reporters for next year's staff, and of course there is an opening for someone from Grimsley. One major change in the page's policy for the coming year is that they will pay, that's right, pay the reporters for their copy.

Anyone interested in applying for this job should obtain an application from the Youth Council office, 338 N. Elm, and there you will receive all the information you will need.

UP FRONT



olds are qualified to fight doesn't mean that they are qualified to vote. By the time they are twenty-one they should be qualified to vote.

Joe: There is a moral issue involved, the man who goes over seas for his country, the man who pays taxes, both should be able to vote.

Qualified Dropouts

Paul: In North Carolina, 50% finish high school, 25% go to college.

Mark: These high school dropouts aren't qualified to vote.

Joe: These dropouts are leaving to support themselves and their families. Their higher education comes from the school of life. They may not be intellectual, but they know what they want—certain corn and tobacco prices, etc. . . . They know who and what to vote for to achieve the things they want. They are qualified to make decisions, they are qualified to vote.

Ramona: What about the other issues they will be allowed to vote for. All these people know is what pertains to them.

Aid To Capability

Joe: By lowering the voting age we would have an influx of interest—not a lessening of voting capability, but an aid to it. Whether or not a man is qualified isn't the most important consideration, he has earned the right to vote. Whether a man is qualified or not, if he is risking his life to defend the rights of citizenship, if he is paying taxes to continue the rights of citizenship, he must be allowed to enjoy these rights, the most vital of which is voting.

Summary: It was the opinion that if the voting age were to be lowered that nineteen would be more suitable than eighteen.

It boils down to the question of whether or not a person between eighteen and twenty-one is qualified to vote or not. If he is not, does he still have the right to have a voice in the country he is supporting and defending.

Decide for yourself, then answer accordingly when you complete your questionnaire.

Letters

Dear Junior Class:

During the last fall elections the Sophomore Class was criticized for putting up only one candidate for the Sophomore Class president. It seems now as if the tables have turned and the juniors have only one candidate running for Senior Class president. This is no fault of Jim Powell's just as it was no fault of Scott Adair but it was said that this practice was undemocratic. It can't be too undemocratic if the Junior Class follow in the foot steps of the "baby sophomores."

What seemed to be a major disaster has been repeated. Maybe the 1966-67 Sophomore Class has on a new tradition at GHS.

Susan Miller '69

Dear Sports Editor,

In a recent issue of HIGH LIFE, there appeared in your column a sarcastic remark about Grimsley's mile relay team which happened to run an extremely slow time in a meet against Burlington. The meet was run on Burlington's track which is noted for slowness and bad conditions for running. Dust collects up to six inches high in some places and water drains to a puddle on one corner.

It was never pointed out that Grimsley's four runners were never headed by a single Burlington runner. All the Bulldogs could do was cough up dust churned by Whirlie spikes. It is extremely hard to turn in fast when your team is not challenged.

We are certainly not proud of our slow time and will work harder in the future for we have hopes of setting a new school mark for the mile relay.

Grimsley Mile Relay

Jim Nehlsen '68

Charles Wilkins '68

Tim Browder '67

Jim Powell '68

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