

Post-Election Days

After speeches, campaigns, a preferential ballot, a "final" vote, and a final re-vote, Grimsley's elections for the 1970-71 year are over. In these post-election days, many have speculated on those aspects of this election which were inflated to create a city-wide controversy. Let us review the election and four major groups involved in it.

First, let us consider the actions of the Grimsley Administration. Apparently, the Administration handled the situation in the best way possible. When it was revealed that there had been an error in balloting in the final vote, the Administration did not rashly accuse anyone of ballot box stuffing nor did they attempt to blame any one person or group for the error. Instead, they logically acknowledged the existence of a mistake and set

about to arrange a re-election. It is to the Administration's credit that the re-election was run so smoothly and efficiently.

Greensboro's news media has received much justifiable criticism for misrepresenting Grimsley's election as a racial issue. We feel it is safe to assume that most Grimsley students were aware that the election involved anything more than political platforms until they were enlightened by daily newspapers. Of course, we had a black candidate and a white candidate running for president of the student body. So what? Local papers and television seemed to think the racial aspect was the most important issue, and therefore, they incorrectly assigned sensational emphasis to that aspect.

The third group involved in Grimsley's elections controversy is the students. The Grimsley voters are liable on two counts for the error in the first balloting: either (1) someone was indeed guilty of ballot box stuffing, or (2) someone was grossly careless in voting or in supervising the voting.

The candidates themselves, the fourth group concerned in the elections, remained commendably rational, throughout the proceedings. The refusal of the two presidential candidates to dignify the race issue theory with a denial was especially admirable.

Merely reviewing an occurrence, such as our election, is of little value if nothing is gained from the review. But we can profit from an appraisal of this election and its problems. It is obvious that reform in Grimsley's election proceedings is imperative. Had the final voting been conducted in the same manner as the re-election, there would have been no need for a re-election. We have seen that a chaotic polling situation can lead to balloting errors, unnecessary publicity of a private affair, and the needless tension of re-elections.

Where Have You Gone Student Council?

Has Student Council disappeared from the face of Grimsley? Has it sunk to the phantoms depths of Lake Grimsley? Or perhaps it is hiding in the janitors closet. Where have you gone? Two weeks ago I wrote an article about the library and proposed a Library Advisory Board. After the publication I have asked on three separate occasions to meet with the executive Board to read over the proposal and discuss the possibilities of bringing the suggestion in action. Students have claimed Student Council does nothing. Well even if you give them a formulated plan they forget about it or ignore it. Student Council pull the School Beautiful trash out of your ears. The students of Grimsley are actually interested in doing something. Please do not be the apathetic ones.

Students do not let Student Council become apathetic. Demand or in cases hound them to open their closed eyes to see that they are not the only people attending G.H.S. As a senior I pass the buck, torch, or whatever to you the students to try to carve, shape, or mold the Student Council into your Student Council.



Vietnam Policy Explored

In the beginning of any administration a mood of optimism usually pervades. New leaders with new ideas and new methods give the people the feeling that things will improve with the new president in office. Of course a few months later the mood shifts back to normal and after about a year the administration already looks old. and its new faces, ideas, and methods seem very much the same as the old faces, ideas, and methods.

Fifteen months ago, President Nixon embarked on his new plan for Viet Nam and Southeast Asia, and it seemed, for the moment, to work. The war was de-escalated, the word vietnamization became a part of everyone's vocabulary, some of the boys began to come home, and it finally looked as though we would extricate ourselves from the long and drawnout conflict.

Unfortunately this was not to be. The cold, stark light of reality finally broke through the misty haze of optimism. It seemed that after the withdrawals this year and next we will still keep a force of 180,000-200,000 men in Viet Nam. The reasons being more than military in implication. The Finance Minister of South Viet Nam gave another reason, he felt that the economy of South Viet Nam would be in trouble if the American forces left. This is frightening that our presence is needed not to defend them, but rather to bolster their sagging economy. (We also supply the materials on the black market—as well as other economic aids.

Given without all this it does seem that we are slowly but surely removing ourselves from Southern Asia, or are we? Recent news articles point out that we are getting increasingly involved in Laos and elsewhere in the area. So it seems as soon as we pulled our right foot from the muck and mire of Viet Nam we put our left foot somewhere else. It took us over ten years to begin to get out of Viet Nam, how long will it take us to

get out of Laos if we get any further in.

The all important question has yet to be asked. Has the Nixon policy on Southern Asia opened us up to constant, small, but very costly wars? Every American who has made the realization that Viet Nam was a tragic mistake, should realize now that Laos or Thailand or anywhere else will be the same mistake. The "dovish" senators and representatives in Washington have begun to question the Nixon policy, everyone should. This is not to say the policy is right or wrong, but rather to say not to put our trust in one man. We made that mistake already. Involvements such as Viet Nam are morally and legally incorrect, no amount of time will alter that. We must as concerned citizens watch our political leaders, it is our right and duty. Let us remember never to lose sight of the bitter lessons of Viet Nam.

Schedules: Big Headache

The last six weeks of the '68-'70 school year have crept upon us. Where has it all gone? The last chance to redeem this year's dignity, value, and grades is a grueling thought in the minds of many.

What about next year? Will it be the same? One aspect certainly will be, unless some facts are gotten straight, and fast. The trouble with schedules will arise as always, but with a conscientious system of planning, the process of changes, redistribution, the headaches for the faculty, all may become a little less complicated.

How many of students, when the cute pink cards are being passed about just scribble a lead line under the first five subjects that strike our fancy the most. Let next year take care of itself. Let Mrs. Moody, Mr. Glenn, and the teachers (who don't especially care to go back any more than we do), straighten out our messed-up past and future. Sorry, it's not quite that simple.

Much more is involved than merely standing in three-hour lines, which is headache enough, it would seem, to discourage the same foolishness next year.

Allow me to make one thing crys-

tal clear, and a word to the wise is sufficient. Regrouping study halls is a very difficult process and a touchy subject with the Administration, perhaps so than even their lunch periods. Unless it involves a particular course taught only at a certain period or a certain few periods, the determined pupil might as well give up. "I want such-and-such period study so I can do my so-and-so homework," is a rather dead issue in the eyes of the faculty and Administration. If a student desires to work on *High Life* or drive a bus, though, the chances of getting a seventh period study are fairly good during the first term. After a time, the odds lessen.

Course changes this year will involve a note signed by the parent. The sooner they are decided upon, the more likely it is for the disgruntled student to receive them. In any case the entire subject is highly individual, depending on the individual's own situation, his aptitude in certain fields, and his plans for the future. That is what makes the process so long. So, please help, and try to be stable, and choose the subjects that you plan to stick with next August.

Editor's note: *High Life* will run an opinion poll sometime this week. The questions will deal with school and national affairs. The poll will be voluntary but we would appreciate your opinions. The results will be published in the last issue of *High Life*.

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