

Editorials

Student body displays apathy during UGN drive

We're great! We're tops in athletics, as well as academics. Student apathy is something Grantonians only hear about. Or is it?

Last Thursday and Friday the annual United Good Neighbor drive was held. The Girls' League presented General Grant's birthday party Thursday, and Friday was the powder puff football game between the senior and junior girls.

On Thursday 84 reg rooms did not give anything at all and the rest gave very little. The bulk of the contributions were received Friday through the sucker sale and reg rooms.

In previous years Grant has held the tradition of "Reach for \$1000" for the UGN. This year we barely cleared \$600 and one sixth, or \$100 of that came from Gerald Merryman's class.

An average of a little over \$4 per person was given by each member of the class. If every student in other classes had given their fair share or equalled that given by Mr. Merryman's class, up to \$7000 could have been raised.

Is student apathy showing through? Not in our sports or academics, only in our thoughts of others.



Republicans coin name

1868 Republicans decide on party platform

One hundred years ago General Ulysses S. Grant was nominated by the Republican party (although at that time it was not known by that name) for the office of President of the United States. Following is the Republican party platform of that year:

First—We congratulate the country on the assured success of the reconstruction policy of Congress . . . and regard it as the duty of the government to prevent the people . . . from being remitted to a state of anarchy or military rule.

Second—The guarantee by Congress of equal suffrage to all loyal men at the South was demanded by every consideration of public safety, of gratitude, and of justice, and must be maintained; while the question of suffrage in all the loyal States properly belongs to the people of those States.

Third—We denounce all forms of repudiation as a national crime . . .

Fourth—It is due to the labor of the nation, that taxation should be equalized and reduced as rapidly as the national faith will permit.

Fifth—The National Debt . . . should be extended over a fair period of redemption, and it is the duty of Congress to reduce the rate of interest thereon whenever it can be done honestly.

Sixth—That the best policy to diminish our burden of debt is to so improve our credit that capitalists will seek to loan us money at lower rates of interest than we now pay and must continue to pay so long as repudiation . . . is threatened or suspected.

Seventh—The Government of the United States should be administered with the strictest economy . . .

Eighth—We deeply deplore the untimely death of Abraham Lincoln, and regret the accession of Andrew Johnson to the Presidency . . . and (he) has been justly impeached for high crimes and misdemeanor . . .

Ninth— . . . Naturalized citizens are entitled to be protected in all their rights of citizenship as though they were native born . . .

Tenth—None are entitled more especially honor than the brave soldiers and seamen who endured the hardships . . . and imperiled their lives in the service of the country . . . The widows and orphans of the gallant dead are the wards of the people — a sacred legacy bequeathed to the nation's protecting care.

Eleventh—Foreign immigration . . . should be fostered and encouraged by a liberal and just policy.

Twelfth—This Convention declares its sympathy with all the oppressed people which are struggling for their rights.

Thirteenth—We highly commend the spirit of magnanimity and forgiveness with which members who have served in the rebellion, but now frankly . . . co-operate with us in restoring the peace of the country . . .

Fourteenth— We recognize the great principles laid down in the immortal Declaration of Independence as the true foundation of Democratic Government; and these principles a living reality on every inch of American soil."

Letters to the Editor

OPEN LETTER TO MY REG STUDENTS

I am embarrassed and somewhat ashamed. When I asked you if you wanted to give to the UGN and to try to keep the sword my reg students were awarded last year, you said yes, you would like to try. You remember, I didn't push, plead, beg, cajole, threaten, or cry. I encouraged you because I believed in sharing responsibility for our fellow men and because I believed that giving generously, freely, and openly is a gesture that should be taught and practiced.

After you turned in a little over \$100 on Friday, I wrote the figure on the board. During the rest of the day students entering the room were shocked, and asked repeatedly how did I do it. Even now I do not know how it happened. I saw billfolds and purses opened and money pouring out, and I stood there amazed and thrilled. I saw you give everything and ask for lunch money in change. One boy asked for thirty-five cents for lunch and then changed it to a request for only a quarter. I don't know why you did it, but I thought I saw hearts opened as well as billfolds and purses, and I was happy.

During the day I learned that the twenty-nine of you had given approximately one-fourth of the total Grant High School contribution, and I was embarrassed. I felt as if we had stepped into another world, a world where giving and loving were out of place. You understand, I hope, why I could never allow a public presentation of the sword. I don't believe the school deserves to give you anything, and you do not need a reward for doing what you believed was right. The sword will remain in our room, and you will know the satisfaction of having done a wonderful thing even if you had to be different to do it.

The faculty and students of Grant High School should ask themselves some serious questions and consider carefully the cost of apathy. Your example has set you apart, and I love you for it.

Gerald Merryman

1968 Democratic National Convention memorable; party platform achieved only after bitter battle

by Martha Ojard

The scene is Chicago—one of many hot August nights in 1968. The nation—the world—will long remember these nights as the week the Democrats held their national convention.

"The Democratic Party, after a bitter battle in its National Convention: . . .

We strongly support the Paris talks and applaud the initiative of President Johnson which brought North Vietnam to the peace table.

. . . we would support our Government in the following:

Stop all bombing of North Vietnam when this action would not endanger the lives of our troops in the field . . .

Negotiate with Hanoi an immediate end . . . of hostilities and the withdrawal from South Vietnam of all foreign forces . . .

Encourage all parties and interests to agree that the choice of the postwar Government of South Vietnam should be determined by fair and safe-guarded elections . . .

Until the fighting stops, accelerate our efforts to train and equip the South Vietnamese Army so that it can defend its own country . . . carry out cutbacks of U.S. military involvement as the South Vietnamese Army forces are able to take over their larger responsibilities. . . .

The goal is to end the war in Vietnam by an honorable and lasting settlement which respects the rights of all people in Vietnam. . . .

We pledge a vigorous and sustained campaign against lawlessness in all its forms. . . .

In fighting crime we must not foster injustice. Lawlessness cannot be ended by curtailing the hard-won liberties of all American. . . .

A respect for civil peace also requires a proper respect for the legitimate means of expressing dissent. . . . But when the dissenter resorts to violence, he erodes the institutions and values which are the underpinnings of our democratic society. We must not and will not tolerate violence. . . .

. . . wipe out once and for all, the stain of racial and other discrimination from our national life. . . .

. . . to develop programs that will enable members of minority groups to obtain the financing and technical management assistance needed to succeed in

launching and operating new enterprises . . .

The U.S. should continue to accept its world responsibilities . . .

Resist the temptation to mold the world . . . or become the self-appointed policemen of the world . . .

The brutal and unprovoked Soviet aggression against Czechoslovakia was . . . a shocking reminder that we live in a dangerous and unpredictable world . . .

Like the burden of keeping peace, the responsibilities for assisting the development of the world must be shared by Japan and the Western European States . . .

We promise to continue the model-cities program and extend it to more cities . . .

Above all, we will work toward the greatest possible freedom of choice . . . for every family, regardless of race, color, religion, or income . . .

We promise to support the war on poverty . . . to support community-action agencies and their programs, such as Head Start . . .

The party commits itself to expanding food programs so that no American should go hungry . . .

We support a minimum income tax for persons of high income . . . a reduction of the tax burden on the poor . . .

We pledge to make certain that every American . . . shall live out his years without fear of the high costs of sickness . . .

Through a partnership of government and private enterprise we must . . . stem the rise in medical and drug costs . . .

We will support a constitutional amendment lowering the voting age to 18 . . .

The Grantonian

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Editor Jan Kelley
 Page 1 editor June Ammon
 Page 2 editor Marlene Feves
 Page 3 editor Bruce Fishback
 Page 4 editor Martha Ojard
 Reporters Debby Liesch, Katherine McGregor, Kathi Robinson, Lisa Rose, Debbie Rovech, Gary Cogill
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