

Editorials

Generally Speaking

by Suzanne Mahan

Soon the student body will have a chance to decide how they want to be represented by their school government. This decision will come in the form of an election which will determine whether or not the bill on the new election procedures will pass.

The procedure will go as follows: In the January election all officers will be elected and will serve for the next fall term. All officers elected in the spring election will serve for the next spring term. This would be efficient because both sets of officers would be able to work together.

Other schools have this system in effect now and have found it satisfactory. However, the democratic process would be violated since the incoming freshmen would be unable to vote for fall officers, therefore would be governed by officers they had no voice in selecting.

This bill has been passed by the General Council and will soon be voted on by the student body.

Vietnam war veteran LaMont Stott: 'People in U.S. not well informed'

by Kelly Slocum

"The people here in the United States are not well informed about Vietnam," stated LaMont Stott, army specialist fourth class, a Grant graduate, returned home from Vietnam last week.

LaMont was awarded three Bronze Stars during his 12-month tour of duty in Vietnam.

Last March, he was on a patrol that came upon a North Vietnamese base camp. Two men were seriously wounded during the fighting. The patrol took care of and evacuated these men. Bronze Stars were awarded to the five patrol members for this action.

LaMont's second Bronze Star was awarded when his patrol found ammunition and equipment in a North Vietnamese battalion-size base camp.

Because of meritorious service for non-commissioned officer activity, LaMont was awarded the third Bronze Star.

He was assigned to the 73rd Air Borne Brigade and was a member of the 75th Infantry Rangers. This special unit of company size had an assignment of reconnaissance missions to observe enemy activity. When an enemy was spotted, they came back and reported to intelligence who in turn sent out larger patrols to attack the enemy.

"I feel that the Moratorium has been holding up the peace talks," LaMont explained. "I've been completely against it because it's as if the protestors are on the other side." He went on to say that if people in the United States would protest against the North Vietnamese being in South Vietnam, he would approve of the demonstrations instead of the way he feels now. "I am against all protests of this war, because we in South Vietnam want to feel like we're doing something over there instead of wasting our time ... for everybody over here."

Relating to the recent trials on civilian slaughtering, LaMont emphasized that many South Vietnamese "civilians," who were on the side of North Vietnam, have killed many American soldiers.

As to President Richard Nixon's policies on the war, LaMont stated that he agreed with a slow withdrawal. "I think

19 or 21? Students, teachers debate voting age

by Kelly Slocum

"Are you for or against the 19-year-old vote?" This was the question asked a number of students and faculty.

"A good part of today's youth see need for change and want to do something about it. If people must wait until age 21, many good opinions and ideas are stifled simply because they lack the right to mark a ballot. These kids must be given the right to express themselves as adults, because they are adults."—Bonnie Olson, senior.



Joan West

"Up to ages 18 and 19, the majority of the students have led very sheltered lives. Their opinions and decisions have been swayed by their parents and environment. I think there should be a period of time to learn to cope with and experience responsibilities instead of jumping from their sheltered surroundings right into governing our country."—Joan West, senior.

"I believe that the best interests of the state and nation are served when the maximum amount of the citizenry takes an active interest ... allowing 19-year-olds to vote will encourage and nurture the spirit of involvement. I believe that this age group will provide a good balance. ... We adults ... weigh those

things that will directly benefit us: profits, security, etc. ... the young often base their decisions on what is best for everyone, not individual interests. A criticism of the adult world is often made by the young, that the adults made the mess. I want the voting age lowered so that these people can feel that they had a hand in the direction of our national and regional aims."—Mr. Leonard Whitlow, faculty member.

"I am in favor of the 19-year-old vote. If someone can be forced to risk his life then he has the right to have a voice in deciding the issues he has to fight for and may have to die for. The average 19-year-old is mentally aware and as emotionally mature as many adults are."—Rick LeDoux, senior.



Gordon Roberts

"A person, who is 18, is able ... to be self supporting ... conscripted into the armed forces ... cannot enter into legal contracts or get married. A minor has many of the responsibilities but none of the privileges." —Gordon Roberts, senior.

"I am not in favor of giving voting privileges to 19-year-olds. The proponents of this constitutional change claim that young people have more interest

and would be more conscientious. If this is true, why did only 50 per cent of our student body register in last January's election and only 47 per cent vote? In the spring election every person was given a ballot in his classroom and only 64 per cent of our student body even bothered to vote. At Portland State, one of the many vocal areas proposing this change, only 36 per cent of the students voted during the recent election for a student body officer. If either of these represent young people's voting pattern, do they really deserve the vote? I don't think so."—Gena Wilcox, senior.



John Anderson

"You can't legally own land until you are 21. Until a person can own things 100 percent and pay taxes on them, they shouldn't be able to vote. These are the things kids would be voting on."—John Anderson, senior.

"The right to vote encompasses a great responsibility which not only affects your own personal life but also the lives of many other people. You must be able to weigh all the issues and decide intelligently, and I believe 19-year-olds are capable of this responsibility. This is because young people have a generally good outlook and understanding of current problems, most surely enough to vote on them."—Jeff Pittman, senior.

"I don't feel that the average 19-year-old is either knowledgeable or mature enough to decide the issues facing our country. True, there are many exceptions to this rule, but the whole this statement does apply to the average 19-year-old."—Joe Stilwell, senior.

"Knowledge is the basis of intelligence, therefore I shall wait."—Mark Mumford, senior.

"I am for it. Kids are beginning to mature a lot younger than they used to. They are gaining responsibility a lot sooner. Young people are going to Vietnam and can't vote. People get married younger and still can't vote. It's about time the people opened their eyes."—Bruce Hovett, senior.

"I am in favor of the 19-year-old vote because students are more fully informed or have the capacity to be informed than most voters. The persons who are not capable of voting at this age will probably not vote anyway or be as incapable two years later."—Mr. Richard Ireland, faculty member.

"I support lowering the voting age to 19. It is important to extend the franchise at this time to include our youth if we want to encourage them to work within the framework of our society rather than be forced to express political concern outside that framework. However, if the voting age is lowered to 19, the age of responsibility should also be established at that age."—Mrs. Pamela Hall, faculty member.

Proposed by-law change

A special election concerning a change in voting procedures has been scheduled for next Friday in reg rooms. The change states that Student Body elections will be held semi-annually with the exception of the Class elections which will be held annually and the rally elections which shall be held annually. The bill is to read:

Be it enacted by the Associated Students of Ulysses S. Grant High School, a program of bettering student government by establishing a system whereby the changing of an administration would be a smooth process. A system that would inevitably make way for better planned and executed activities.

Section 1. A S.B. President and vice-president elect will be elected.

Section 2. During the winter election the Spring Administration would be elected and two juniors would be elected for the positions of S.B. president and vice president-elect to take office the following fall.

During the Spring election, the Fall administration would be elected and two juniors would be elected for the office of S.B. president and vice-president-elect for the following spring.

Section 3. This process will be in effect upon the next election after it has been approved by the due process of law.

Section 4. At any time, after a period of two years, after this bill has been in effect, if for any reason the students feel it is unsatisfactory, it may be vetoed by a two-thirds majority vote of both councils.

Section 5. The president and vice president-elect are to be enrolled in the Leadership class for an entire year if scheduling permits.

Ad Club offers prize for student-made films

Two \$500 scholarships will be offered to Oregon high school and college age students by the Oregon Advertising Club for production of black and white or color films, President Rolf Glerum has announced.

The competitors will be judged on their ten-minute or shorter films on the general topic: "This Works." The topic may be interpreted in any manner by the contestant, using 8 mm, Super 8 or 16 mm film sizes, and they may be either silent or with sound.

Entry blanks are available from the Oregon Advertising Club, P.O. Box 14067, Portland, Oregon 97214, or phone 234-0022. High school students will be judged in the under 19 bracket.

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