mixed media

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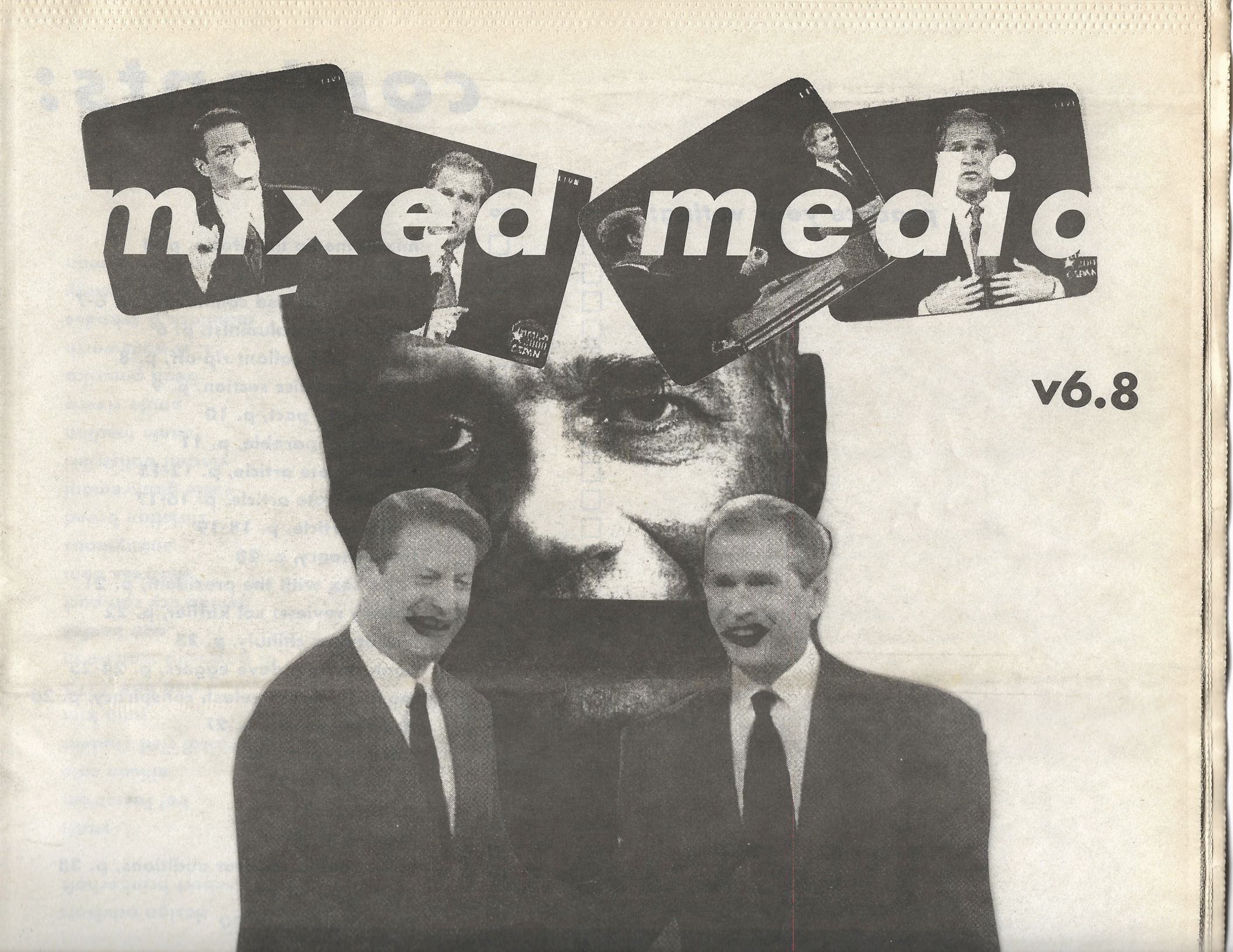

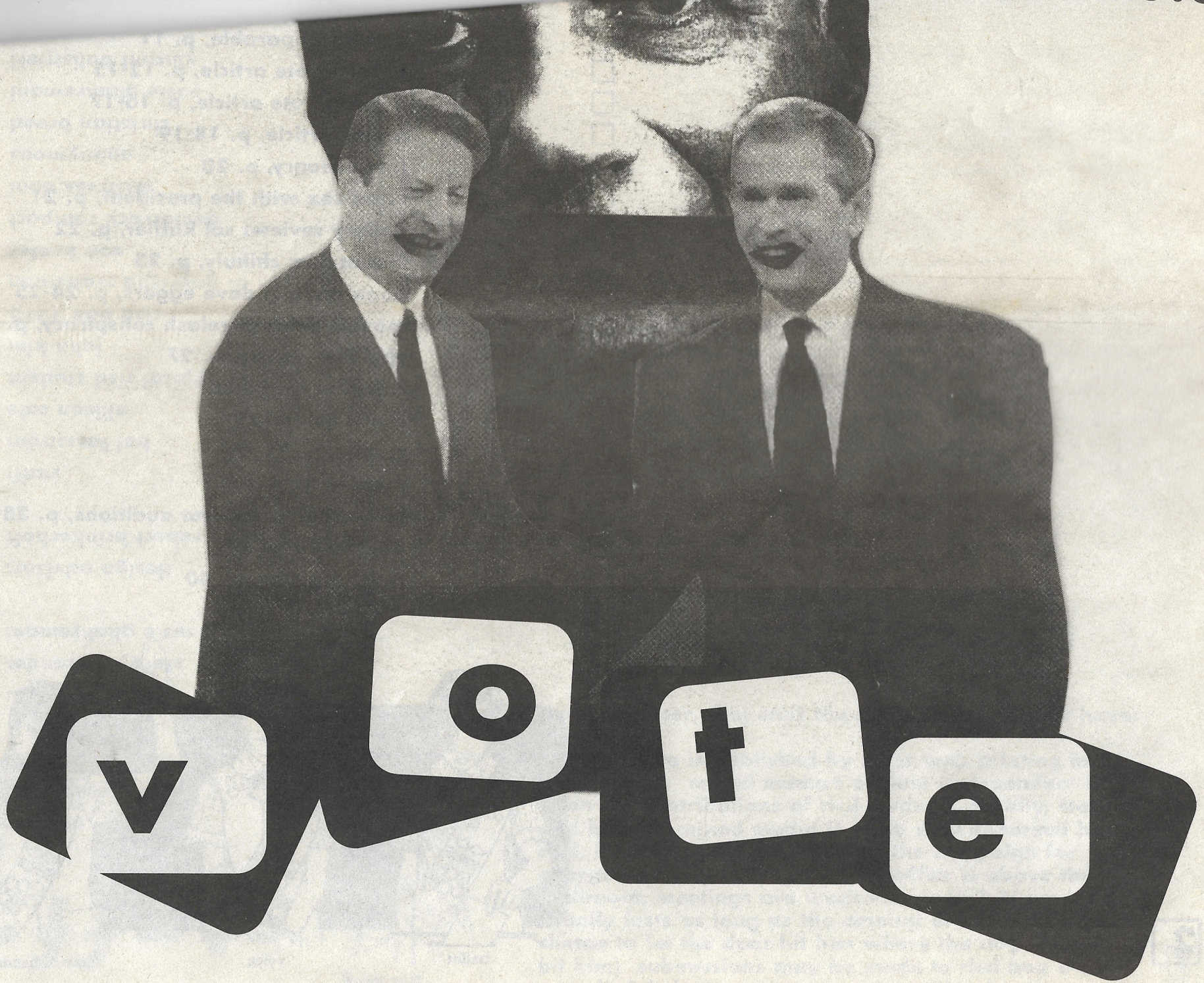
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editor letters

WAG THE DOG
Dear Reader,

When I was eleven, my father freed himself from social convention, and voted Libertarian for the first time. Since that day, I have viewed our system of election with total disinterest or a large sense of humor. Following Dad into the voting booth at the Howell Mill Baptist Church that day may have changed me for the negative. Knowing that I, too, would one day carry this American priviledge, I carefully watched him punch SALLY BROWN, the local member of "the Party of Principle." "I like to vote for the underdog," he confided that night at dinner. We all just chewed our brocolli. I wondered if he voted for her because SALLY BROWN was a Libertarian (whatever that was), or because she was a (potentially attractive) woman, or both. I wondered if she had brown hair, as her name implied. I also wondered who my mother voted for. More than anything, though, I wondered what to do with the swell sticker adhered to my t-shirt. It read: "I'VE VOTED—HAVE YOU?"

I have voted in one election and it was dumb. My candidate, whom I knew nothing about, is now Governor of Georgia. What power!!! Am I actually responsible for this? Was my choice "good" or "bad?" What is this Governor doing to my home right now? Shouldn't I be better informed?

It is our hope that this issue of Mixed Media will allow RISD students a bigger grasp of the upcoming Presidential election. Our writers cover Nader and Gore—"the liberals." We also include the usual hijinks, for those who choose to persist in their apathy. As Editor, however, I urge you to consider Sonny, the Coco-Puffs bird. This beloved mascot is on a national cereal box campaign, and banking on your write-in. He's no Sally Brown, but he's coo-coo for Coco-Puffs.

T. Allen Spetnagel,
Editor
PS-Don't wash your stickers.

matt leines, 1988.

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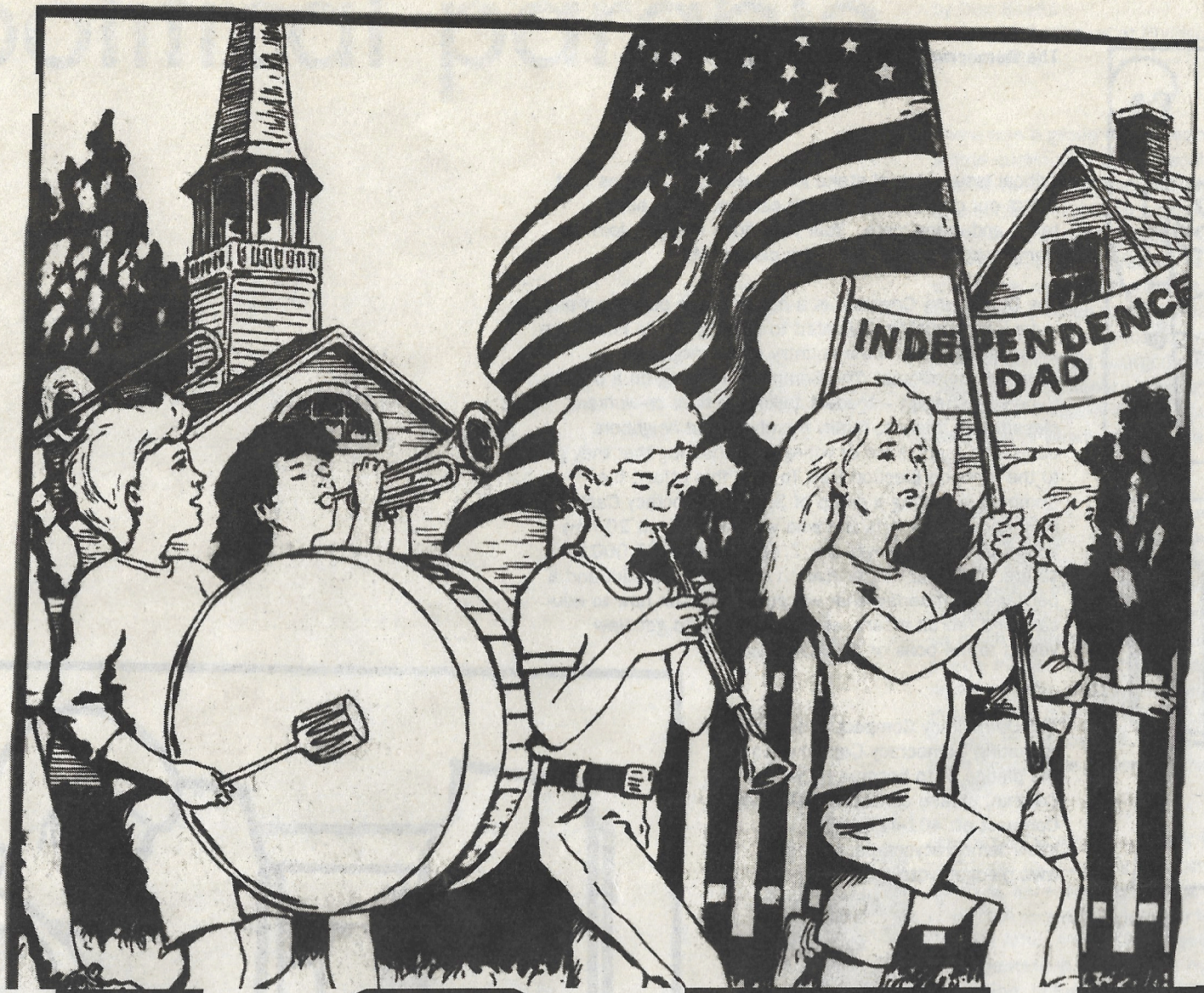
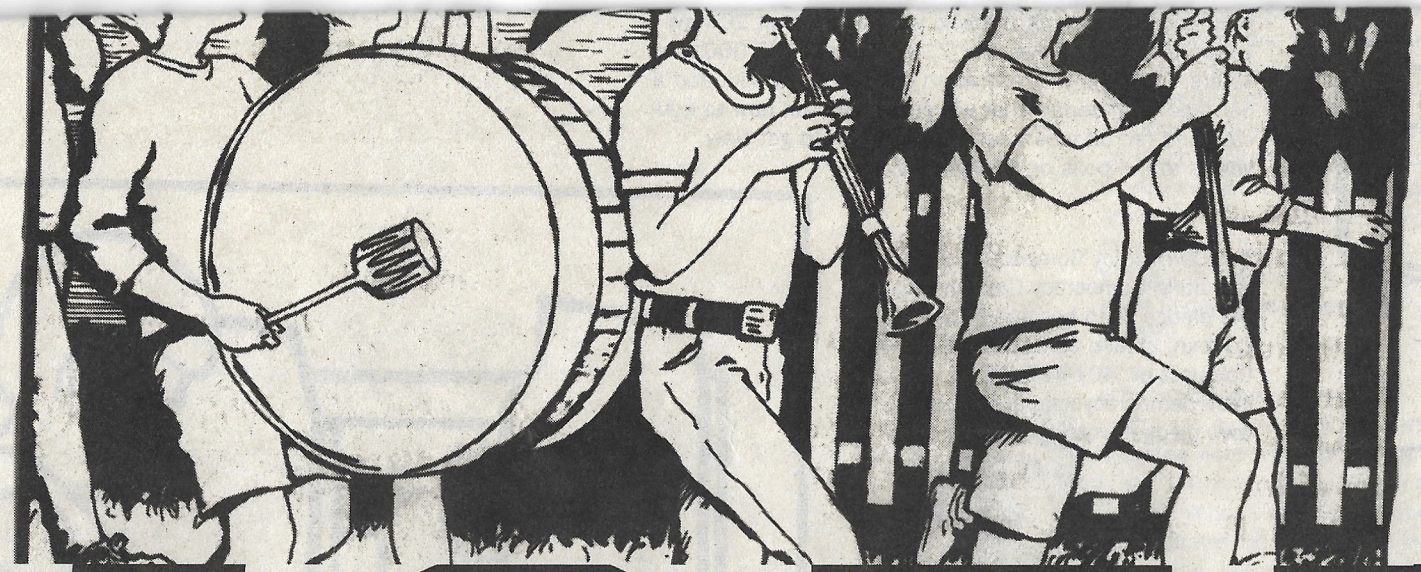
Back in 1988 I was sitting in Mrs. Polzer's 3rd grade Language Arts class. She gave us a project that got us all involved in the election, where we had to pick between the candidates and do some mock campaigning. Because I live in a disgustingly Republican town, I feel victim to peer pressure and George Bush ended up being my candidate of choice. It was either that, or be on the side of the one kid that chose Michael Dukakis. And he had a bad case of lice. Half of the class all came up with the same campaign slogan for homework, "Head for the Mountains of Bush," appropriating the popular beer jingle of the time. The lice kid drew a picture of some stars and stripes boxer shorts and wrote," Get your own Dukakis Underware!" I guess the lice were digging into his scalp. But as the end of the week approches and my drawers become empty, I wish I had my own pair of Dukakis underware to get me through just one more day. Enjoy the politics issue, Mixed Mediacs.

-Matt Leines, Editor



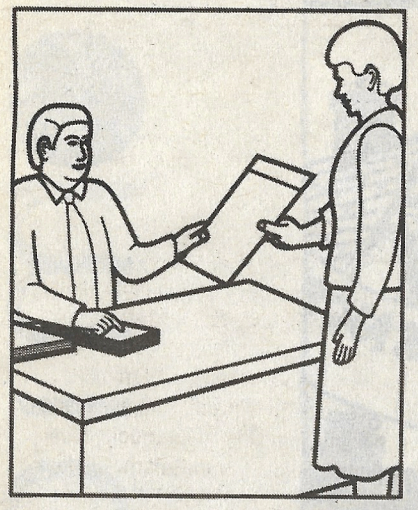
VOTE

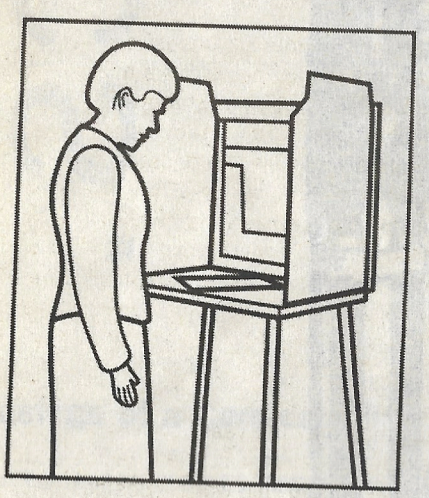


VOTE

"The success or failure of democratic living in the next fifty years will depend to a great extent on the willingness of American educators to stand up and be counted on the side of intellectual freedom... Whether motivated by religious, patriotic, political, or other beliefs, those who are afraid of freedom and who attempt to control man's minds take as the first step towards a police state the suppression of ideas."

–C.E. Gross and D.K. Berninghausen, 1951.



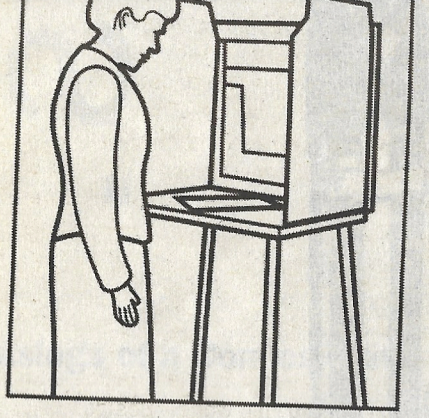


The Democracy Compact: Your Vote Matters

Critical issues are at stake in this election. Issues that affect our daily lives — health care, schools, safety, taxes and many more. Your vote does matter. Join the Democracy Compact. Take the pledge. Vote.

The Democracy Compact is a non-partisan education and outreach campaign dedicated to making Rhode Island the most voting state in the country and a model for American democracy. The Compact is relying on a person-to-person strategy – leaders talking to their co-workers, classmates, friends, family members and neighbors about the importance of voting and ensuring that they get to the polls on Election Day. To lead this effort, the Compact is uniting a group of 3,750 Democracy Captains from across Rhode Island who will each recruit 20 New Voters to vote on November 7, for a total of 75,000 New Voters. Captains will receive an educational toolkit and a package of materials that will guide them on how to educate and recruit voters, and explain how to get New Voters to the polls on Election Day.

The Democracy Compact is currently recruiting Democracy Captains. To take the pledge or to become a Democracy Captain, please contact the Democracy Compact at: 401-477-1007, info@democracycompact.org or www.pledgetovote.com.



Voters to vote on November 7, for a total of 75,000 New Voters. Captains will receive an educational toolkit and a package of materials that will guide them on how to educate and recruit voters, and explain how to get New Voters to the polls on Election Day.

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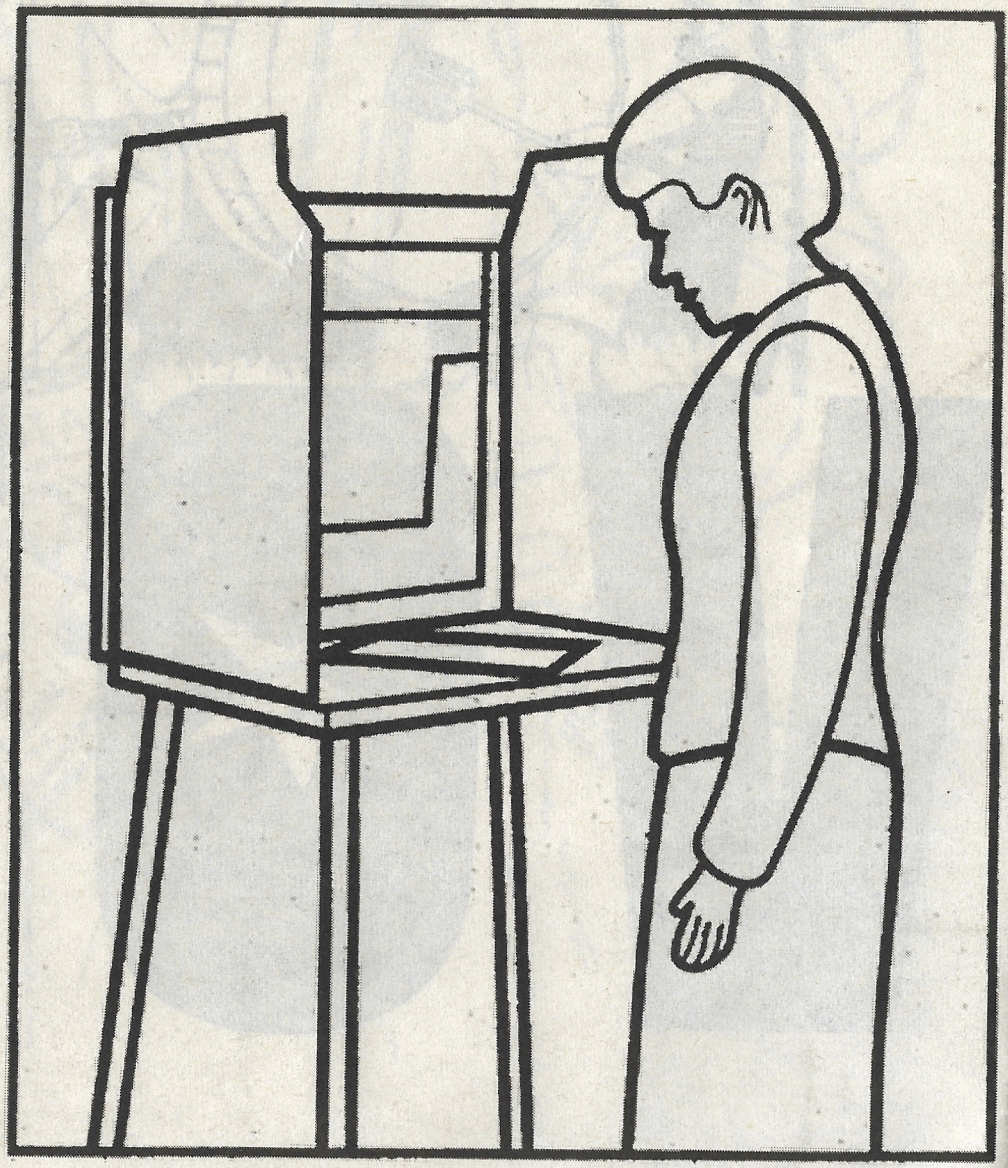
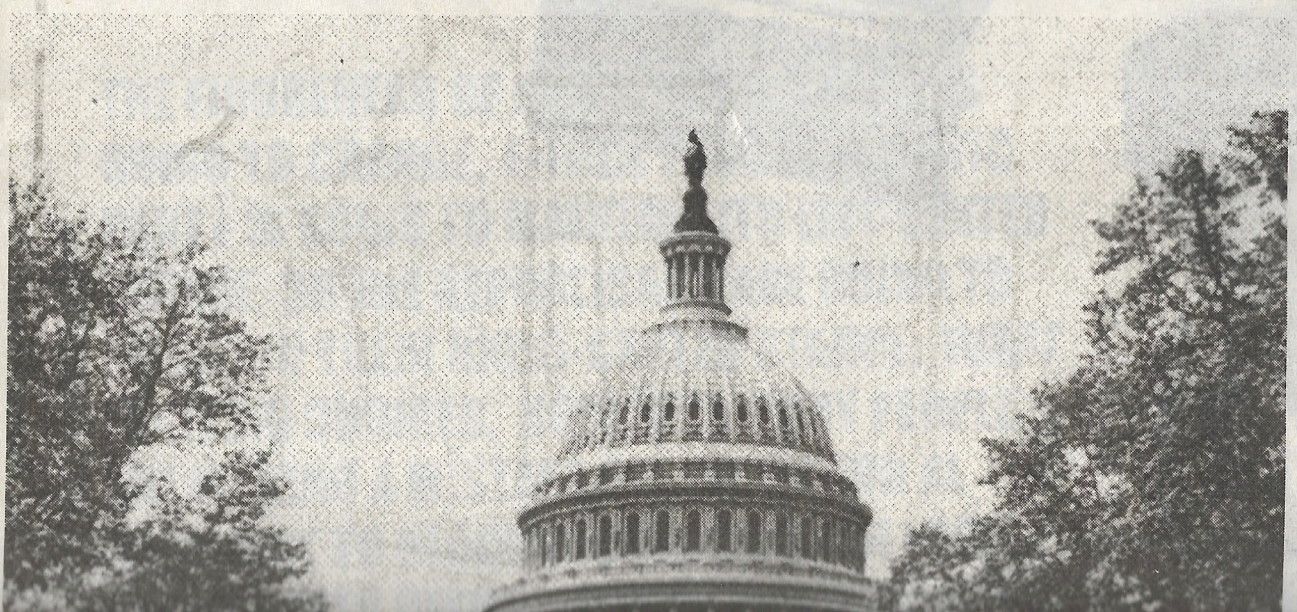


a political parable

by Don Keefer
Associate Professor of Philosophy
Chair, HPSS

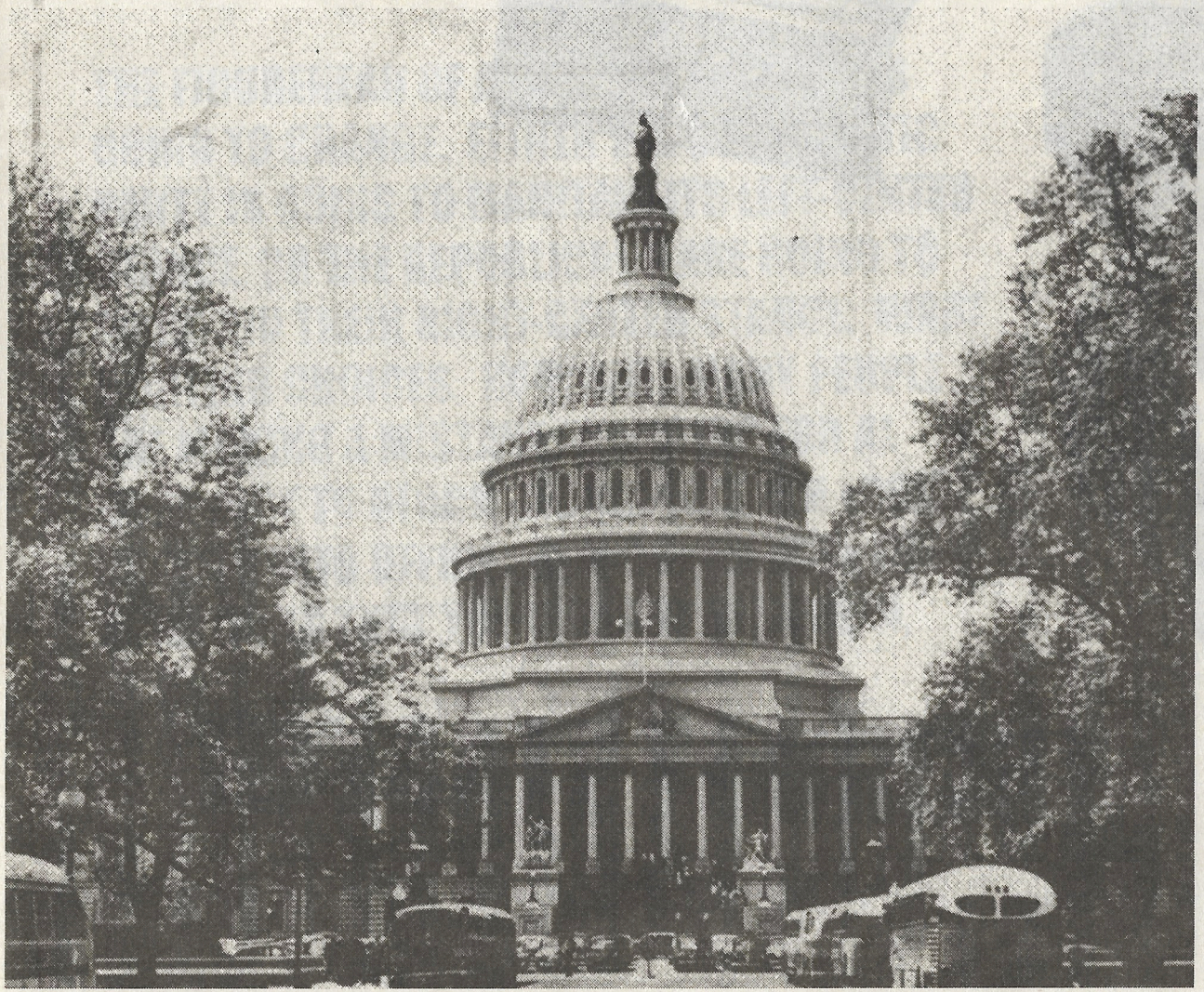


There was a group of philosophers and poets who lived in a little community in the middle of the state. While there was no more love than was fitting, everyone stood ready to embrace each other as much for their common reason as their extraordinary differences. They called their town, Athens, after the birthplace of democracy. Over time, the town grew and attracted other poets and philosophers. Countless articles and editorials described Athens as an anarchistic utopian elitist enlightened egalitarian socialist Kantian bohemian bourgeois ethereal pedestrian name-dropping revolutionary reactionary mecca by every intellectual conservative postmodern left-wing muckraking watchdog of family values, reason, humanism, and global tourism.

Needless to say, this only increased Athens' cache. The philosophers and the poets hammered out a minimalist blue print for the town that mandated whatever would protect freedom of thought and speech. They established elaborate amphitheatres where weekly debates generated as much excitement as football games. They had nightly poetry slams. Only foreign films were shown in their movie houses. Millionaires without a hope of ever fitting in to Athens donated millions to the preservation of free thought in the town of Athens. Across the country were soon fledgling imitators, calling themselves "freedom surfers."

Athenians became smug over the years. The outside world was increasingly beneath them. Real values and meaning were transcendent of this world. Besides, the world had grown inhospitable to free thinking anyway. Outside Athens a number freedom surfers had been badly beaten up. Athenians mused about seceding from the nation; actually most of them had in their own minds. **So "superior" had Athens become, that not one Athenian voted in the any political elections that went beyond the town council.**

Unfortunately, the right wing fundamentalists were elected in unprecedented numbers across the country, giving them an overwhelming majority. The town came under close scrutiny for its "corrupting influence on young minds" of Athens and beyond. Several of Athens' most prominent wordsmiths and thinkers were arrested. Tax evasion was the official charge. Athens was absolutely



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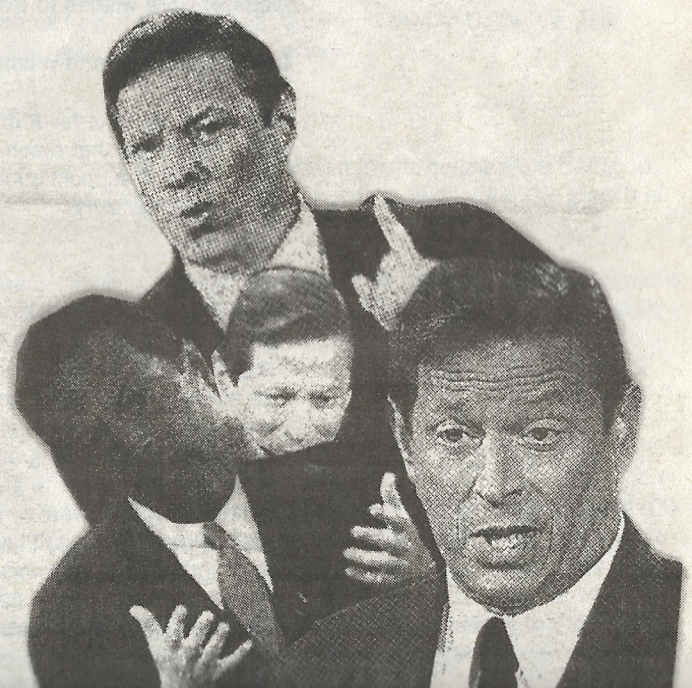
ELECTION

ON NOVEMBER 7TH,

 ARTICLE AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALLISON COLE

VOTE SMART

THE FIGUREHEAD OF AMERICAN POLITICS IS GOING TO CHANGE. EITHER THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY IS GOING TO MAINTAIN ITS LEFT-CENTER STANCE, OR THE REPUBLICANS ARE GOING TO MAINTAIN THEIR RIGHT-CENTER STANCE. WHAT EXCITING CHOICES. HOWEVER, MANY PEOPLE ARE MAKING A MISTAKE BY VOTING FOR AL GORE JUST TO BLOCK GEORGE W. BUSH FROM GETTING INTO OFFICE. BEFORE YOU VOTE FOR



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EDUCATE YOURSELF.

On November 7th, the figurehead of American politics is going to change. Either the Democratic party is going to maintain its left-center stance, or the Republicans are going to maintain their right-center stance. What exciting choices. However, many people are making a mistake by voting for Al Gore just to block George W. Bush from getting into office. Before you vote for something that you may not believe in, educate yourself and find out where Gore stands on the key issues.

Election Finance: Gore supports full public funding of all federal elections, as opposed to the current system in which elections are privately funded.

Labor/ Worker's Rights: Gore wishes to increase the federal minimum wage, though he has not presented a thought out proposal. He also believes in the ongoing necessity of affirmative action.

Health Care: Gore supports an immediate reform of prescription drug coverage for senior citizens under Medicare.

Abortion: Gore believes that abortions should always be legally available, though he does not support partial birth abortions.

International Affairs: He supports NAFTA and the WTO, Gore also thinks that U.S. intervention in foreign affairs is justifiable when national security is at stake.

Welfare: Gore wishes to extend the welfare-to-work job placement programs.

Crime: Gore wants to promote an expansion of the death penalty.

Education: He is in favor of testing to measure the performance of public schools nationwide. He thinks that teachers should be periodically tested in the subjects they teach. Gore does not support education vouchers that would donate taxpayers money towards private school systems.

It is also wise to keep in mind that the promises Gore makes to get elected could be very different from what he actually implements once in office. It might be a good idea to do a little research on your own to find out what issues Gore has a long standing record of supporting and implementing. Just to give you a recent example, when Clinton and Gore were running back in '92, they promised to push the auto industry to develop a cleaner engine that would get forty miles per gallon by the year 2000. Once they were elected, they made a deal with the three biggest domestic auto companies by giving them a billion dollars to help develop the engine. In

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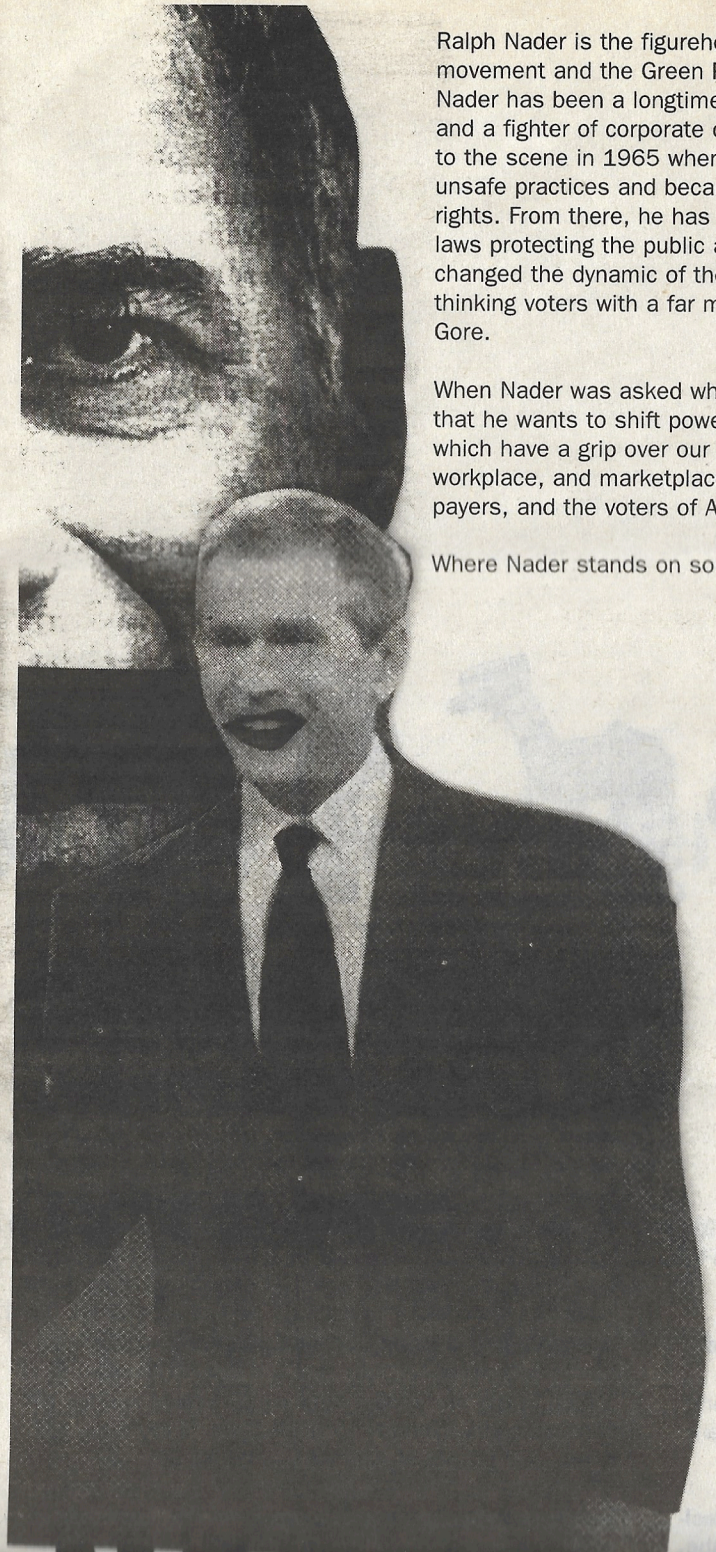
Want to find out more on how the candidates measure up? Go to www.vote-smart.org

When you hear someone talking about the Green Party, do you automatical
think of a bunch of hippie freaks preaching about the environment? If you
you're among many that share the same misconception. The Greens give
ronmental issues equal importance to other pertinent topics such as healt
care, corporate control, national defense, and labor rights. The Green Par
movement is made up of all sorts of people that are primarily concerned w
social change and progress.



Ralph Nader is the figurehead for the rapidly growing left movement and the Green Party presidential candidate. Nader has been a longtime advocate for public interest and a fighter of corporate domination. He first came on to the scene in 1965 when he exposed General Motors' unsafe practices and became a pioneer for consumer rights. From there, he has successfully pushed for many laws protecting the public and the environment. He has changed the dynamic of the election by providing left thinking voters with a far more viable alternative than Al Gore.

When Nader was asked what he stands for, he replied that he wants to shift power from "giant corporations, which have a grip over our government, environment, workplace, and marketplace to workers, consumers, taxpayers, and the voters of America."

Where Nader stands on some key issues:

Election Finance: Nader calls for full public financing of all elections to eliminate the necessity of money to gain power and eliminate corporate soft money contributions.

Labor/ Worker's Rights: He wants to repeal the Taft-Hartley Act, which limits the rights of labor, to help strengthen worker's unions. Nader also wants to create a livable minimum wage by raising it to $10 an hour. He points out that the majority of workers today are making less in inflation adjusted dollars then they did in 1979.

Health Care: Nader favors a single-payer universal health care system, similar to that of Canada's. He believes in putting price restraints on drugs developed with taxpayer's money.

Abortion: Nader supports keeping abortion legal.

International Affairs: International human rights concern Nader, and he would like to renegotiate NAFTA to put an emphasis on the protection of the workers and the environment rather than facilitating the growth of global corporations.

Welfare: Nader would like to pay more attention to poverty stricken Americans, by creating more government programs that provide housing for all. He would like to improve the living conditions of the cities and expand forms of mass transit.

This could all be paid for by eliminating billions in corporate welfare, and cutting the military budget by $100 billion, which is roughly a third. Also, a more progressive taxation system would be implemented to provide funds on a slanted scale, so that the richer you are, the larger percentage you pay. All of these proposals are just the tip of the iceberg. Nader has a lot to say about almost any topic given to him, and he has thought long and hard on the policy changes that he stands for. Many accuse Nader of being too idealistic and radical for their tastes, but he responds that, "...when corporations corrupt, buy, and sell our political representatives and destroy or democracy...it is not extremely to fight to stop [that]."

NADER

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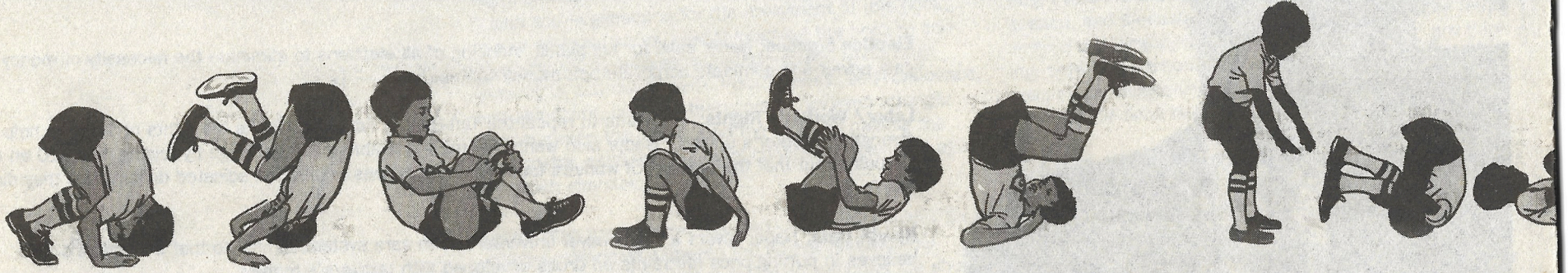
Third parties are frequently overlooked by the public because they don't win a large amount of national support. To make change you have to facilitate it by challenging the current system. If third parties are given enough support, it forces disregarded issues to be brought to the attention of the major parties.

Splitting the Democratic vote in a close race is not as big of a deal as political analysts want you to think it is. From an electoral standpoint, if your state is traditionally democratic, the allotted number of electoral votes will go to Al Gore. It is therefore safe to vote for Nader without risking a split in the support. Perhaps if you live in one of the 'swing states' it is best to weigh your decision more carefully. Take a look at the polls closer to the election to find out where your vote will count. Remember that you should always vote for what you believe in. Don't vote for the Democrats only because they are a 'lesser evil' then the Republicans. A vote for Nader is not futile, it is a vote of conviction to the ideals that he upholds. Also keep in mind that if Nader gets 5 percent in the popular election, the Green party is up for federal matching funds in the next election. Showing support for Nader proves to the Democrats that there is a substantial amount of the population that is not happy with the way things are run, and may help to move them further towards the left. As Socialist Party candidate Eugene V. Debs once said, "It is best to vote for what you want and not get it than to vote for what you don't want and get it."

If you want to find out more about Ralph Nader go to: www.votenader.org



First off, let me say this is just my opinion and I'm not here to tell you how to vote, but I hope you take into consideration what I have to say. I'd rather everyone make their own decision, and find out about the election on your own. There are always the newspapers, TV, and websites. I have been getting most of my information from SpeakOut.Com, RocktheVote.Com, and Voter.Com. Skip class to make some free time and read this article:

http://www.msnbc.com/news/317141.asp?cp1=1#BODY
.

Anyway, I bet a lot of people are going to be talking about how they'd rather vote for Nader than a two-headed monster like Bush and Gore. I think that view is a little closed-minded. I grew up just outside of Washington, D.C., and trips to the Capitol during Government class were about as frequent as trips to the bathroom. Dan Quayle lived across the street from my family until he became Vice President. I used to climb over his fence and steal golf balls. This doesn't make me an expert. But knowing political figures and their kids, I know how DC works on the outside, and a little how it funktions on the inside. And in my opinion, voting for a third party is pretty damn close to throwing your vote away. But not entirely. I agree, reform is needed, and I'd rather you vote for Nader than not vote at all. But the fact is, the way things are run now, there is no hope for change anytime soon. Nader as President this year is a pipe dream. And especially if we elect a puppet like George W. Bush, there's even less hope for Nader (or anyone dedicated to reform) being elected in the future. Wait. Isn't Pat Buchanan the Reform Party candidate?

What's going to happen in the next 4 years and then some
"I don't foresee a major difference in the next 4 years from a Gore Presidency and Bush Presidency. Both are flat-out corrupt politicians." - Nader advocate.

The next president is going to make some major decisions effecting at least the next 20 years. He (or she, should something drastic happen) is going to appoint at least 2 of Supreme Court Justices. This is a big, fat, honking reason why everyone should vote. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg underwent surgery for colon cancer last year. Chief Justice William Rehnquist celebrated his 76th birthday recently, and the court's oldest member, Justice John Paul Stevens, turns 81 next April. Those are 3 Justices who could potentially free up some space for new ones. Bush really likes Justice Antonin Scalia. I graduated with his daughter Meg, and my brother graduated with her brother, Chris. So their dad was asked to speak at our graduations, and I had to go to both. Those speeches were about as captivating and inspiring as a sponge. Still, that's not why you shouldn't vote for someone. But this is:

In the next few years, the Supreme Court Justices are going to make some big decisions, some concerning Roe vs. Wade. Bush has promised not to appoint judges who would be anti-abortion, but I remember another Bush making some promise about no new taxes. Think about this: Bush, Jr., has said, "I will do everything in my power to restrict abortions." In contrast, Al Gore has said, "I will always defend a woman's right to choose," and that choice is "sacred." I think that's a BIG FREAKING DIFFERENCE. If Bush nominates conservative Justices then Pro-Choice could become No Choice. If you're pro-choice, it's probably in your best interest to vote for Gore.

Social Security is also a big issue: By the time anyone under the age of 25 retires, it will have dried up, at the rate it's going. This means YOU (most of you). Bush and Gore and Nader have separate plans dealing with this problem. You should check them out and decide which one makes the most sense to you.

P.S: Al Gore also wants to raise minimum wage. Bush does not. I like having more money. Don't you?

Dubya is a Dumbass
Have you actually listened to anything this guy has said? I love the way he never denies anything. Who does he think he's kidding? Please, please, please read the latest issue of Rolling Stone. Al Franken has a good article in there ("Is Bush Dumb?" -thanks to L. H. for prompting me to steal my roommate's copy and read it). It really explains my point. Which is actually just Al Franken's point. There is a big difference between Al Gore and George Bush. He's a moron. Gore is not. I don't want other countries laughing at us.

i'm different just like everyone else

If more people voted... but they don't.
"If more people voted their minds instead of who can win, then possibly a third party could actually have a chance at winning in the next election." - Nader advocate

Yes, true, and wouldn't that be nice, but the fact is...
people aren't voting. In 1998, not even 37% of the voting-age population actually voted. In the last presidential election, over half of the country did not vote. If everyone who didn't vote DID vote for Nader, than the majority would be happy, but it's not going to happen. So face it. Right now, if all of the would-be Democrats who would LIKE to vote for Nader did, George W. Bush would win.

But I'm so different! Just like everyone else.
I realize most of you are well-educated, freethinking people. You are at a school that lets you express yourself and ultimately, be yourself. As famed 2D teacher Lee Dejasu would say, "Just don't do anything that involves me having to talk to the police... or anything that smells." So now that you express yourself freely, you don't have to be different from all the jerks you went to high school with. But I know there are a few of you out there who made Being Different into your whole persona, and haven't grown out of it. The few who think differently from everyone else just because. While in some cases, especially art, going against the norm is great, in other cases it's just plain annoying. And in this case, it's our future.

D. Gabrielle Weissman

addendum to dyana's article:

Supreme Court at stake in 2000 election

Next president may have chance to appoint at least 2 justices
By Tom Curry, MSNBC

Oct. 1 — With President Bill Clinton's successor likely to appoint at least two justices to the United States Supreme Court, voters in 2000 are not only choosing a president, but charting the course of the high court for the next 20 years. The actuarial tables are catching up with the justices: Chief Justice William Rehnquist celebrated his 76th birthday on Sunday and the court's oldest member, Justice John Paul Stevens, turns 81 next April.

WITH THE Democrats fielding strong Senate candidates in Delaware, Minnesota, Washington and other states, they have a good chance to re-gain control of the Senate in November, making confirmation of a Republican president's nominees to the Supreme Court problematic. Conversely, if Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore wins the election but faces a Republican-controlled Senate, he could face contentious battles to win confirmation of his nominees to the court. Many Senate Republicans still have bitter memories of the hard-ball tactics used to scuttle Robert Bork who President Reagan nominated to the court in 1987. Gore was one of 58 senators who voted to reject the Bork nomination.

Current Supreme Court Justices:

William H. Rehnquist, appointed 1/7/72
John Paul Stevens, appointed 12/17/75
Sandra Day O'Connor, appointed 9/25/81
Antonin Scalia, appointed 8/17/82
Anthony Kennedy, appointed 2/18/88
David Souter, appointed 10/9/90
Clarence Thomas, appointed 10/23/91
Ruth Bader Ginsburg, appointed 8/19/93
Stephen Breyer, appointed 8/3/94

Source: Congressional Quarterly

Gore has repeatedly raised the issue of who will appoint the next several justices in his speeches. "The Supreme Court is at stake (and) many of our personal liberties are at stake," Gore said last spring. Gore points out that his Republican rival George W. Bush has identified conservative Justice Antonin Scalia as a "favorite" justice.

'LITMUS' TEST FOR NOMINEES

Bush has promised to appoint to the court only judges who would strictly interpret the Constitution and not attempt to legislate from the bench. Bush also insists that although he opposes abortion, he would not impose an anti-abortion "litmus test" on his nominees. Gore has vowed to only appoint justices who would protect the right of a woman to choose to have an abortion, a right Gore has called "sacred." Last March, Gore took the unprecedented step for a vice president of criticizing three Supreme Court justices by name, assailing Rehnquist, Scalia and Justice Clarence Thomas for joining the court's ruling that Congress did not give the Food And Drug Administration any authority to regulate tobacco.

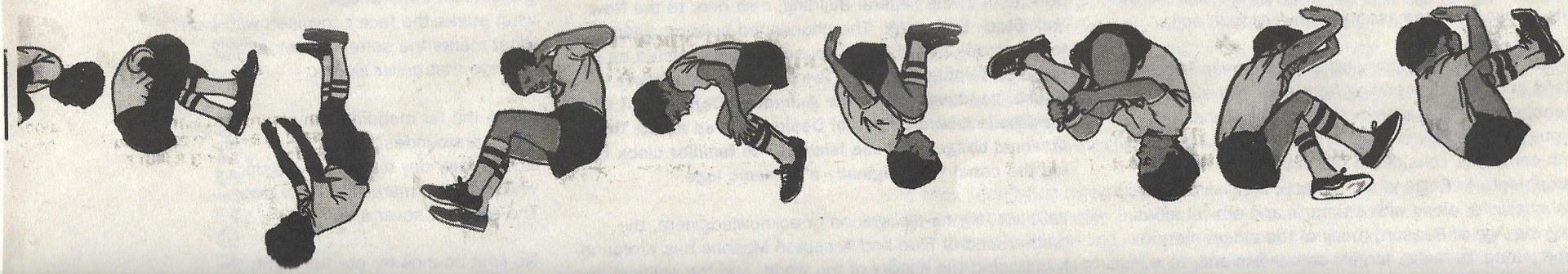
The court's oldest member, John Paul Stevens, turns 81 next April. Gore said the three had blocked the FDA from taking steps to "protect our children." If new conservative judges fill vacancies on the court, will the court reverse Roe. v. Wade, the 1973 decision that legalized abortion nationwide? Abortion rights activists certainly think so. "The next president will chart the future of Roe v. Wade ," said Kate Michelman, president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League as NARAL launched a series of TV ads attacking Bush last spring. "A conservative, anti-choice president could shift the balance of the judiciary and tear down the protections of Roe entirely." In a high-profile abortion case last June, the court, in a 5 to 4 decision, struck down a Nebraska law banning the procedure known as partial birth abortion.

NO GUARANTEES

Any president's power to shape the court is limited. Nominees must be confirmed by the Senate, which has voted to reject 20 percent of all nominees to the high court since 1789. And once on the bench, a justice will not necessarily hand down decisions in tune with the president's own philosophy. When reporters asked President Dwight Eisenhower on his last day in office whether he'd made any grievous mistakes, he replied, "Yes, sir, and they're both sitting on the damn Supreme Court," a reference to William Brennan and Earl Warren, who turned out to be among the most liberal, activist judges in the court's history.

"In 20 percent of cases, the president's nominees to the Supreme Court have ended up disappointing him," said former University of Virginia Prof. Henry Abraham, author of "Justices, Presidents and Senators," the definitive work on Supreme Court nominations. Abraham said that Justice David Souter, nominated by Bush in 1990, "was really disappointing to the administration. Bush selected Souter with the assumption that he would be a moderate conservative, and for the first two years he was, but then he changed direction. Now in almost all cases he joins the liberal wing — Justices Stevens, Ginsburg and [Stephen] Breyer."

Poor health and age notwithstanding, sometimes Supreme Court justices do hang on for a few years so that a new and more politically congenial president can name their successor. An ailing Chief Justice Edward Douglass White waited until 1921, after Republican Warren Harding became president, to retire. (White died a few months later, at age 75.) On the other hand, mortality sometimes doesn't wait —even for a member of the Supreme Court. As a Democratic senator said to President Franklin Roosevelt in 1936, as Roosevelt impatiently awaited a chance to replace elderly justices with ones who shared his views, "Father Time, with his scythe, is on your side."



attention:

town meeting

wednesday, oct. 18

town meeting

wednesday, oct. 18
risd auditorium, 6pm

president roger mandle and staff discuss campus security, student safety, and the updates on the disciplinary code.