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## Steamtunnels editorial

### If there are debates Nader and Buchanan should be included

Like many of you, I have not yet decided which presidential candidate to vote for. The Presidential Debates may help me decide. Unfortunately one of the candidates I would like to hear will not be debating—Ralph Nader.

Regardless of the imbroglgio this fall between Bush and Gore over presidential debates, the truth is that the entire process is flawed. The debates are organized and hosted by the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD). The CPD (made up of Democrats and Republicans) drafted guidelines that effectively shut out third party candidates. To participate, a party must have a minimum level of 15% support among the general electorate. This unreasonably high barrier effectively denies Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan any chance of participating. The Green Party and Reform Party each have over 5%.

Broadening debate participation is necessary for an informed electorate and can have dramatic results. In Minnesota in 1998, Jesse Ventura had less than 10% support with the electorate prior to the

gubernatorial debates. After taking part in the debates he went on to win the election as a third party candidate.

Ralph Nader is a very serious person and presidential candidate. Every one of us drives a safer car because of him. With his landmark book *Unsafe at Any Speed* he practically launched the consumer advocacy movement in this country single handedly. We are all the beneficiaries of his incredible accomplishments.

While it's reasonable for the CPD to set a minimum level of support to exclude the lunatic fringe, it's not reasonable to set it so high that only the Democrats and Republicans get to debate. The CPD should allow the full spectrum of political parties to participate—Nader and Buchanan both deserve a place at the table.

Let the CPD, the Bush and Gore campaigns know what you think: go to [debates.org](http://debates.org), [bush2000.com](http://bush2000.com) and [al Gore2000.com](http://al Gore2000.com) to register your opinions.

Robert Desmond Editor-in-Chief

## Steamtunnels' Dorm Decorating Contest!

Is your whole room covered in purple velvet? Does your idea of décor include bar mirrors and twinkly lights? Show us! Send *Steamtunnels* a picture of your decorated dorm and we'll award a prize to the coolest room out of all entries received by October 13, 2000. Email digital pictures to [editor@steamtunnels.net](mailto:editor@steamtunnels.net) or send to Steamtunnels, 220 Boylston St., Ste. 302, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467. Each week we'll post the best entries on our site. Click on [steamtunnels.net](http://steamtunnels.net) for rules and submission guidelines.

## In next week's issue

Steamtunnels personality profile:  
Up-and-coming stars

Web site reviews: An overview of online magazines, dozens more in-depth reviews

Plus: Hackers and Crackers, American Story Project, New Age/Web Age, music from KRS-One and Brenda Russell, lots more

## On the Cover

Clockwise from top left: "No One Lives Forever" heroine Cate Archer; Beck performs at the Experience Music Project's concert in Seattle, WA, June 2000 (photo © Tim Matsui/Liaison); President Bill Clinton (Photo ©AP/KDB staff); Michelangelo's David (© The Digital Michelangelo Project, Stanford University).

## Steamtunnels Poll

Do you believe candidates like Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan should be included in Presidential debates?

**Go to [steamtunnels.net](http://steamtunnels.net) and let us know.**

## Have fun, earn cash!

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