



BARRIE MAGUIRE

this world wasn't made for me by the time I was 13 or 14. I chose my side. Made sense then as it does now.

I believe what happened here is that the country was running so well most folks just became complacent, that apathy just took over, which allowed the Republicans to do the same. If people aren't paying attention you can get them to believe just about anything.

Like televangelists, car salesmen, professional wrestlers, Rush Limbaugh, et al, conservatives play to the lowest instincts: blind faith, prejudice, intolerance, greed, revenge, hate, etc...

The tragedy of that which is tantamount to the temporary death of Democracy does have a bright side, however. Dan Quayle is back — in a way — George W is quite similar to him, isn't he? You don't suppose...?

I thought at first this revolting development of having the Presidency stolen might have more negative effects than it probably will. In fact, I can imagine — in the long run (which grows shorter for us daily) — it is more likely to have a beneficial effect as I can envision nothing else which will polarize, galvanize and mobilize the opposition so much as having a religious, fundamentalist, moronic, fascist, simian leadership.

Thus a common enemy once again unites the Good & Decent Live & Let Live People and perhaps gives rise to another beautiful chaotic time. On the other hand, the 60s are coming again, the 2060s, so we might as well try to squeeze a little fun out of life while we have the opportunity. This is an excellent time to create something and fascinating time to be alive.

**PATRICIA LONGNECKER**

(She is always unflinchingly clear and cogent about the way things really are.)

I was angry in December but I've learned it's not worthwhile being angry when there's nothing you can do about it.

Socrates was right. He said Democracy will never work because it lays the heaviest responsibility on the people least capable — the dumb people will run the show therefore it will never work.

It also ties in with the reality in December (when the Supreme Court made Bush President) that we all voted for the real winner: *None Of The Above*. This is the first time in my life that has actually happened.

Now I see the positive side. It will create hardships for some people if things go the way I think they will, and if people get uncomfortable enough, then we might get some reaction and people will start thinking about what they haven't been thinking about.

I realize I am much too conservative to be a Republican. These people are too radical and far out.

They are too contradictory for me. They hate abortion but send their kids to war. They let in all sorts of immigrants who have a multitude of religious beliefs yet impose a militantly religious fundamentalist government on everyone.

**TONY SALES**

(He is the owner of Tony's Tavern in Astoria.)

I think every vote should be hand counted. One vote decides an election.

I don't want to go off on a tangent but I think the entrenched corporate system is in control.

I like what Bush is trying to do about education, and I like the people he has picked.

We are a part of the international community and I believe that because we have much to say about what they do, they should have something to say about what we do.

**DAN VORHEIS**

(He is an Astoria artist.)

This election gave a very negative message: your vote doesn't count.

The fundamental process of representation has been overridden — that each vote counts toward the outcome of an election.

It is a very negative thing to tell the American public its votes don't count.

**BILL MAY**

(He works for a sign company.)

The first time Gore conceded the race was the actual true end of the election. Everything else was just window-dressing.

I believe in the strong possibility that the Democrats' challenge to Florida had been previously set up.

The other fact is Bush's brother is the governor of Florida — but nothing was found that could prove corruption.



& BREW PUB, CANNON BEACH

One place Democrats tried to show illegality is blacks prevented from voting because of police obstruction. But there is no proof there either.

If Gore had been allowed to go ahead to count the vote he would have had a subjective venue that would have supported him.

The outcome looks damned good for George Bush. He has won the hearts and minds of powerful Democrats, especially about education. He's showing us compassionate conservatism.

**LARRY NELSON**

(He is a builder.)

The answer could be given over hours and days. The consequences of the election we have to wait and see.

We have to wait and see if Bush pushes his own agenda or if Congress will stop him.

I voted for Ralph Nader. He was the only candidate worth voting for.

Hopefully a lot more people will vote in the next election because of the last one.

The one good thing about democracy is — if you don't like it, change it.

**WILLIAM ITTMAN**

(He is an art history teacher at Clatsop Community College)

I think it's one of the most shocking things to happen in this country. It's a total disenfranchisement of the American people. Only 25% of voters voted for Bush — it is not the closest election in history. I consider it like the Stuart Restoration of the 17th century: Going back twenty years to 1980 with the figures Bush has chosen to high office is retrograde and a disgrace. He's a shadow puppet put into power by his daddy's oligarchy.

I usually switch channels whenever I see Bush on TV. The few times I let my clicker rest on his image that I don't quickly change to Martha Stewart, he looks dazed and incredulous that he's there himself.

This phony Texas trip — he's a preppy from Connecticut!

**DON McDANIELS**

(He was the Libertarian candidate for the 1st District of the Oregon Legislature in Election 2000. The Democrat won.)

I think it is a shame we had to get into such a close race. No matter who was inaugurated a significant proportion of people would feel alienated and not a part of the political process.

As for the outcome, I think the Presidency will be weakened the next four years, whether Gore or Bush was in office.

Having said that, I think the outcome was good because a President took office as the result of a vote of the electorate and not revolution.

I would also suggest that anyone disappointed at the election should take part in the political process at local, state and national levels.

And one last thought — I don't blame those who voted for 3rd party candidates for an adverse effect on the outcome. We need to have more choice of candidates, not fewer.

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