

THE REALLY BIG ELECTION

BY MICHAEL PAUL McCUSKER

"Politics is the systematic organization of hatreds."
~HENRY ADAMS

"We are America. Those other people are not America."
~RICH BOND
(1992 Republican National Committee Chairman)

The American Century that never quite materialized will probably not expand into an American Millennium. And the 21st century is not quite the "liberty century" George W. Bush ardently proclaims.

America is always at war with itself. It is a battleground of human emotion and disparity. Freedom has not been an easy achievement nor justice anything but a bloody war between those who would extend the rights of democracy and those who would limit them. Our ancestors insisted that these rights and liberties would be fought here — and anyone who smugly assumes we are the seeds of liberty for the rest of the world is wrong-headed in a most sublime degree. We are not a triumphant example of democracy but a perpetual work in progress; we are and will always be in revolution as well as civil war about democracy.

Democracy is being shaken to its roots and its survival depends upon the very people it was constructed to not only protect but who are Constitutionally mandated as its source of power.

History, it would seem, is of people acquiescing if not actually obedient to the rule of despots and although our venerated revolutionary ancestors attempted to overturn the prevailing rule of law (admittedly half-heartedly or to their advantage), a new political clique is hell-bent to reverse even the pretense of democracy (the velvet gloved fist), in the name of its perpetuation, of course. These folk are ardent practitioners of doublethink/talk. They seem to believe the natural state of humanity, Americans included, is obeisance (as well as obsequiousness) to superiors — rulers and ruled being the natural state of governance. American democracy is considered to be a confused and malingering mobocracy needing strict constructionist reform by its current masters, who bridle at any suggestion of question of their rule or authority, and certainly not their legitimacy.

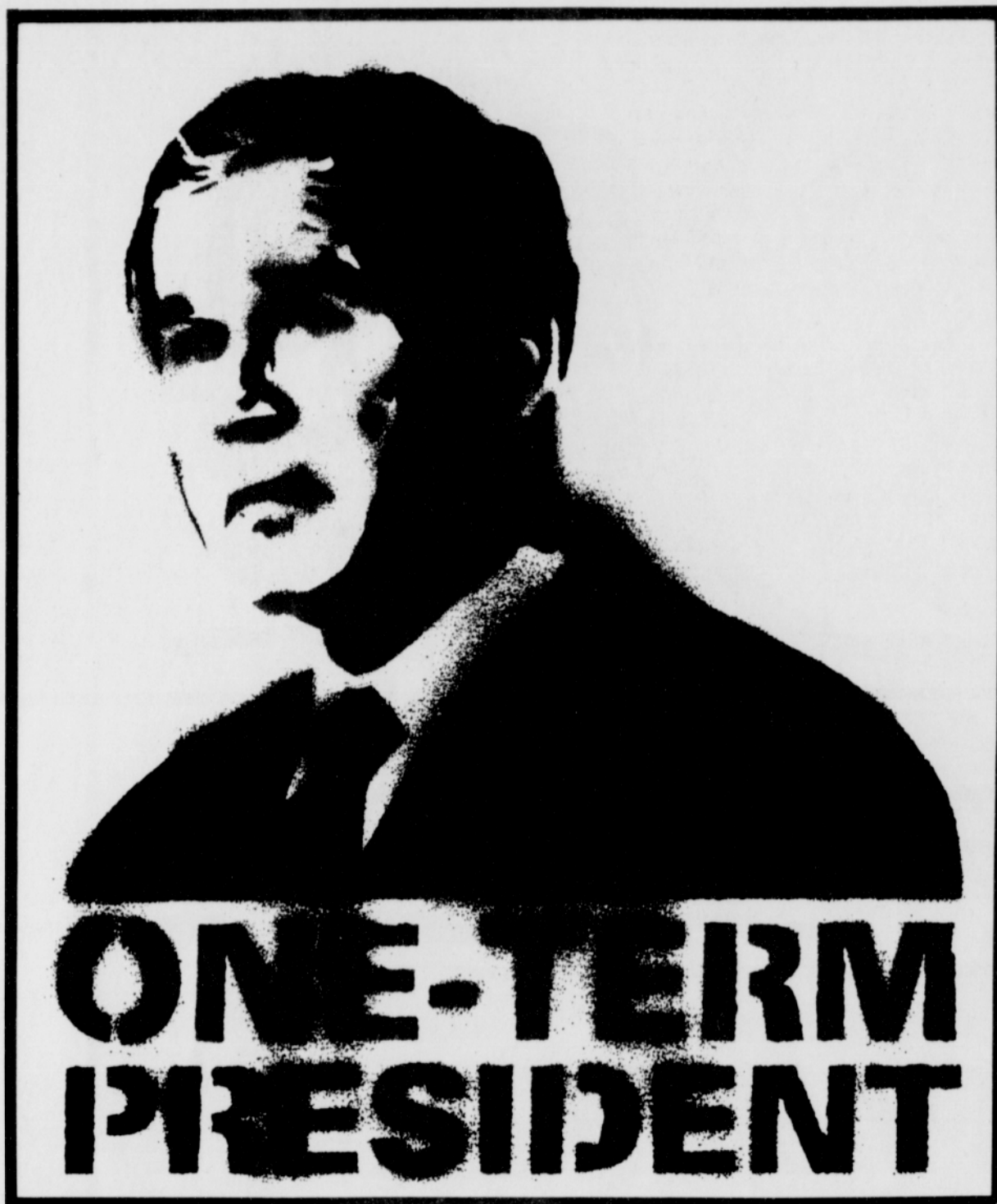
The people are not made privy to knowing what is truly happening within this most secretive of administrations; yet through hyperbole, fear-mongering, "bad intelligence" and outright lies, have been nearly blindly led into a war that appears to have no foreseeable end — the media, supposed to be the guardian against such deceit, has generally acted as a cheering squad, or perhaps more accurately, as a militarized public affairs (read propaganda) corps.

The New Federalists who are attempting to fulfill a two century dream of complete power by a wealthy landed gentry, offer the American people the antithesis of democracy; and give the people only a single choice — you are either with them (hat in hand, of course), or you're against them.

Our responsibility as citizens is to reject that ultimatum and present one of our own in as divergent and collective a voice as we are able, and the First Amendment makes us able: Whoever takes office in this nation, from the lowest to the highest, must abide by Constitutional mandate or be removed either through election, impeachment or recall.

We are governed by pious hypocrites who are mostly white males in a nation in which women are the majority and the great variety of races outnumber Caucasians. Women have made it to the middle levels of politics, but the top national positions are closed to but a small club of white males, a minority of upper class white men who strain to hold onto power, clinging desperately, defiantly and ruthlessly to their incongruous form of country club apartheid.

Elites take root in every society and acquire unequal power unless a counterbalance restrains them. In a democracy that force of resistance is constitutionally the power of ordinary people. Political parties are formed to reflect and channel the passions of ordinary people and publicly represent them fairly,



WWW.ONETERMPRESIDENT.ORG

efficiently and powerfully — in theory at least — with a minimum of corruption and disruption. The two party system fails in this purpose. It is too exclusive and compressed, and it eliminates too many people and ideas from the actual process of governance. The parties in reality serve politicians and their favored patrons rather than the voters.

With only two parties through which to realize their ambitions, mainstream politicians show little interest in responding to minority interests or, in fact, to registering into the parties the millions of blacks, Hispanics or Caucasian poor who seldom participate in political activity. Although their involvement would swell party ranks, it would also broaden the base of each party and threaten the *status quo*.

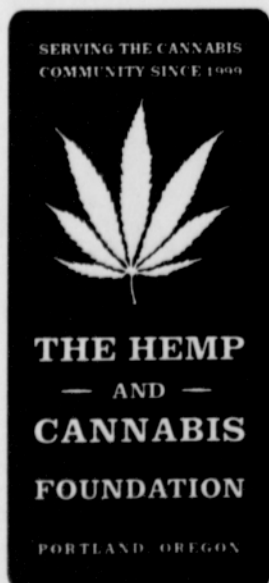
The Democratic Party is traditionally the party of working people and minorities. Though its history is hardly glorious — in particular its advocacy of Southern apartheid in the 19th century — the Democratic Party usually, though reluctantly and always narrowly, encompasses a mixed variety of ideas, philosophies and cultural styles that would otherwise find expression in other parties, which generally have little chance against the prevalent two party system. Jammed uncomfortably into this single political party alongside a now virtually vanished core of strict constructionists are liberals, leftists, trade unionists, environmentalists, minority groups, feminists and others who might be regarded as free thinkers, progressives and heretics.

While the Republican Party generally represents the aspirations and pretensions of wealthy Tories and plutocrats and would more likely include proto-Nazis than fuzzy-headed

liberals, the Democrats switched their antebellum loyalties at the end of the 19th century to embrace the hordes of impoverished Mediterranean and Eastern European immigrants who were imported to work in the rapidly expanding American industrial machine. The old cadre of party bosses were never comfortable with the mix of political ideas these people brought with them but liked their numbers. The 'Party of the Rebellion' found its political platform from increasingly mixed socialist and so-called liberal reforms; and in the 1930s the Democrats under Franklin D. Roosevelt engineered a major redefinition of government's role in American society. Often accused since then as the Party of the Left — "The Party of Traitors" that continues to resonate from the Civil War — the Democrats usually attempt to fix the national political structure after rapacious Republicans tear it apart with corruption, mismanagement and egregious hate campaigns against political adversaries, primarily women, liberals and racial minorities. The real bankruptcy of the Democratic Party in recent times is that it has done little to stem the wild surge to the right in American politics but has instead straightforwardly accommodated it with opportunistic envy.

The general perception is that the Republican and Democratic parties are converging into a single party. Yet significant differences prevail. The Republicans act paranoid in their attempts at exclusivity, each campaign a further withdrawal from the incredibly and increasingly diverse mass of citizenry while the Democrats, more by default, reflect that diversity, perhaps because there is no other home for it as a result of GOP rejection and the unpopularity and powerlessness of third parties. Self-proclaimed as the 'Party of the People', (though

Medical Marijuana Can Help



4259 NE BROADWAY ST. PORTLAND, OR. 97286 • 503-281-5100
tchf@the-foundation.org • www.THC-Foundation.org



CREATE A DECLARATION OF EQUALITY

FOUNDATION FOR
EQUAL RULE

ASTORIA, OREGON 97103 • (503) 325-6555

ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY

The Alliance for Democracy is a new movement that seeks to end the domination of our economy, our government, our culture, our media and the environment by large corporations.

We have united to examine the ways in which various economic interests either enhance or harm the health of democracy and we focus on creating basic change.

Piecemeal reform has been rendered ineffective. We seek deep systemic alterations to establish economic and political democracy.

End
corporate
rule;
revive
democracy.

681 Main Street, Waltham, MA 02451 • Tele: (781) 894-1179 • Fax: (781) 894-0279
E-mail: peoplesall@aol.com • Web site: www.afd-online.org