

UPPER LEFT EDGE

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FREE!

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You can't cheat an honest man.

Bush and Gore Make Me Wanna Ralph

A Letter from Michael Moore to the Non-Voters of America

Dear friends,

DISCLAIMER: If you are planning to vote for Al Gore in November, good for you. Don't let what I'm about to say change your mind because I've been told by all the experts that if you do change your mind based on what I'm about to say, George W. Bush might win the election and I certainly couldn't live with myself if that connoisseur of pharmaceuticals (the kind you snort up your nose or the kind you inject on death row) won, in part, because of a letter I spit out over the Internet.

So let's review -- you like Gore, you vote for Gore. He's a decent guy. I met him last year at some benefit, he came up to me, big hug -- whoa, this veep is no stiff, I thought -- and thanked me for this and that. He even quoted lines from "The Awful Truth" - whoa, scary, I thought, what's he doing watching cable channels above 40 on the box...not much to do on this veep gig, eh?

I told him I admired what he did when he came home to America as a Vietnam Vet and spoke out against the war. That took a lot of courage, I said (his dad lost his Senate seat for being an early opponent of the war).

So, if Al Gore is your man, go for it. In fact, I insist on it, even if you are just throwing your vote away.

What I am about to say, though, is not intended for any Al Gore (or George W.) voters. If you are one, please click off now.

To Whom It May Concern:

I address this letter to the largest political party in the United States - the 55% of you in the voting public who are so disillusioned with politics and politicians, so sick and tired of all the broken promises, so disgusted with all the b.s. that you have absolutely no intention of voting in November.

You know who you are.

AND YOU ARE THE MAJORITY!

You rule. You are the Non-Voters, all 100 million of you!

Until now, you have been the subject of scorn and ridicule. You've been called apathetic, lazy, ignorant. Your actions have been viewed as unAmerican (I mean, what kind of citizen in the World's Greatest Democracy would not exercise his or her most important and cherished right - the right to freely choose your leader!).

Well, may I be the first to tell you that, not only are you NOT stupid and apathetic, I believe you are smarter than all the rest of us combined. YOU figured it out. YOU uncovered the scam. And YOU had the guts to no longer participate in a lie. Way to go! In 1996, you helped set the all-time American record for lowest turnout ever at a presidential election.



Photo & art © 2000 Roger Hayes

The reason you, the majority, no longer vote in America is because you, the majority, realize there is no real choice on the ballot. The "two" parties both do the bidding of the wealthy and agree with each other on 90% of the issues. They take 90% of their money from people who make over a hundred-grand a year, and then enact over 90% of the laws those contributors want passed.

On the ballot this November, you already know there is no contest. The independent Cook Political Report in D.C. last week announced that, out of 435 House seats up for election in November, there are only 47 seats where there is a "true race" between opponents - and, of those, only 14 seats have a race that is even "close" between the two candidates. 14 out of 435!

"Ninety-seven to ninety-nine percent of incumbents running for re-election will be returned to Congress in November," according to the Cook Report.

The Non-Voters already understand this. And they are not going to waste one iota of their day on November 7 driving to some smelly elementary school gymnasium to participate in a Soviet-style election with no friggin' choice on the ballot.

So, to you brave voter-resisters, I say congratulations on your act of civic disobedience! I joined you this primary season and refused to go along with this charade of "choice." Nearly 80% of those of us of voting age - over 160 million Americans - staged a sit-in on our living room couches during this year's primaries. THAT is the great untold story of this election year. How much longer will the punditocracy be able to get away with dismissing this massive no-show as "a sign Americans are content with the booming economy?"

Now that we have made our presence known (you all don't mind me speaking for us, do you? Good. In fact, I'll just assume the currently-vacant mantle of this majority party and serve as your leader until you say otherwise...), it is time to find a way that says, loudly and clearly, just how mad as hell we are and

how we are not going to take it anymore. We need to find a way where our vote screams "None of the Above!" A chance to act, like that Chinese guy in Tienan Square, standing in front of a moving tank and stopping it in its path.

In November, we should find a way to follow in the footsteps of those intelligent Minnesotans who, even though they could care less about professional wrestling (and even less, I'm sure, for Jesse "The Body"), proved to the world that they not only have a sense of humor, but they know how to stick it to the whole bloody system. Think of just how high their level of anger must have been against the One-Party-With-Two-Heads monopoly! I mean, state government is no joke - somebody's gotta build the roads, run the schools, catch the criminals. You don't want to turn the asylum over to the chief lunatic but, damn it, that's what the people of Minnesota did - just to send a message! Wow. That took some guts.

So, for those of you who weren't going to vote anyway, well...what if you actually did? What if you drove down to that stinky gym where the little shell game behind the pretend curtains is taking place ("Pay no attention to the voters behind the curtains!"), walk in, sign in, take the ballot they hand you, and toss yourselves inside the booth like a political molotov cocktail.

Boom!

"You wanna tell me there's a choice here between two guys who both support NAFTA, WTO, the death penalty, the Cuban embargo, increased Pentagon spending, sleazy HMOs, greedy hospital chains, 250 million guns in our homes, more bombing of Iraq, the rich getting richer and the rest of us declaring bankruptcy?"

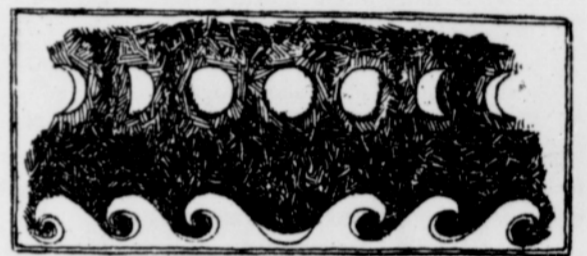
Boom!

Not me.

Boom!

I'm voting for Ralph Nader.

(Find out why on page 2.)



MOONS & TIDES

2000 Corrected for PACIFIC BEACHES

HIGH AUGUST LOW AUGUST

DATE DOTS TIME AM FT TIME PM FT TIME AM FT TIME PM FT

1 Tues ● 1:28 9.2 2:49 7.8 8:27 -1.9 8:31 1.3

2 Wed ● 2:20 8.9 3:33 8.0 9:11 -1.6 9:24 1.1

3 Thur ● 3:13 8.4 4:15 8.1 9:53 -1.1 10:17 1.0

4 Fri ● 4:07 7.8 4:58 8.1 10:35 -0.4 11:12 0.9

5 Sat ● 5:04 7.0 5:42 8.0 11:18 0.3

6 SUN ● 6:07 6.4 6:28 7.8 0:11 0.9 12:04 1.1

7 Mon ● 7:17 5.9 7:18 7.6 1:15 0.9 12:56 1.8

8 Tues ● 8:30 5.7 8:11 7.6 2:21 0.7 1:55 2.3

9 Wed ● 9:39 5.8 9:05 7.5 3:26 0.4 2:57 2.6

10 Thur ● 10:39 6.0 9:56 7.6 4:24 0.0 3:57 2.7

11 Fri ● 11:30 6.3 10:44 7.7 5:14 -0.3 4:52 2.6

12 Sat ● 12:15 6.6 11:28 7.9 5:58 -0.6 5:40 2.4

13 SUN ● ... 12:55 6.8 6:37 -0.7 6:25 2.2

14 Mon ● 0:10 8.0 1:31 7.0 7:13 -0.8 7:06 2.0

15 Tues ● 0:49 8.0 2:04 7.1 7:46 -0.8 7:45 1.8

16 Wed ● 1:28 8.0 2:35 7.3 8:17 -0.7 8:22 1.6

17 Thur ● 2:06 7.9 3:04 7.4 8:46 -0.5 8:59 1.4

18 Fri ● 2:46 7.7 3:32 7.6 9:15 -0.3 9:37 1.2

19 Sat ● 3:28 7.3 4:02 7.7 9:45 0.1 10:19 1.0

20 SUN ● 4:15 6.9 4:36 7.9 10:20 0.6 11:08 0.8

21 Mon ● 5:12 6.3 5:17 7.9 11:00 1.1

22 Tues ● 6:22 5.8 6:07 7.9 0:06 0.7 11:51 1.8

23 Wed ● 7:45 5.6 7:09 7.9 1:18 0.5 12:55 2.3

24 Thur ● 9:06 5.7 8:19 8.0 2:35 0.1 2:12 2.6

25 Fri ● 10:16 6.1 9:29 8.2 3:47 -0.4 3:29 2.6

26 Sat ● 11:14 6.6 10:34 8.5 4:50 -1.0 4:37 2.2

27 SUN ● 12:06 7.1 11:33 8.8 5:45 -1.4 5:38 1.7

28 Mon ● ... 12:52 7.6 6:34 -1.6 6:34 1.2

29 Tues ● 0:28 8.9 1:35 7.9 7:19 -1.6 7:26 0.7

30 Wed ● 1:21 8.8 2:16 8.1 8:02 -1.4 8:16 0.4

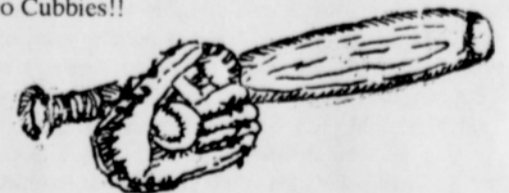
31 Thur ● 2:11 8.5 2:55 8.3 8:42 -1.0 9:04 0.1

AM TIDES * BIGGER THE DOT, BETTER THE FISHING! PM TIDES

LITE TYPE DAYLIGHT TIME BOLD TYPE

BASEBALL

Well, here it is August and the Cubs, to everyone's amazement, still have Sammy Sosa, and are in third place in their division. Yes, we know it would take a miracle, as usual, for the Cubs to fight back from a double digit deficit in August. Yes, we know we are trading away players to teams who are in the race. But maybe the Cubs are finally beginning to resemble their fans. You know the ones, the Die Hard Cub Fans. As Yogi was fond of saying, "It ain't over til it's over." Go Cubbies!!



Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.

Thomas Jefferson

