

rapid descent toward a Hitlerian wet dream? I say no, we cannot innocently go about our lives as if everything is fine and continue to consume and support that which is in conflict with our deepest desires and principles. Everything we purchase feeds money/energy toward the kind of world those products support and nurture. So if I don't want a world filled with toxic chemicals, I need to buy only organic, non-toxic goods and foods. If I want people to be paid living wages and not slaves in sweatshops, I won't shop at Wal-Mart. If I want a vibrant, sustainable community to live in, I need to support local businesses that share in my world vision as much as possible.

I believe more and more people are understanding the interconnectedness of all things, just as you've connected wine and politics. Piece by piece, the seemingly disconnected pieces of our lives are being integrated into a seamless picture, in which every decision has meaning and every moment the potential for further awakening. So I was delighted to read about the continuing collapse of our so-called "democracy" in the Wine section of *EW*. Not

what I expected, which is always welcome and savored, like a fine (organic, local) wine. Bravo! Encore!

*Richard Baynton
Eugene*

MONKEYWRENCH TIME

Electoral and partisan politics are distractions that discourage involvement in political endeavors. The illusion of participation cedes power to the dishonorable.

If everyone engaged the body politic, representation could be superfluous, but that is utopianism, as opposed to reasonable compromise. Consequently, mindful of flaws, I have voted in nearly every local and national election since 1976.

However, democratic institutions cross the Rubicon when war is glorified, torture embraced and habeas corpus murdered. At risk of being labeled corrupted reformist or deluded radical, allow me to hazard this possible path: I will not vote again until a system of universal suffrage is established. That means no prerequisites for eligibility to vote. None. No re-

quirements regarding age, citizenship, residence, identification, criminal record, party affiliation or anything else. There should be no voter registration, with voting upon demand during elections. Avoiding fraud requires only an ink stamp and simultaneous elections.

Other aspects of universal suffrage might include election day holidays, recording all write-in votes and the elimination of electronic voting, including scanning of paper ballots, which still employs hackable tabulation.

When my ballot arrives in the mail, I will sign the confirmation, scrawl NO in red letters across the ballot, seal it the secrecy envelope and deliver it to the elections office. My name will remain on the voter roll, but mine will be a non-vote.

I recommend that everyone do the same or find your own way to monkeywrench the machine. Get involved with something political instead of surrendering control to politics.

*bernard nickerson
Eugene*

drawing as therapy

by harvey dickson



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