



Take the Power Back

Make YOUR Mark on November

2nd

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"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country...corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money and power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic is destroyed."
- Abraham Lincoln, Nov.21, 1864 (letter to Col. William F. Elkins)

Lincoln was right. 140 years after he wrote that statement, our Republic has been destroyed. The government of the United States of America no longer decides what is best for its citizens when it comes to trade and business. Their hands are tied by multinational, big business interests. The citizens of America have become saturated with apathy toward any of the larger issues facing them. Issues like the environment, corporate globalization, poverty, human rights, etc. all seem unimportant in comparison to America's favorite pastime: consumption.

I'd like to invite you to take a 5 minute break from your consumption and learn about some of the injustices corroding the freedom and integrity that made our Republic so great:

Our Media is centralizing, providing us with a narrow stream of chosen information. The diversity in medium (TV, Movies, Radio) as well as the diversity of channels allows for the illusion of diversity in information content. Companies like Viacom monopolize the media, allowing them to paint the public whatever picture they fancy, and pass it as reality.

Among Viacom's brands are: CBS, MTV, Nickelodeon, VH1, BET, Paramount Pictures, Viacom Outdoor,

Infinity, UPN, Spike TV, TV Land, CMT, Comedy Central, Showtime, Blockbuster, and Simon 7 Schuster.

An unaware observer may believe that these brands each provide a different message, but the message remains the same: that which supports Viacom is good and that which doesn't is bad.

The WTO (World Trade Organization) is an enormous threat to the environment and human rights around the world. The WTO "is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. Its main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly and freely as possible."

This governing body (a panel of corporate attorneys) functions over the 146 member countries, applying sanctions whenever it sees a violation of "free trade." The fear of constant fines restricts the power of governments over citizens, giving ruling power to the WTO.

Even human rights and environmental protection take a back seat to the protection of free trade and consumerism. Countries cannot reject genetically engineered food or food caught in a way that can be proven harmful to endangered animals. Laws put into place by Guatemala to help reduce infant mortality were overturned in the face of sanctions by the WTO. The laws were aimed at countering aggressive marketing by baby food companies trying to convince mothers that their products were superior to the clinically proven healthier breast milk. According to WTO practices, member governments have lost the right to protect public health and the environment.

The World Bank and IMF (International Monetary Fund) are lending money to countries, especially Third World, at a steep social and

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If you are like me, then you have waited these four years with such anticipation that you can hardly control yourself. The chance to vote is one for which I have been longing. This election is, in my mind, one of the most important elections of our time. Now is our time to make our mark.

When I was a senior in high school, I had the honor to serve as president of the Student Government Association. I thought it would be educational to sponsor a mock-election at our school. With the help of others, I established miniature political parties, held voter registrations and eventually the presidential election. Most of the students said that they were glad they had the opportunity to vote. The local newspaper covered the story, and, in a sense, those students had an opportunity to make their mark.

Since that election, I have been eager to actually vote for president. I

have been waiting for my chance to make my mark. Others like me, who here at St Andrews Presbyterian College have a strong sense of patriotism and civic duty, are ready and eager to vote this November 2nd. Mica Nguyen and SPEAK OUT! registered people to vote recently. Make sure if you are registered you go out and vote. If you are not a citizen please encourage your friends to vote.

This election has high stakes. Please don't let the minority control the majority. In the 2000 election only 105,586,274 of 205,815,000 eligible voters voted for president. Don't let that happen again. "Vote Dammit", "declare yourself", vote, because it is your right and civic duty.

For more voter information feel free to visit: <http://www.senate.gov> or www.amnestyusa.org or www.democrats.org or www.johnkerry.com or <http://www.whitehouse.gov/president> or <http://www.michaelmoore.com> or <http://georgewbush.com>

cont'd from page 6

on this campus, is an ALL-INCLUSIVE organization whose purpose is to BRIDGE the GAP existing among the different groups who inhabit our unique community. In doing so, BSU will eventually yield the HSU (Human Students Union).

Want to be sure your voice is heard? Join Speak Out!

Contact Mica Nguyen

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