

Citizens losing faith in government

By PATRICK BRANNAN

"That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed," says the Declaration of Independence.

Government gains its power from the people. This is true es-

pecially in America where we are blessed with the freedom of having a freely elected government both federally and on a local level. Yet the American people fail to exercise this great freedom we are blessed with. Why? It may be that the American experiment with our present structure of government has run out.

Opinion

Voter turnout is very low in America, the lowest of all countries that have free elections. Is it that people just don't care any more or is it that the people real-

ize the system has failed and therefore have no desire to vote in a system that has broken down?

The federal government has grown to the point that it is inefficient and wasteful. It may be time to call it quits and rebuild a new form of government. The federal government is so busy studying itself it can't get anything important done. During the 103rd Congress the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress conducted a study that cost \$695,000 for 36 hearings involving 144 hours of testimony from 243 witness to offer recommendations for a leaner, more efficient Congress (*Newsweek* Oct. 17).

This summer Congress spent weeks arguing over the amount of violence in the entertainment industry. The only reason they are going after music, movies, and television is because they can actually do something about the amount of violence in the entertainment industry.

The people we've sent to Washington know they can't do anything to reduce the crime on the streets, at least nothing that would mean no rise in taxes. Instead they are going to tread on the First Amendment and attempt to regulate the amount of violence in movies and on television.

The fact that the federal government has grown so big has left many important issues up to the state governments to solve. Maybe it is time for America to return to a form of government similar to that of the one after the

War for Independence. If the states had more power while the federal government became more of a foreign affairs department, our system of government may actually be able to deal with important issues.

Thomas Jefferson argued this point almost 200 years ago. In 1798 he drafted the "Kentucky Resolutions." Jefferson wrote that the federal government was granted, "certain definite powers," while the states still had their right to self-government.

The fact is that today the federal government in Washington is out of touch with the large part of American society. Yet they continue to force upon the local government more and more federal regulation. The people in Washington don't really know what is best for the entire country. They should let the states run their own business.

People do control and hold the power in our present government system. Yet the problem remains that the federal government has become so big that the people's voice is not heard. Only by a massive increase in voter turnout would anything change in the United States. Also if enough people start calling for a change in the system of government something may actually get done.

It's up to you and me. But at times it become necessary to face the facts and admit that a system has broken down. It may be getting close to admitting that in America today.

Clinton on way to evolving into new American Caesar

By ALAN P. FELTON

Opinion

I turned on the television last week and thought I was in the middle of a nightmare. It seemed that by some quirk of fate George Bush had become President again. Thankfully, I soon realized that the Texas weasel wasn't back in power, it was only Bubba Clinton doing his best George Bush imitation.

Yes, my fellow Americans, a new line has been drawn in the sands of the Middle East. America is once again sticking its middle finger in Saddam Hussien's face and the mood in the region is getting ugly.

The question that remains is why are Americans so obsessed with Iraq and Kuwait? Is it because of the region's oil? It should not be. If the United States lost all of its oil imports from Kuwait it could make up the difference

from the overflowing strategic oil reserve. Aside from that source, the world's oil market is flooded and other oil exporting nations could continue to pump out all the black gold that we could ever need.

Maybe, the United States is afraid that Iraq will end the reign of democracy in Kuwait. George Bush used that justification the last time American soldiers faced off with Saddam. But guess what? Democracy has never existed in Kuwait and all that talk of popular elections being held for the Kuwaiti parliament was just that, talk. The emir still holds complete power and women still can't drive automobiles on the streets of Kuwait City. Wouldn't ol'

Thomas Jefferson be proud!

Bubba Clinton says that the United States cannot and should not be the policeman for the world and I do not believe that we are trying to be. Instead our intentions are much more profane and vulgar. The United States is once again becoming an expansive and imperialistic world power. With the Soviet Union no longer around to check our hunger, America has become the bully of the new world order.

However, imperialistic intentions do not provide the complete answer for our actions in the Persian Gulf. The United States is facing terrible problems on the home front. Crime, racism, the national debt, the homeless, and a host of other difficulties face Americans every day. Our political leaders are paralyzed and unable to solve these challenges. With no light at the end of the tunnel, the slime of Washington use foreign affairs to distract the American people.

We are constantly faced with a barrage of good guy (United States) vs. bad guy (Haiti, Iraq, North Korea, and who knows who will be next) situations. These fabricated foreign crises to do nothing more than pump up the American people with patriotic fever and send us into the streets with glassy eyes and foaming mouths, drunk with blood lust against our newest ready made enemy. Meanwhile, American children still starve to death and hundreds lose their health insurance each day.

Bubba Clinton came to the White House with the intention of being a new kind of President. It is too bad that he is still reading from the same script written by Bush and Reagan. Clinton sought to bring solutions to America's problems. He failed and is now trying to save himself in the sands of Iraq. All Hail Bubba Clinton, the new American Caesar.

Top Ten... Candidates for president of Wesleyan College

10. Richard Ratvitch — we can lock out the students.
9. Saddam Hussein — school for special terrorist training.
8. Bill Clinton — Foreign Affairs studies.
7. From *Picket Fences* Wambaugh — Dennis Wambaugh for the institutionally impaired.
6. Steven Spielberg — Forget the PAC, let's build Jurassic Park.
5. George Bush — No new tuition increases.
4. O.J. Simpson — Community Service punishment.
3. David Letterman — I'll be your president for \$10 million
2. Ross Perot — I could endow the school in five seconds.
1. Forrest Gump — Stupid is as stupid does.

Alcohol use hazardous

By BETTY ANN WHISNANT

What's all the fuss about drinking? Why shouldn't college students partake of a culturally acceptable substance that make them feel better like they "belong?" In America, drinking goes along with being good looking, being desirable, being physically fit, having fans, and making money. It's all right there in the commercial.

We don't live in a commercial and the other things that go along with college drinking are downright ugly.

- Nearly seven percent of college freshman dropouts are due to overuse of alcohol.

- According to a 1988 survey, alcohol was included in 68 percent of violent behavior, 52 percent of physical injuries, and over 50 percent of rapes on campuses.
- Of all students that have ever

graduated or attended college, as many will die from alcohol related causes as will receive advanced degrees (masters or doctorates).

Maybe students do need to know more about drinking than just what brand is for you. This is why the Psychology Club sponsors Alcohol Awareness Week at NCWC. This year it will blitz the campus with information about alcohol throughout the week of Oct. 19-21. The faculty have been asked to incorporate alcohol awareness into their classrooms. More information on alcohol treatment, legal issues, and effects will be at the Wellness fair.

On Friday, Oct. 21 from 7 to 8 p.m. there will be an "Ounce of Prevention" party in the SAC. Cocktails, pizza, and tips from Janice Stump, RN on how to prevent hangovers will be offered. Everyone is invited.