

BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD



"The United States is essential among the industrial democracies in the rigidity of the system of ideological control. 'Socialism' was sought only - executed through the mass media."
— Neena Choksi

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"The script for this film was written 52 years ago by Edward R. Murrow, who taught us many valuable lessons about responsibility and ethics, about sponsored authority, because without it, citizens often get untracked."
— Charles Clouse

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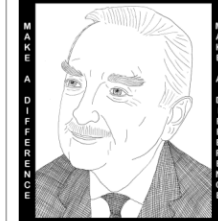
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"There's how it works, the president makes decisions, he's the dominant. The press secretary announces those decisions, and you snort at the press type those decisions down. Make, announce, type, just get 'em through a legal check and go home."
— Stephen Colbert

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"It takes a lot of absolutely essential to a democracy to have competition in the media, a lot of competition, and we seem to be coming away from that."
— Walter Crabbie

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"The media is essential to the functioning of a democracy and the wellbeing of government. They have, for the most part, neglected to be either of those things."
— Jessica Gambino

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"I certainly think we have an emergency in media, and we gotta fix it."
— Phil Donahue

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What's Your BetterWorld Issue: MEDIA REFORM ...make a difference...

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Together We Make a World of Difference!

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"The media is essential to the functioning of the law and wellbeing of government. They have, for the most part, neglected to be either of those things."
— Janice Pennington

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"The media is absolutely essential to the functioning of a democracy. It is not our job to keep the press. We're supposed to be the check and balance on government."
— Amy Chomsky

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"Mainstream media tend to get inside the conventional wisdom, to see everything through the filter of right and left."
— Arlene Pennington

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"By the end of the millennium five men controlled the world's media. And the people rejoiced because they're not them!"
— Michael Moore

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"The quality of democracy and the quality of journalism are deeply entwined."
— Bill Moyers

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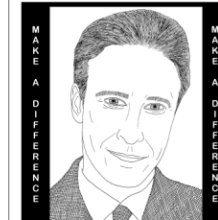
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"The speed of communication is so quick to behead. It is also true that speed can multiply the distribution of information that we believe is so critical."
— Edward R. Murrow

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"I can't tell you how many times we've been into a courtroom and go, 'You that's... I wish we could be saying that. That's exactly the way we see it and I'd really like to say it.' We've been saying that." "And always saying that?" "Well, why don't you?"
— John Stossel

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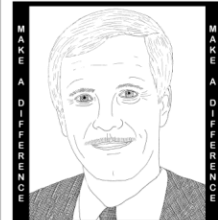
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"The idea of a liberal media bias is simply a myth. If only it were true, we might have a more balanced and more responsible media. We've got public debates on the issues facing the country."
— Barry Dreyfus

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"The media is too concentrated, too few people own too much. There's really five companies that control 80 percent of what we read, see and hear. It's not healthy."
— Ted Turner

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"Think people are too often misinformed and, in some cases, deceived. We don't have a full range of ideas in this country that in any way reflects the broad, real range of ideas."
— Nancy Webster

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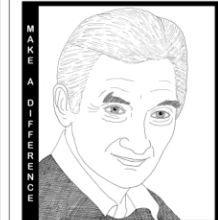
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"If we are to have the public conversations essential to a better society, we need to have more public forums for these conversations. The media can facilitate the conversations or shut them down."
— Tom Van Coten

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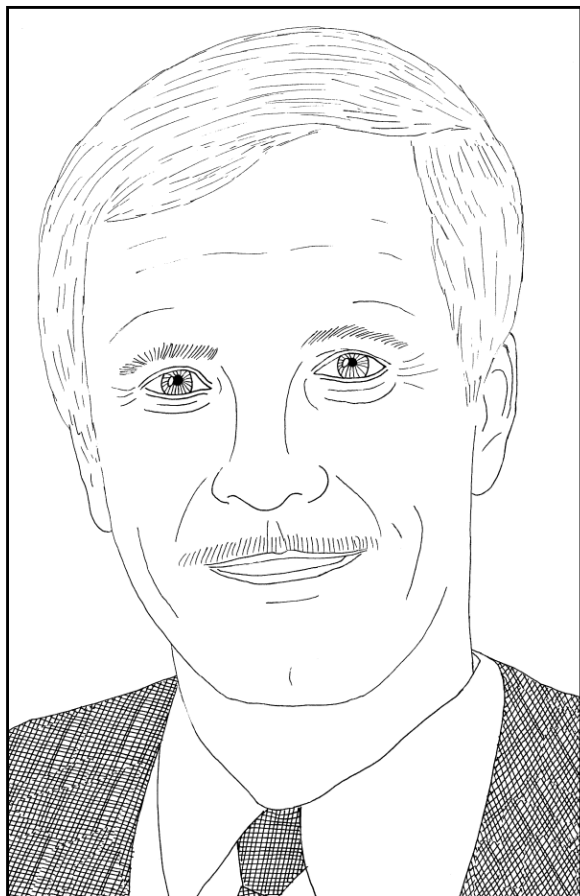
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"We need to decide that we will go to war, whether reason is involved or not. We need to decide that we will go to war, whether reason is involved or not. We need to decide that we will go to war, whether reason is involved or not. We need to decide that we will go to war, whether reason is involved or not."
— Dan Claitor

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MEDIA REFORM



"The media is too concentrated, too few people own too much. There's really five companies that control 90 percent of what we read, see and hear. It's not healthy."
-- Ted Turner

The media has become a major influence in shaping the world. Many are concerned that fewer and fewer corporations are controlling the vast majority of our media -- in the United States just 5 or 6 corporations control most of the newspapers, magazines, TV and radio stations, books, music, movies, videos, wire services and photo agencies. This is alarming because it limits the perspectives and points of view that help us to shape our individual perceptions of events in the world.

Media Democracy Day, on October 18, has become an important opportunity to speak out against the commercialization of our media. It is a time to call for media reforms that promote diversity, and better representation and accountability to local communities.

In 1996, a coalition of groups in Toronto and Vancouver organized a Media Democracy Day to challenge the monopolization of media outlets by a few corporations. Previously, organizations had organized a Media Democracy Day in Britain on October 18, commemorating the 1922 establishment of the BBC (British Broadcasting Company). By 2002, Media Democracy Day was being celebrated in cities throughout the world.

Since 1993, the United Nations has promoted May 3 as **World Press Freedom Day** -- an important opportunity to remind governments and civil society about the "crucial role a free press plays in strengthening democracies and fostering development around the world."

Help promote a free world press, media reform and support alternative media sources.

Do One Thing for a Better World

1. Find out more about media reform
2. Hold an event to promote a free world press, media reform and alternative media.
3. Support groups working for media reform.

Media Reform Links

Center for Public Integrity
(openairwaves.org)
FAIR (fair.org)
Free Press (freepress.net)
Media Alliance (media-alliance.org)
MediaChannel.org (mediachannel.org)
Reporters Without Borders (rsf.org)
World Press Freedom Committee
(wpfc.org)

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"The United States is unusual among the industrial democracies in the rigidity of the system of ideological control - "indoctrination," we might say - exercised through the mass media."

-- Noam Chomsky

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“The script for this film was written 52 years ago by Edward R. Murrow, who taught us many valuable lessons about responsibility and always, always questioned authority, because without it authority often goes unchecked.”

-- George Clooney

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"Here's how it works: the president makes decisions. He's the decider. The press secretary announces those decisions, and you people of the press type those decisions down. Make, announce, type. Just put 'em through a spell check and go home."

-- Stephen Colbert

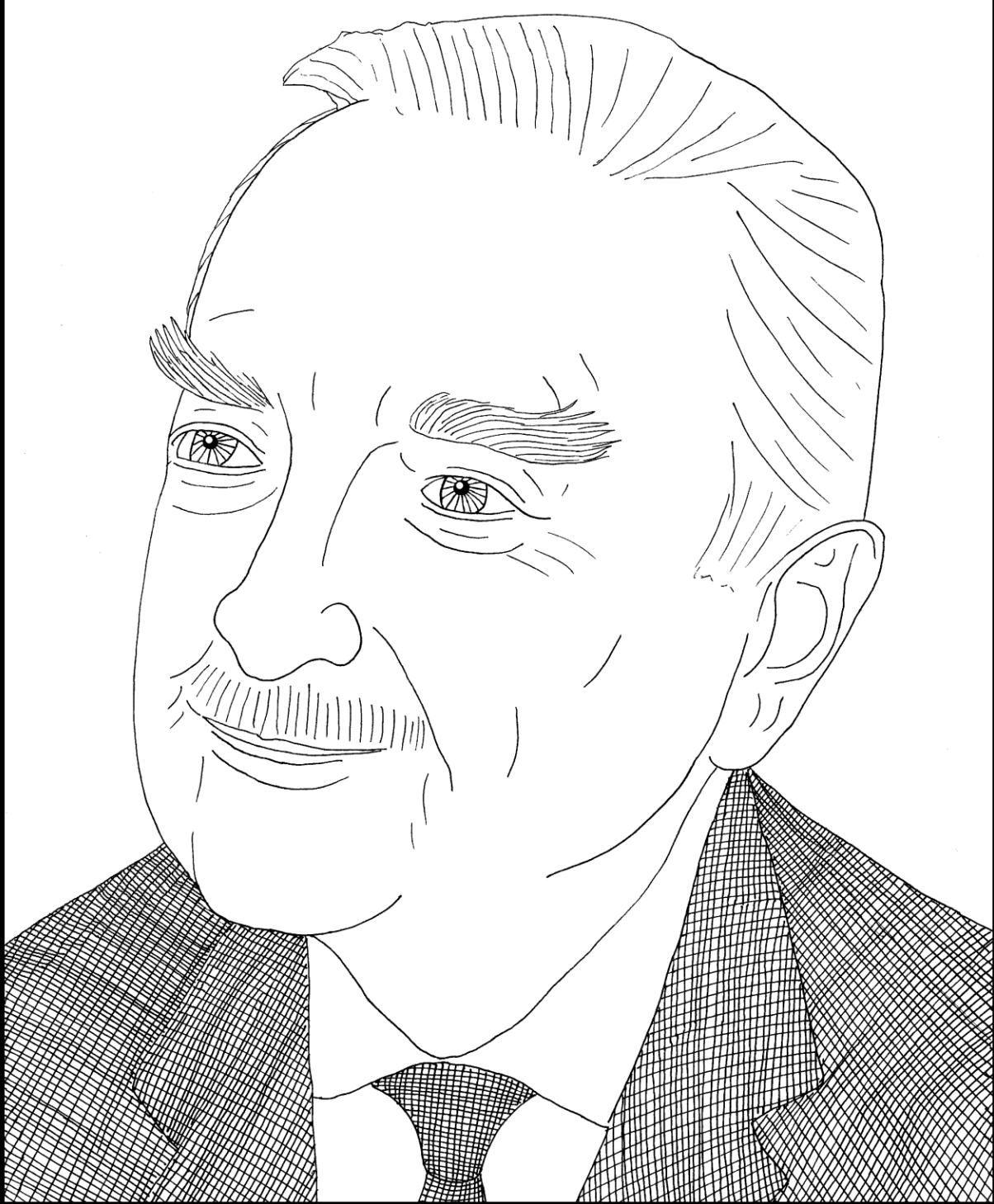
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"I think it is absolutely essential in a democracy to have competition in the media, a lot of competition, and we seem to be moving away from that."

-- Walter Cronkite

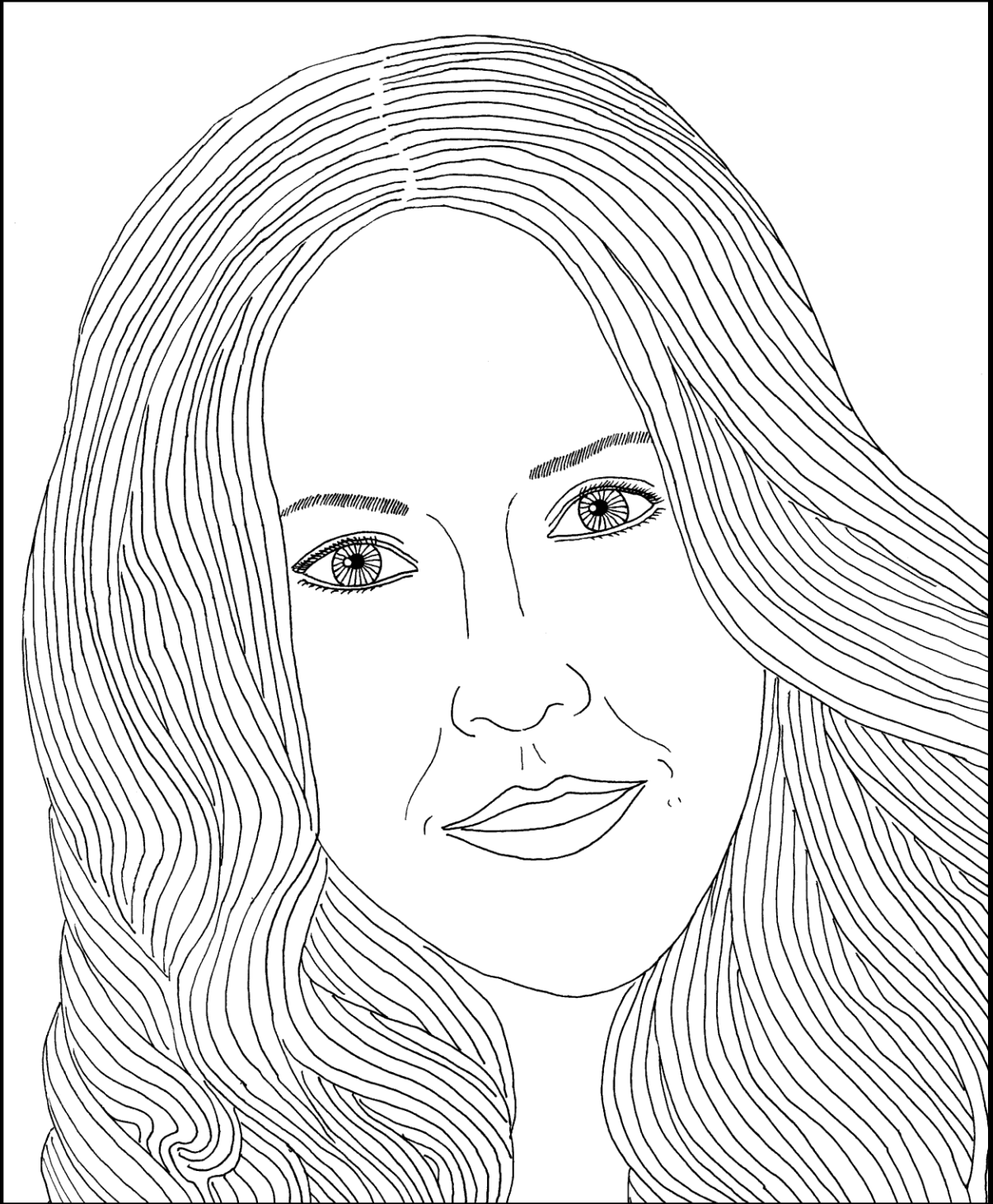
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"When 'news stories' are broken, do we not expect a certain amount of fact-checking or source-checking? One has to ask if this falls under the guise of sloppy reporting or deception as a source of spin. We seem to accept a certain amount of deception and we seem to be helpless to doing anything about it, as illustrated so clearly by where we are right now in this moment in our history."

-- Sheryl Crow

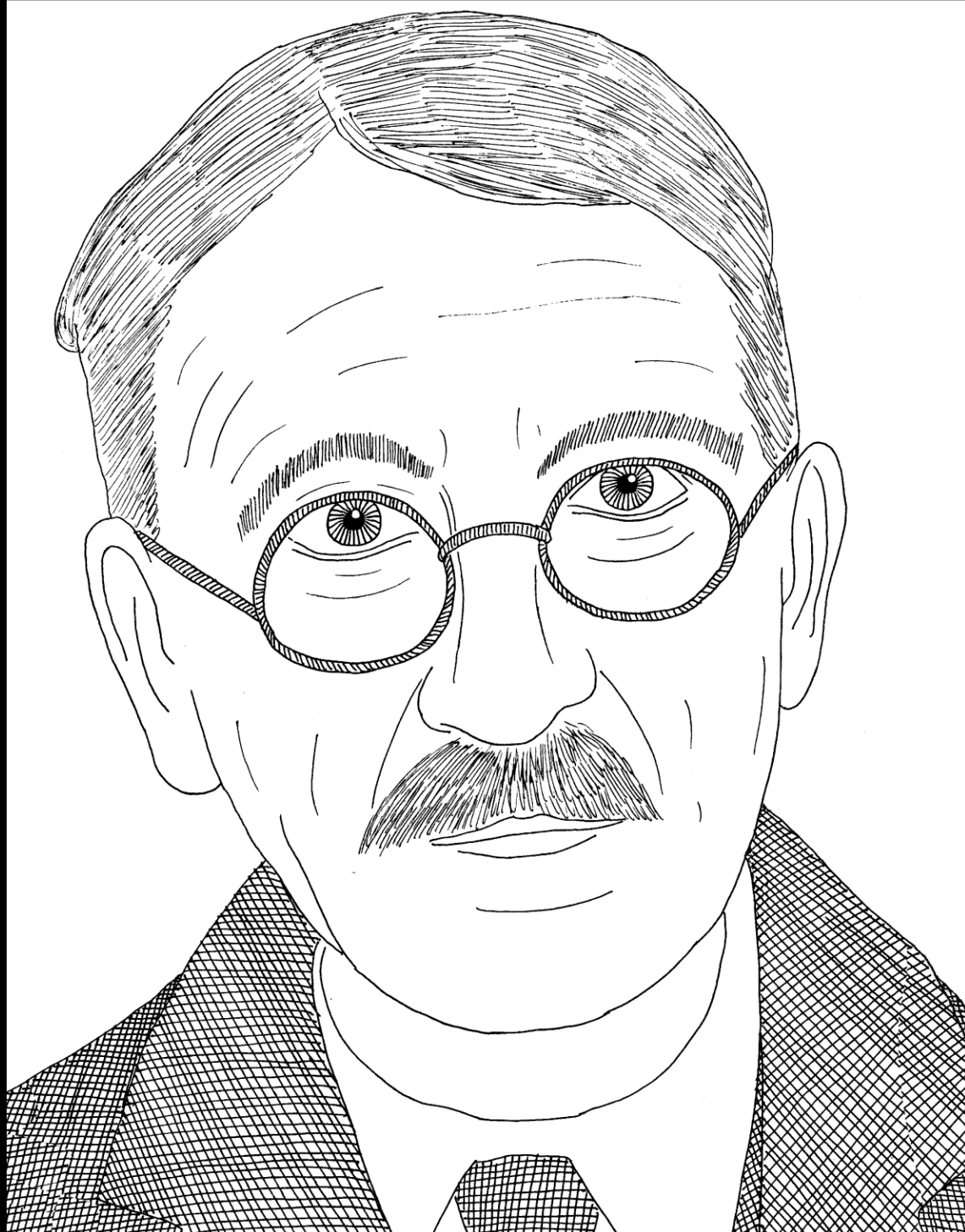
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**"The reactionaries are in possession of force,
in not only the army and police, but in the press and the schools"
-- John Dewey**

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**"I certainly think we have an emergency in media,
and we gotta fix it."
-- Phil Donahue**

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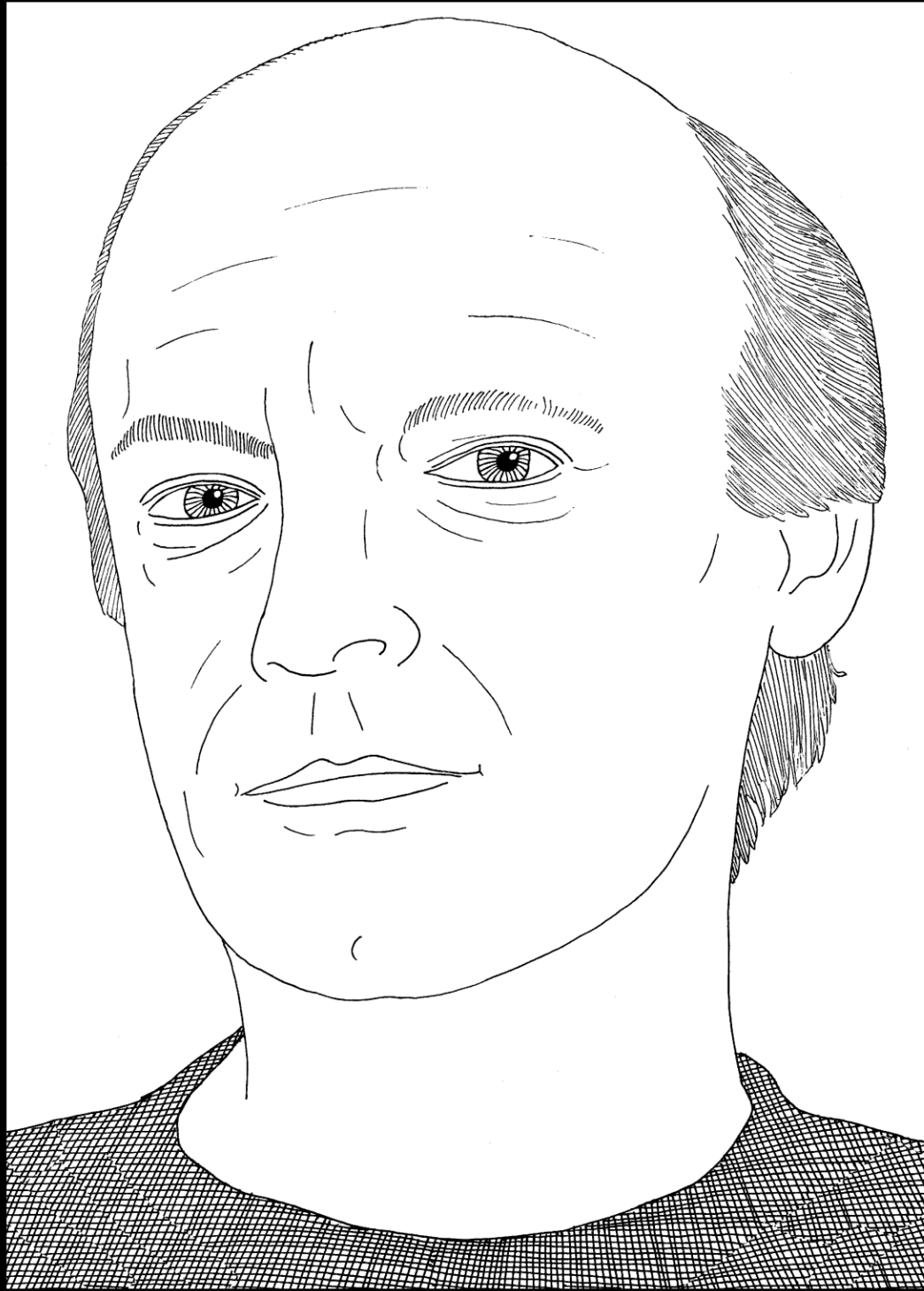
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"...because of forced globalization, there's a clear trend these days towards uniformity. This trend comes largely from the ever-greater concentration of power in the hands of large media groups."
-- Eduardo Galeano

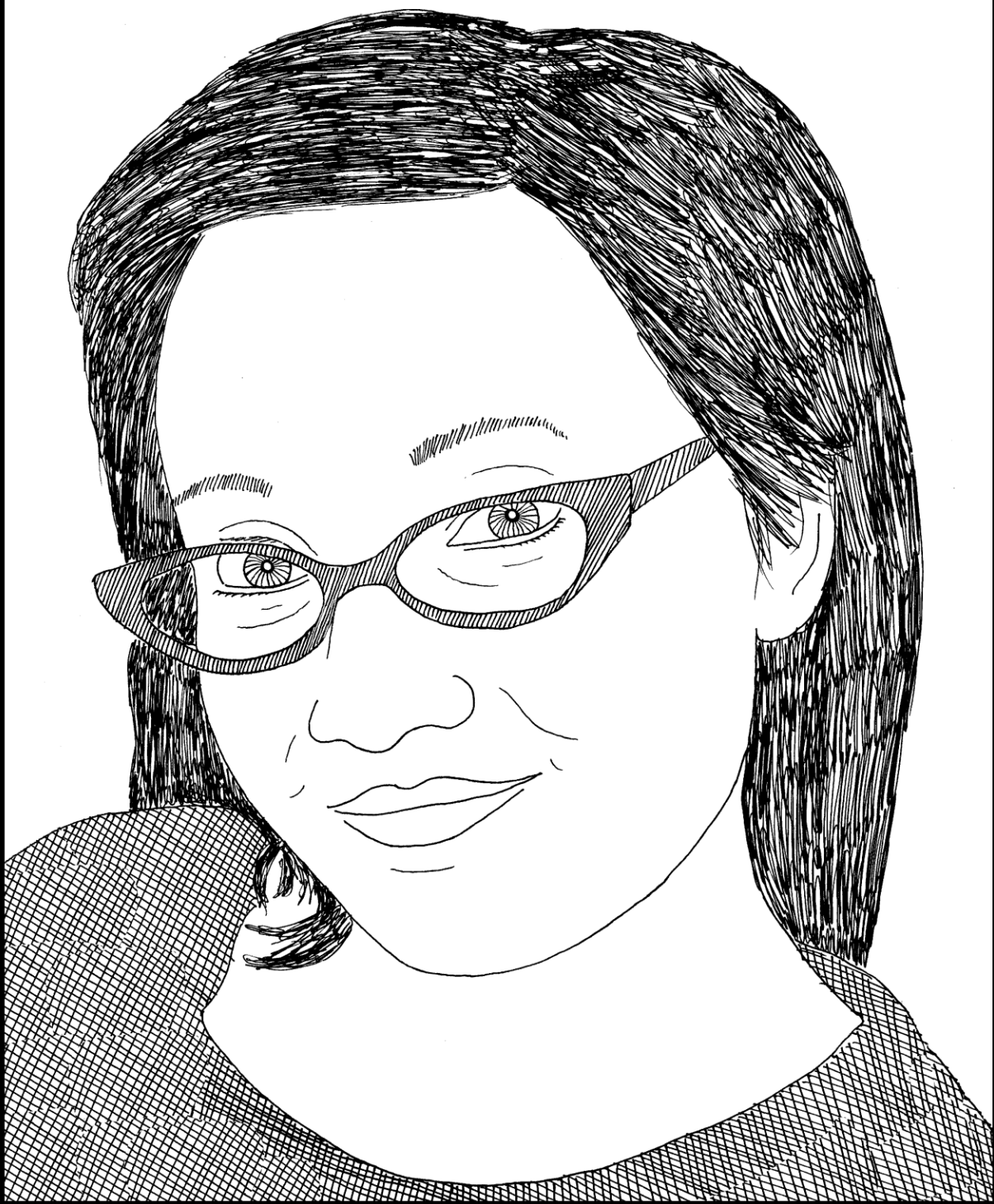
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"The media is supposed to be custodians of the facts
and watchdogs of government. They have,
for the most part, neglected to be either of those things.
-- Janeane Garofalo

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“Today, the media dictatorship is becoming a substitute to military dictatorship. The big economic groups are using the media and decide who can speak, who the good guy is and who the bad guy is...”
-- Danny Glover

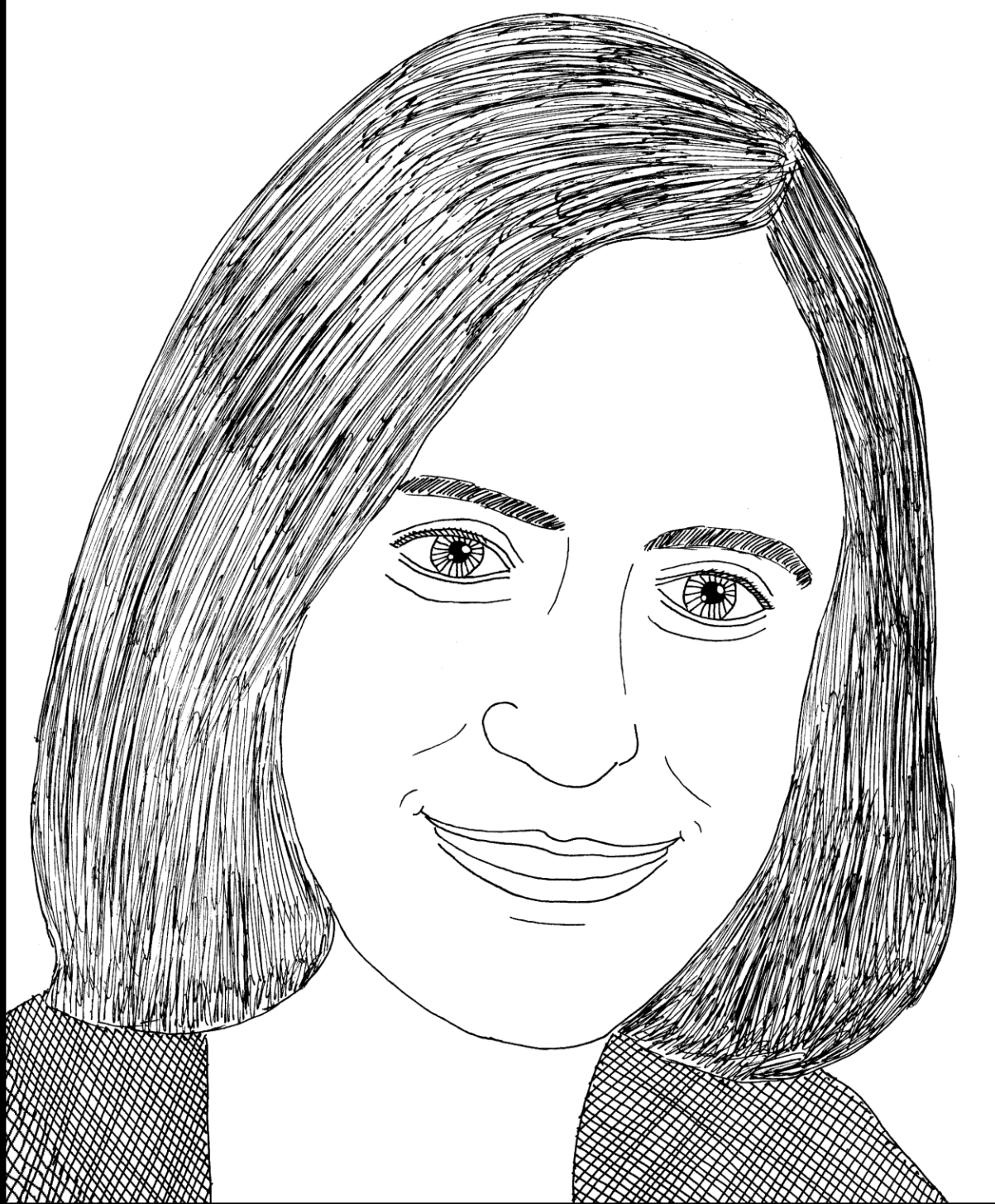
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MAKE A DIFFERENCE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**"The media is absolutely essential to the functioning of a democracy. It's not our job to cozy up to power. We're supposed to be the check and balance on government."
-- Amy Goodman**

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"Much of the big media outlets in North America are owned by arms manufacturers, like Westinghouse, or GE. That's unacceptable. So we're not getting editorial policy, we're not getting a vision of truth. People just don't know what is going on anymore, and that's really dangerous stuff."

-- Denis Halliday

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**"Mainstream media tend to just mouth the conventional wisdom,
to see everything through the filter of right and left."**

-- Arianna Huffington

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"What is being said in media in other parts of the world is very different from what we've been told in this country..."

-- Bianca Jagger

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"Since an informed citizenry is the basis for a healthy democracy, independent, non-corporate media are more crucial today than ever before."

-- Dahr Jamail

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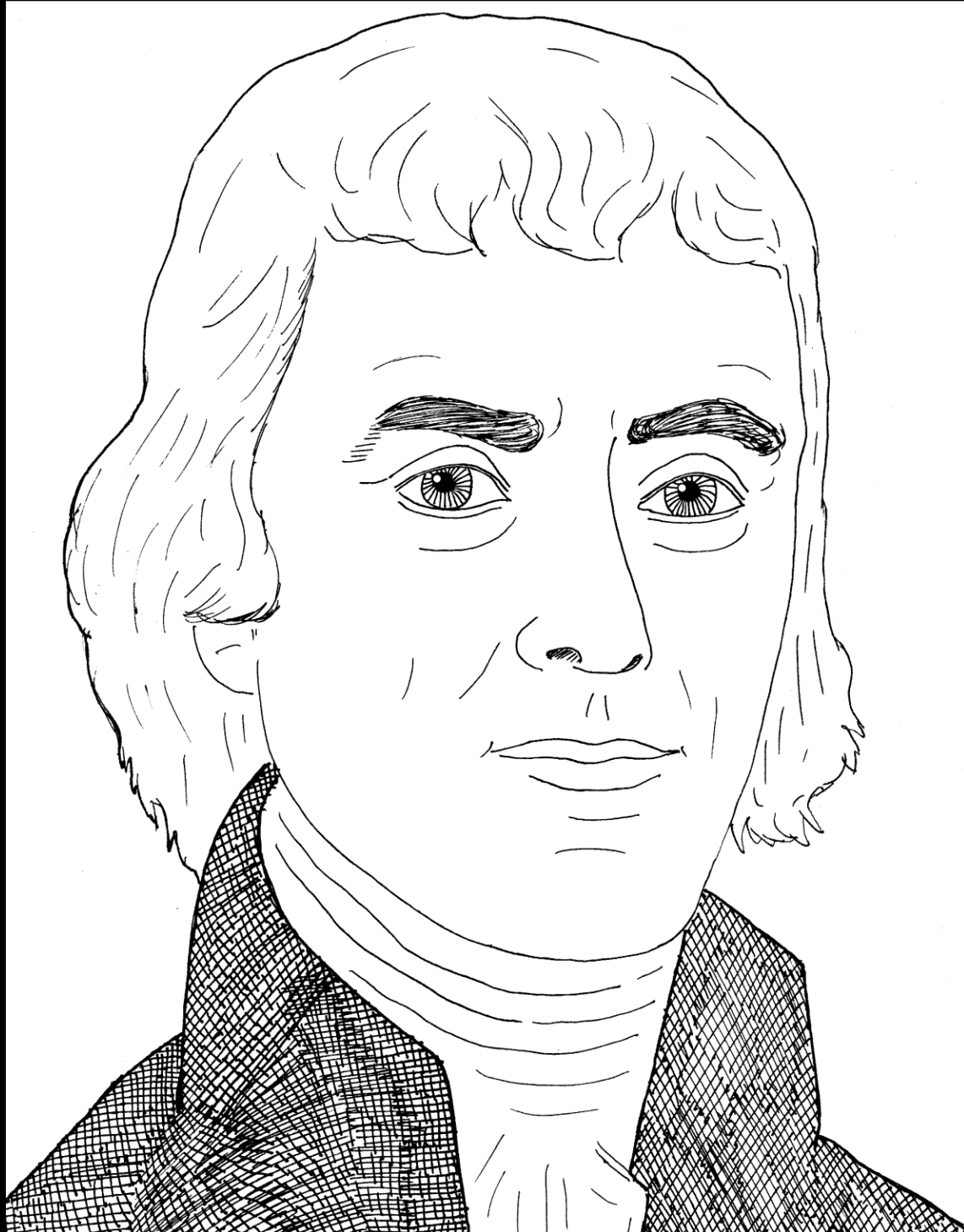
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**"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press,
and that cannot be limited without being lost."**

-- Thomas Jefferson

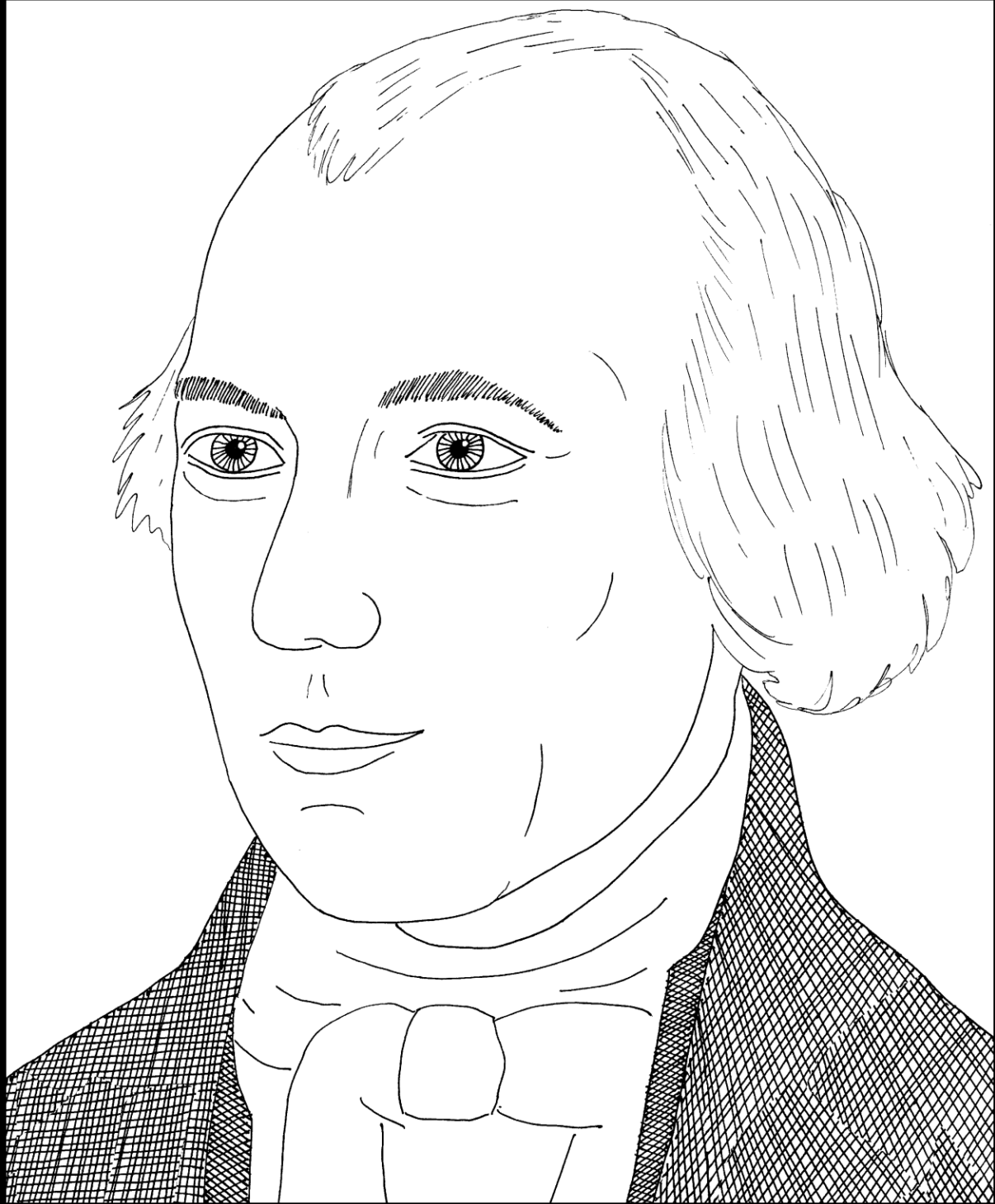
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**"To the press alone, chequered as it is with abuses,
the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been
gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression."**

-- James Madison

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**"Media is the nervous system of our culture."
-- Gary Malkin**

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**"By the end of the millenium five men controlled the world's media.
And the people rejoiced, because their TVs told them to."**

-- Michael Moore

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**"The quality of democracy
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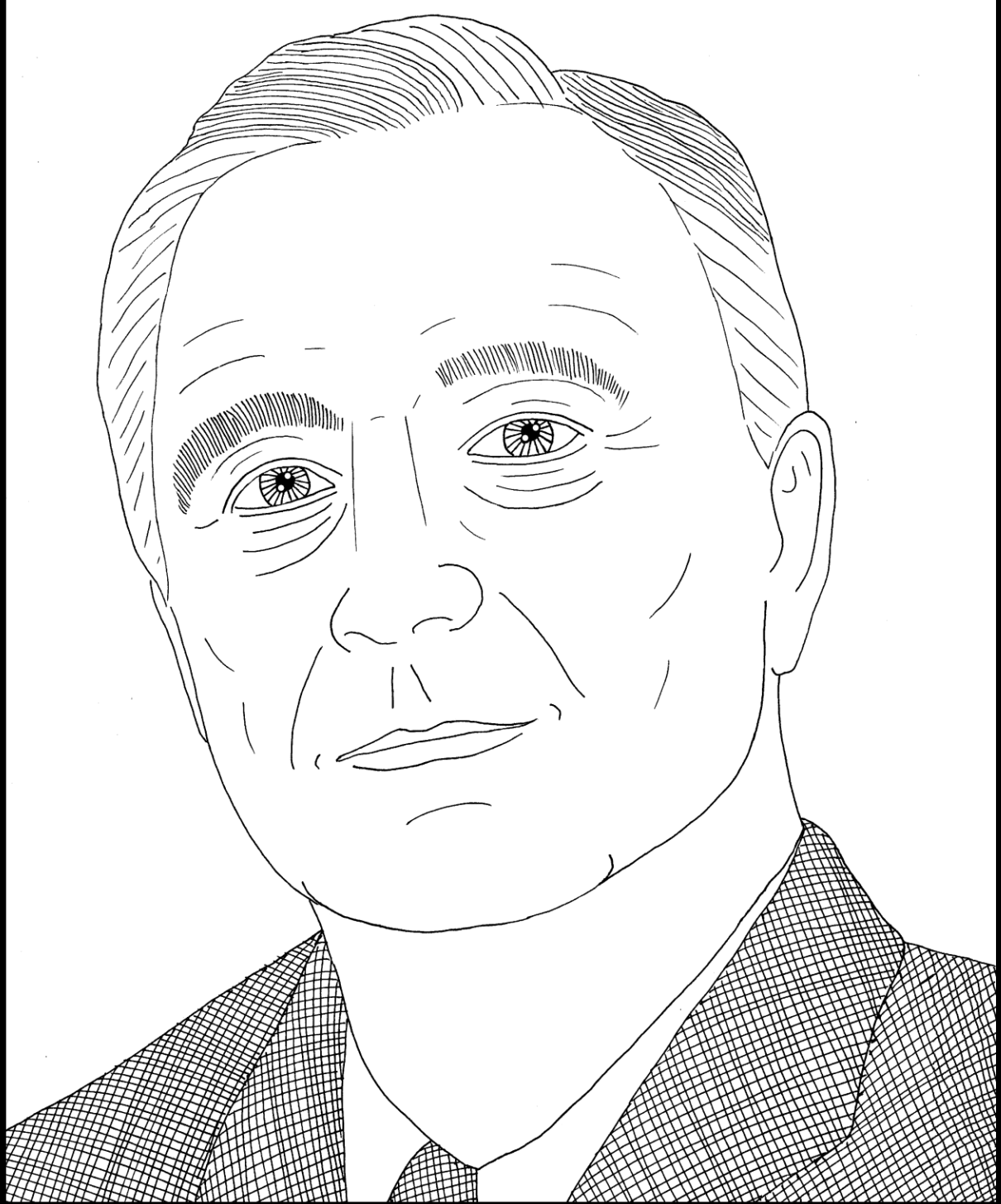
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"If in other lands the press and books and literature of all kinds are censored, we must redouble our efforts here to keep them free"
-- Franklin D. Roosevelt

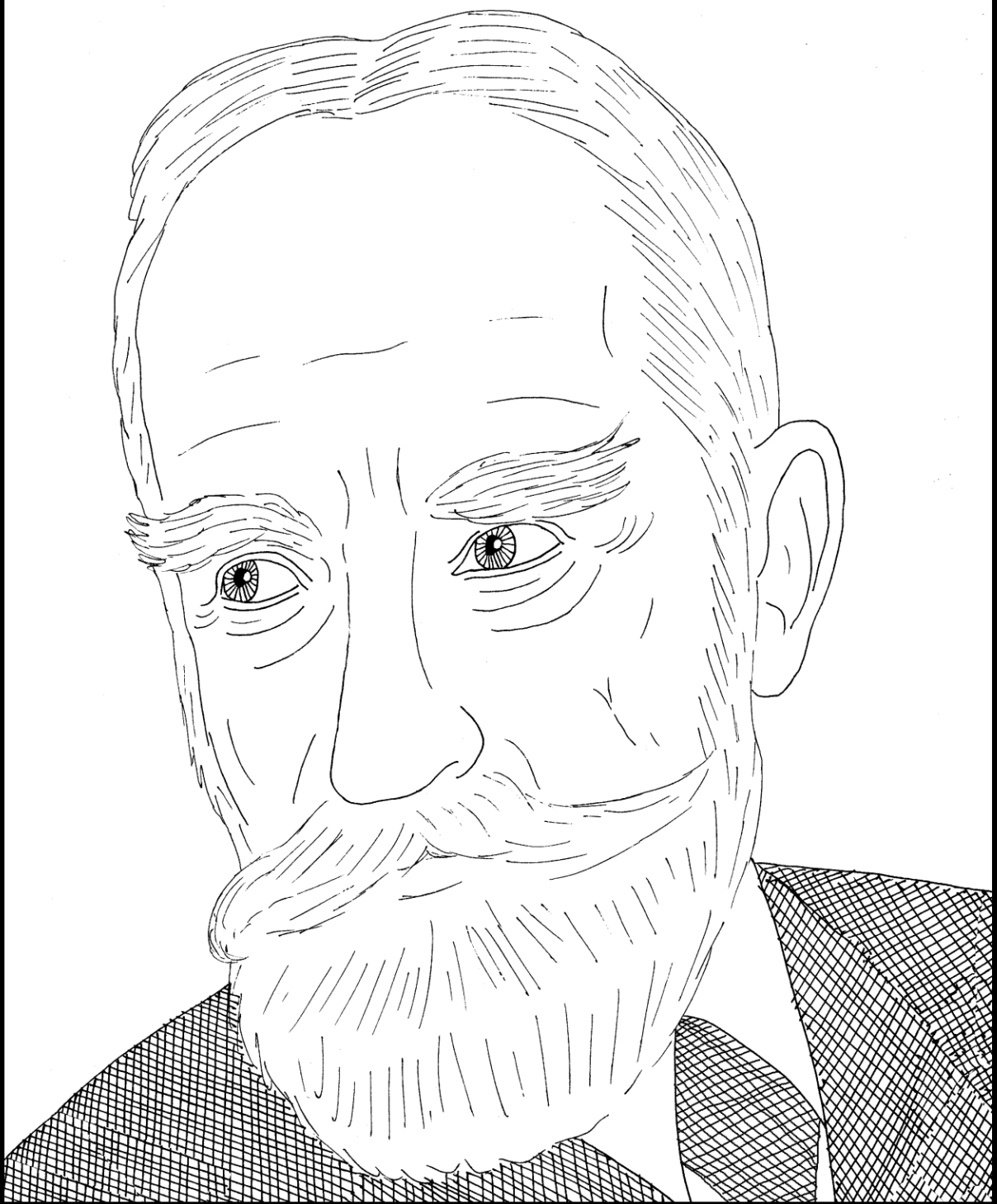
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**"Newspapers are unable, seemingly, to discriminate
between a bicycle accident and the collapse of civilisation."**

-- George Bernard Shaw

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**"The free press is the mother of all our liberties
and of our progress under liberty."
-- Adlai Stevenson**

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"I can't tell you how many times we'll run into a journalist and go, 'Boy that's...I wish we could be saying that. That's exactly the way we see it and that's exactly the way we'd like to be saying that.'

And I always think, 'Well, why don't you?'

-- Jon Stewart

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"The idea of a liberal media bias is simply a myth. If only it were true, we might have a more humane, open-minded, and ultimately effective public debate on the issues facing the country."

-- Barbra Streisand

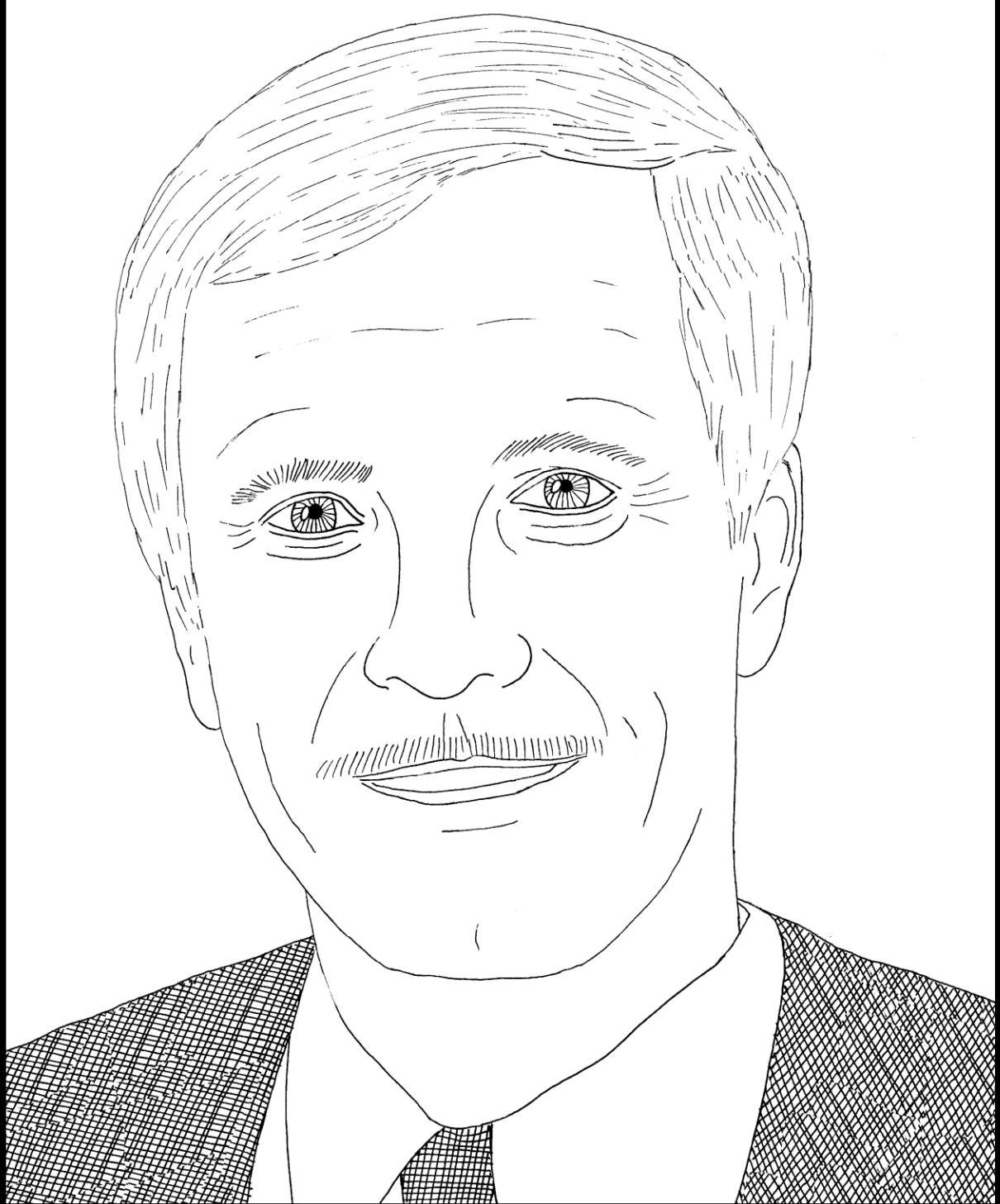
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"I think people are too often misinformed and, in some cases, deceived. We don't have a full marketplace of ideas in this country that in any way reflects the broad, real range of ideas."

-- Katrina vanden Heuvel

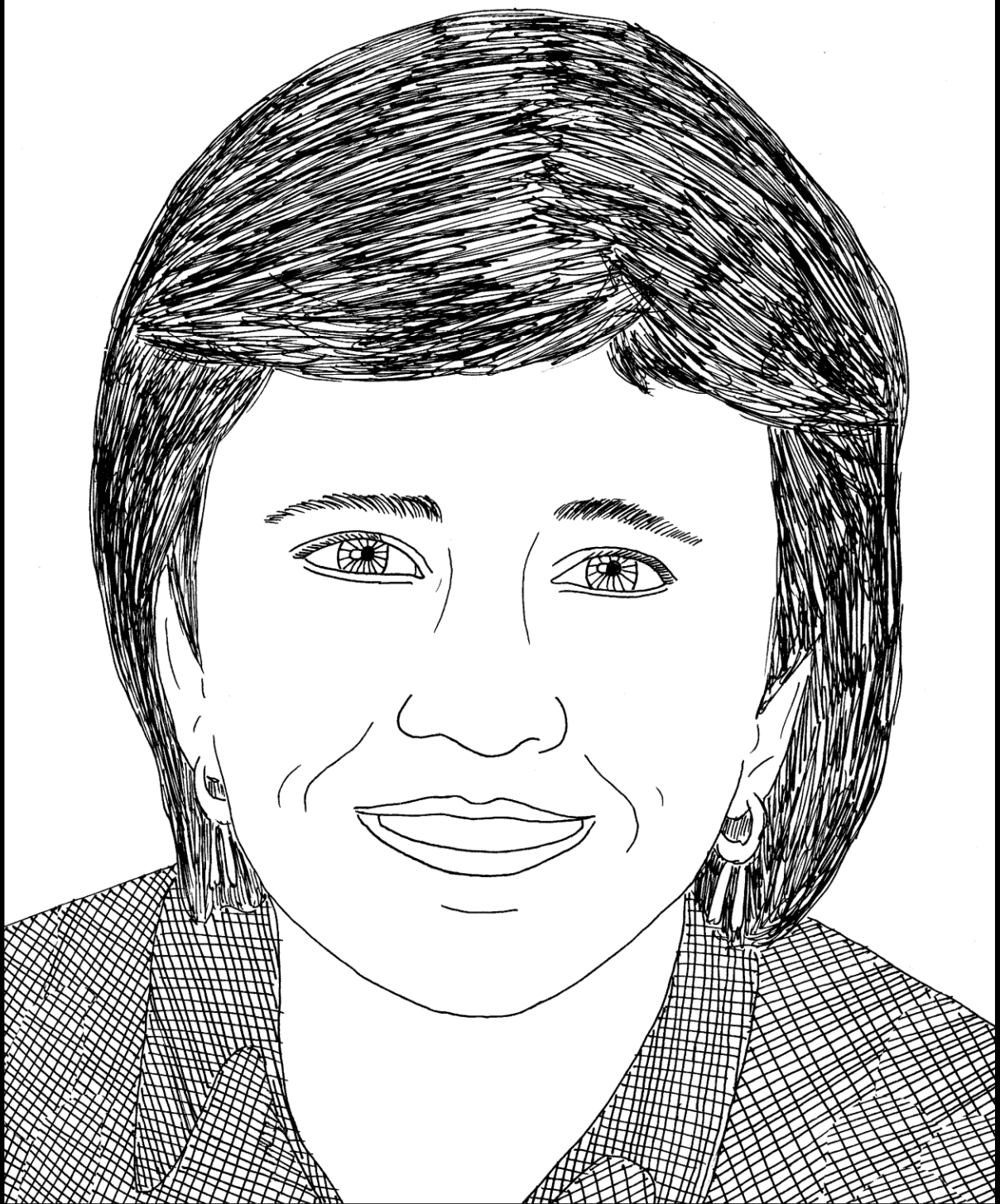
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BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD

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"If we are to have the public conversations essential to taking on serious dilemmas from climate change to criminal justice reform, we need forums for those conversations. The media can facilitate the conversations or shut them down."

-- Sarah van Gelder

Do One Thing for a Better World

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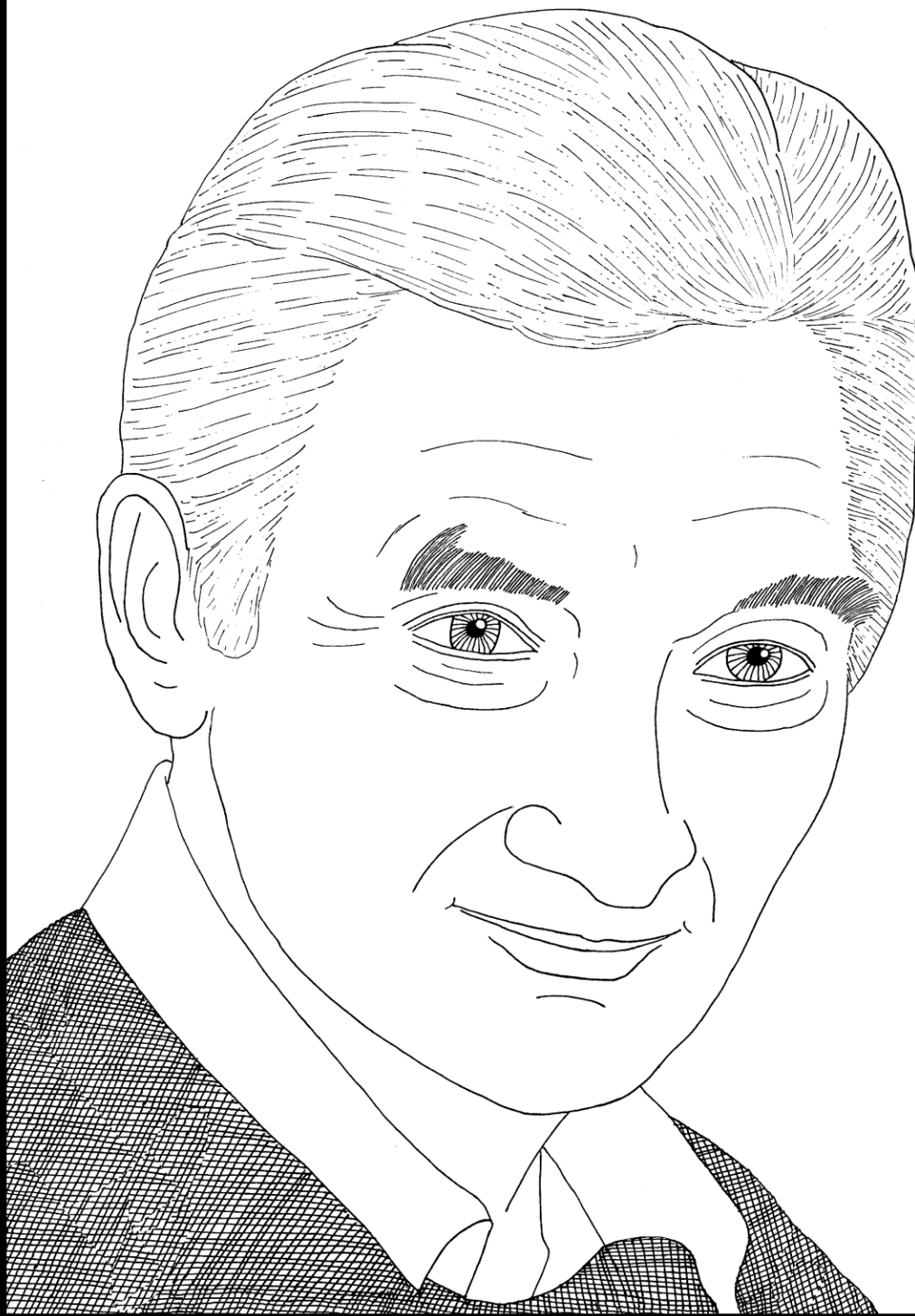
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BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD

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"We need to decide that we will not go to war, whatever reason is conjured up by the politicians or the media, because war in our time is always indiscriminate, a war against innocents, a war against children."
-- Howard Zinn

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<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The United States is essential among the industrial democracies in the rigidity of the system of ideological control, "subordination," we might say - exercised through the mass media." - Neen Chinnery</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The script for this film was written 52 years ago by Edward R. Murrow, who taught us many valuable lessons about responsibility and ethics, always questioning authority, because without it citizens often get embroiled." - George Collier</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Here's how it works: the president makes decisions. He's the dominant. The press secretary announces those decisions, and you people of the press type those decisions down. Make, announce, type, and put 'em through a great check and go home." - Robert G. Kaiser</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"It is absolutely essential in a democracy to have competition in the media, a lot of competition, and we seem to be moving away from that." - Walter Cronkite</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"I have been a member of the press since the 1960s. I have covered the news of every political campaign, a crisis of conscience. I have seen it all and I have seen it all clearly. It is not in the interest of our society." - Nancy Pelosi</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>
<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The resolutions are in opposition of sense. It not only the army and police, but in the press and the schools." - John Deany</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"I certainly think we have an emergency in media, and we gotta fix it." - Phil Donohue</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"... because of formal education, there is a clear trend from mass towards authority. This trend comes largely from the ever-greater concentration of power in the hands of large media groups." - Eduardo Galeano</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The media is supposed to be a reflection of the facts and subtleties of government. They have not for the most part, replaced by a lot of those things." - Janeane Garofalo</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Today, the media distortion is becoming a method to military dictatorship. The big economic groups are using the media and think who can speak, who the good guy is and who the bad guy is." - Danny Glover</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>
<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The media is absolutely essential to the functioning of a democracy. It is not our job to fix the media. We're supposed to be the check and balance on government." - Amy Gutmann</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Mainstream media tend to just mouth the conventional wisdom, to see everything through the filter of right and left." - Arianna Huffington</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"What is being said in media in other parts of the world is very different from what we've been told in this country." - Blaise Aguero</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Since an informed citizenry is the basis for a healthy democracy, the media must ensure that citizens are more informed today than ever before." - Dan Claitor</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost." - Thomas E. Marston</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>
<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"To the press alone, equipped as it is with resources, the world is indebted for all the thoughts which have been gained by reason and humanity over error and repression." - James Madole</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Media is the nervous system of our culture." - Gary Matkin</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"By the end of the millenium five men controlled the world's media. And the people - socialist and capitalist alike - were silent." - Michael Moore</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The quality of democracy and the quality of our progress are empty without." - Bill Moyers</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The spread of communications is worthless to behold. It is also that spread can nullify the distribution of information that we have to be serious." - Clarence E. Warren</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>
<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"There is a cultural factor governing content which renders substantially highly effective in the mass media. And particularly everything that enters our minds through electronic media." - Ann Wirtal</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"If in other lands the press and books and literature of all kinds are censored, we must indicate our efforts here to keep them free." - Franklin D. Roosevelt</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"Newspapers are, essentially, to disseminate between a group of people and the culture of civilization." - George Bernard Shaw</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The free press is the mother of all our liberties and of our progress under liberty." - George Westerman</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"I can't tell you how many times we've been into a journalist and go, 'You that.' I wish we could be saying that. That's exactly the way we need it and that's exactly the way we're going to get it. And always, who don't you?" - Jack Black</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>
<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The idea of a liberal media class is simply a myth. If only it were true, we might have a class that would be able to influence public affairs in the same way as the courts." - Dan Claitor</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"The media is too concentrated, too few people own too much. There's really five companies that control 90 percent of what we read, see, and hear. It's not healthy." - Frank R. Meyer</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"I think people are too often manipulated and, in some cases, deceived. It doesn't have a lot of negative effects on this country that any way reflects the kind of 'range of ideas." - Susan Sontag</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"It was one to have the public conversations essential to build on the political and social culture. We need forums for these conversations. The media can facilitate the conversations of that nature." - Susan van Cester</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>	<p>BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD</p>  <p>MAKE A DIFFERENCE</p> <p>"We need to decide that we will not go to war, whatever reason is advanced to the president and a class of people. We need to have a strong independent class of people, we need to have a strong independent class of people." - Dan Claitor</p> <p>BetterWorldCalendar.com</p>