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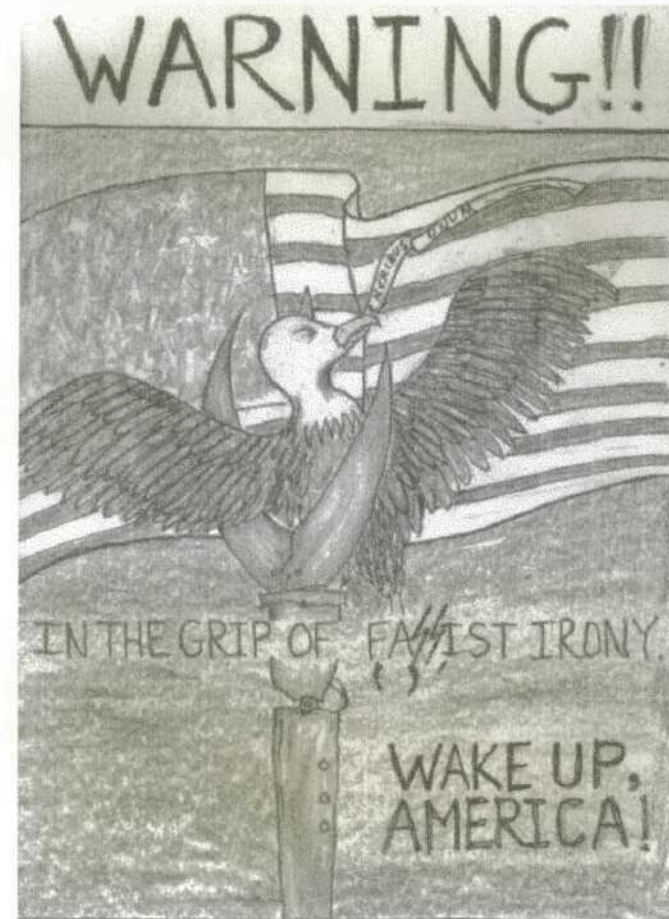
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Freedom-zine America

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Why Get Involved?

Why would an average person want to get involved in politics? Most people consider politics a divisive, greedy, angry process of “who gets what when.” Most people only vote during a presidential election. Sadly, the percentage of people voting in off-year elections for state and local offices is less than half. The figures gets even worse for some elections as a town or village board primary. Fewer people yet take the time to volunteer for a cause or candidate..

It is not wise to leave a few citizens, like party officials, to decide the future of either the country or the community. Politics IS a nasty business, but it is that way because there is a lack of involvement of all classes of society, all types and distinctions of citizens and voters.

Without the constant attention and the necessary supervision of elected officials and public servants by “We the People,” the so-called “elite” of society can increasingly use the privilege of power and position to gain advantages. Without “We the People” involved in the process of helping good candidates and good causes, keeping political power in the hands of “We the People,” the people themselves can easily become the servants and slaves of the minority. The source of legitimate political power would no longer reside “of the people, by people, for the people.” The new authority would be “government by the few over the many, for exclusive advantages.”

This is the sad path upon which the United States of America aimlessly travels. Like a famous philosopher-statesman once said, evil happens when good men do nothing. Likewise,

people acting in unity, service, and fellowship can take the type of peaceful action which will bring positive change. History has many examples of courage overcoming tyranny. Think of how Ghandi’s oceans of followers won independence for India. Remember Yeltsin on the tank addressing the Moscow crowd during the hard-line communist coup in 1991? What about the swarms of people who toppled the Berlin Wall in November 1989? We should always remember Vaclav Havel’s “moral” protest and the Czechoslovakian masses overthrowing the communist government. These are examples of the positive change that well-motivated people can bring when using the moral forces of peace, justice and liberty.

The modern US may not be teetering on the brink of downfall. Unless business as usual changes, on everything between school boards and the White House, to a process where reason and moderation, cooperation by all and service to others, then that point when Americans lose their freedom and liberty to the dictatorship of ignorance and apathy will eventually come.

Getting involved doesn’t have to be a full-time process. Find a cause, a reason to act. It is a good and just cause, it is worth helping. By becoming involved, people create a better future for their neighborhoods and their nation by caring about what happens enough to do something positive and helpful.

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