


BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD

MAKE A DIFFERENCE




MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"The only way to bring a great change, no matter how big it is, is to start a movement. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its future."
— *Bill Gates*

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"If liberty and equality, as so thought by some are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government of the state."
— *Aristotle*

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"Bringing the education and voices of the global majority will require a mass movement based on recognition of compassion, justice, and equality, as well as collaboration and diverse skill sets. It is only through inclusion and democracy, not fear, which offers opportunity to build a global movement for social justice."
— *Rebecca Bergman*

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"Democracy is necessary to peace and to understanding the forces of terrorism."
— *Benazir Bhutto*

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"We have a global economy that is not structured around democratic and including people in the decision-making. It's essential to correct."
— *Kevin DeLuca*

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What's Your BetterWorld Issue:

DEMOCRACY

...make a difference...

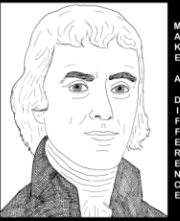
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Every act of compassion
makes a difference!
Start a BetterWorld Club.
Join the BetterWorld Movement.

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"All men, we hear, are born with certain rights, that though he and of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will, to be right, need be reasonable, that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect, and to which violence would be oppression."
— *Thomas Jefferson*

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"Some believe that the only way to remove the authoritarian regime and replace it with a democratic one through violent means, I would like to see the president of political change through political reform, and through violence."
— *Deng Xiaoping*

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

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"The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes evident that the state itself is a threat."
— *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

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"Most of the poverty and misery in the world is due to bad government, lack of democracy, weak states, internal strife, and so on."
— *George Soros*

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"Democracy is constructed like an edifice, freedom by freedom, right by right."
— *Aristotle*

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"As free citizens in a political democracy, we have a responsibility to be informed and involved in the affairs of the human community, not just at the local or the global level."
— *Paul Wolfowitz*

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"The greatest step in the history of democracy, it is when we voluntarily let ourselves be governed by the majority. We are not to be ruled by a few men, but by the people. We are not to be ruled by a few men, but by the people. We are not to be ruled by a few men, but by the people."
— *Winston Churchill*

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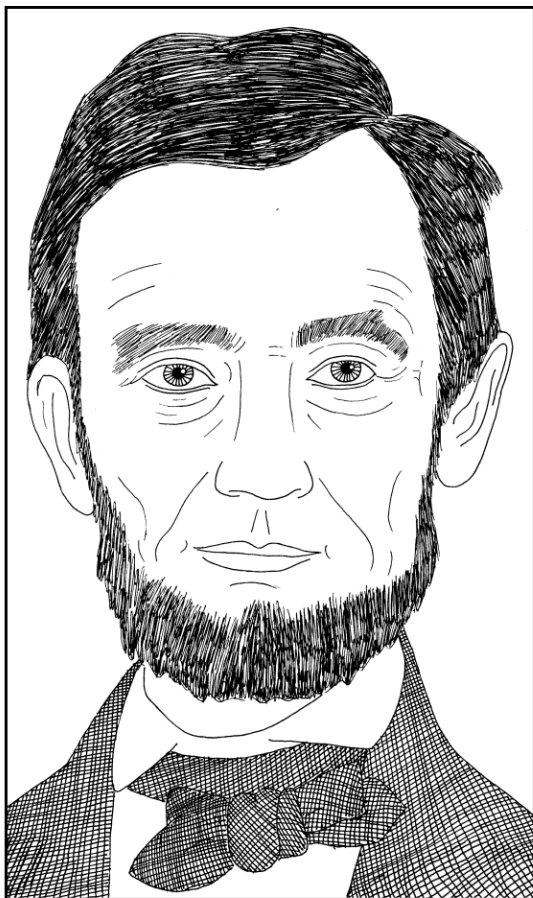
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"The whole purpose of democracy is that we may hold counsel with one another, as an end to depend upon the understanding of one man."
— *Winston Churchill*

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WHAT'S YOUR BETTERWORLD ISSUE?

DEMOCRACY



"Democracy is the government
of the people, by the people,
for the people."
-- Abraham Lincoln

"Democracy" is one of the most important principles for a better world. In its truest sense, a democracy is a community in which all members have an equal say in the running of that community. Unfortunately in reality, democratic societies have fallen short of this ideal. Nevertheless, because of its very nature, once a democracy is established, its citizens can work together to make their society more and more democratic, if they choose to do so.

The Global Youth Democracy Campaign is an annual opportunity for youth to observe October 18 as the **World Youth Day for Democracy**. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the positive contributions youth are making to promote democracy around the world and to mobilize youth to participate in democracy-building discussions, debates, rallies and educational campaigns about the importance of democratic principles like human rights and civic participation.

Since the early 1990s, a coalition of groups has been promoting **Media Democracy Day** on October 18 to challenge the monopolization of media outlets by a few corporations. Democracy Day has become an important opportunity to speak out against the commercialization of our media and to call for media reforms that promote diversity, and a better accountability to local communities.

Currently there is an international campaign to urge the United Nations to declare October 18 as **Global Democracy Day** -- the official international day for democracy.

Be A Hero For A Better World!

1. Find out more about democracy, voting and citizenship
2. Hold an event to promote and celebrate democracy
3. Support organizations working to promote democracy

Links for Democracy

- Global Democracy Day (GlobalDemocracyDay.net)
- World Youth Movement for Democracy (ymd.youthlink.org)
- Media Democracy Day (mediademocracyday.org)
- Why Democracy (whydemocracy.net)
- World Movement for Democracy (wmd.org)

For more information: www.betterworld.net/democracy.htm

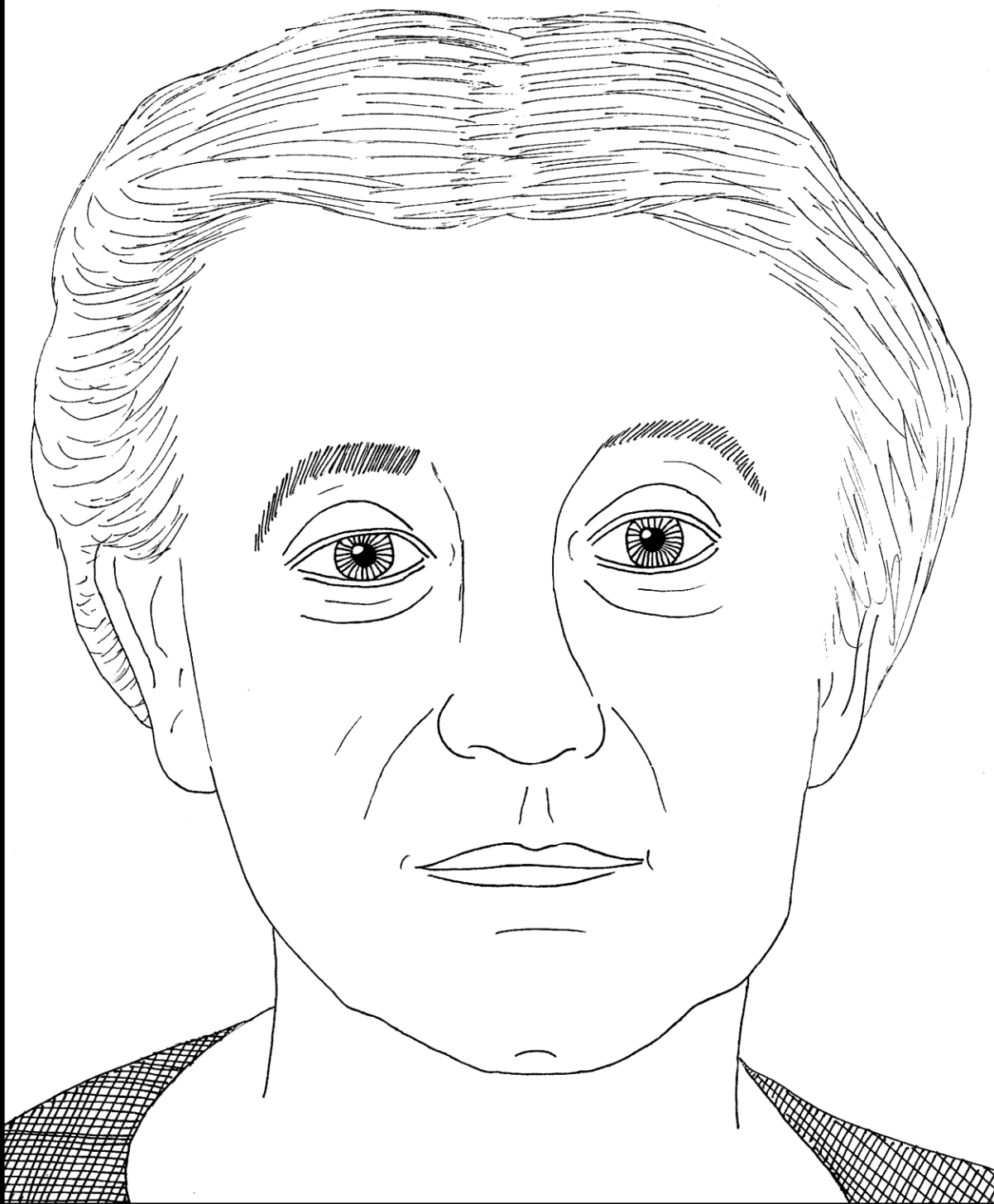
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"We have learned to say that the good must be extended to all of society before it can be held secure by any one person or any one class. But we have not yet learned to add to that statement, that unless all and all classes contribute to a good, we cannot even be sure that it is worth having."

-- Jane Addams

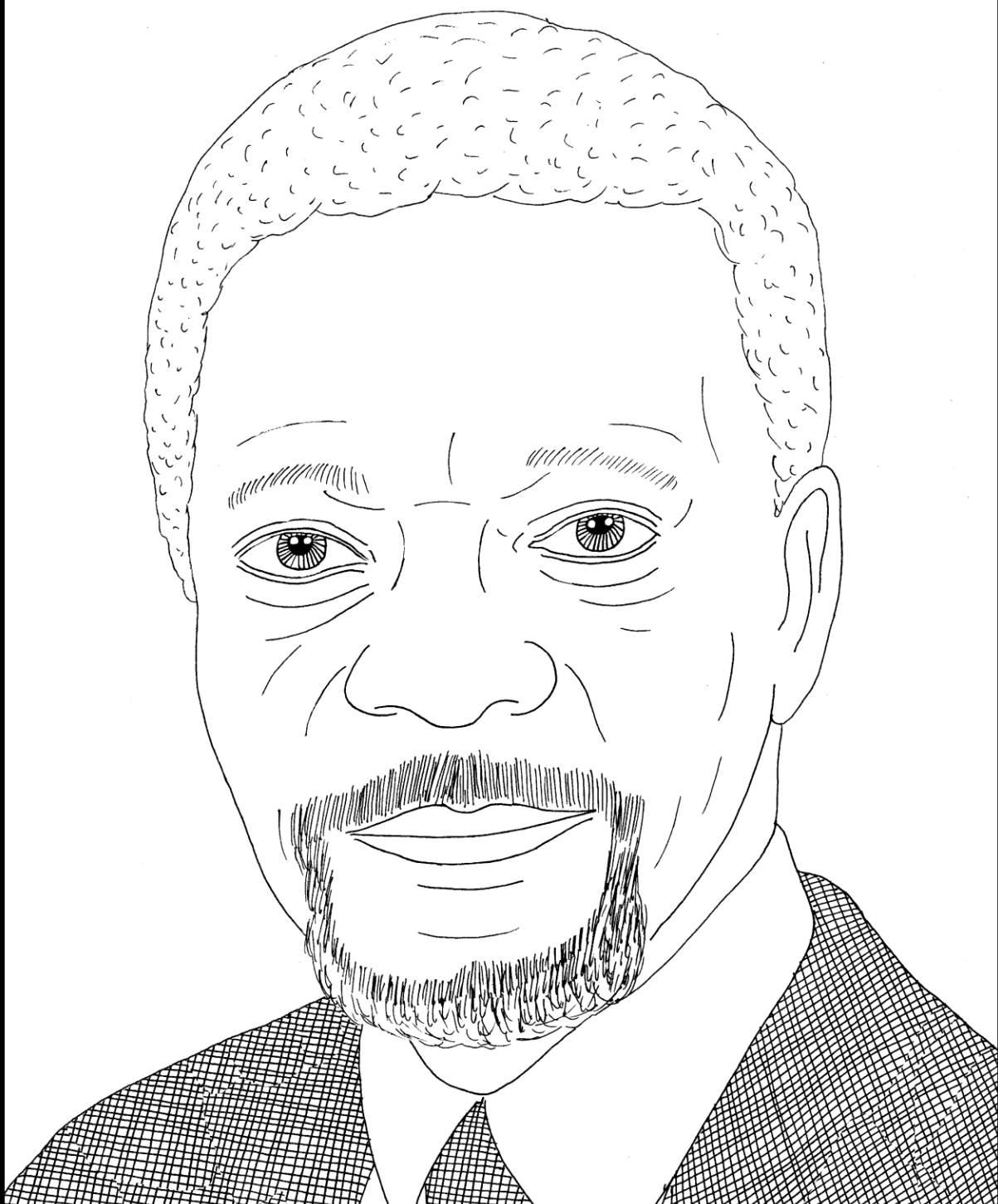
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"No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline."

-- Kofi Annan

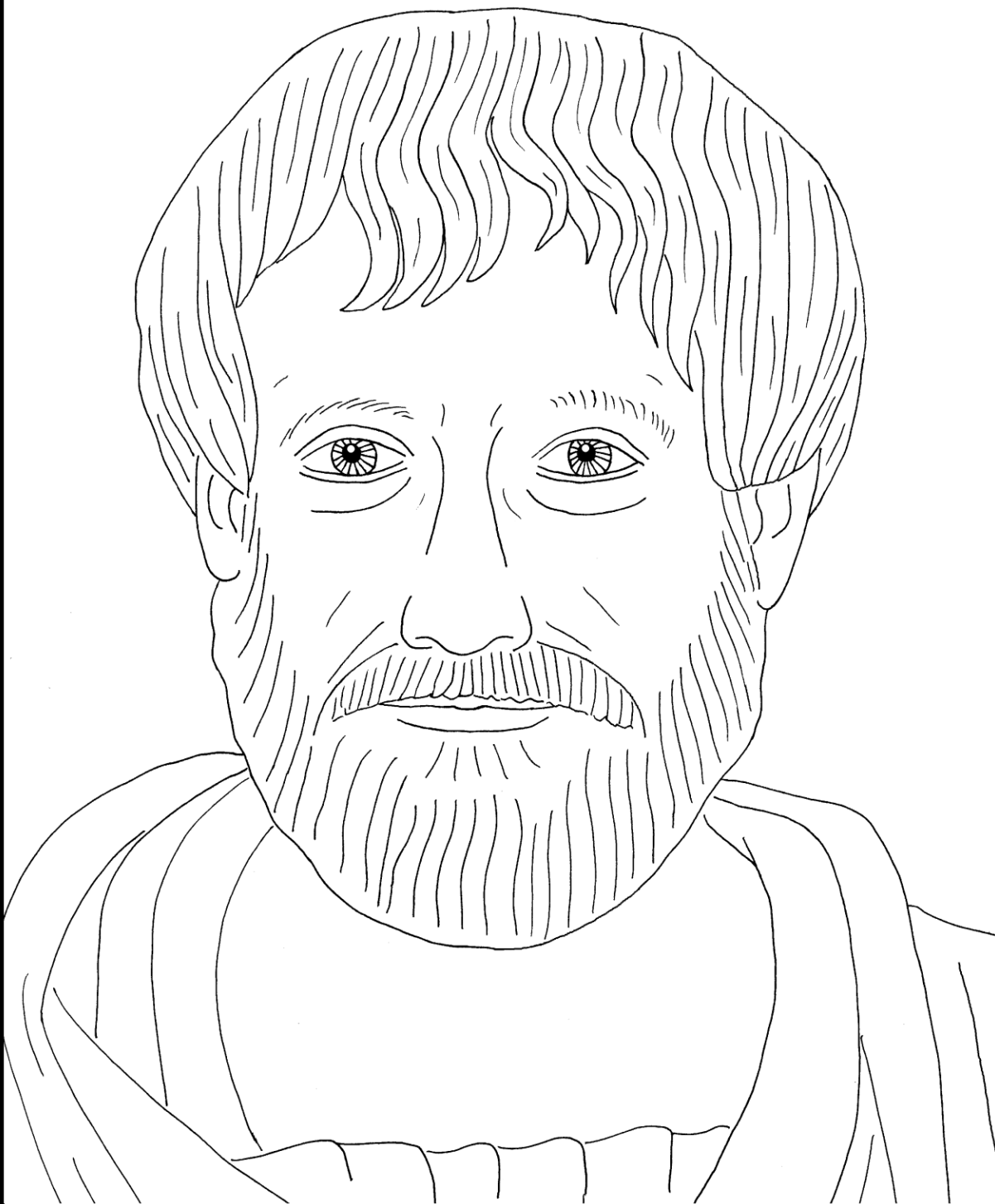
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"If liberty and equality, as is thought by some are chiefly to be found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost."

-- Aristotle

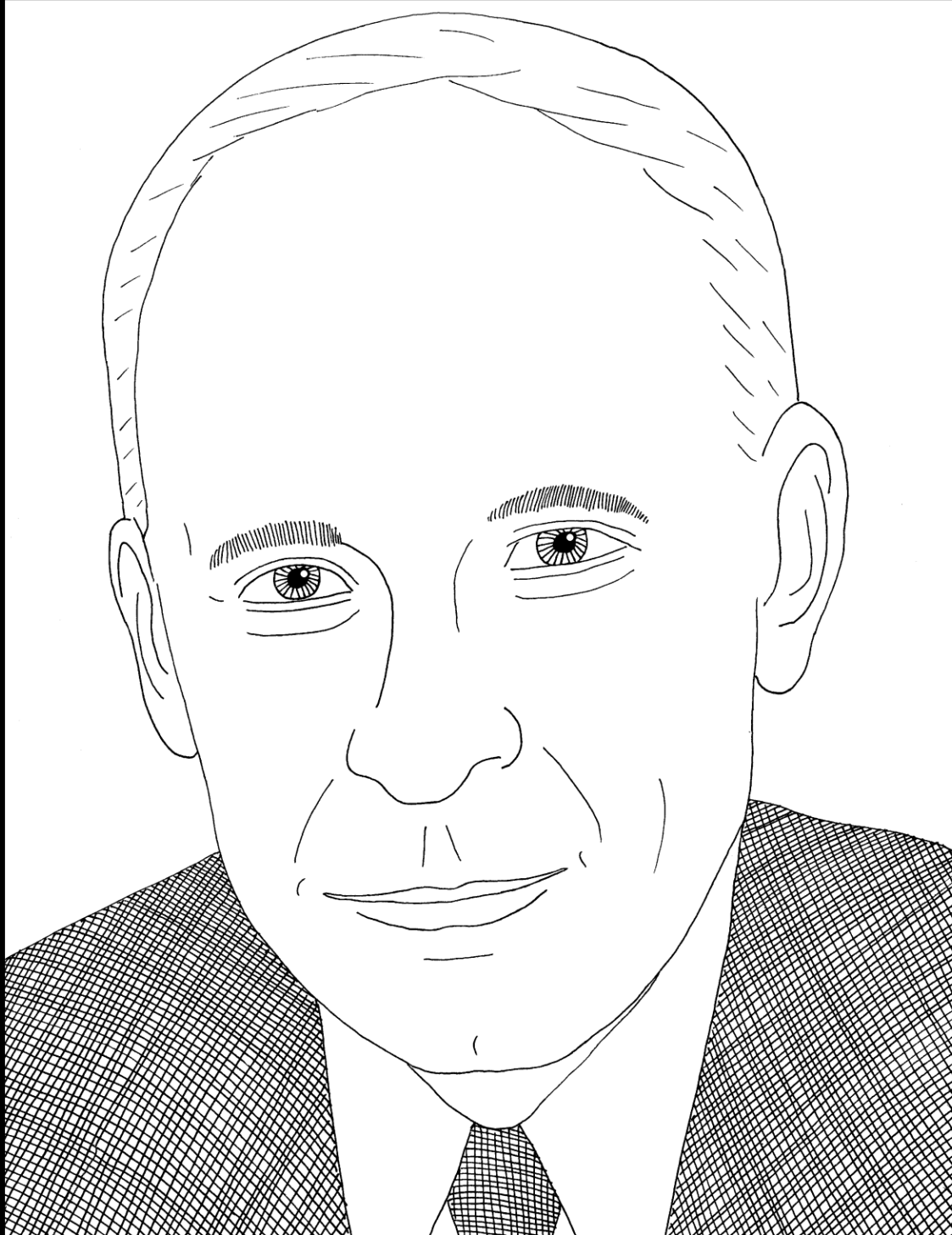
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**"So long as we have enough people in this country
willing to fight for their rights, we'll be called a democracy."**

-- Roger Nash Baldwin

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"Now the first step has to be taken, the step towards democracy.
This step is full of risks, and requires trust on all sides.
We don't know where it will lead. But if we just stand still,
we will have no chance of escaping the violence."

-- Daniel Barenboim

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"Anti-democracy...is a virus that exists, and pro-democracy is the antibody to that virus, and I think we have to become vigilant, and we have to stay on top of the issues of democracy and freedom."
-- Harry Belafonte

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"Changing the structure and rules of the global economy will require a mass movement based on messages of compassion, justice, and equality, as well as collaborative and democratic processes ... If we stay positive, inclusive, and democratic, we have a truly historic opportunity to build a global movement for social justice." -- Medea Benjamin

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**"Democracy is necessary to peace
and to undermining the forces of terrorism."
-- Benazir Bhutto**

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"Democracy is an objective. Democratization is a process.
Democratization serves the cause of peace because it offers
the possibility of justice and of progressive change without force."
-- Boutros Boutros-Ghali

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"To win the cause we all believe in, the spread of true democracy all over the world, we need to win by example, not just with speeches but by example; not just with military might but by gaining the respect of the world."

-- Barbara Boxer

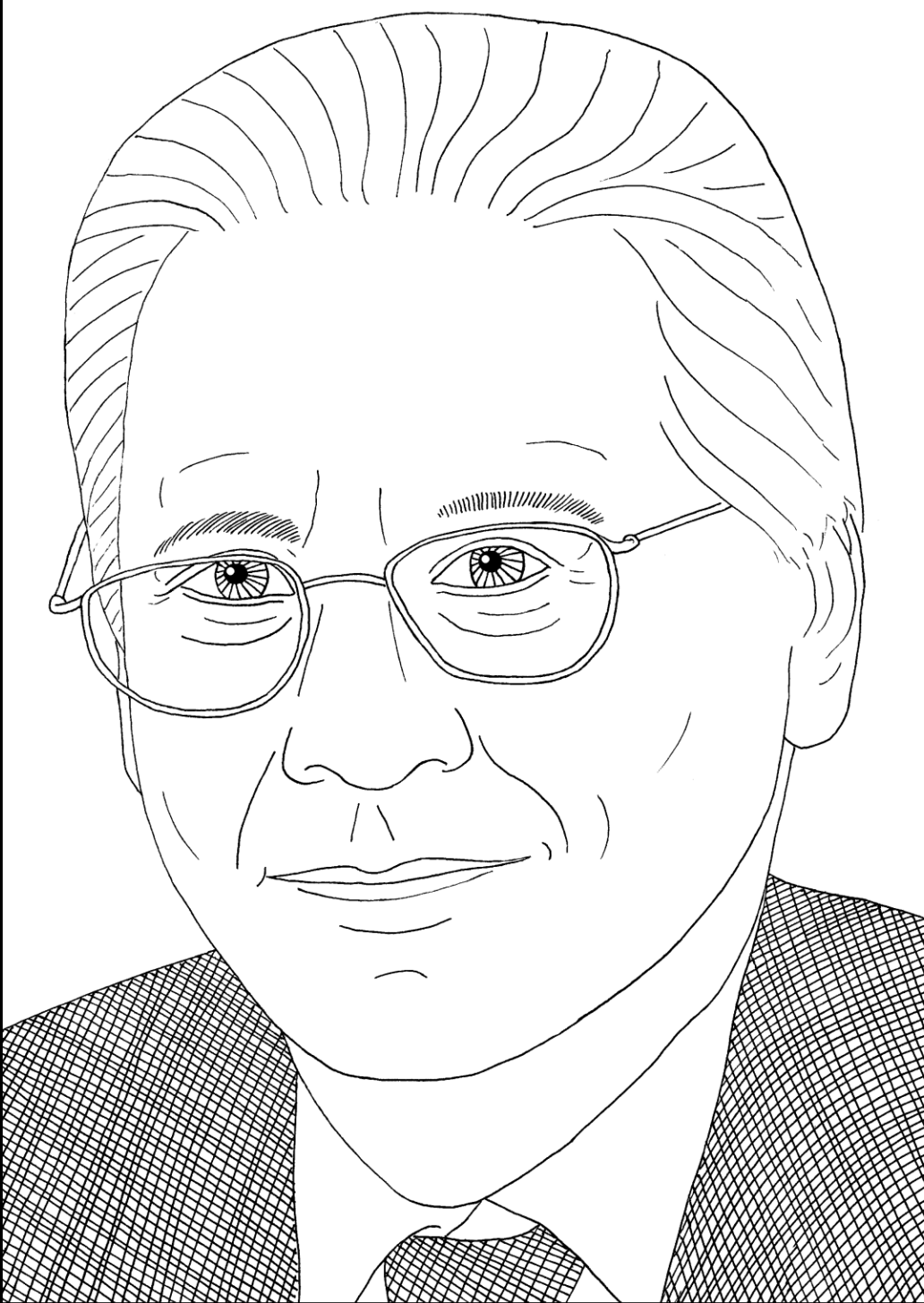
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"Democracy is not just a question of having a vote. It consists of strengthening each citizen's possibility and capacity to participate in the deliberations involved in life in society."

-- Fernando Cardoso

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"Everybody counts in applying democracy. And there will never be a true democracy until every responsible and law-abiding adult in it, without regard to race, sex, color or creed has his or her own inalienable and unpurchasable voice in government."

-- Carrie Chapman Catt

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**"The road to democracy may be winding and is like a river taking many curves, but eventually the river will reach the ocean."
-- Chen Shui-bian**

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**"...under capitalism, we can't have democracy by definition.
Capitalism is a system in which the central institutions of
society are in principle under autocratic control."**

-- Noam Chomsky

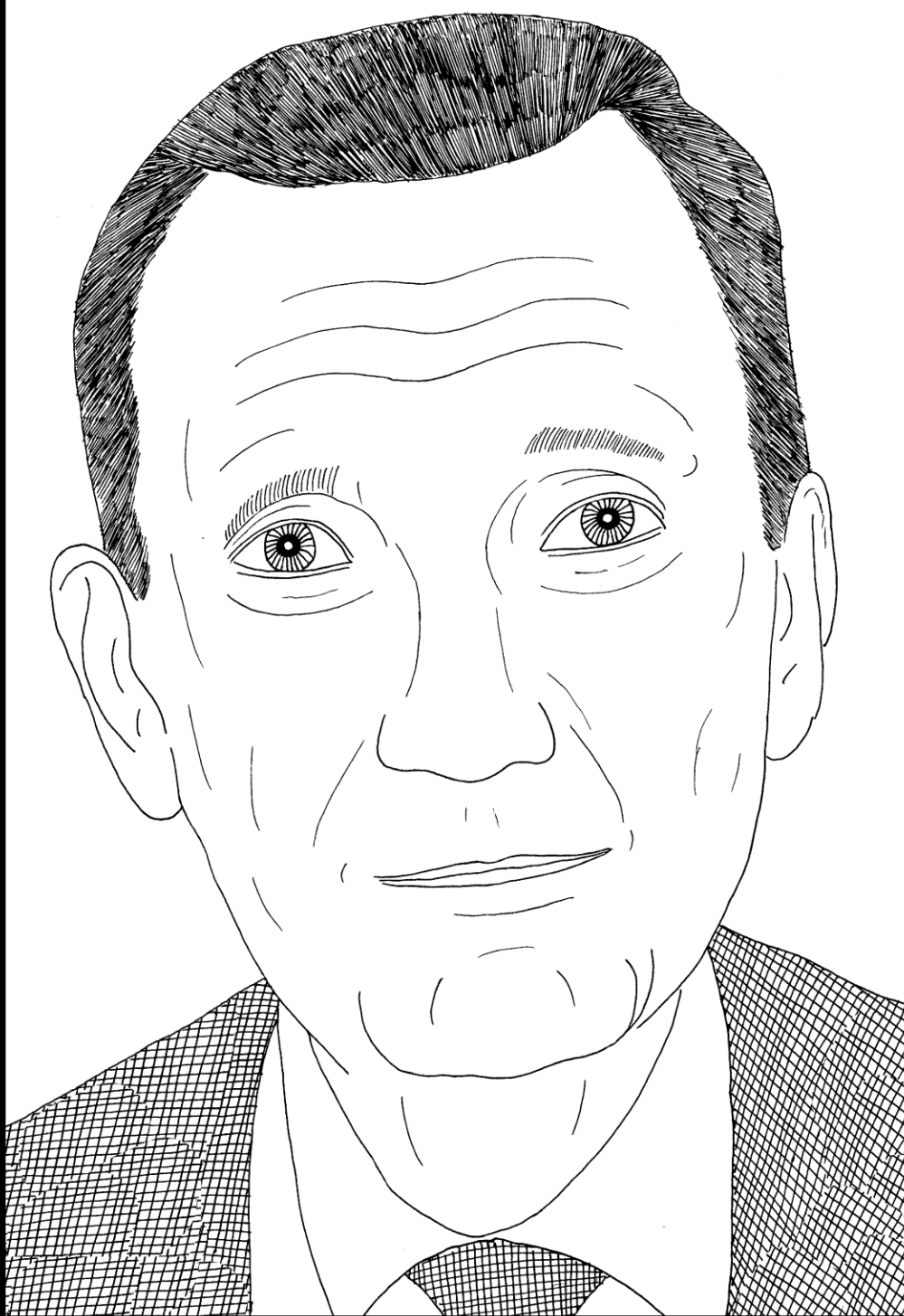
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"Democracy is just a word. You have to give it meaning.
The US is not a democracy. Most Americans do not vote.
We haven't had a real choice for a long, long time now. Wealth rules.
Corporations rule. The US is a plutocracy -- government by wealthy people."
-- Ramsey Clark

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“In a democracy, the individual enjoys not only the ultimate power but carries the ultimate responsibility.”

-- Norman Cousins

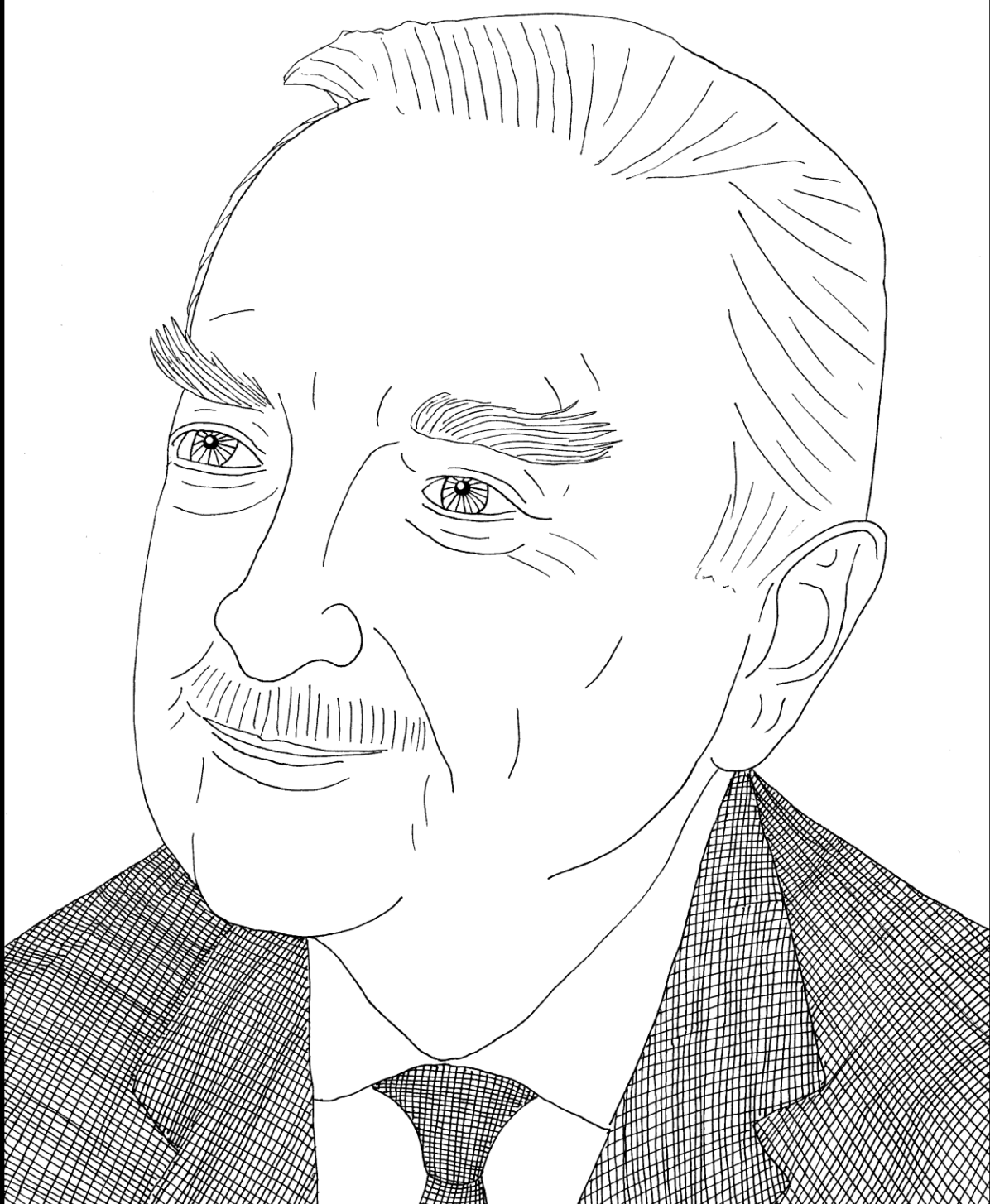
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**"I think it is absolutely essential in a democracy
to have competition in the media, a lot of competition,
and we seem to be moving away from that."**

-- Walter Cronkite

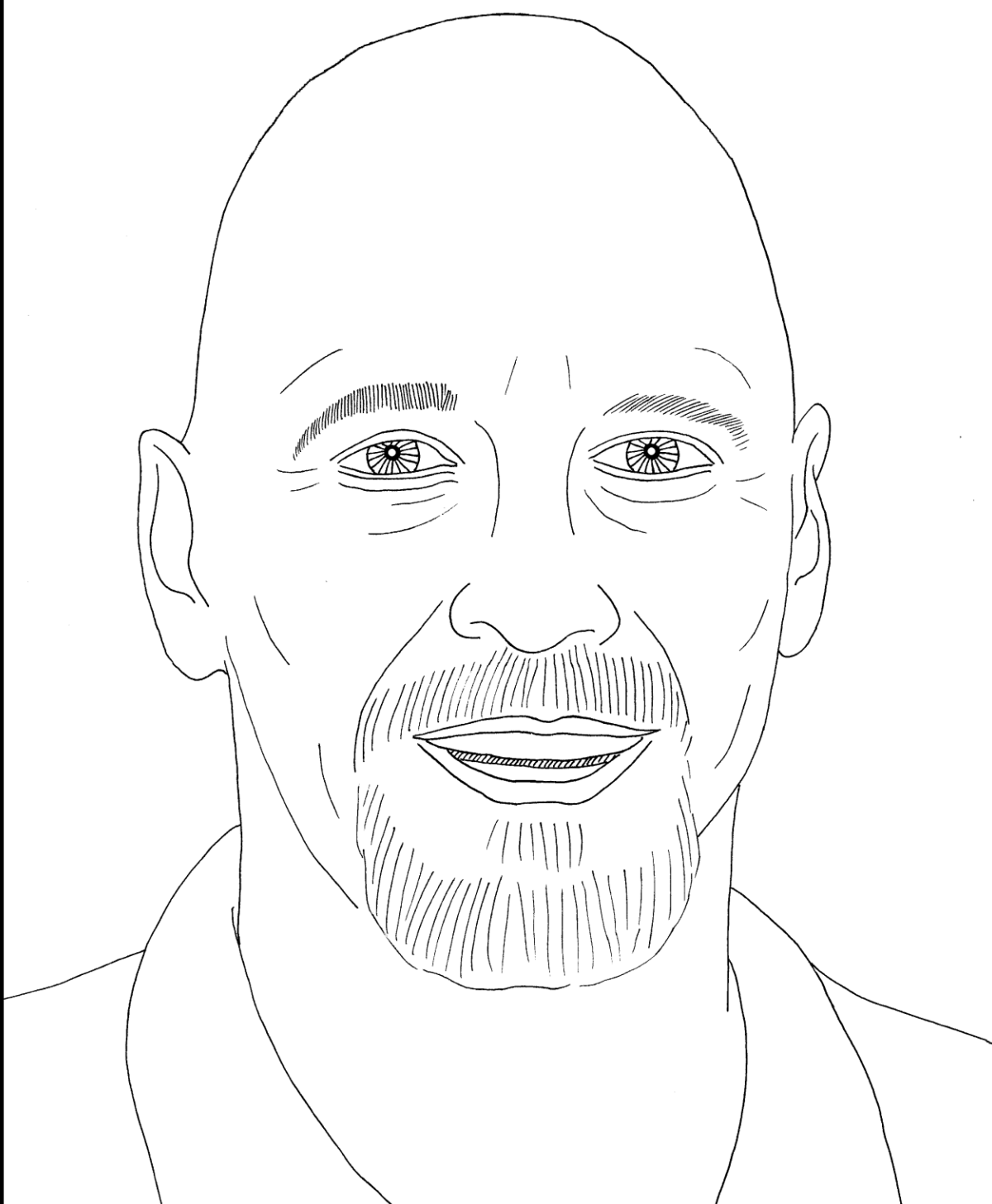
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"We have a global economy that is not structured around democratizing and including people in the decision-making. It's operated in secret."

-- Kevin Danaher

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"Democracy doesn't recognize east or west; democracy is simply people's will. Therefore, I do not acknowledge that there are various models of democracy; there is just democracy itself."

- Shirin Ebadi

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"To win the war on terror, we must preserve our moral authority to lead the world. If we are to succeed in spreading democracy abroad, we must defend the fundamental principles of democracy at home."

-- John Edwards

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"...we believe in the vocation of communion and participation of our people, who day to day awaken to their political conscience and express their desire for change and profound democratization of society. A change based on justice, built with love, and which will bring us the most anxiously desired fruits of peace."

Adolfo Perez Esquivel

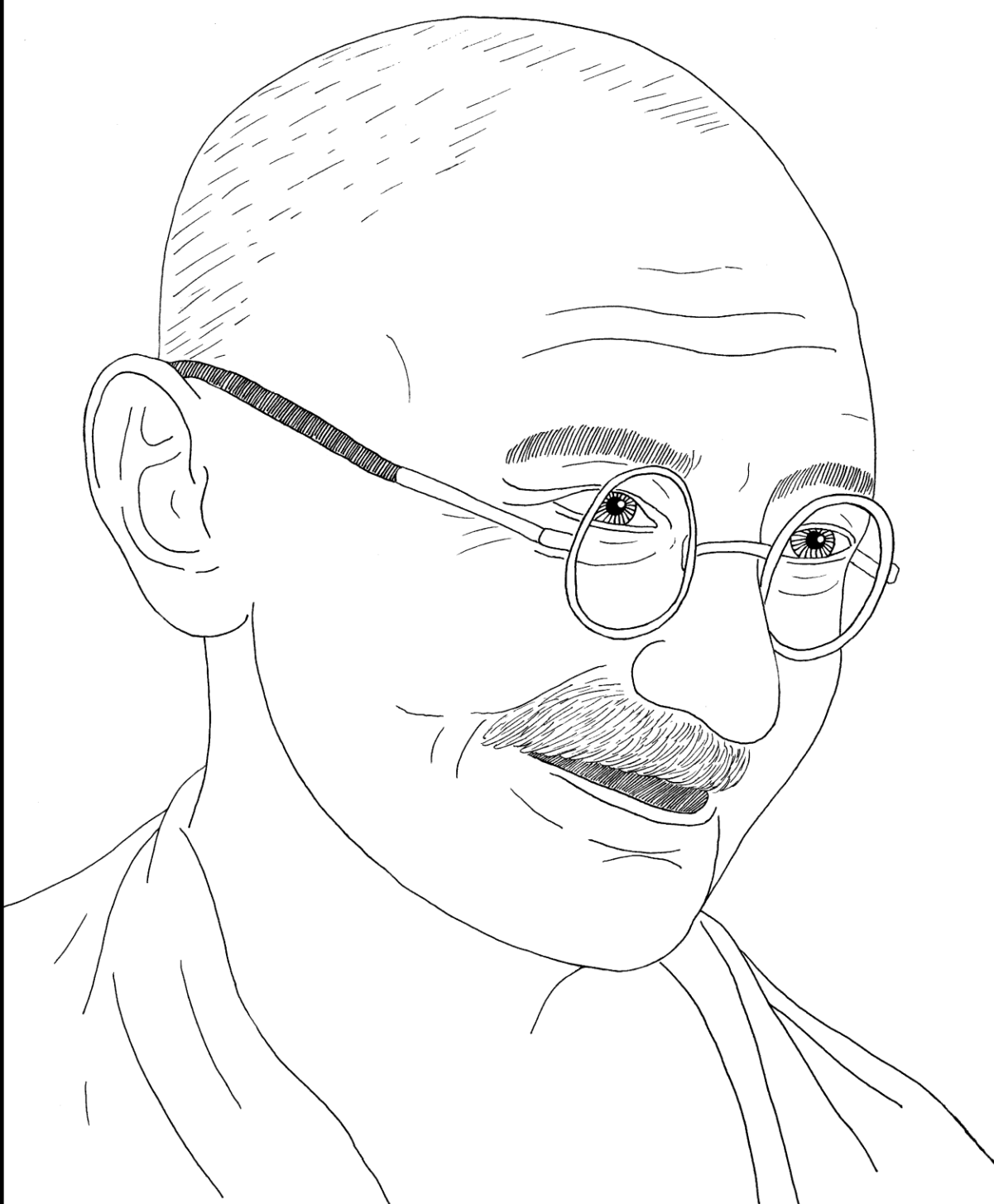
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**"I understand democracy as something that
gives the weak the same chance as the strong."
-- Mohandas Gandhi**

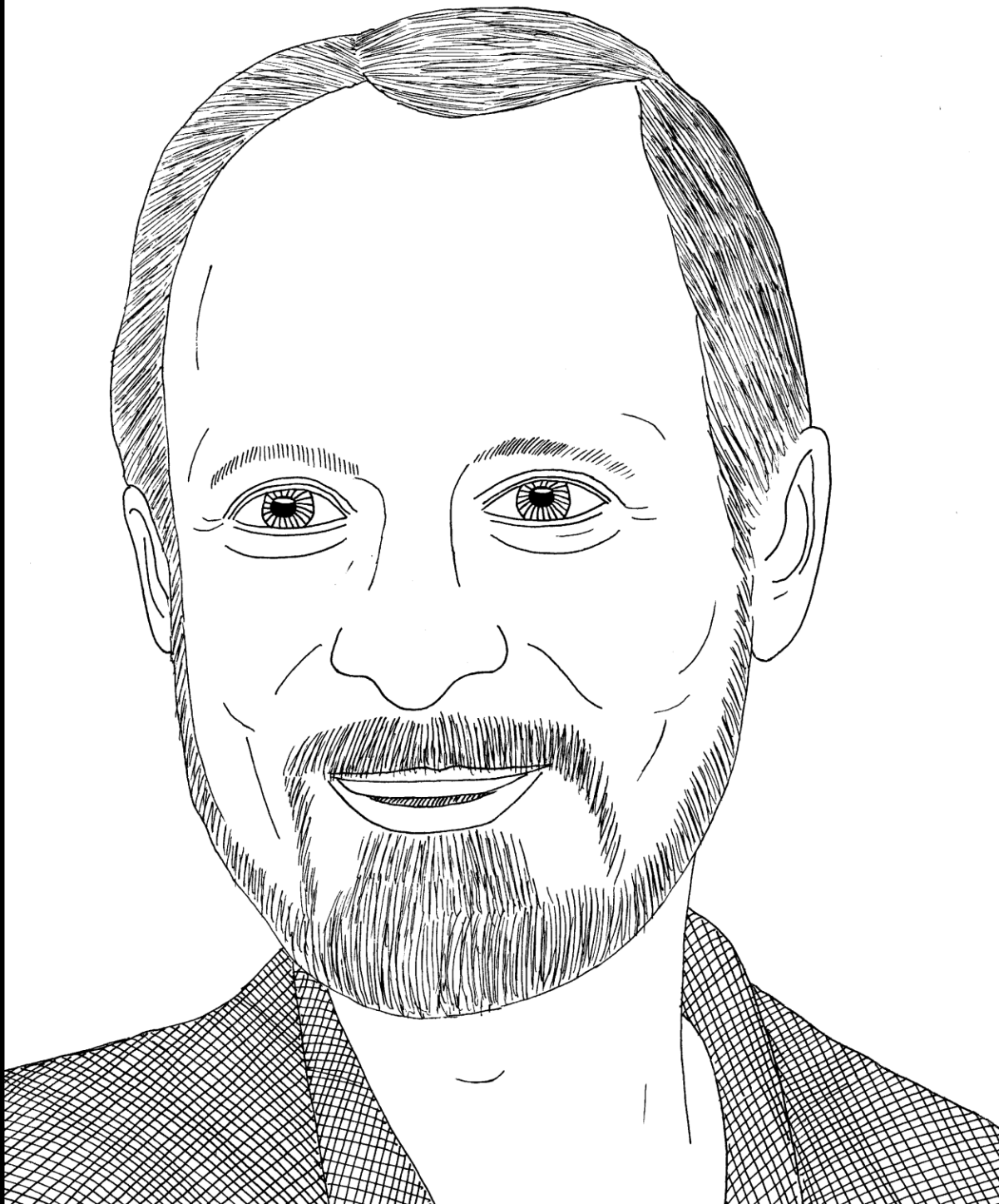
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**"You cannot bring democracy to a country by attacking it."
-- Akbar Ganji**

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"Ultimately, I believe -- because energy is so central to our lives -- that a common global project to rewire the world with clean energy could be the first step on a path to global peace and global democracy -- even in today's deeply troubled world."

-- Ross Gelbspan

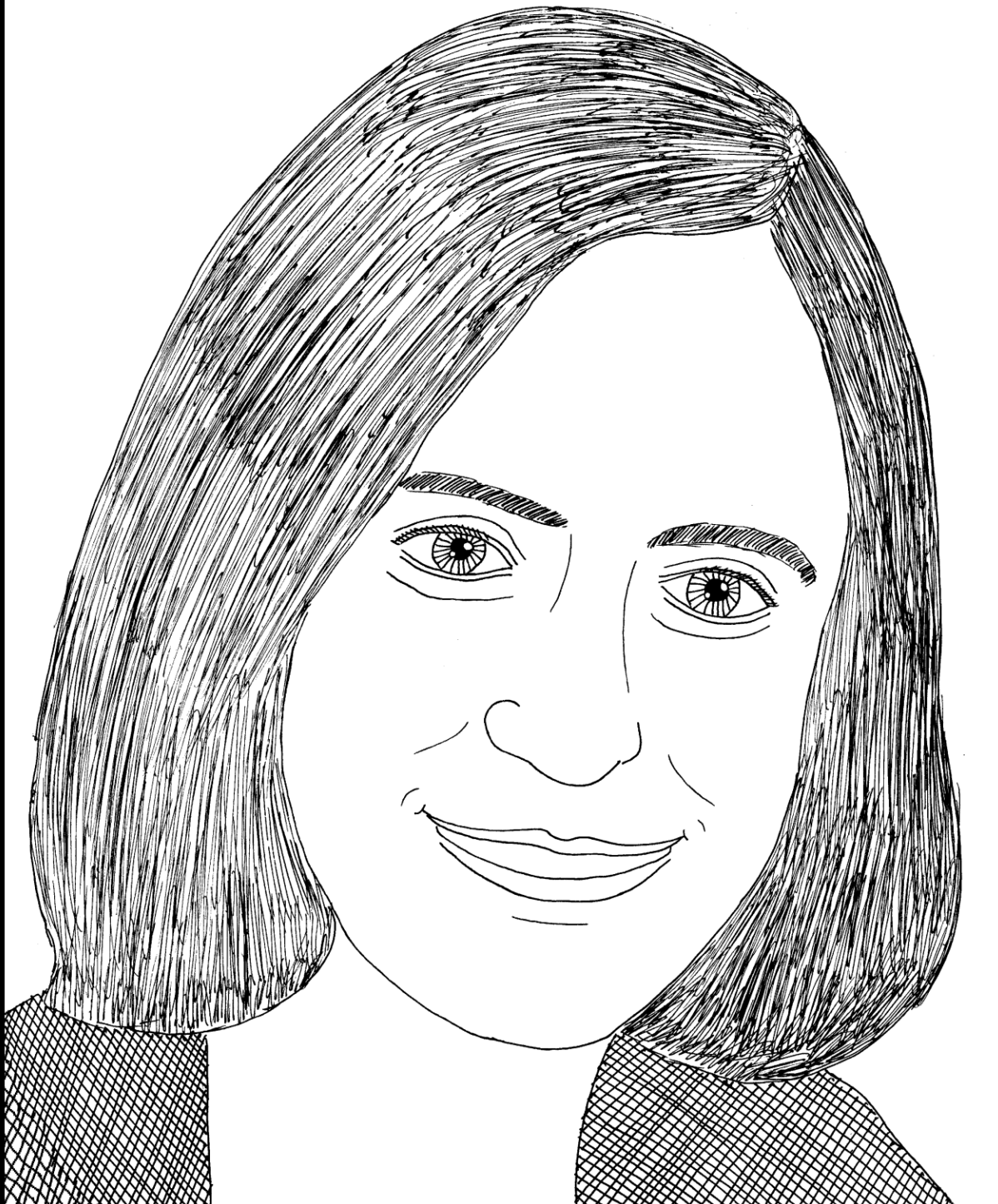
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"The media is absolutely essential to the functioning of a democracy. It's not our job to cozy up to power. We're supposed to be the check and balance on government."
-- Amy Goodman

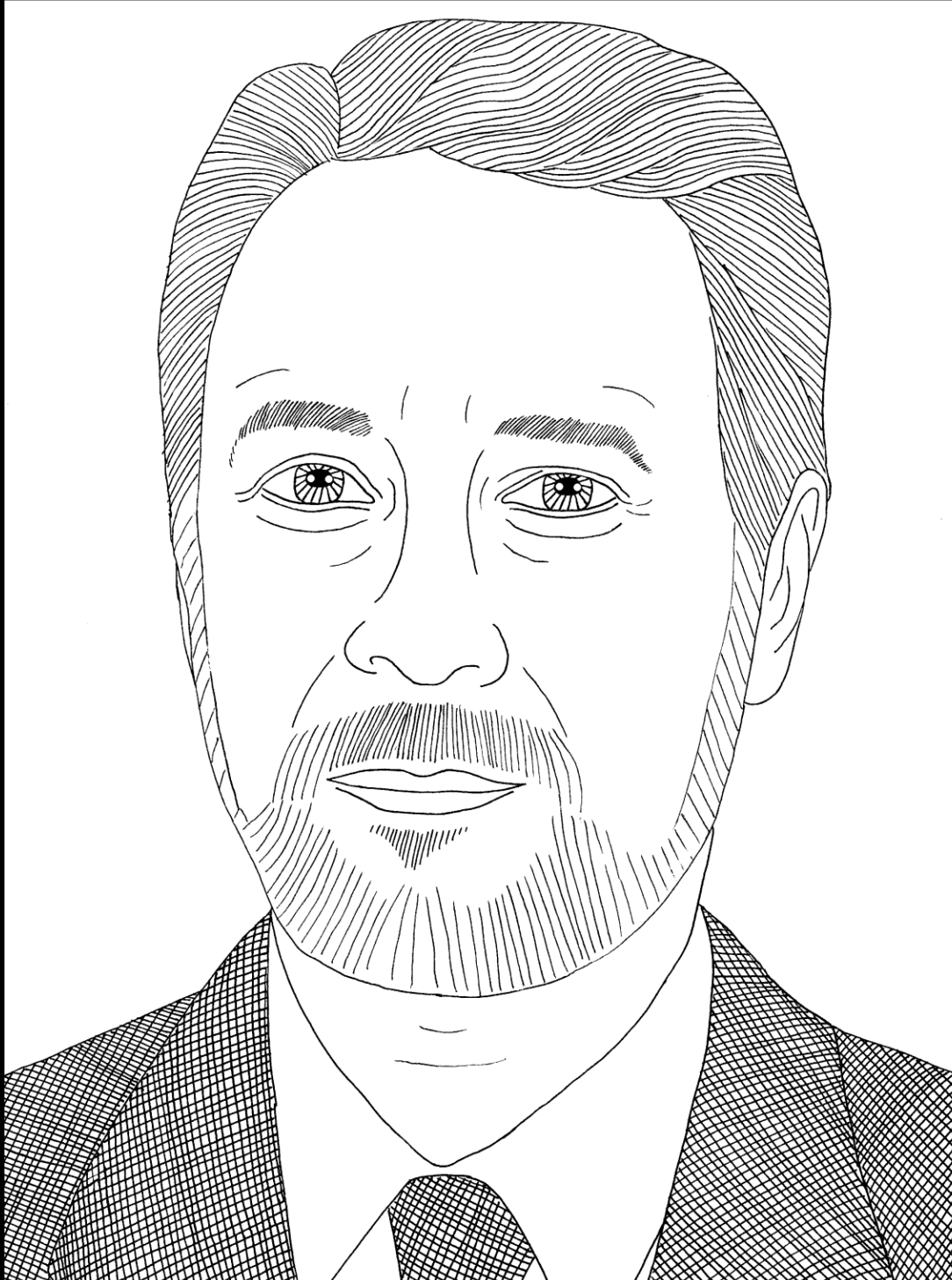
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**"Freedom means to build a democratic system
enshrined with the respect for fundamental rights
of Man, of the human being, of the individuals."**

-- Xanana Gusmão

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"We can enhance democracy by making it in line with its original vision. Read the dollar bill - E pluribus unum, out of many, one; novus ordo seclorum, a new order of the ages. That's democracy."

-- Barbara Marx Hubbard

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"I swear to the Lord I still can't see
Why Democracy means everybody but me."
-- Langston Hughes

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**"Full democracy requires the full participation of women.
Your voices are vital. The word 'vital' means necessary for life.
A democracy, to be fully alive, must include all its citizens."
-- Swanee Hunt**

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"The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment."

-- Robert Maynard Hutchins

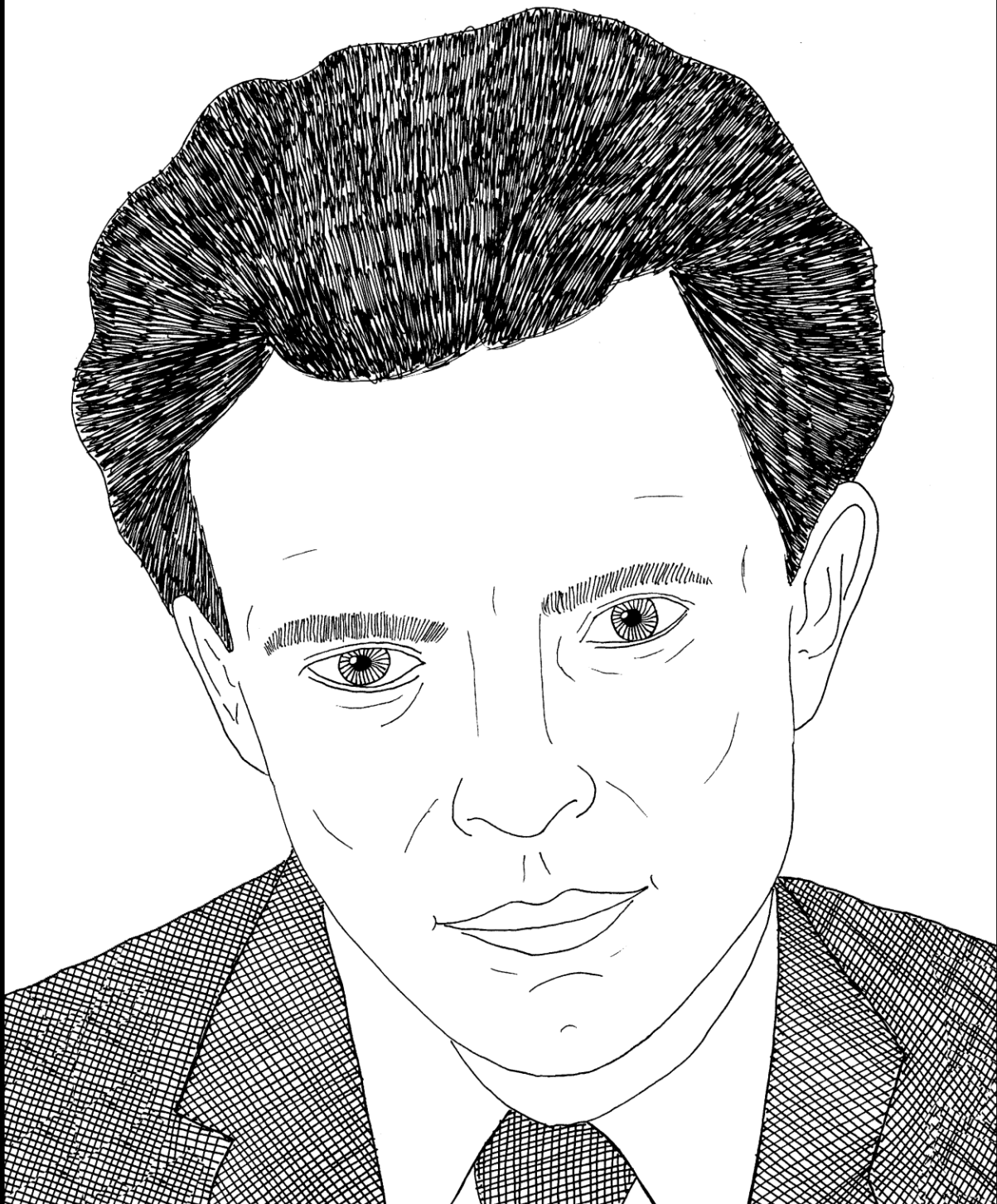
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"All democracies are based on the proposition that power is very dangerous and that it is extremely important not to let any one person or small group have too much power for too long a time"

-- Aldous Huxley

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"The thing about democracy, beloveds, is that it is not neat, orderly, or quiet. It requires a certain relish for confusion."

-- Molly Ivins

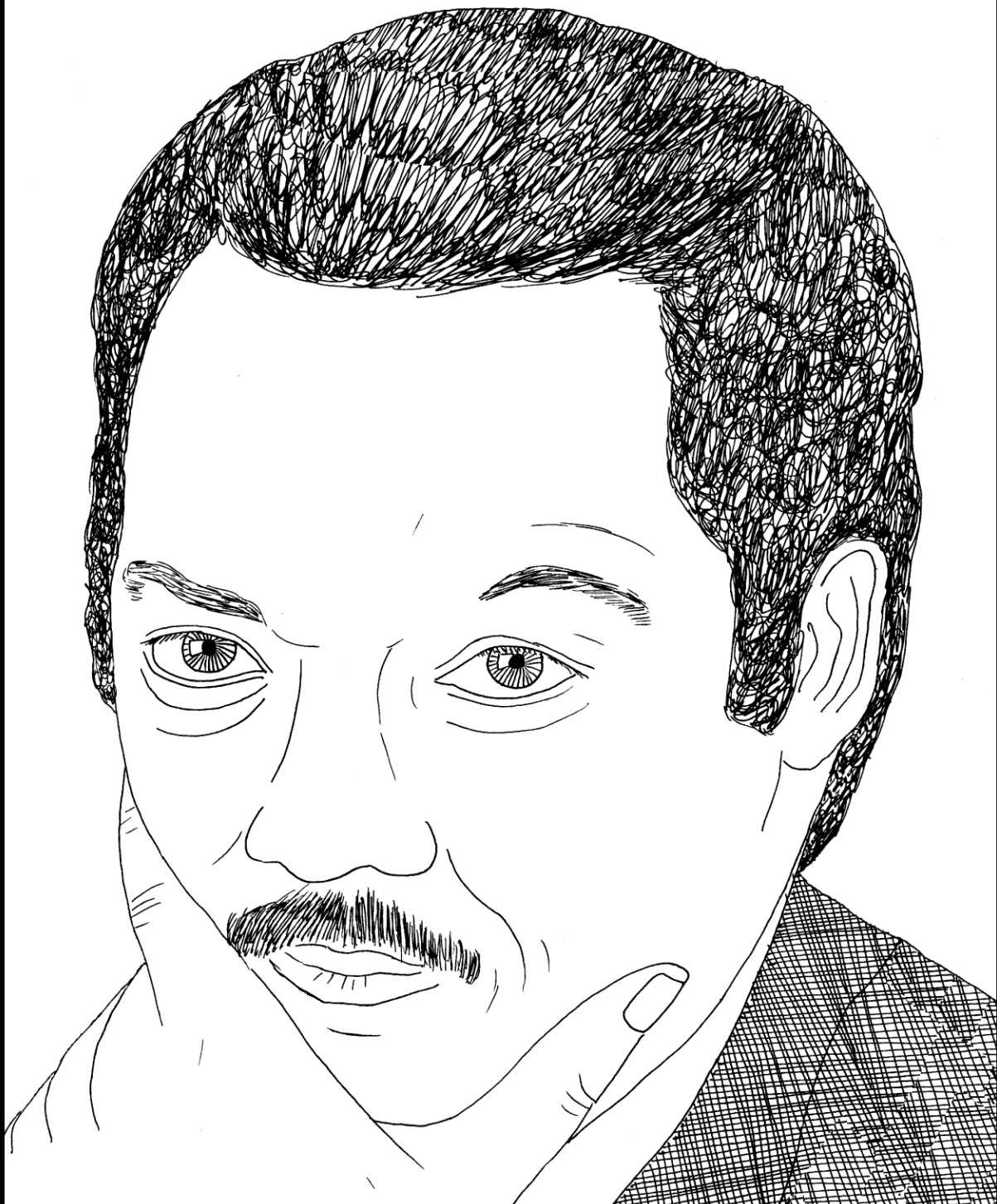
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"Deliberation and debate
is the way you stir the soul of our democracy."
-- Jesse Jackson

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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

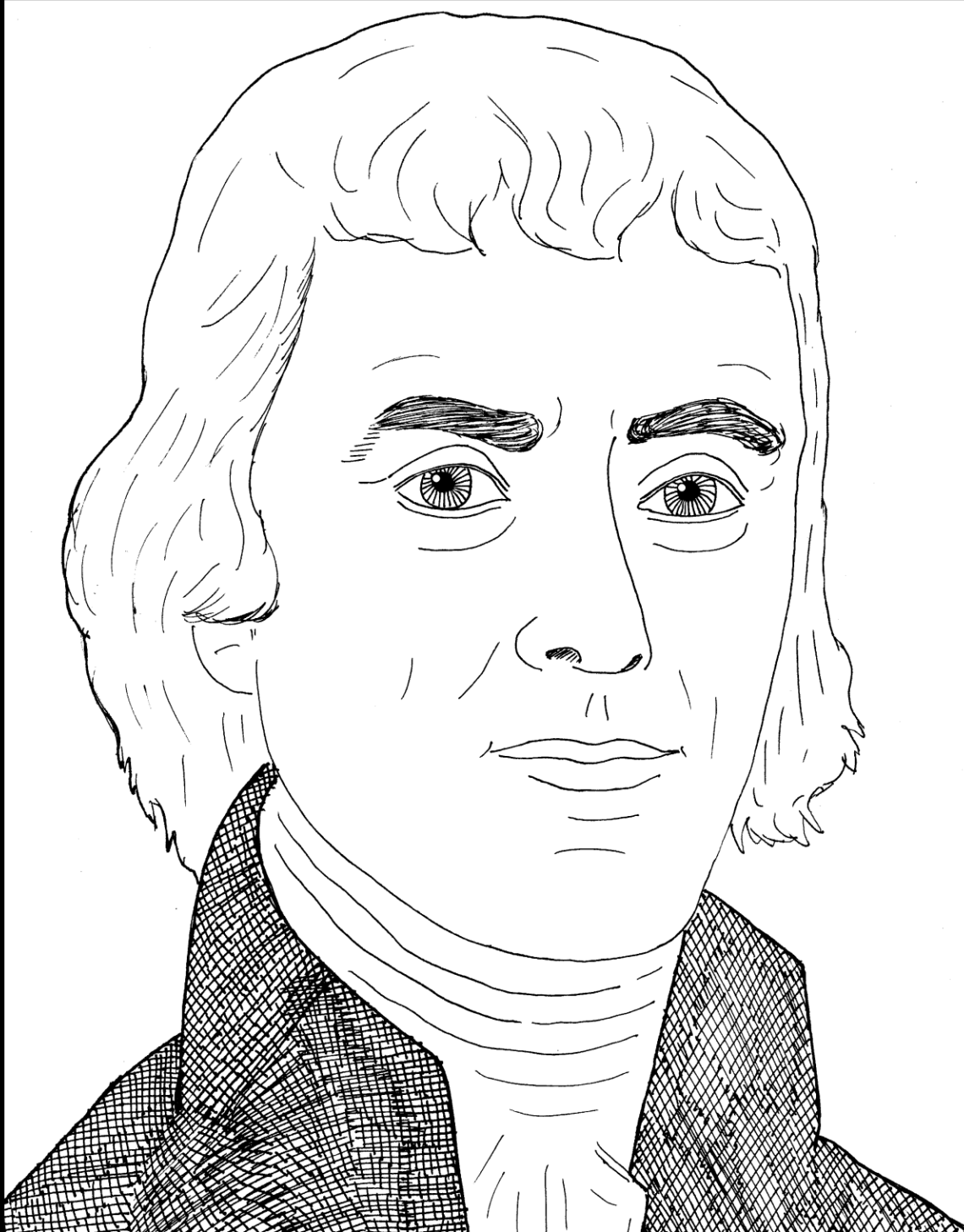
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“All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will, to be rightful, must be reasonable; that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal laws must protect, and to violate would be oppression.”

-- Thomas Jefferson

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"If we wish to accomplish in the next 15 years what we failed to accomplish in the last 15, we would do well to focus on democratizing structures of power. That means imagining, and then creating, economic democracy."

-- Marjorie Kelly

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"The vision I see is not only a movement of direct democracy, of self- and co-determination and non-violence, but a movement in which politics means the power to love and the power to feel united on the spaceship Earth..."

-- Petra Kelly

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"We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values.

For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

-- John F. Kennedy

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"Democracy is the absolute value that makes for human dignity, as well as the only road to sustained economic development and social justice."

-- Kim Dae-jung

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**"...the anti-war movement
should turn itself into a pro-democracy movement..."**
-- Naomi Klein

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"The ideas and principles of democracy should not be limited to politics, but must pervade all areas of social life."

-- Bruno Kreisky

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"...freedom rings resoundingly
in a democracy each time we speak freely..."
-- Dennis Kucinich

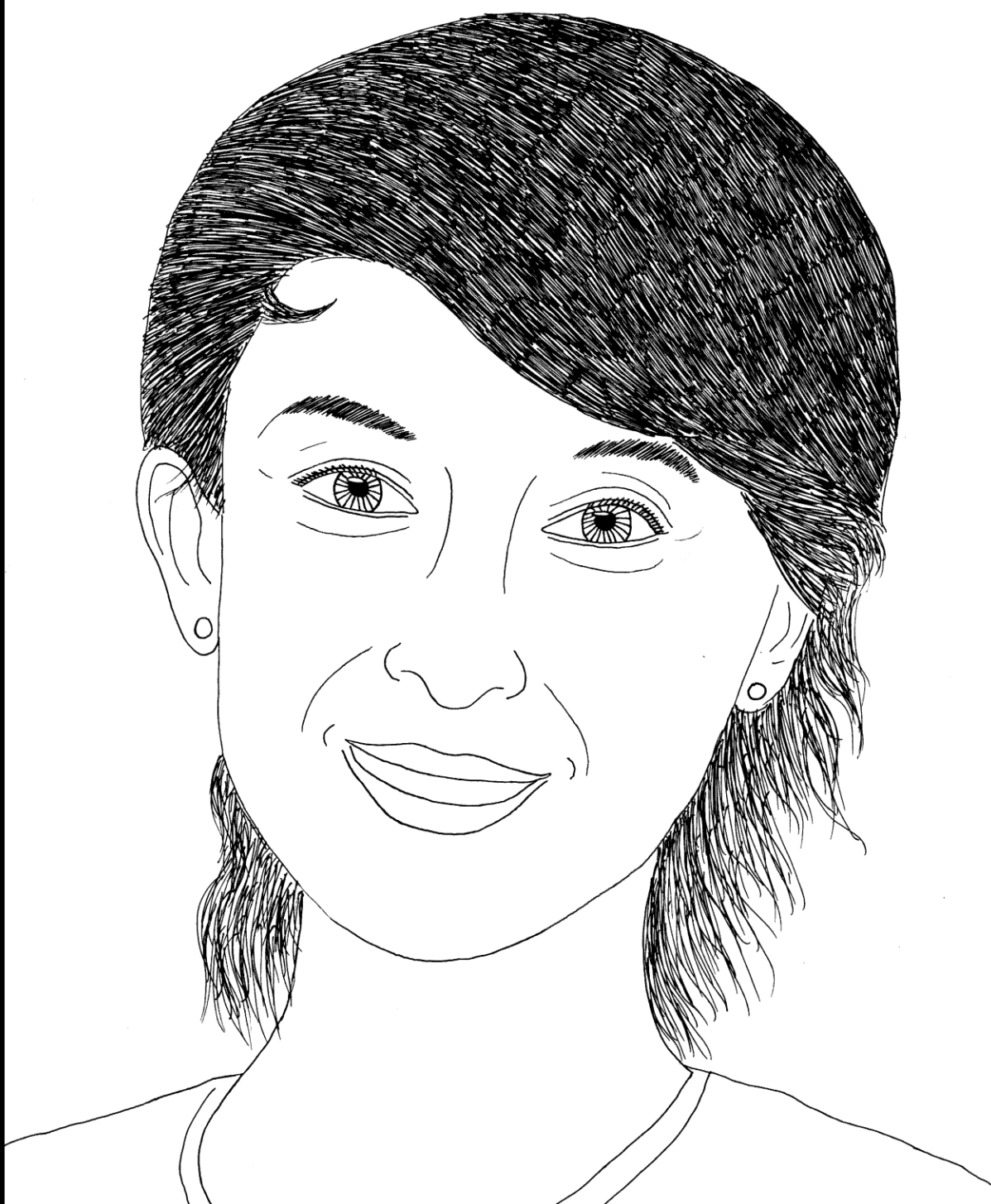
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"Some believe that the only way to remove the authoritarian regime and replace it with a democratic one is through violent means. I would like to set the precedent of political change through political settlement, not through violence."

-- Aung San Suu Kyi

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"No society has fulfilled its democratic promise if people go hungry...
If some go without food they have surely been deprived of all power.
The existence of hunger belies the existence of democracy."

-- Frances Moore Lappé

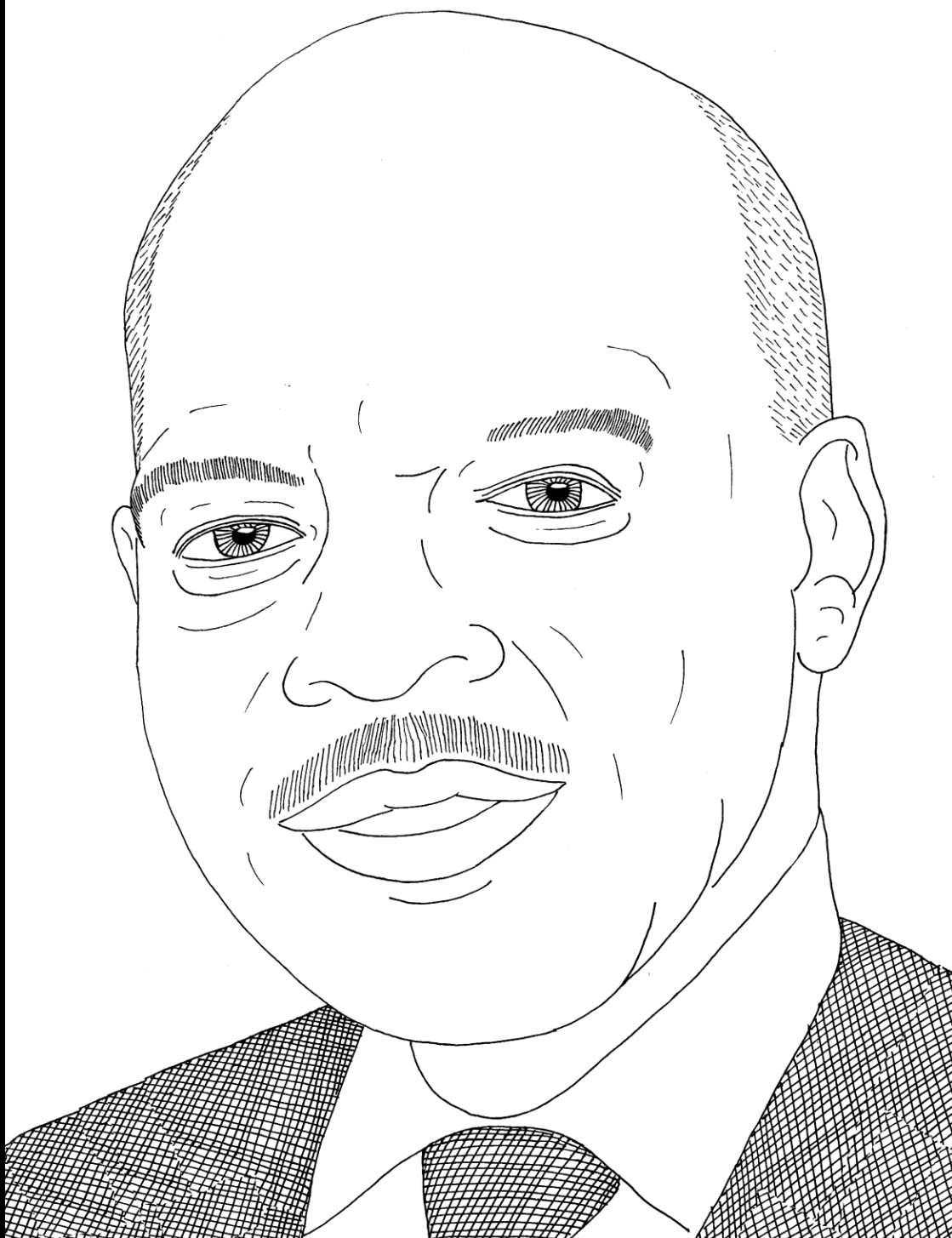
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"We've come a long way, but we still have a distance to go before all of our citizens embrace the idea of a truly interracial democracy, what I like to call the Beloved Community, a nation at peace with itself."
-- John Lewis

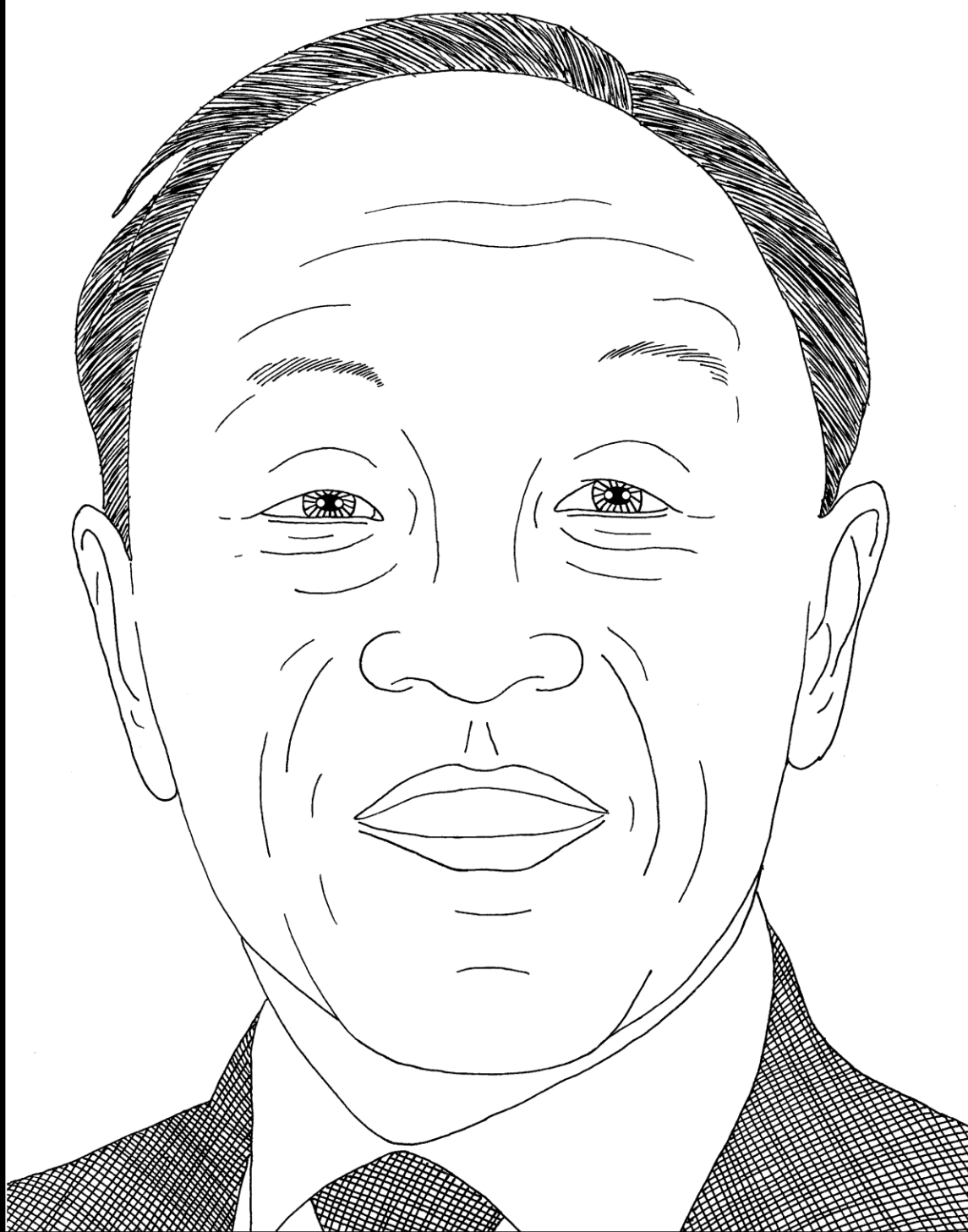
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"We should work together for more democratic and law-based international relations, and a harmonious environment in which countries respect one another, treat one another as equals, and different cultures can emulate and interchange with each other."

-- Li Zhaoxing

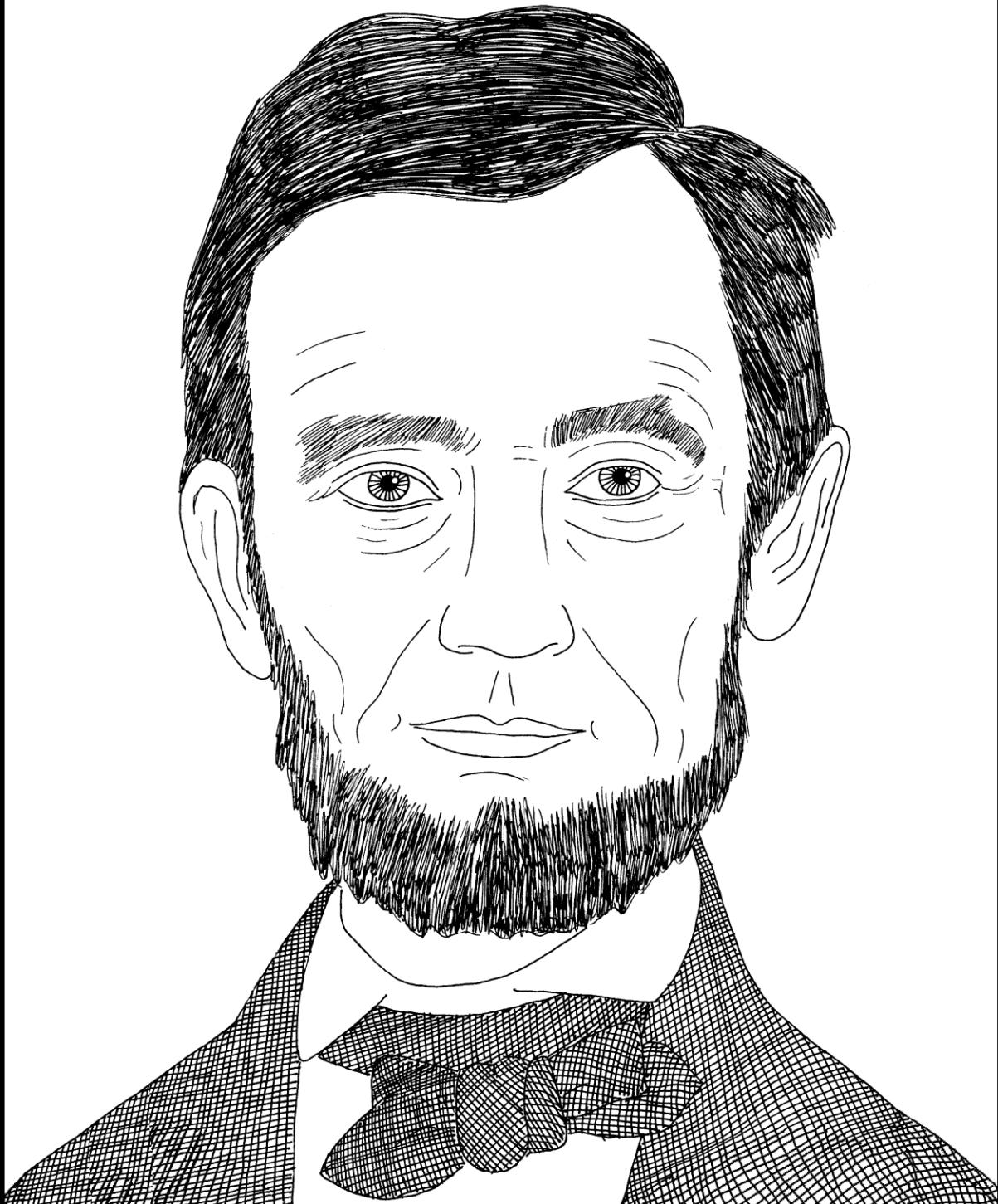
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**“Democracy is the government of the people,
by the people, for the people”
-- Abraham Lincoln**

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"We need now to build a culture
of genuine nonviolence and real democracy."
-- Mairead Corrigan Maguire

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"Democracy is the most demanding of all forms of government in terms of the energy, imagination, and public spirit required of the individual."

-- General George Marshall

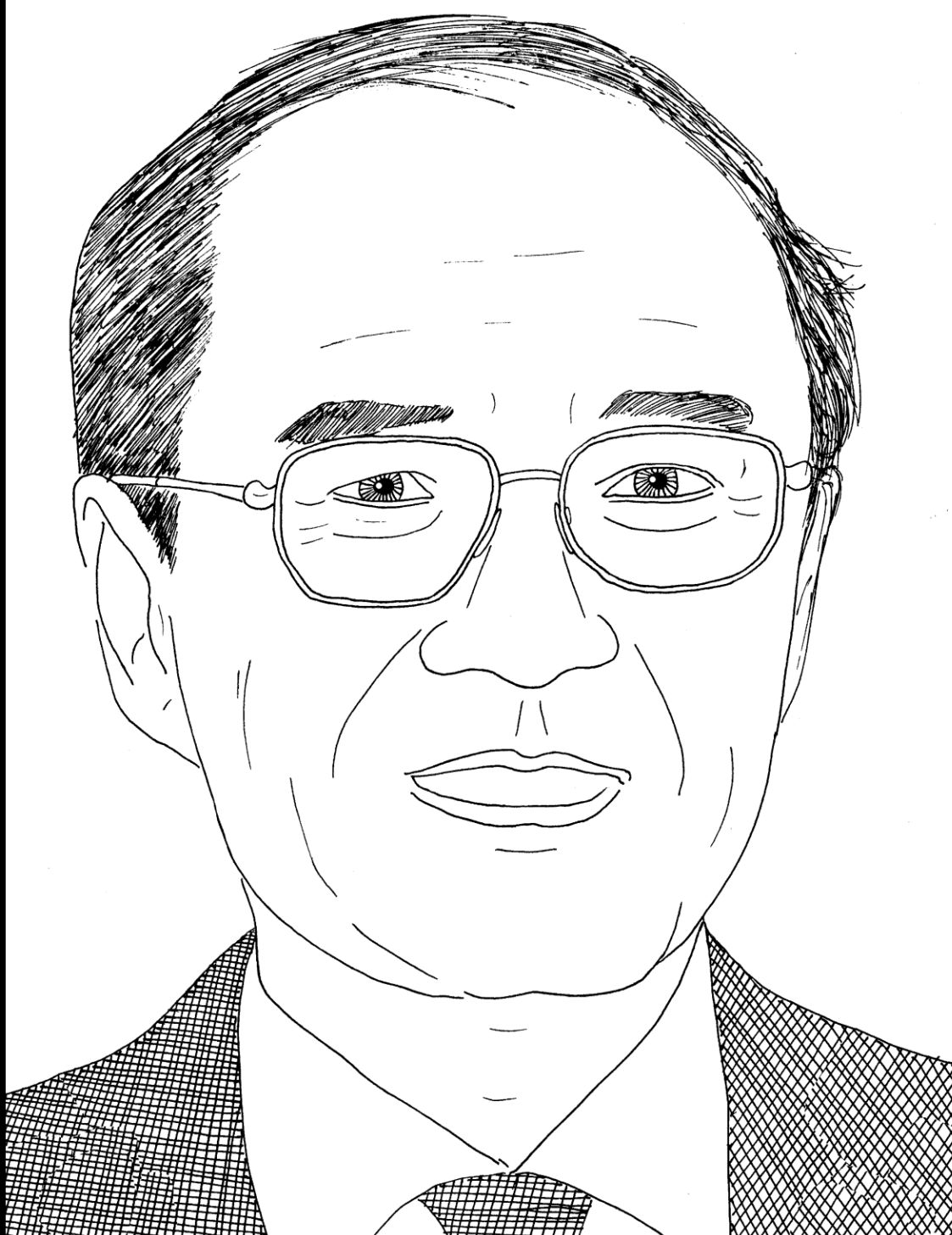
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"Ensuring the access of all citizens to government information and to essential information for human development is a must for every democratic society."

-- Koichiro Matsuura

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"Winning peace means the triumph of our pledge to establish, on a democratic basis, a new social framework of tolerance and generosity from which no one will feel excluded."

-- Federico Mayor

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"Without a democratic election, whereby people choose and remove their rulers, there is no method of securing human rights against the state. No democracy without human rights, no human rights without democracy..."

-- George Meany

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

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**"The survival of democracy depends on the renunciation
of violence and the development of nonviolent means to
combat evil and advance the good."**

-- A. J. Muste

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"The essence of globalization is a subordination of human rights, of labor rights, consumer, environmental rights, democracy rights, to the imperatives of global trade and investment."

-- Ralph Nader

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"I always believe that ultimately, if people are paying attention, then we get good government and good leadership. And when we get lazy, as a democracy and civically start taking shortcuts, then it results in bad government and politics."

-- Barack Obama

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"...if a great many people are for a certain project, is it necessarily right? If the vast majority is for it, is it even more certainly right? This, to be sure, is one of the tricky points of democracy. The minority often turns out to be right, and though one believes in the efficacy of the democratic process, one has also to recognize that the demand of the many for a particular project at a particular time may mean only disaster."

-- Frances Perkins

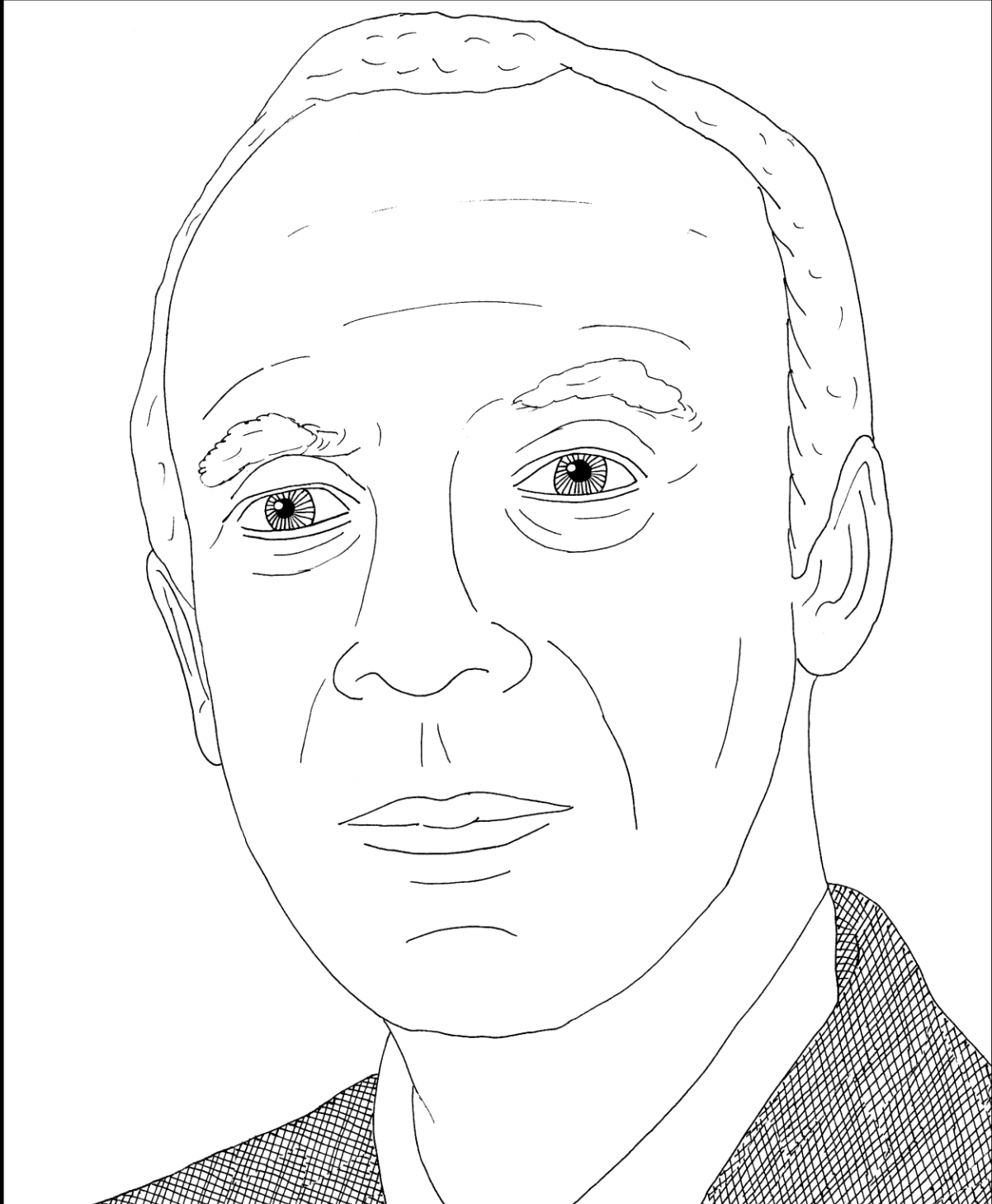
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"A community is democratic only when the humblest and weakest person can enjoy the highest civil, economic, and social rights that the biggest and most powerful possess."

-- A. Philip Randolph

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"The motivating force of the theory of a Democratic way of life is still a belief that as individuals we live cooperatively, and, to the best of our ability, serve the community in which we live..."
-- Eleanor Roosevelt

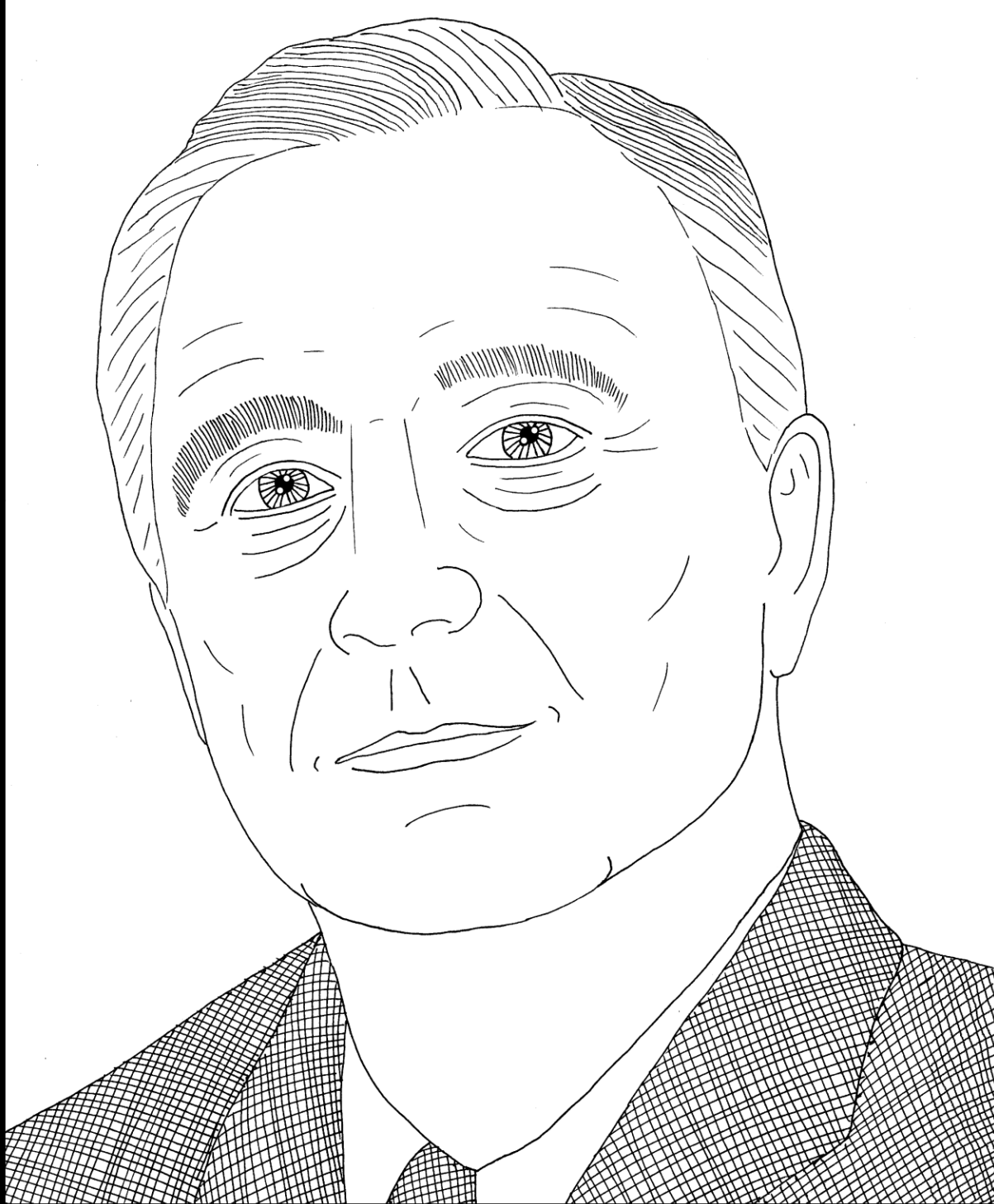
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"The liberty of a democracy is not safe if the people tolerate the growth of private power to a point where it becomes stronger than their democratic state itself."

-- Franklin D. Roosevelt

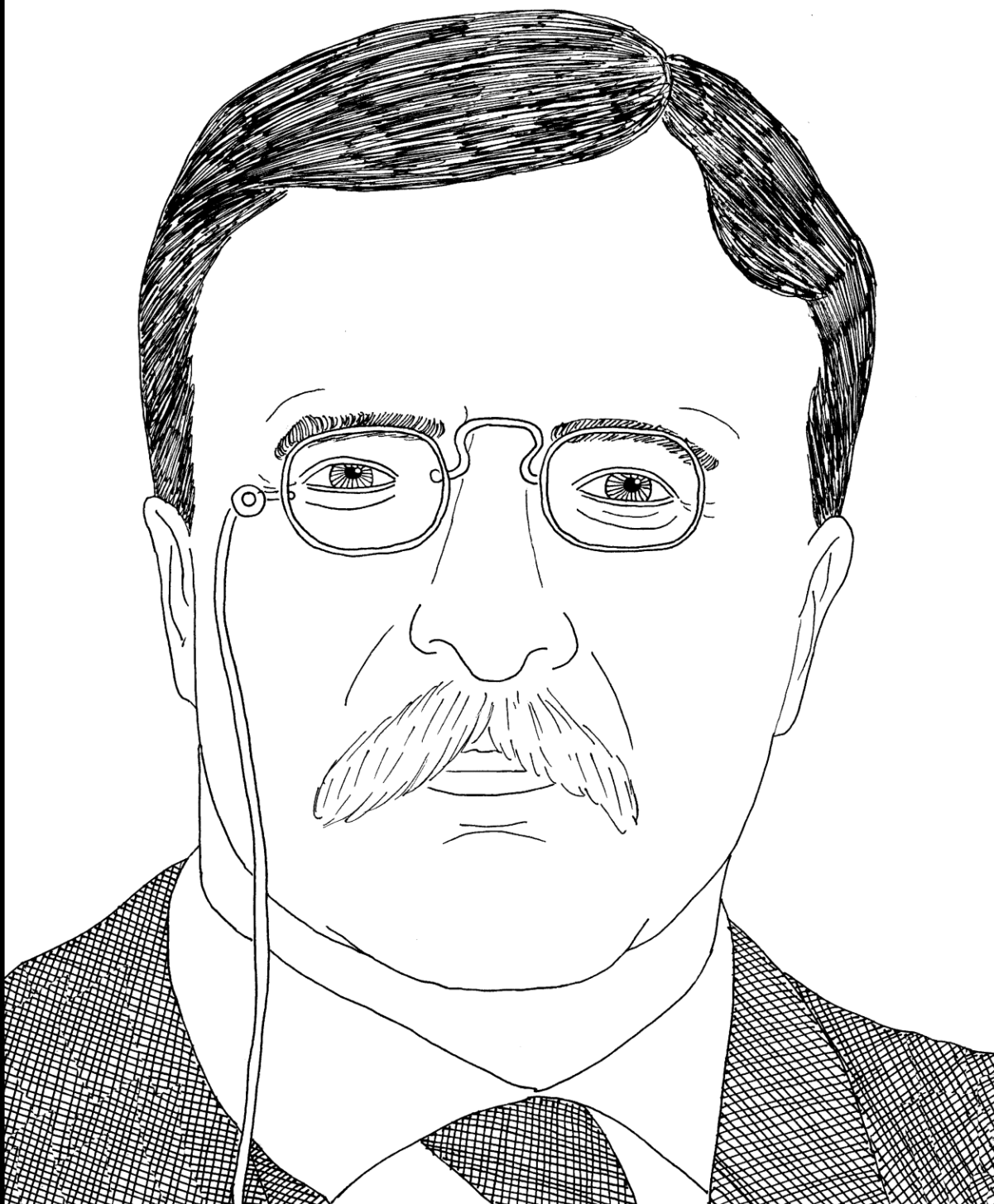
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**"A great democracy must be progressive
or it will soon cease to be a great democracy"**
-- Theodore Roosevelt

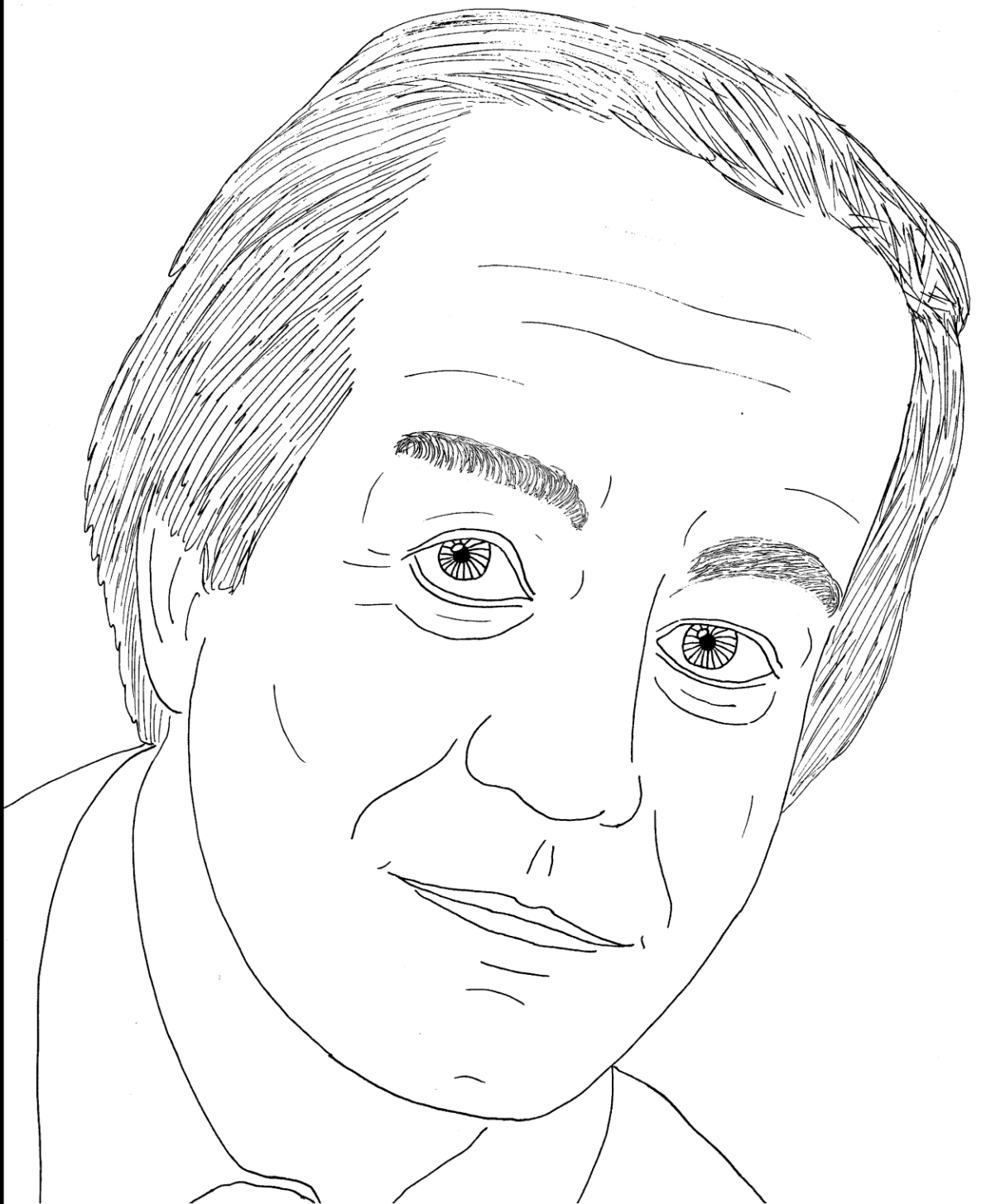
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"The spread of democracy is a wonderful thing —
it is a necessary foundation for peace — and it can happen.

But it cannot be advanced by force,
and still less by the creation of a new empire..."

-- Jonathan Schell

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"Democracy is a universal value."
-- Amartya Sen

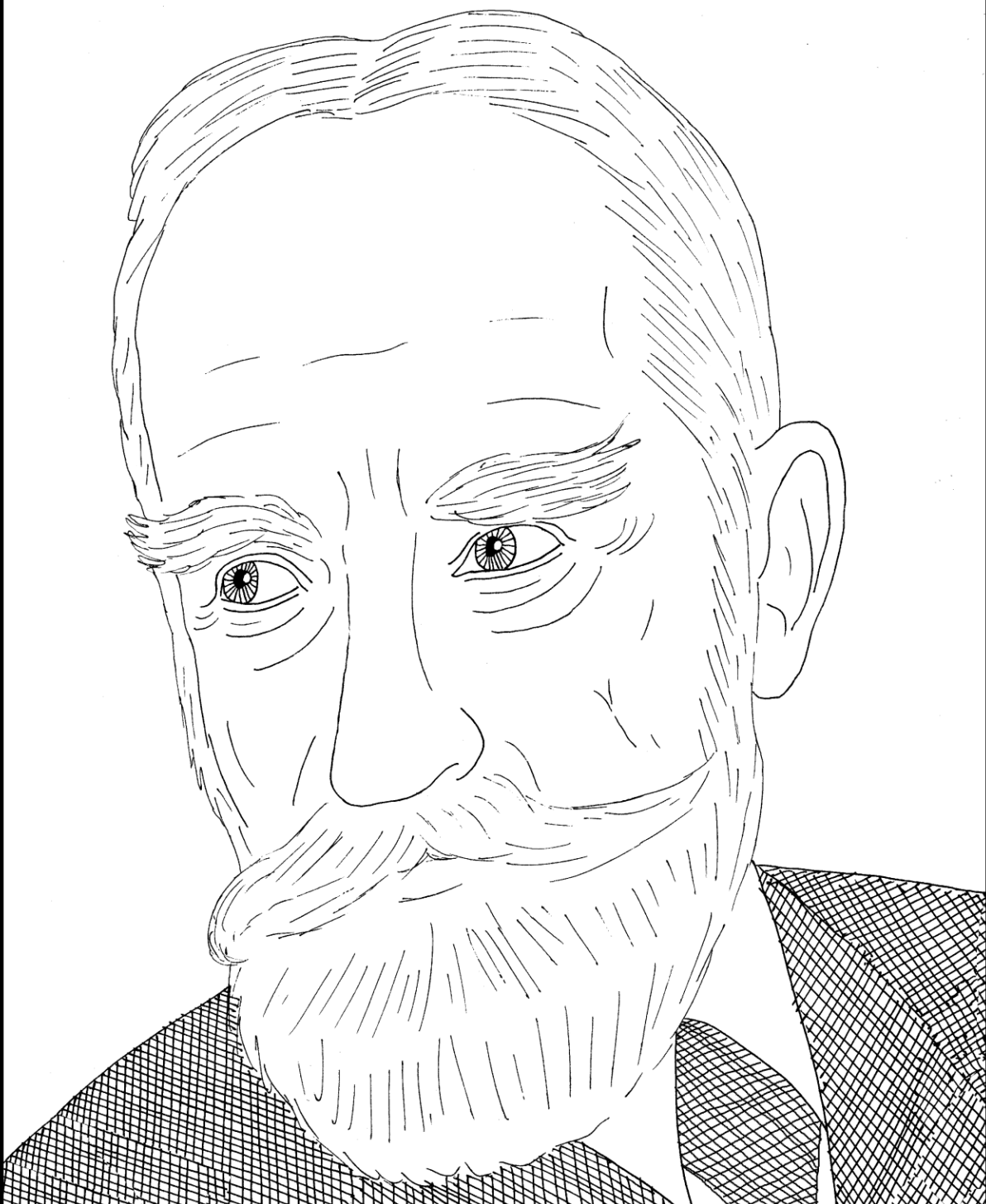
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**"Democracy is a device that ensures we
shall be governed no better than we deserve."**

-- George Bernard Shaw

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"Most of the poverty and misery in the world is due to bad government, lack of democracy, weak states, internal strife, and so on."
-- George Soros

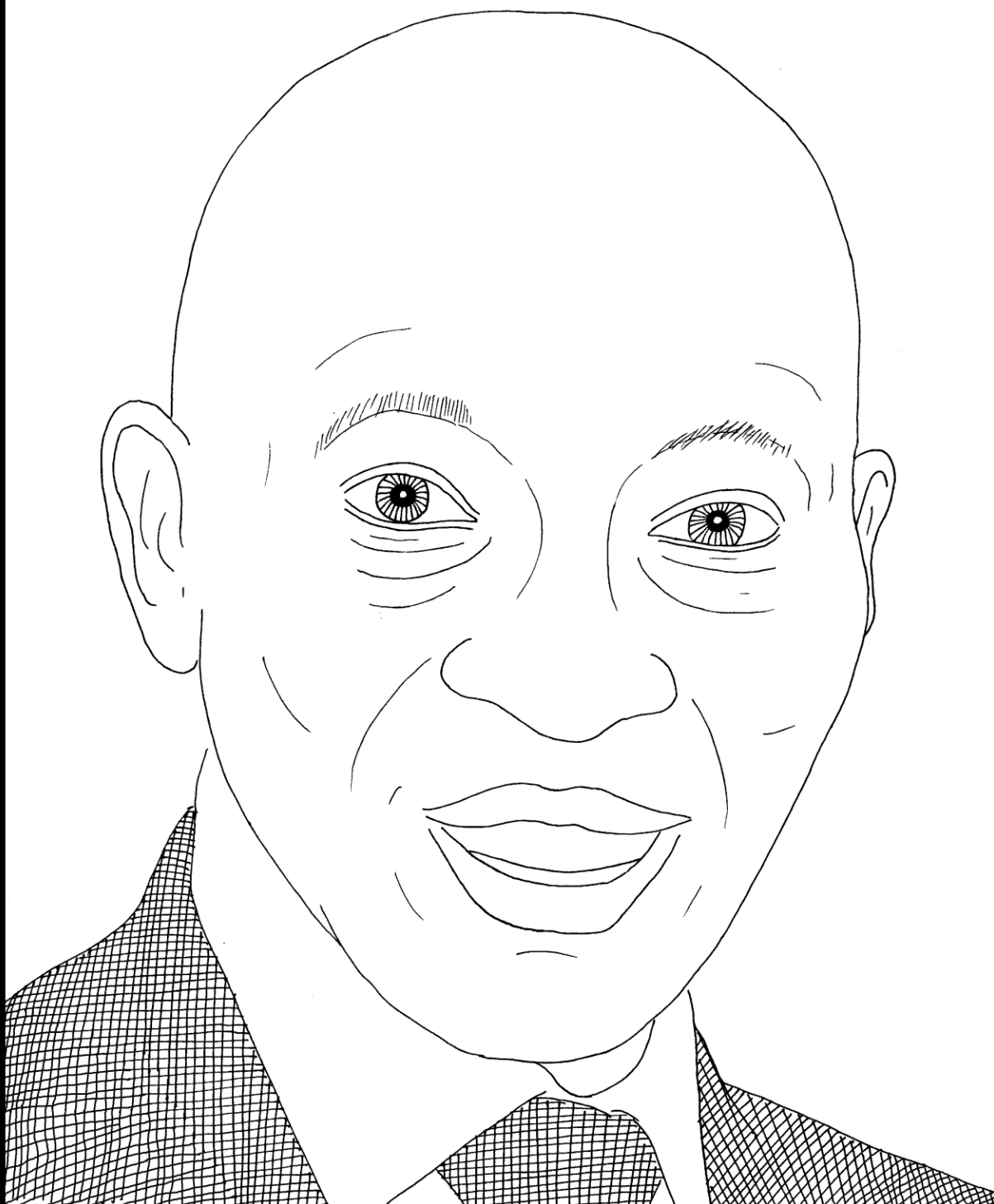
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**"Democracy is constructed like an edifice,
freedom by freedom, right by right..."**
-- Abdoulaye Wade

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**"Democratic principles are the result of equality of condition."
-- Mercy Otis Warren**

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**"As free citizens in a political democracy, we have a responsibility to be interested and involved in the affairs of the human community, be it at the local or the global level."
-- Paul Wellstone**

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"Democracy is itself, a religious faith. For some it comes close to being the only formal religion they have."
-- E. B. White

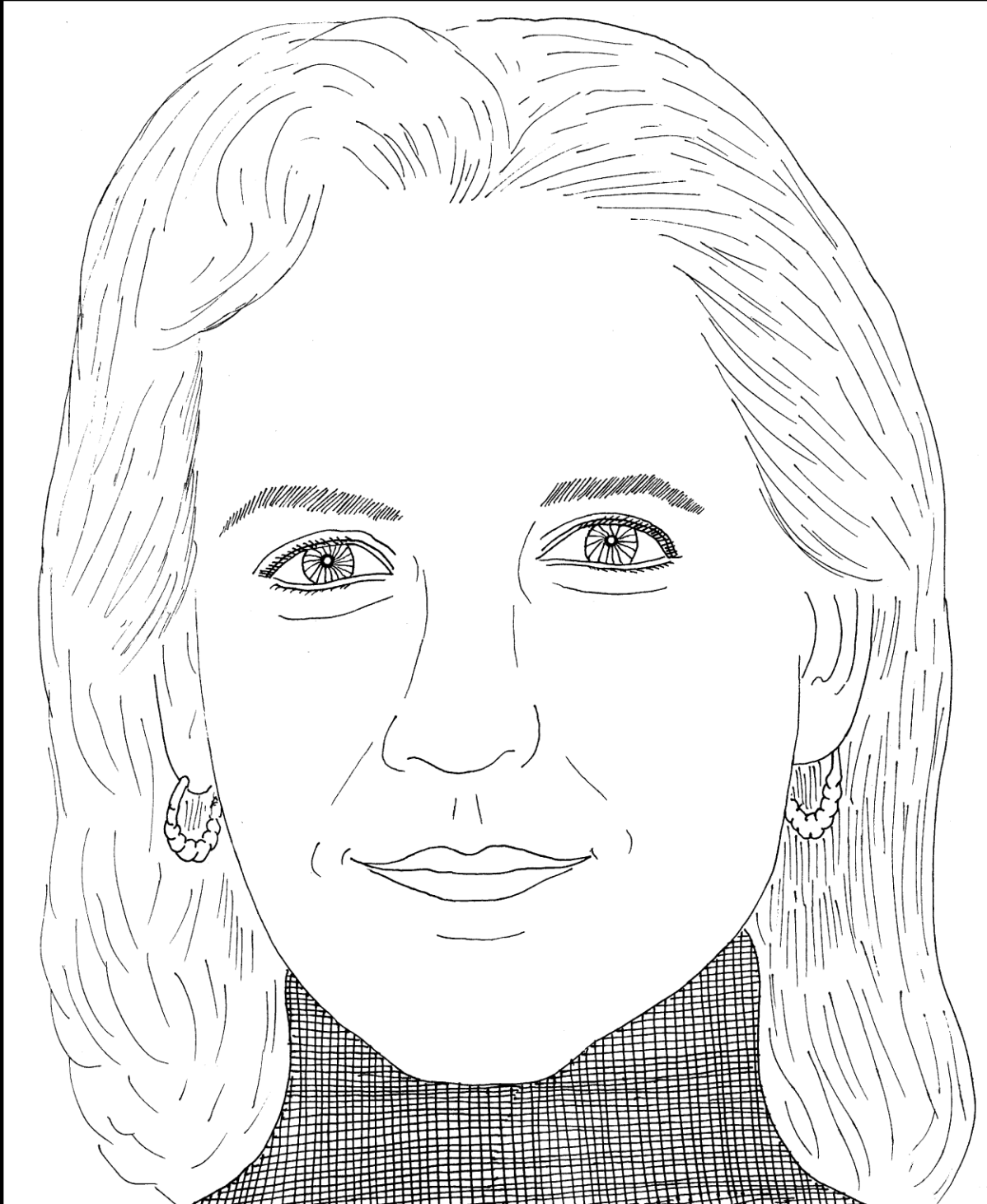
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"The human heart is the first home of democracy. It is where we embrace our questions: Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings, not just our minds, and offer our attention rather than our opinion? And do we have enough resolve in our hearts to act courageously, relentlessly, without giving up, trusting our fellow citizens to join us in our determined pursuit— a living democracy?"

-- Terry Tempest Williams

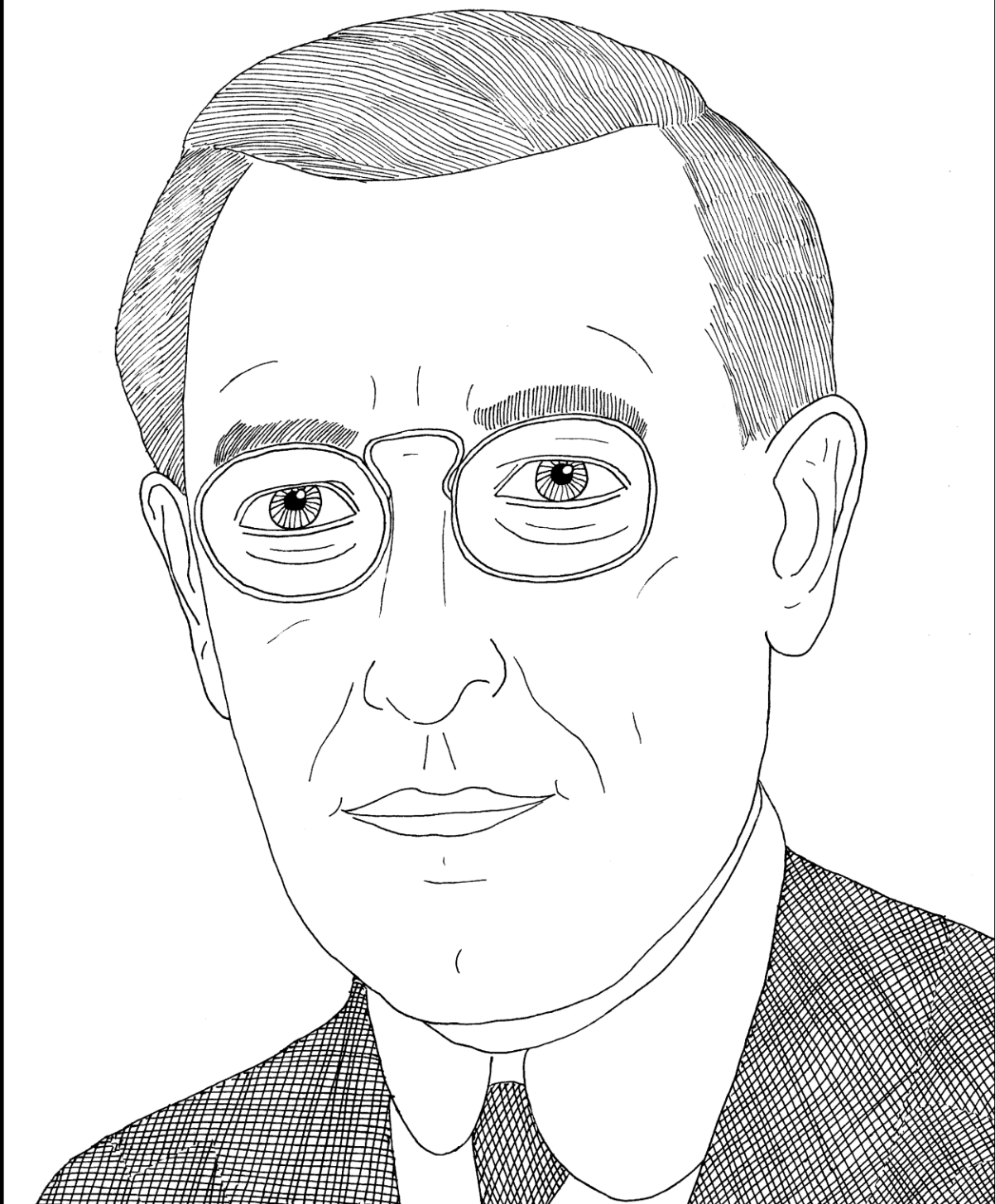
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BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD

MAKE
A
DIFFERENCE



MAKE
A
DIFFERENCE

"The whole purpose of democracy is that we
may hold counsel with one another, so as not
to depend upon the understanding of one man."

-- Woodrow Wilson

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