

BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

"The United States is essential among the industrial democracies in the rigidity of the system of ideological control. 'Interventionism,' we might say, is essential through the mass media."
— Nease 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 ethics, always grounded in 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 decision. The press secretary announces those decisions, and you people of the press type those decisions down. Make, announce, type, and put 'em through a legal check and go home."
— Stephen Colbert

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

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"There have been several occasions where we've reported on what we think is cheating or some cheating of this type or that. You talk about the game of being impartial, dispassionate, no emotion at all. We seem to regard it as an insult and so clearly by where we are right now in this moment in our history."
— Roseanne Barr

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What's Your BetterWorld Issue:

MEDIA REFORM

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

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

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"By the end of the million fire man controlled the world's media. And the people respond, because that's how it's told them to."
— Michael Moore

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

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"The speed of communication is sometimes so behind. It is also true that speed can multiply the distribution of information that we have to be better."
— Ed Bradley

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"The media is supposed to be the conscience of the fact and watchdog of government. They have, for the most part, neglected to be either of those things."
— Janine Garofalo

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

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"The quality of democracy and the quality of journalism are deeply entwined."
— Jill Meyers

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"I can't tell you how many times we've run into a journalist and go, 'You 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?'"
— Joe Walsh

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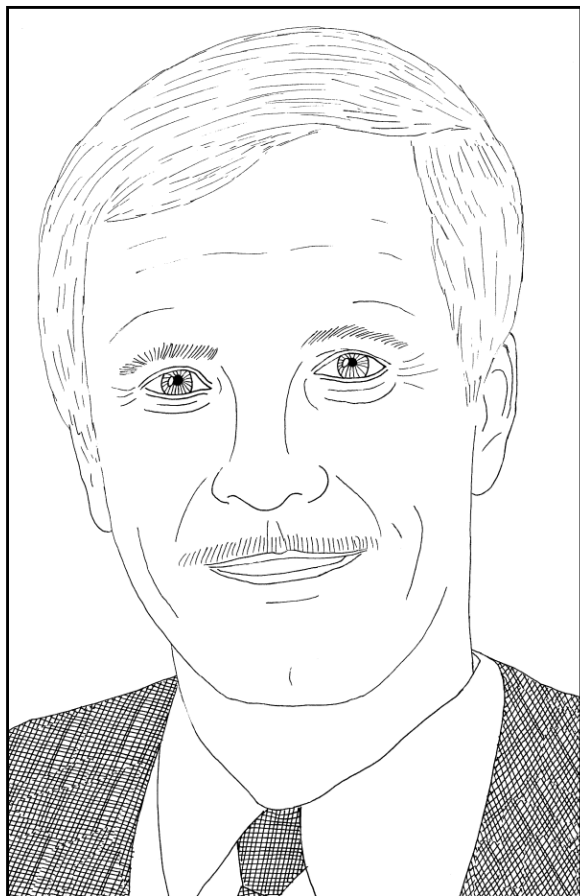
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"We need to decide that we will go to war, whatever reason is presented to the public. We need to decide that we will go to war against terrorism, a war against corruption, a war against children."
— Bill Maher

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WHAT'S YOUR BETTERWORLD ISSUE?

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.

Be A Hero 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)

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

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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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-- Stephen Colbert

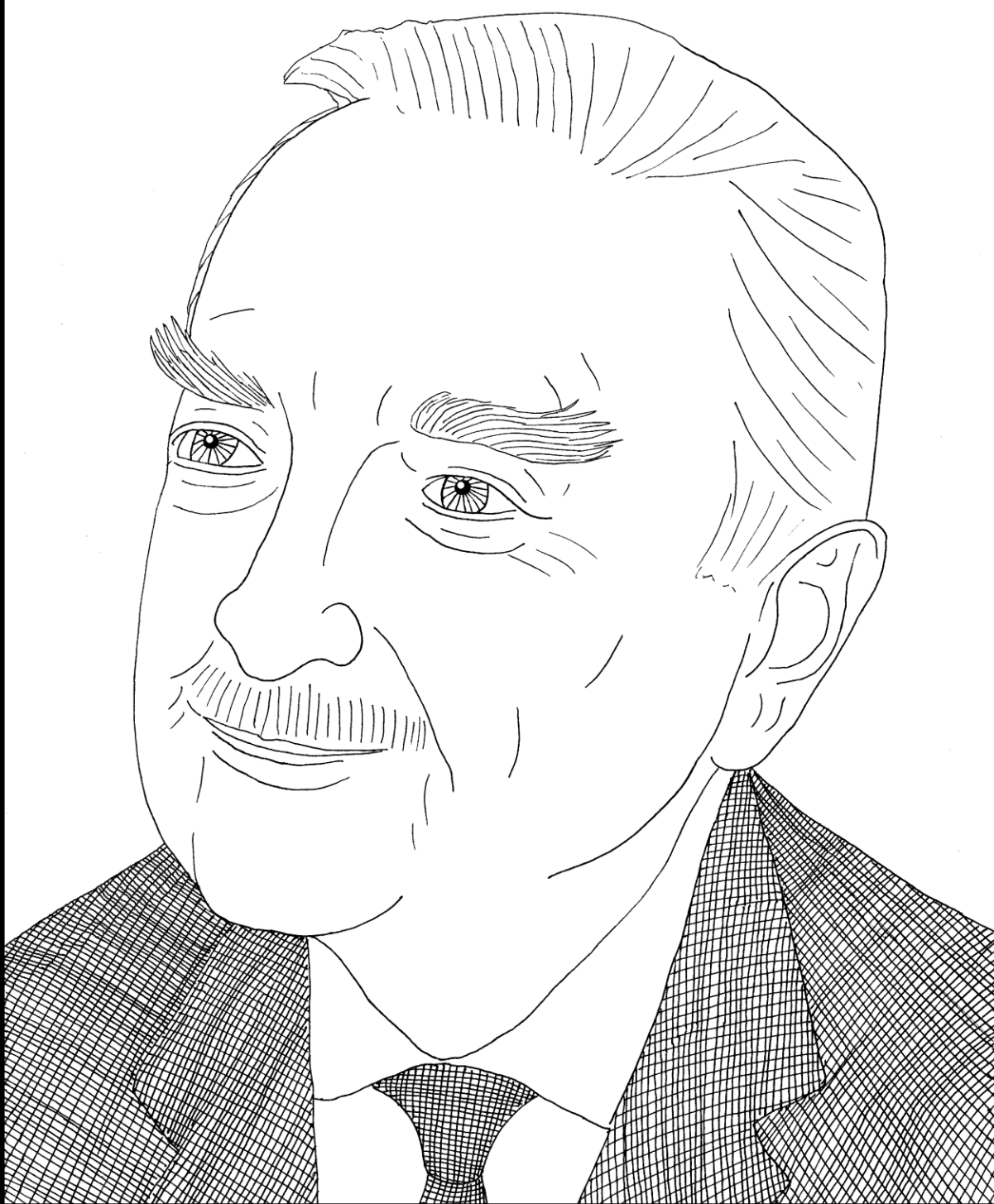
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**"I think it is absolutely essential in a democracy
to have competition in the media, a lot of competition,
and we seem to be moving away from that."**

-- Walter Cronkite

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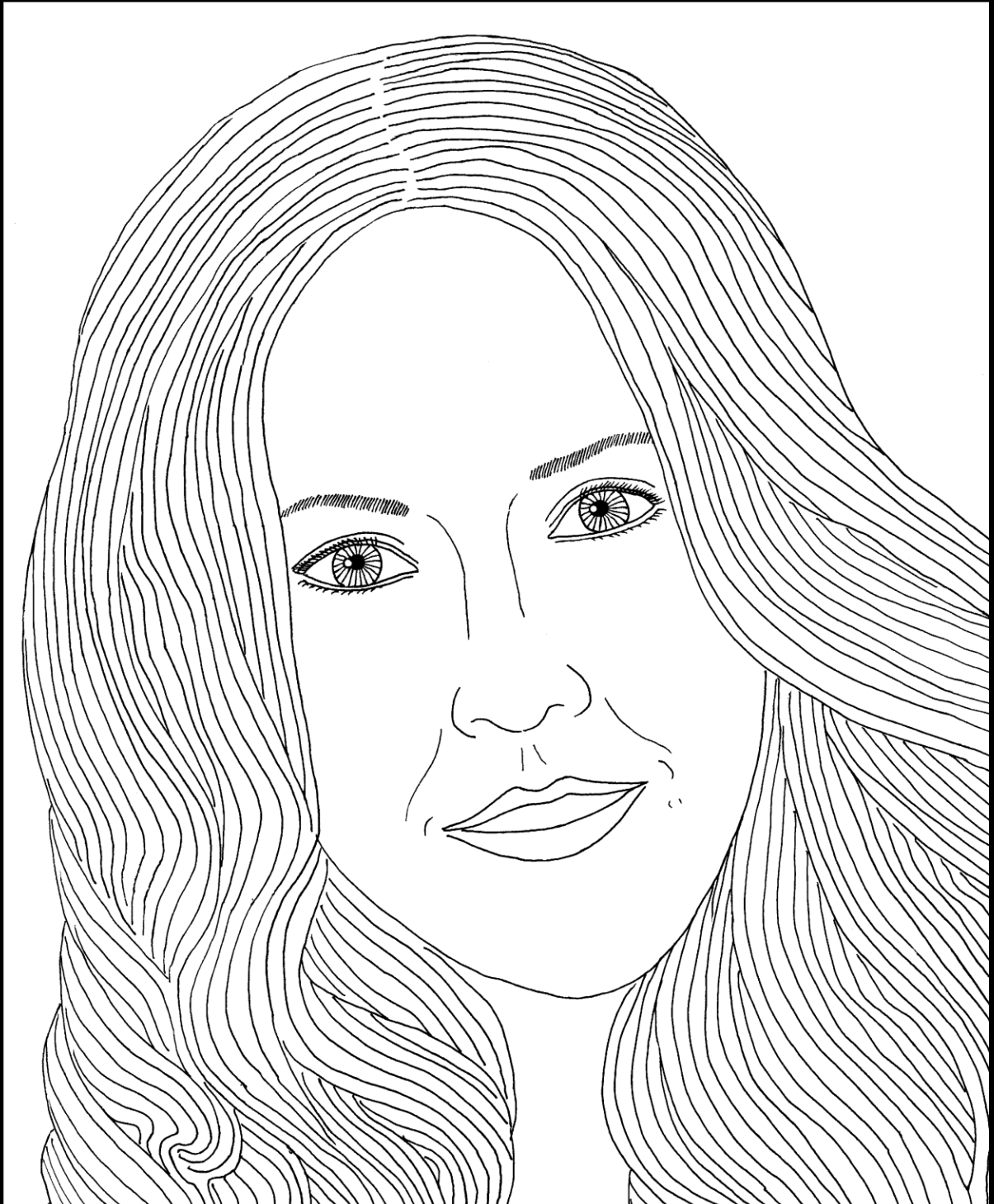
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"When 'news stories' are broken, do we not expect a certain amount of fact-checking or source-checking? One has to ask if this falls under the guise of sloppy reporting or deception as a source of spin. We seem to accept a certain amount of deception 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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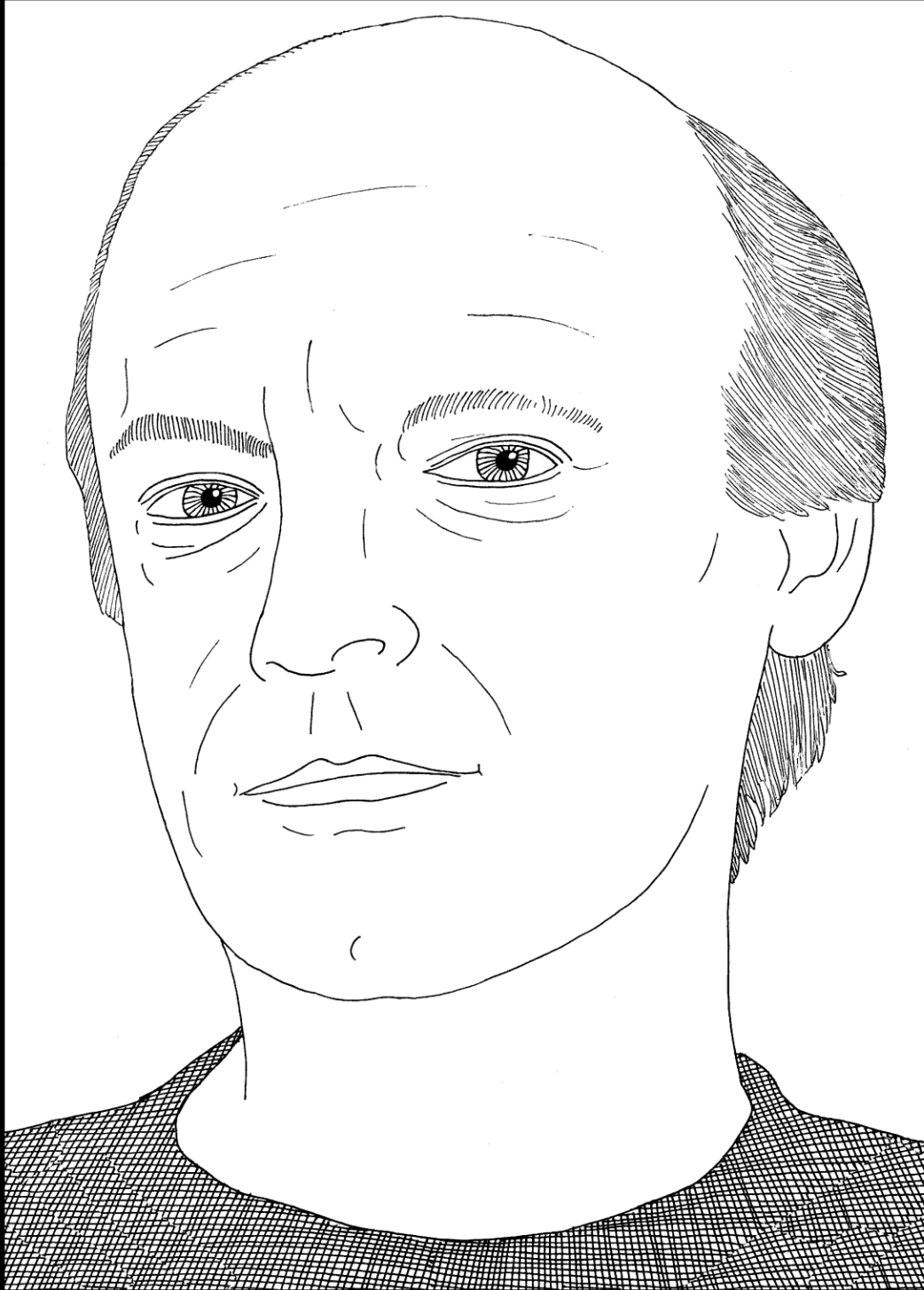
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"...because of forced globalization, there's a clear trend these days towards uniformity. This trend comes largely from the ever-greater concentration of power in the hands of large media groups."
-- Eduardo Galeano

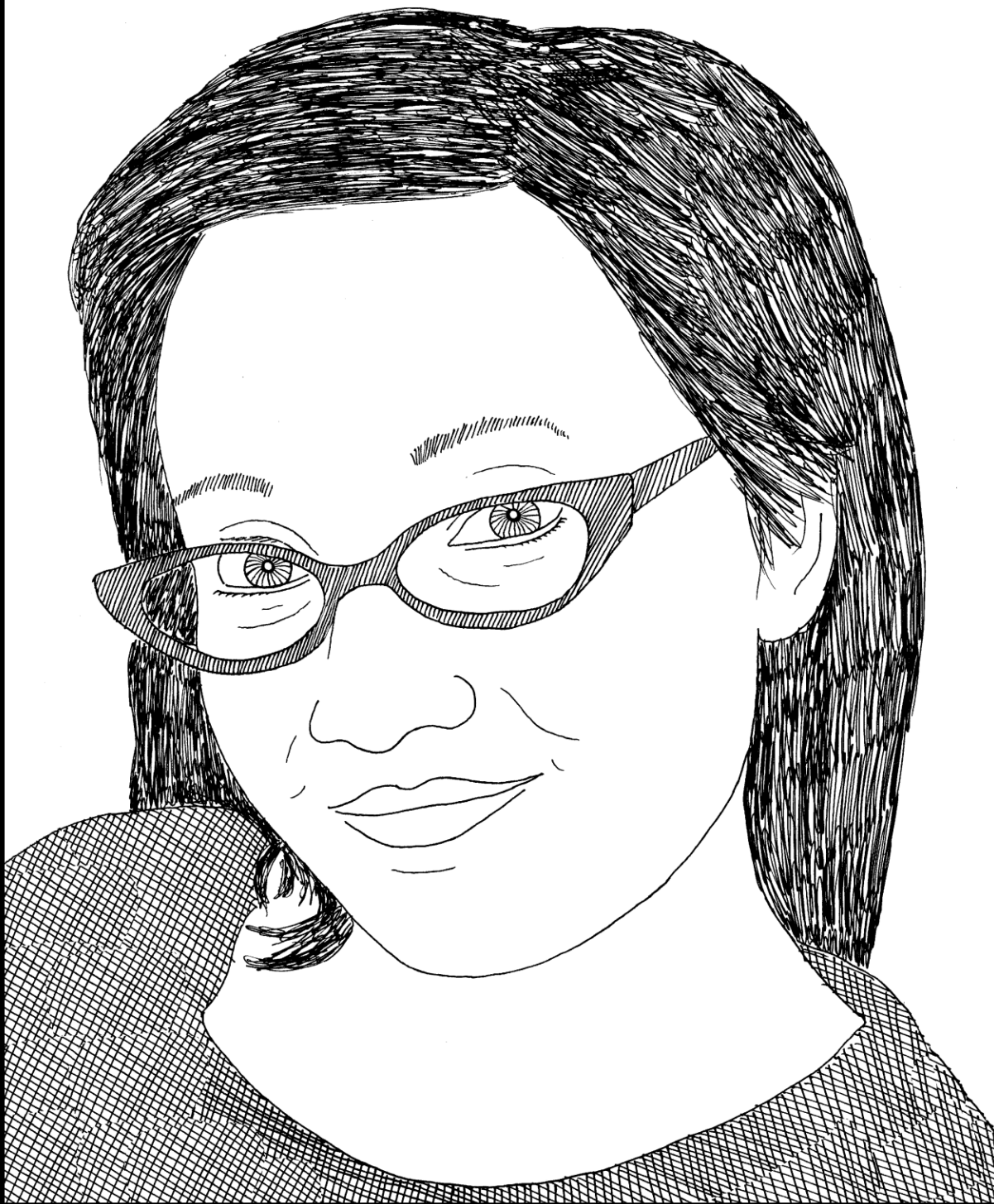
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**"The media is supposed to be custodians of the facts
and watchdogs of government. They have,
for the most part, neglected to be either of those things.
-- Janeane Garofalo**

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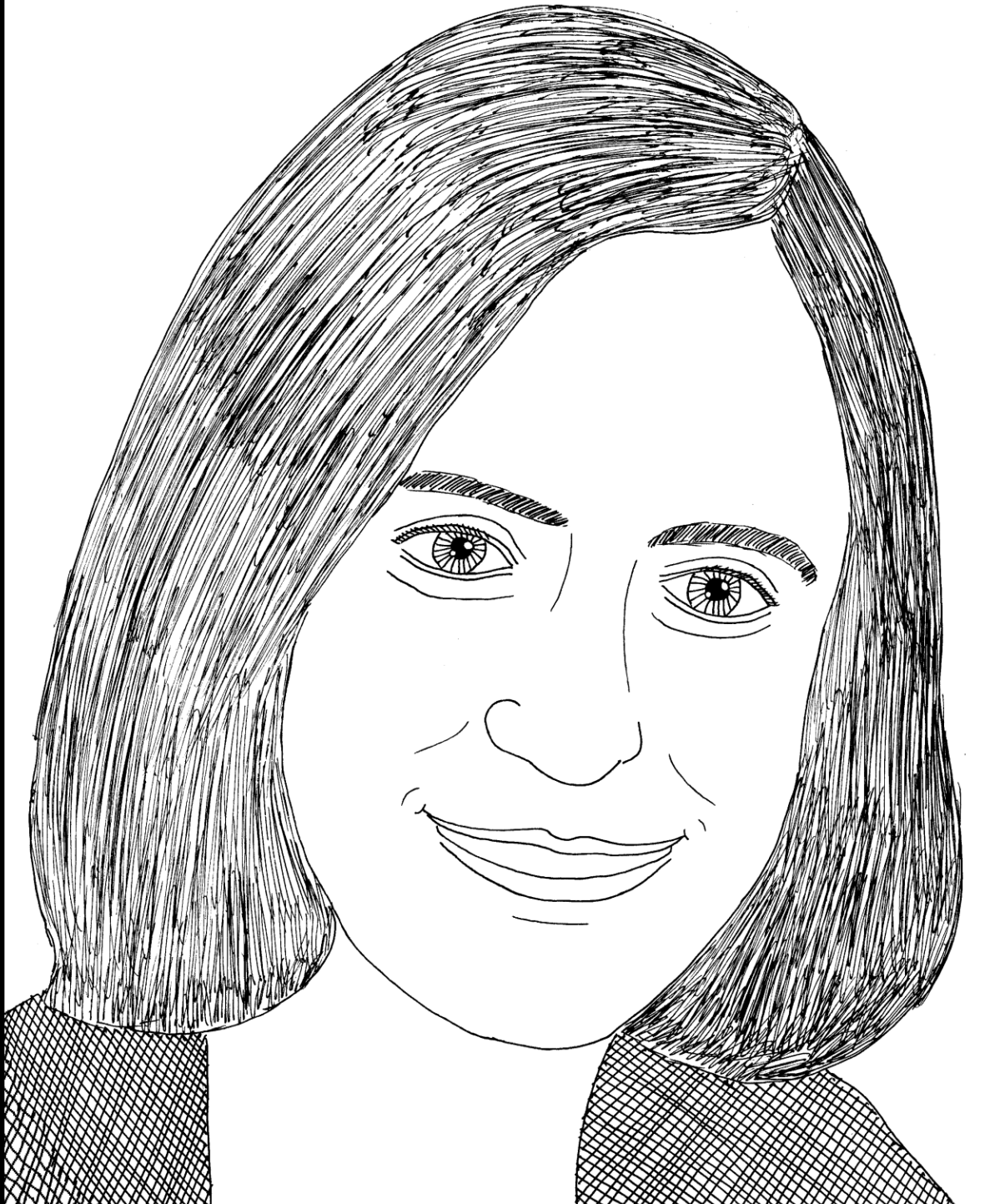
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**"The media is absolutely essential to the functioning of a democracy. It's not our job to cozy up to power. We're supposed to be the check and balance on government."
-- Amy Goodman**

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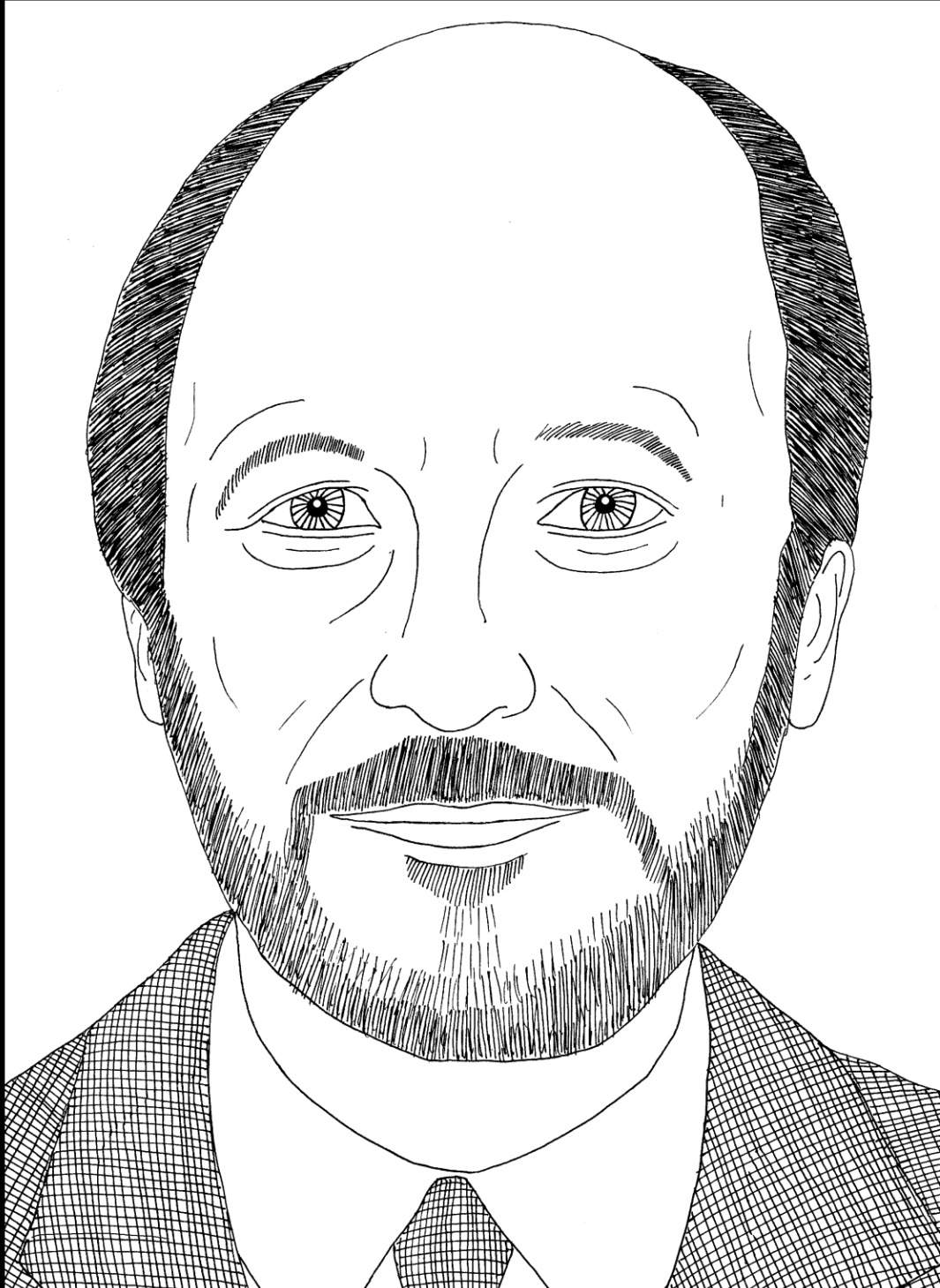
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"Much of the big media outlets in North America are owned by arms manufacturers, like Westinghouse, or GE. That's unacceptable. So we're not getting editorial policy, we're not getting a vision of truth. People just don't know what is going on anymore,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

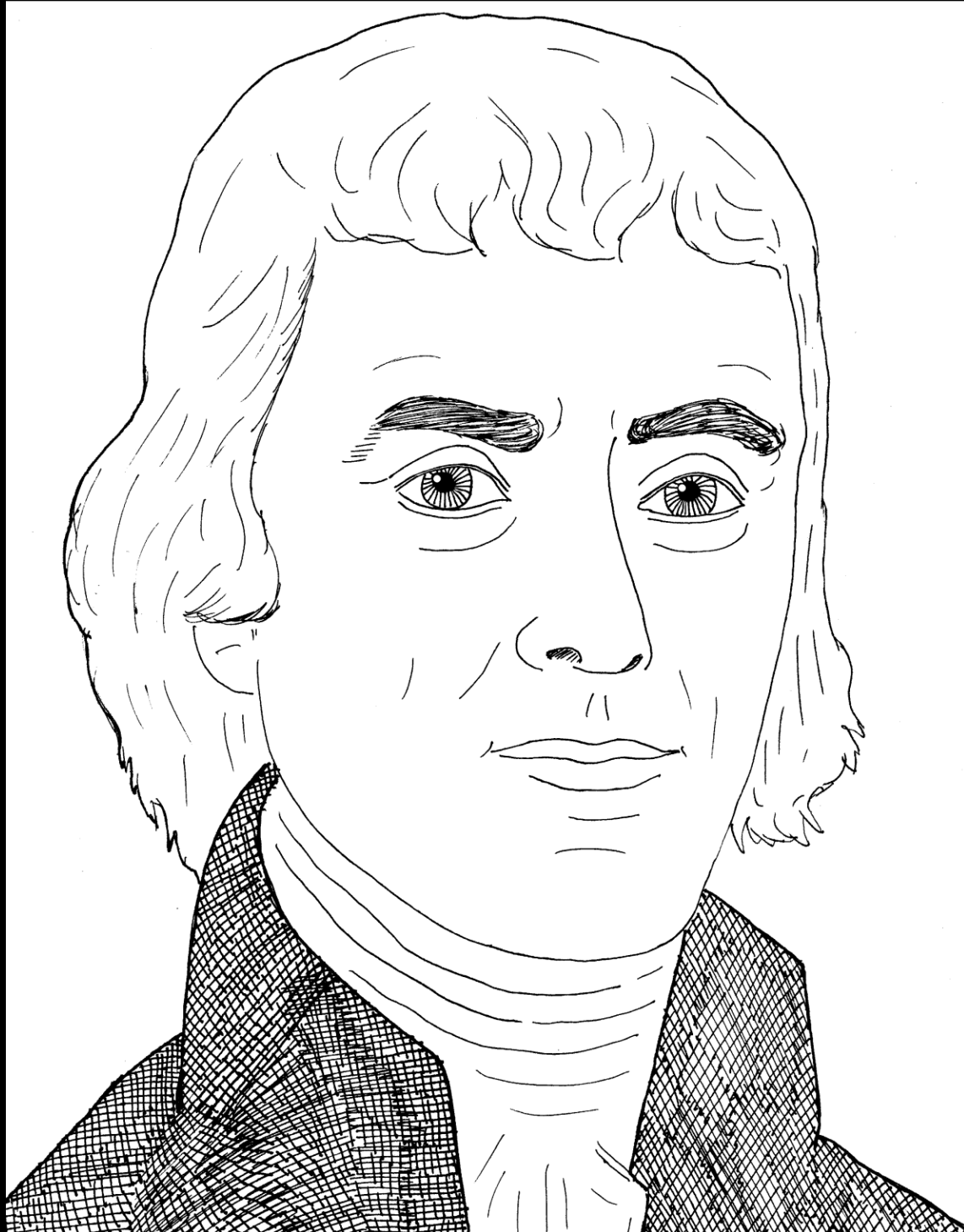
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**"Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press,
and that cannot be limited without being lost."**

-- Thomas Jefferson

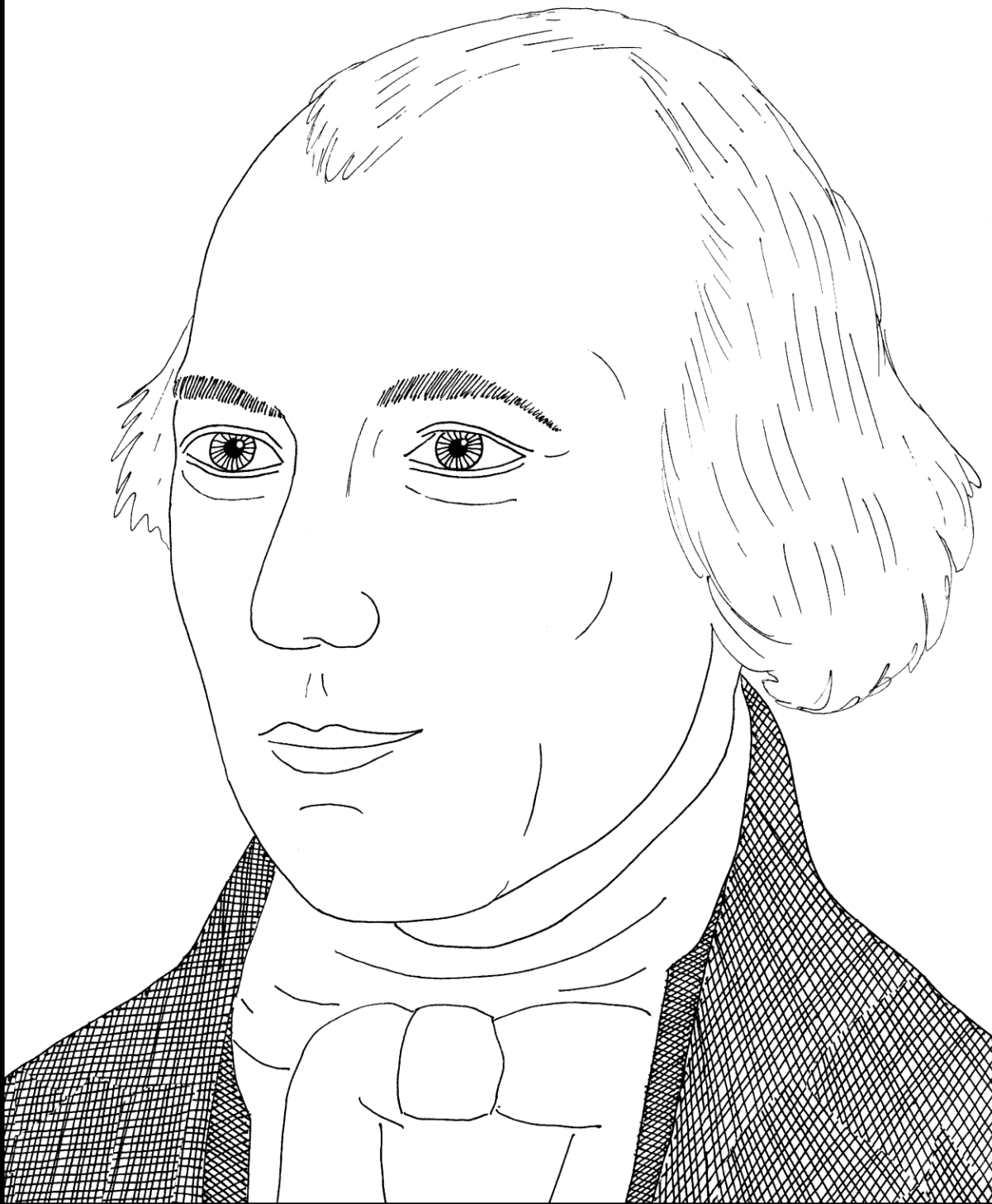
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**"To the press alone, chequered as it is with abuses,
the world is indebted for all the triumphs which have been
gained by reason and humanity over error and oppression."**

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

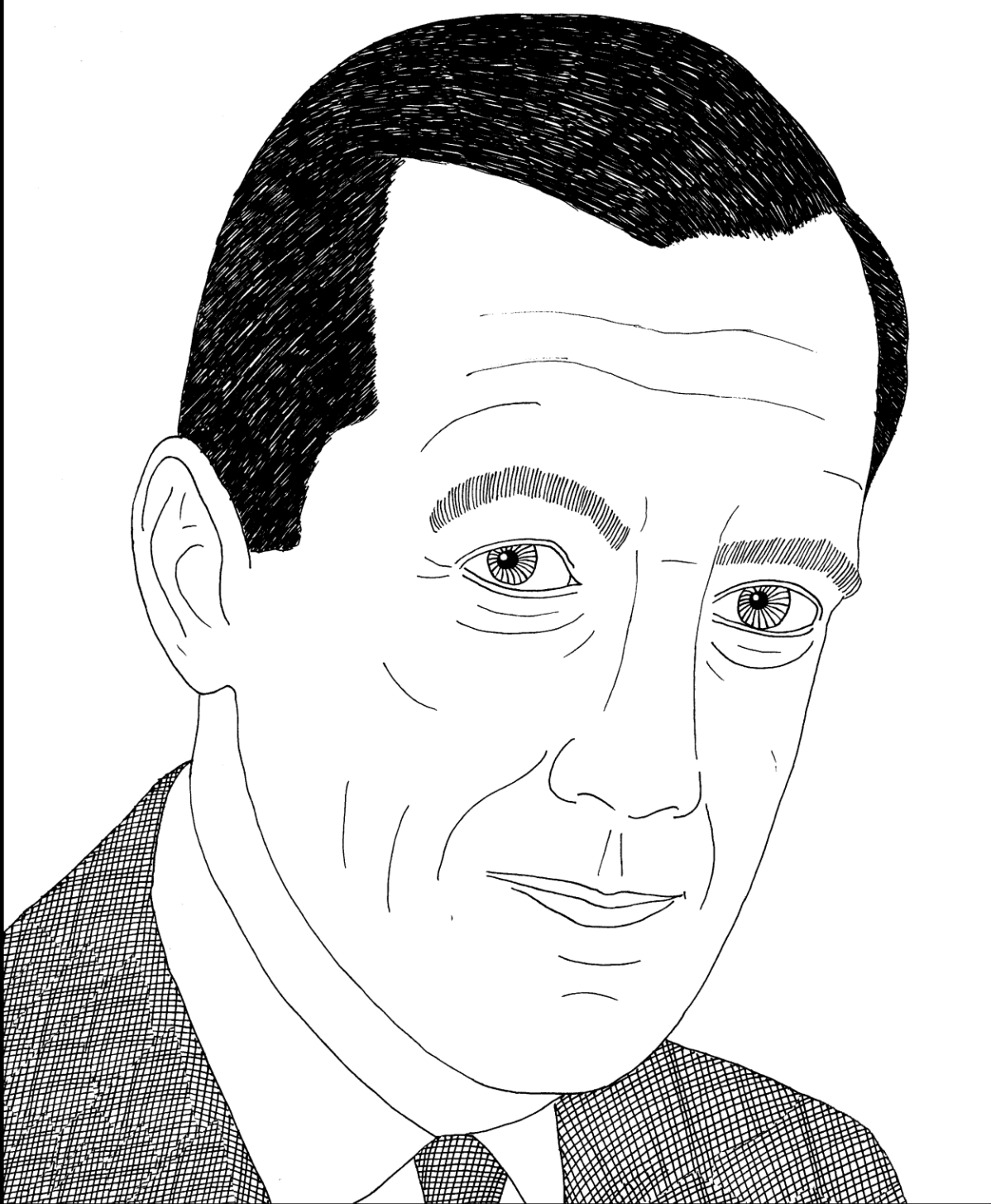
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"The speed of communications is wondrous to behold.
It is also true that speed can multiply the distribution
of information that we know to be untrue."

-- Edward R. Murrow

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"There is a cultural factor promoting violence which nowadays undoubtedly is highly effective is the mass media. And particularly everything that enters our minds through pictorial media."

-- Alva Myrdal

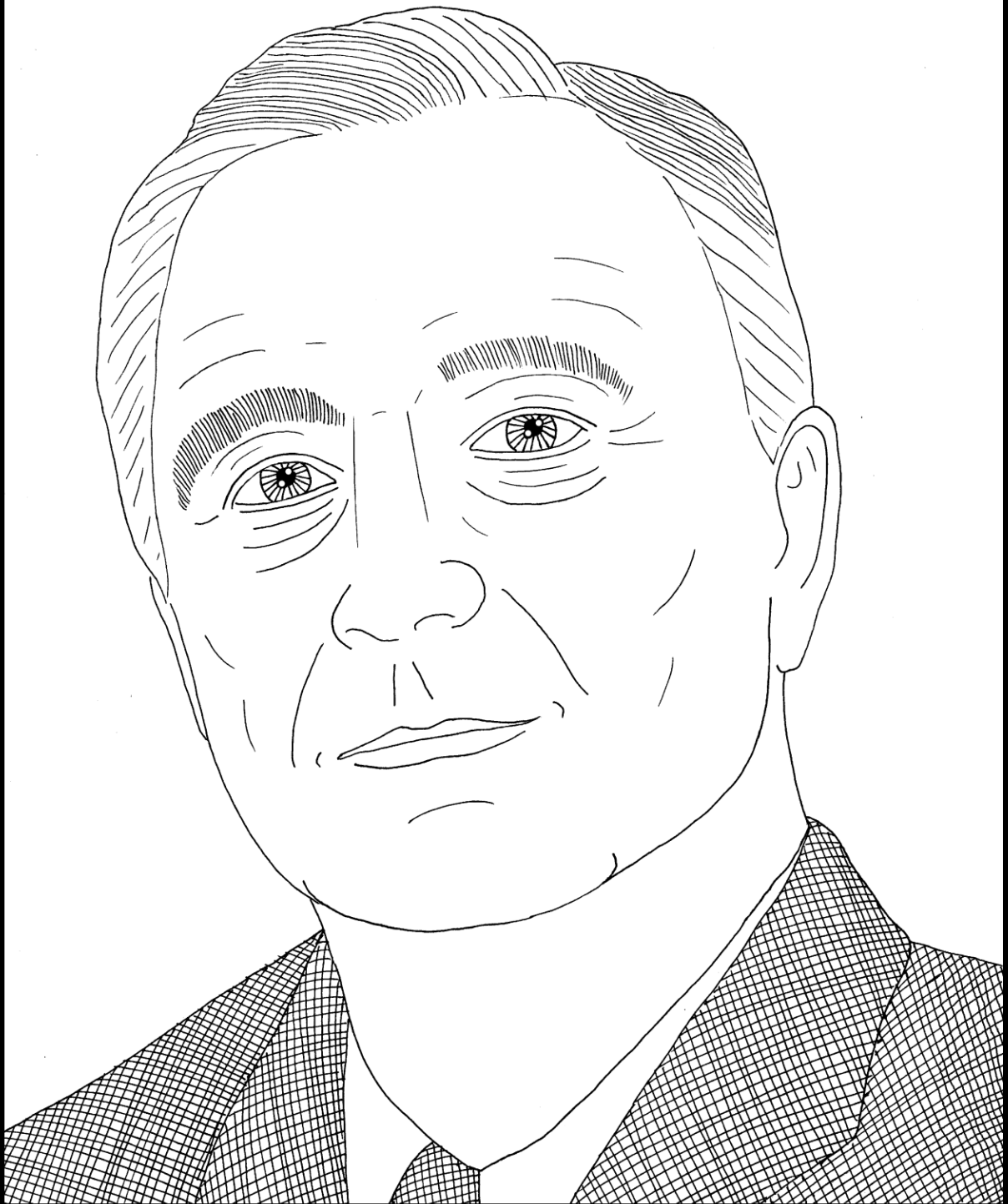
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"If in other lands the press and books and literature of all kinds are censored, we must redouble our efforts here to keep them free"
-- Franklin D. Roosevelt

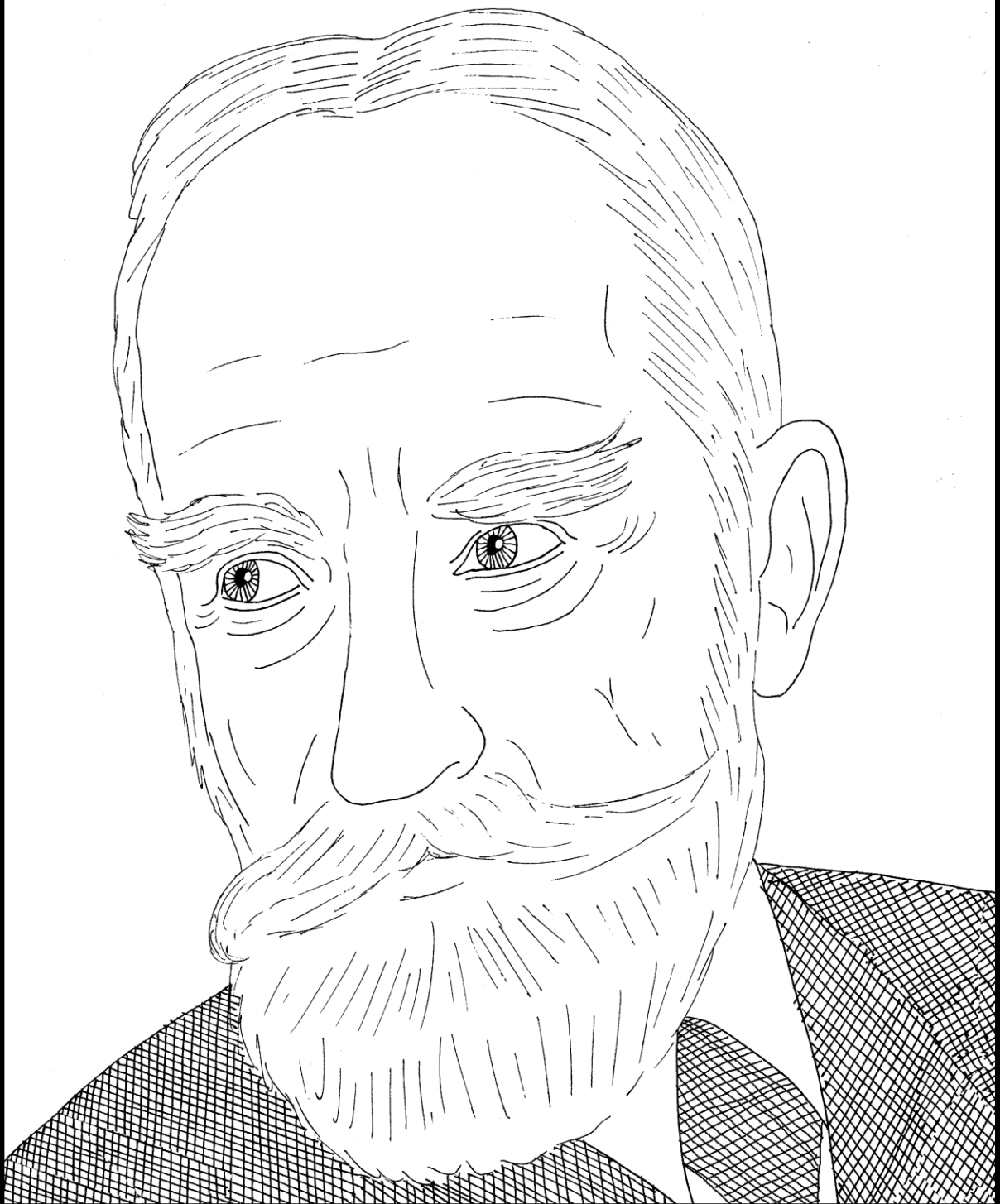
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**"Newspapers are unable, seemingly, to discriminate
between a bicycle accident and the collapse of civilisation."**

-- 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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**"The media is too concentrated, too few people own too much.
There's really five companies that control 90 percent
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-- Ted Turner

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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

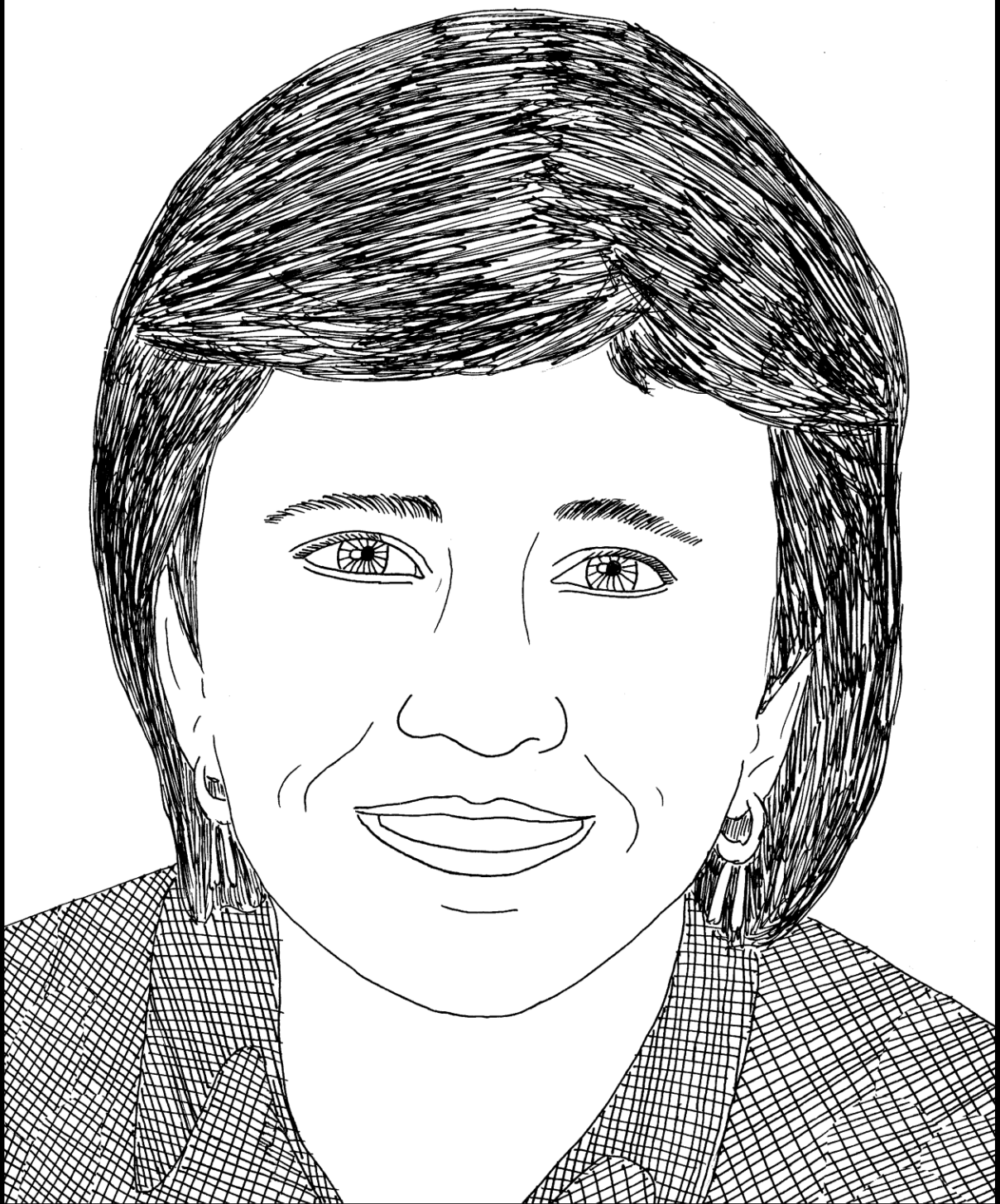
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"If we are to have the public conversations essential to taking on serious dilemmas from climate change to criminal justice reform, we need forums for those conversations. The media can facilitate the conversations or shut them down."
-- Sarah van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

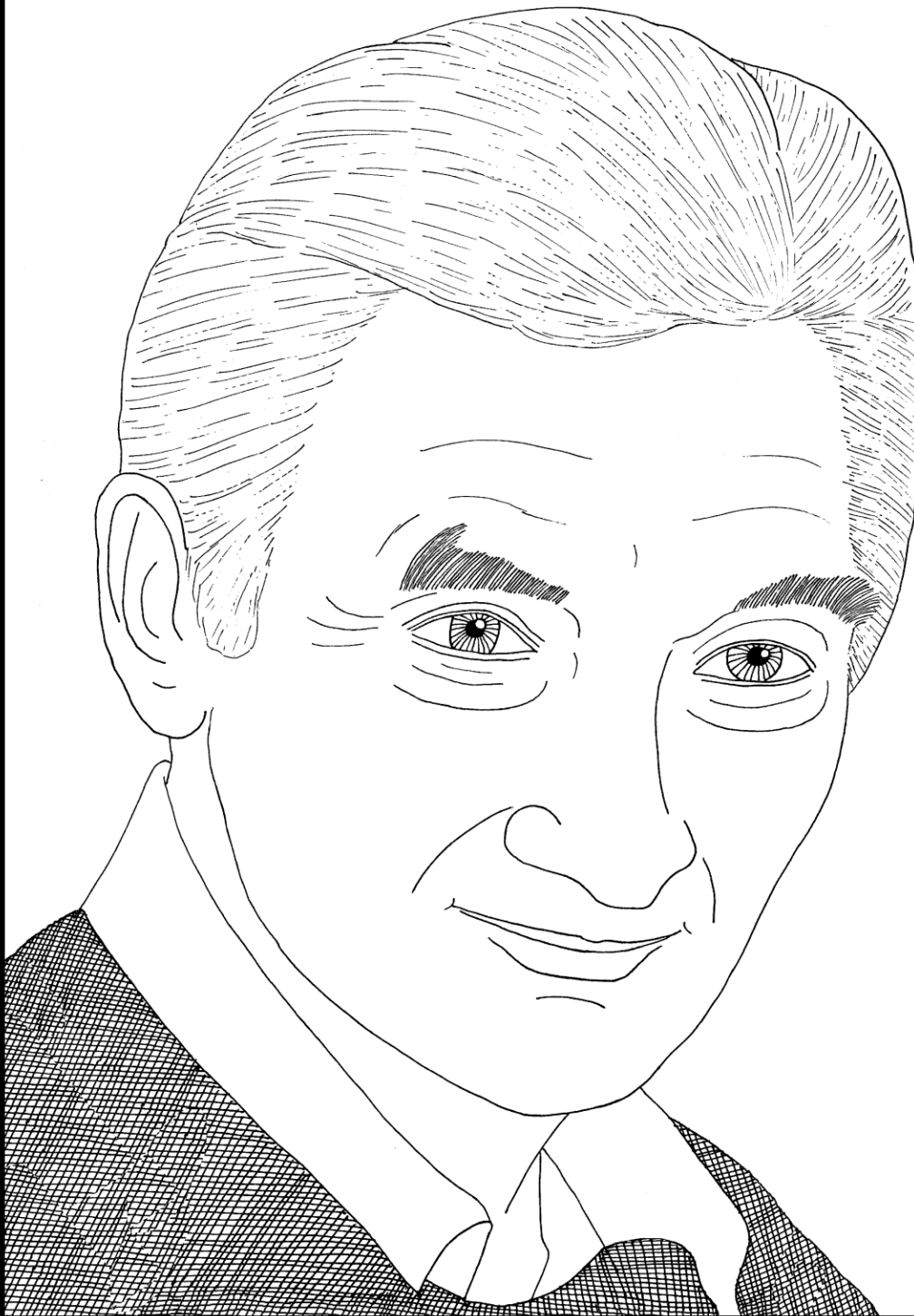
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...every act of compassion makes a difference...every day counts for a better world...

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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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