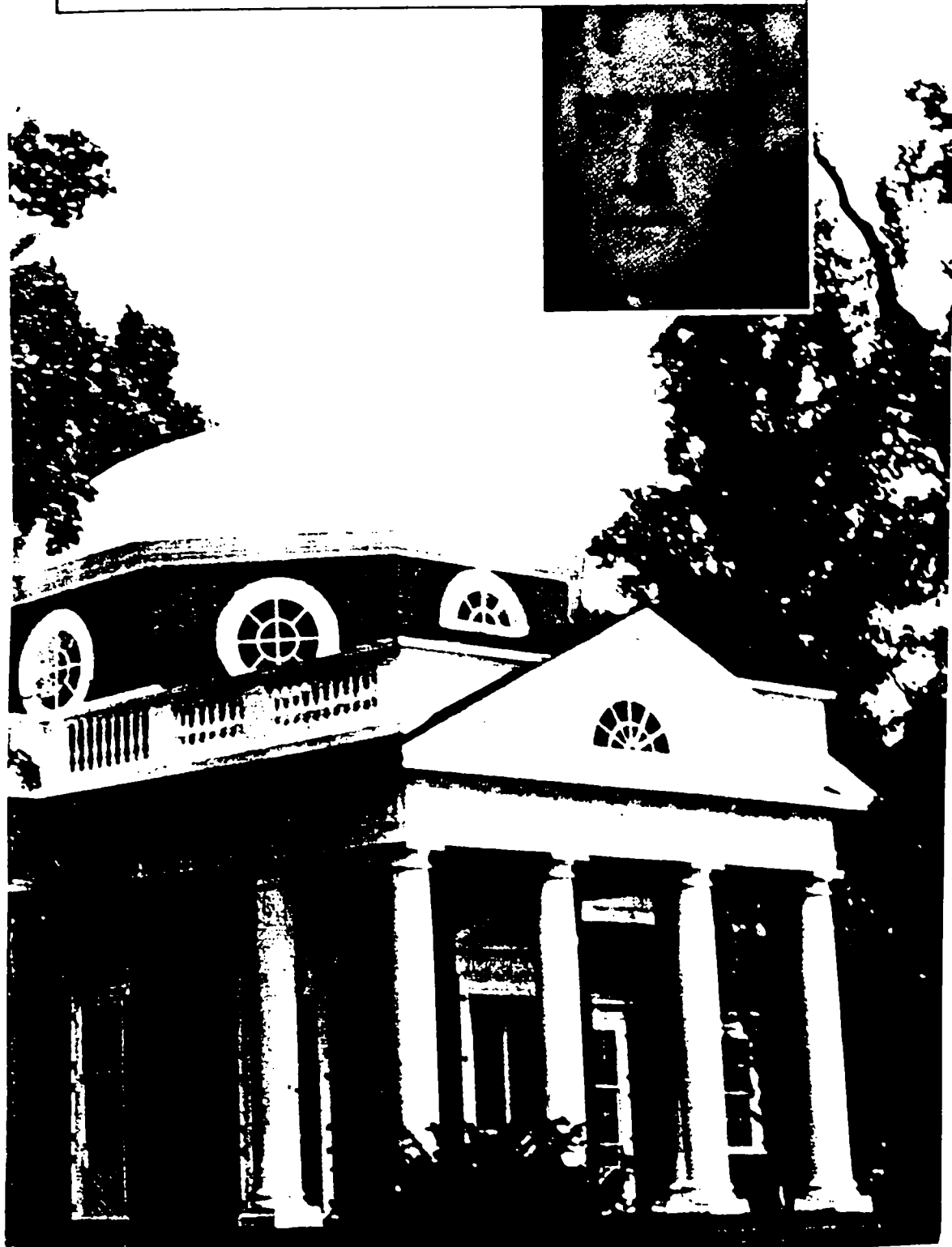
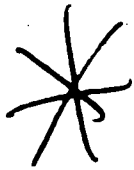


THE PORTABLE *Edited by* MERRILL D. PETERSON THOMAS JEFFERSON

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lions of human beings has probably been the effect of these convulsions. I did not, in '89, believe they would have lasted so long, nor have cost so much blood. But although your prophecy has proved true so far, I hope it does not preclude a better final result. That same light from our west seems to have spread and illuminated the very engines employed to extinguish it. It has given them a glimmering of their rights and their power. The idea of representative government has taken root and growth among them. Their masters feel it, and are saving themselves by timely offers of this modification of their powers. Belgium, Prussia, Poland, Lombardy, etc., are now offered a representative organization; illusive probably at first, but it will grow into power in the end. Opinion is power, and that opinion will come. Even France will yet attain representative government. You observe it makes the basis of every Constitution which has been demanded or offered,—of that demanded by their Senate; of that offered by Bonaparte; and of that granted by Louis XVIII. The idea then is rooted, and will be established, although rivers of blood may yet flow between them and their object. The allied armies now couching upon them are first to be destroyed, and destroyed they will surely be. A nation united can never be conquered. . . .



To Samuel Kercheval

Monticello, July 12, 1816.

SIR

I duly received your favor of June the 13th, with the copy of the letters on the calling a convention, on which you are pleased to ask my opinion. I have not been in the habit of mysterious reserve on any subject, nor of buttoning up my opinions within my own doublet. On the contrary, while in public service especially, I thought the public entitled to frankness, and intimately to know whom

they employed. But I am now retired: I resign myself, as a passenger, with confidence to those at present at the helm, and ask but for rest, peace and good will. The question you propose, on equal representation, has become a party one, in which I wish to take no public share. Yet, if it be asked for your own satisfaction only, and not to be quoted before the public, I have no motive to withhold it, and the less from you, as it coincides with your own. At the birth of our republic, I committed that opinion to the world, in the draught of a constitution annexed to the "Notes on Virginia," in which a provision was inserted for a representation permanently equal. The infancy of the subject at that moment, and our inexperience of self-government, occasioned gross departures in that draught from genuine republican canons. In truth, the abuses of monarchy had so much filled all the space of political contemplation, that we imagined everything republican which was not monarchy. We had not yet penetrated to the mother principle, that "governments are republican only in proportion as they embody the will of their people, and execute it." Hence, our first constitutions had really no leading principles in them. But experience and reflection have but more and more confirmed me in the particular importance of the equal representation then proposed. On that point, then, I am entirely in sentiment with your letters; and only lament that a copyright of your pamphlet prevents their appearance in the newspapers, where alone they would be generally read, and produce general effect. The present vacancy too, of other matter, would give them place in every paper, and bring the question home to every man's conscience.

But inequality of representation in both Houses of our legislature, is not the only republican heresy in this first essay of our Revolutionary patriots at forming a Constitution. For let it be agreed that a government is republican in proportion as every member composing it has his equal voice in the direction of its concerns, (not indeed in per-

son, which would be impracticable beyond the limits of a city, or small township,) but by representatives chosen by himself, and responsible to him at short periods, and let us bring to the test of this canon every branch of our Constitution.

In the legislature, the House of Representatives is chosen by less than half the people, and not at all in proportion to those who do choose. The Senate are still more disproportionate, and for long terms of irresponsibility. In the Executive, the Governor is entirely independent of the choice of the people, and of their control; his Council equally so, and at best but a fifth wheel to a wagon. In the Judiciary, the judges of the highest courts are dependent on none but themselves. In England, where judges were named and removable at the will of an hereditary executive, from which branch most misrule was feared, and has flowed, it was a great point gained, by fixing them for life, to make them independent of that executive. But in a government founded on the public will, this principle operates in an opposite direction, and against that will. There, too, they were still removable on a concurrence of the executive and legislative branches. But we have made them independent of the nation itself. They are irremovable, but by their own body, for any depravities of conduct, and even by their own body for the imbecilities of dotage. The justices of the inferior courts are self-chosen, are for life, and perpetuate their own body in succession forever, so that a faction once possessing themselves of the bench of a county, can never be broken up, but hold their county in chains, forever indissoluble. Yet these justices are the real executive as well as judiciary, in all our minor and most ordinary concerns. They tax us at will; fill the office of sheriff, the most important of all the executive officers of the county; name nearly all our military leaders, which leaders, once named, are removable but by themselves. The juries, our judges of all fact, and of law when they choose it, are not selected by the people, nor amen-

able to them. They are chosen by an officer named by the court and executive. Chosen, did I say? Picked up by the sheriff from the loungings of the court yard, after everything respectable has retired from it. Where then is our republicanism to be found? Not in our Constitution certainly, but merely in the spirit of our people. That would oblige even a despot to govern us republicanly. Owing to this spirit, and to nothing in the form of our Constitution, all things have gone well. But this fact, so triumphantly misquoted by the enemies of reformation, is not the fruit of our Constitution, but has prevailed in spite of it. Our functionaries have done well, because generally honest men. If any were not so, they feared to show it.

But it will be said, it is easier to find faults than to amend them. I do not think their amendment so difficult as is pretended. Only lay down true principles, and adhere to them inflexibly. Do not be frightened into their surrender by the alarms of the timid, or the croakings of wealth against the ascendancy of the people. If experience be called for, appeal to that of our fifteen or twenty governments for forty years, and show me where the people have done half the mischief in these forty years, that a single despot would have done in a single year; or show half the riots and rebellions, the crimes and the punishments, which have taken place in any single nation, under kingly government, during the same period. The true foundation of republican government is the equal right of every citizen, in his person and property, and in their management. Try by this, as a tally, every provision of our Constitution, and see if it hangs directly on the will of the people. Reduce your legislature to a convenient number for full, but orderly discussion. Let every man who fights or pays, exercise his just and equal right in their election. Submit them to approbation or rejection at short intervals. Let the executive be chosen in the same way, and for the same term, by those whose agent he is to be; and leave no screen of a council behind which to

skulk from responsibility. It has been thought that the people are not competent electors of judges *learned in the law*. But I do not know that this is true, and, if doubtful, we should follow principle. In this, as in many other elections, they would be guided by reputation, which would not err oftener, perhaps, than the present mode of appointment. In one State of the Union, at least, it has long been tried, and with the most satisfactory success. The judges of Connecticut have been chosen by the people every six months, for nearly two centuries, and I believe there has hardly ever been an instance of change; so powerful is the curb of incessant responsibility. If prejudice, however, derived from a monarchical institution, is still to prevail against the vital elective principle of our own, and if the existing example among ourselves of periodical election of judges by the people be still mistrusted, let us at least not adopt the evil, and reject the good, of the English precedent; let us retain amovability on the concurrence of the executive and legislative branches, and nomination by the executive alone. Nomination to office is an executive function. To give it to the legislature, as we do, is a violation of the principle of the separation of powers. It swerves the members from correctness, by temptations to intrigue for office themselves, and to a corrupt barter of votes; and destroys responsibility by dividing it among a multitude. By leaving nomination in its proper place, among executive functions, the principle of the distribution of power is preserved, and responsibility weighs with its heaviest force on a single head.

The organization of our county administrations may be thought more difficult. But follow principle, and the knot unties itself. Divide the counties into wards of such size as that every citizen can attend, when called on, and act in person. Ascribe to them the government of their wards in all things relating to themselves exclusively. A justice, chosen by themselves, in each, a constable, a military company, a patrol, a school, the care of their own poor, their

own portion of the public roads, the choice of one or more jurors to serve in some court, and the delivery, within their own wards, of their own votes for all elective officers of higher sphere, will relieve the county administration of nearly all its business, will have it better done, and by making every citizen an acting member of the government, and in the offices nearest and most interesting to him, will attach him by his strongest feelings to the independence of his country, and its republican Constitution. The justices thus chosen by every ward, would constitute the county court, would do its judiciary business, direct roads and bridges, levy county and poor rates, and administer all the matters of common interest to the whole country. These wards, called townships in New England, are the vital principle of their governments, and have proved themselves the wisest invention ever devised by the wit of man for the perfect exercise of self-government, and for its preservation. We should thus marshal our government into, 1, the general federal republic, for all concerns foreign and federal; 2, that of the State, for what relates to our own citizens exclusively; 3, the county republics, for the duties and concerns of the county; and 4, the ward republics, for the small, and yet numerous and interesting concerns of the neighborhood; and in government, as well as in every other business of life, it is by division and subdivision of duties alone, that all matters, great and small, can be managed to perfection. And the whole is cemented by giving to every citizen, personally, a part in the administration of the public affairs. *

The sum of these amendments is, 1. General suffrage. 2. Equal representation in the legislature. 3. An executive chosen by the people. 4. Judges elective or amovable. 5. Justices, jurors, and sheriffs elective. 6. Ward divisions. And 7. Periodical amendments of the Constitution.

I have thrown out these as loose heads of amendment, for consideration and correction; and their object is to secure self-government by the republicanism of our Consti-



tution, as well as by the spirit of the people; and to nourish and perpetuate that spirit. I am not among those who fear the people. They, and not the rich, are our dependence for continued freedom. And to preserve their independence, we must not let our rulers load us with perpetual debt. We must make our election between *economy and liberty*, or *profusion and servitude*. If we run into such debts, as that we must be taxed in our meat and in our drink, in our necessities and our comforts, in our labors and our amusements, for our callings and our creeds, as the people of England are, our people, like them, must come to labor sixteen hours in the twenty-four, give the earnings of fifteen of these to the government for their debts and daily expenses; and the sixteenth being insufficient to afford us bread, we must live, as they now do, on oatmeal and potatoes; have no time to think, no means of calling the mismanagers to account; but be glad to obtain subsistence by hiring ourselves to rivet their chains on the necks of our fellow sufferers. Our land-holders, too, like theirs, retaining indeed the title and stewardship of estates called theirs, but held really in trust for the treasury, must wander, like theirs, in foreign countries, and be contented with penury, obscurity, exile, and the glory of the nation. This example reads to us the salutary lesson, that private fortunes are destroyed by public as well as by private extravagance. And this is the tendency of all human governments. A departure from principle in one instance becomes a precedent for a second; that second for a third; and so on, till the bulk of the society is reduced to be mere automaton of misery, to have no sensibilities left but for sinning and suffering. Then begins, indeed, the *bellum omnium in omnia*, which some philosophers observing to be so general in this world, have mistaken it for the natural, instead of the abusive state of man. And the fore horse of this frightful team is public debt. Taxation follows that, and in its train wretchedness and oppression.

Some men look at constitutions with sanctimonious reverence, and deem them like the ark of the covenant,

too sacred to be touched. They ascribe to the men of the preceding age a wisdom more than human, and suppose what they did to be beyond amendment. I knew that age well; I belonged to it, and labored with it. It deserved well of its country. It was very like the present, but without the experience of the present; and forty years of experience in government is worth a century of book-reading; and this they would say themselves, were they to rise from the dead. I am certainly not an advocate for frequent and untried changes in laws and constitutions. I think moderate imperfections had better be borne with; because, when once known, we accommodate ourselves to them, and find practical means of correcting their ill effects. But I know also, that laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths disclosed, and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also, and keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy, as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors. It is this preposterous idea which has lately deluged Europe in blood. Their monarchs, instead of wisely yielding to the gradual change of circumstances, of favoring progressive accommodation to progressive improvement, have clung to old abuses, entrenched themselves behind steady habits, and obliged their subjects to seek through blood and violence rash and ruinous innovations, which, had they been referred to the peaceful deliberations and collected wisdom of the nation, would have been put into acceptable and salutary forms. Let us follow no such examples, nor weakly believe that one generation is not as capable as another of taking care of itself, and of ordering its own affairs. Let us, as our sister States have done, avail ourselves of our reason and experience, to correct the crude essays of our first and unexperienced, although wise, virtuous, and well-meaning councils. And lastly, let us

provide in our Constitution for its revision at stated periods. What these periods should be, nature herself indicates. By the European tables of mortality, of the adults living at any one moment of time, a majority will be dead in about nineteen years. At the end of that period then, a new majority is come into place; or, in other words, a new generation. Each generation is as independent of the one preceding, as that was of all which had gone before. It has then, like them, a right to choose for itself the form of government it believes most promotive of its own happiness; consequently, to accommodate to the circumstances in which it finds itself, that received from its predecessors; and it is for the peace and good of mankind, that a solemn opportunity of doing this every nineteen or twenty years, should be provided by the Constitution; so that it may be handed on, with periodical repairs, from generation to generation, to the end of time, if anything human can so long endure. It is now forty years since the constitution of Virginia was formed. The same tables inform us, that, within that period, two-thirds of the adults then living are now dead. Have then the remaining third, even if they had the wish, the right to hold in obedience to their will, and to laws heretofore made by them, the other two-thirds, who, with themselves, compose the present mass of adults? If they have not, who has? The dead? But the dead have no rights. They are nothing; and nothing cannot own something. Where there is no substance, there can be no accident. This corporeal globe, and everything upon it, belong to its present corporeal inhabitants, during their generation. They alone have a right to direct what is the concern of themselves alone, and to declare the law of that direction; and this declaration can only be made by their majority. That majority, then, has a right to depute representatives to a convention, and to make the Constitution what they think will be the best for themselves. But how collect their voice? This is the real difficulty. If invited by private authority, or county or district meetings, these divisions are so large that few



will attend; and their voice will be imperfectly, or falsely, pronounced. Here, then, would be one of the advantages of the ward divisions I have proposed. The mayor of every ward, on a question like the present, would call his ward together, take the simple yea or nay of its members, convey these to the country court, who would hand on those of all its wards to the proper general authority; and the voice of the whole people would be thus fairly, fully, and peaceably expressed, discussed, and decided by the common reason of the society. If this avenue be shut to the call of sufferance, it will make itself heard through that of force, and we shall go on, as other nations are doing, in the endless circle of oppression, rebellion, reformation; and oppression, rebellion, reformation, again; and so on forever.



These, Sir, are my opinions of the governments we see among men, and of the principles by which alone we may prevent our own from falling into the same dreadful track. I have given them at greater length than your letter called for. But I cannot say things by halves; and I confide them to your honor, so to use them as to preserve me from the gridiron of the public papers. If you shall approve and enforce them, as you have done that of equal representation, they may do some good. If not, keep them to yourself as the effusions of withered age and useless time. I shall, with not the less truth, assure you of my great respect and consideration.

TO: TOM FRIEDMAN

FYI

TOM W. RYAN

144 Willowleaf Drive

Littleton, CO 80127

303-973-5077 (Fax) 303-932-6010

ryandenvier@msn.com

DATE: DECEMBER 26, 1999 17 pages
(includes cover)

TO: ERIC LIU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DOMESTIC POLICY

FROM: TOM RYAN

SUBJECT: CAN WE MEET WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29TH?????

I have a flight booked for Tuesday to Washington.

Can we meet on Wednesday December 29th to discuss how Thomas Jefferson's idea to open the doors of decision-making can transform President Clinton's State of the Union into a speech for the Millennium setting forth a new era of democratic participation?

Let me know. History is in your hands.

- 1) Letter to President Clinton;
- 2) Articles on legislative road blocks to gun control in both Colorado and Illinois with historic idea for the President to ask Congress to pass his gun control proposals in 90 days or refer them to the people in a Jefferson-designed National Advisory Referendum;
- 3) Articles on Internet voting for Democratic primary in Arizona making it the world's first binding Internet vote;
- 4) Article from United Airlines "Hemisphere's" magazine that in Amsterdam (site of first non-military Internet connection in 1988) Internet kiosks are becoming as common place as telephone booths--paving the way for universal access to the Internet and making Internet voting accessible to all for the future.

TOM W. RYAN
144 Willowleaf Drive
Littleton, CO 80127

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ryandenvier@msn.com

December 26, 1999

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On December 8th you said that one of your biggest disappointments this year was the failure of Congress to pass "common sense gun legislation which was crying out for action after the tragedy of Columbine."

Attached are two front page articles from the December 26 Denver Post and the December 22 Chicago Tribune detailing how the battles being fought in both Colorado and Illinois over gun control legislation are being lost to the powerful forces who oppose sensible controls. The momentum you helped create for common sense gun controls after the Columbine tragedy here in Littleton has been lost both in Congress and in the state legislatures.

We need bold leadership in your State of the Union address.

I urge you to make history by telling Congress: either pass your gun control legislation in 90 days or refer the proposals to the people in the first-ever National Advisory Referendum in 2000 so we as a nation can decide in an advisory vote as Thomas Jefferson envisioned in his 1816 letter to Samuel Kercheval.

As I said to you when we met in July at Senator Dianne Feinstein's home in Aspen, Colorado: "You share Jefferson's name; by proposing a National Advisory Referendum, you can share Jefferson's legacy on democracy."

I can hear your voice at the State of the Union as the nation watches you set forth a new course for our democracy for the new Millennium.

"Join with me today to open the doors of decision-making to the people by establishing a National Advisory Referendum, first proposed by Thomas Jefferson, in a letter to Thomas Kercheval in 1816, where we as a nation can come together to cast advisory votes on matters of public policy every general election.

"Join with me today to create a 'New American Community' for a 'New American Century' where the past divisions dominated by privilege, wealth, power or special interest are replaced by a new spirit of community and national consensus so that, in the words of Thomas Jefferson, "the voice of the whole people would be thus fairly, fully and peaceably expressed, discussed and decided by the common reason of society."

"Join with me today to create for all Americans a new mechanism of democracy where we as a nation can come together to forge a public consensus for our common destiny and give new meaning to the words, 'We the people.'"

I have enclosed 3 important articles on Internet voting:

- 1) & 2) The Democratic Party in Arizona has decided to make history by allowing voters to vote over the Internet for the March 2000 Democratic Primary. Even the voters coming to the polls will be voting over the Internet. Democratic Party officials expect over 90% of the voters will cast their ballots over the Internet. The Democratic Party has contracted with two private companies to carry out the world's first legally binding election over the Internet. Votation.Com will conduct the voting over the Internet and VeriSign will use its technology developed for commercial transactions to ensure that there is no fraud. In fact, VeriSign says that its technology will make Internet voting fraud virtually impossible.

3) In Amsterdam, the worlds first non-military Internet site (1988), has established Web kiosks all around town next to phone booths. Amsterdam has shown us that access to the Internet with public kiosks will become as universal and common place as a telephone booth—making voting over the Internet accessible to all.

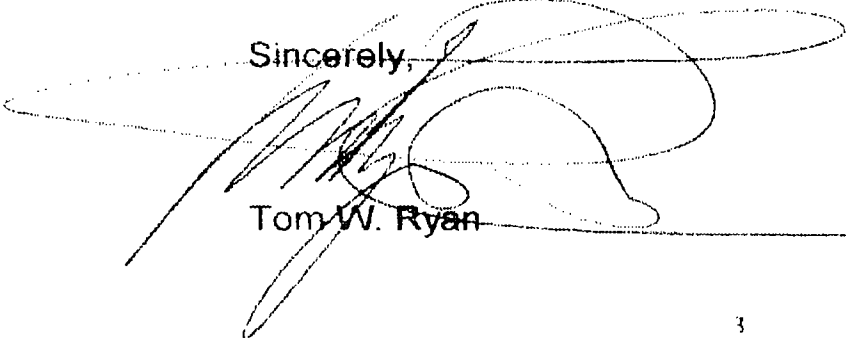
Today ESPN announced the top athlete of the 20th century as voted by a panel of experts—Michael Jordan over Babe Ruth. But they also announced that in a poll over its Web site, the public also voted Michael Jordan as the best in the century. ESPN has paved the way for government showing how the official vote of the experts and the public's vote can work hand-in-hand to form a common consensus.

Thomas Jefferson believed that we must reform our democracy to give people a direct voice on the issues—not to replace the judgment of elected officials—but to work in concert with them. The world of the Internet has already opened the doors of decision-making to the public in the world of sports and business.

Now is the time for Presidential leadership to break down the barriers to government by including the public in public decision-making. I respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you Wednesday or Thursday of this week to discuss with you Thomas Jefferson's idea to give people a direct voice on the issues by casting advisory votes every election.

Jefferson was the architect, but it is up to you to build a new model of American democracy for the new century which can strengthen the forces of peace and justice throughout the world. History is in your hands.

Sincerely,



Tom W. Ryan

TRAVEL NEWS

her his gardens at Giverny. Admission: \$12 for timed and dated tickets. Tel: 602-257-1880.

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

"Dear Willie: From the Collection of the Clark Library." *"Sketches of the Armand Hammer Museum of Art and Cultural Center through January 2."* Oscar Wilde's letters, art, books, and photographs. Closed Mondays. Admission: \$4.50. Tel: 310-443-7000.

"Roman Life in a Roman Town." Los Angeles County Museum of Art, through January 9. Features tools and, surprisingly, glass from ancient Pompeii. Closed Wednesdays. Admission: \$7. Tel: 323-857-6000.

Oakland

"Amazing Bikes: 2 Centuries on 2 Wheels." Oakland Museum of California, through January 30. Many bikes dating as far back as 1819 illustrate the history of pedal power. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Admission: \$6. Tel: 510-258-2200.

San Francisco

"Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education." San Mateo. Get acquainted with the native plants and animals that help make the Bay Area a paradise. Closed Mondays. Admission: \$7. Tel: 650-342-7755.

"The Arts of the Sikh Kingdoms." Asian Art Museum of San Francisco, through January 9. ▶

On Location

P.I. AMSTERDAM 15 FASCINATING FACTS: AMSTERDAM

See Page 2
FACT # 6
For WEB Kiosks

The Dutch may hold back the sea, but delightful Amsterdam holds nothing else back. Visitors seeking the rich culture and varied history of Holland's largest city can cruise the 165 canals, stroll amid the many parks and museums, and savor a land of 400,000 bicycles and 600,000 tulips. (By Rodney Boll)



1. DON'T FORGET YOUR UMBRELLA! It rains at least 12 days a month in Amsterdam, and the sun clocks in for a scant 32 percent of daylight hours. February is the cruelest month, with an average temperature of -01 degrees Celsius (32 F). That slowly creeps up to 20.9 degrees Celsius (70 F) in August. Nevertheless, Amsterdammers are a determinedly outdoorsy lot. Canopies and heaters on café terraces allow people to sit outside on all but the foulest of days, and sip *pannen*, a clean, distilled alcohol that is flavored with juniper berries. **2.** At last count, Amsterdam had 727,095 residents and about 400,000 bicycles. For the first time since the 1960s, Amsterdam again has "white bicycles"—communal bikes that can be picked up and dropped off at various points in the city. By next year there will be 750 bicycles at 25 locations. **3.** No city in the world has more attractions within walking distance (www.amsterdam.nl). Seven marked walking routes cover 30 attractions, and there are 6,742 national monuments within the city center alone. The whole of Old Town is up for inclusion on UNESCO's World Heritage List. **4.** The zero mark for calibrating altitude through most of Europe (the Amsterdam Ordnance Datum, established in 1684) is located beneath the pavement on the Dam, Amsterdam's central square. You can see a true copy of the zero point on a bronze knob in the basement of City Hall. **5.** Amsterdam sprawls over 14 different polders (land reclaimed from marshes). Parts of the city center are just two feet above sea level, while some suburbs are up to 20 feet below. The city is kept dry by 84 pumping stations. Its still-soggy soil—a 16-foot-deep layer of peat, 25 feet of clay, then a level ▶

TRAVEL NEWS

With roots in the Hindu and Islamic worlds, Sikh rulers proclaimed democracy and social justice while they also were creating a rich decorative style of living. **Closed Mondays.** Admission: \$7. Tel: 415-373-8801.

COLORADO

Denver

Tropical Islands Komodo Dragons. **Denver Zoo**, recently opened.

The largest indoor exhibit of Komodo dragons anywhere. Come see the marvellous monsters, some up to 10 feet long. Admission: \$6. Tel: 303-376-4800.

FLORIDA

Lake Buena Vista

The Disney Family Spectacle of Lights. **Disney MGM Studios**, through January 2.

Four million lights twinkle all over the park for one of the biggest holiday light shows ever. Admission: \$44. Tel: 407-824-4521.

Miami Beach

Art Deco Festival 2000, January 10-16.

Guided tours of Miami's art deco, dinner, a street fair, and a film and lecture series celebrate the 75th anniversary of the art deco movement. Free. Tel: 305-672-2014.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Treasures From Mount Vernon. **George Washington**, **Roosevelt Atlanta History Center**, through January 6.

This bicentennial exhibition gives an overview of Washington's life and

ON LOCATION

P 2

AMSTERDAM

of sand—would swallow buildings not built on underground soils resting in the sand. The Royal Palace on the Dam has 13659 such wooden piles. **6.** Amsterdam became Europe's first nonmilitary Internet connection point in 1988, and the city remains one of the six biggest Internet nodes in the world. The 17th-century Public Weighhouse—still lit largely by candles—is now a cybercafé, and there are Web kiosks on street corners,

beside public telephone booths. **7.** Industrial progress, not a Dutch Don Quixote, led Amsterdam or most of its windmills. But six still stand within the city limits. One of them, De Gooyer, is a buzzy local watering hole and microbrewery famed for its strong beers. **8.** Book early if you want a hotel room (try www.houels-amsterdam.com). Amsterdam is Europe's fourth most popular destination, after Paris, Rome, and London. **9.** Amsterdam is a treasure city for excellence. You can hike in not only *The Night Watch* but 21 other Rembrandts (www.rjkamuseum.nl), 206 paintings by van Gogh (www.van.goghmuseum.nl), and a host of Old Masters, as well. **10.** Thousands take to the water in Amsterdam each year. There are 120 "canal bikes," 70 excursion boats, and a whole fleet of Water Taxis to transport you through Amsterdam's 165 canals and under its 1281 bridges. You can also hire electrically powered motorboats to swish quietly through the canals under your own navigation (Tel: 31-20-422-7002 or 31-20-422-9500). **11.** Of all the ethnic dining experiences on offer, the most surreal is at Shubb (Tel: 31-20-422-6291). Patrons recline on couches and cushions in two Bedouin tents while being served Middle Eastern fare by robed men and veiled women. **12.** Ever keen on promoting use of public transport, the Dutch make travel as easy as possible. Just phone 0900-9292 from your hotel and tell the operator (in English) where you're staying, your destination, and when you want to leave or arrive. You'll be given a minute-by-minute breakdown of which buses, trams, or trains to use, where to get off, and walking times between stops. **13.** The most famous song about the city, "Tulips From Amsterdam," was in fact written by a native of Berlin and made famous by a Briton. And tulips actually originated in Turkey. Nevertheless, each spring Amsterdam's 28 parks and squares are resplendent with the blooms of 600,000 tulips and other bulbs. **14.** With 15,000 people per square kilometer, space is at a premium in inner-city Amsterdam. Work has begun on an archipelago of six artificial islands in the IJmeer, an inland sea north-east of town, to ease the squeeze. **15.** Amsterdam is home to people of 150 different nationalities and has the highest proportion of ethnic minorities in Europe: 44 percent of the population. No wonder the locals are astoundingly foreign-language friendly. Surveys show that 73 percent of people speak at least one foreign language, and 44 percent speak two. **END/ Rodney Bolt is a long-time Amsterdam resident who writes about food, architecture, art, and his adopted hometown.**

WEB Kiosks Next to phone booths



No other city in the world has more attractions within easy walking—or biking—distance.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

DEC 22, 1999

(Front Page)
(LEAD STORY)

Ryan going after Philip's loyalists

Governor targets 12 in gun-bill showdown

By Rick Pearson
and Ray Long
Times Staff Writers

SPRINGFIELD — A colorful pie chart arrived this week on the desks of the 82 Republicans in the Illinois Senate, showing who got what from Gov. George Ryan's Illinois FIRST public works program.

House Republicans, the chart indicated, have received 53.4 percent of the \$23.8 million distributed so far, while Senate Republicans got 2.5 percent. Democrats and Ryan got the rest.

■ Federal weapons charges may fill the gap left by voiding of state's law. **Metro**

The implication of the chart, distributed by Senate President James "Pate" Philip's office to his caucus, was clear. In the current battle between the state's top two Republicans, George Ryan is not your friend.

As the legislative deadlock over the penalty for illegal weapons possession has dragged on in the state capitol, the contest has

turned into a war between Philip and Ryan for the allegiances of individual Republican senators. So far, Philip is winning.

On Tuesday, the ninth day of the stalemate, Philip tried to muscle through a revised version of the Safe Neighborhoods Act, minus any reference to a controversial provision making unlawful use of weapons a felony. After the proposal fell three votes shy of the 36 needed to pass, he sent his members home for the holidays.

See Weapons, Page 24



AP photo

State Senate President James "Pate" Philip meets the media Tuesday at the Capitol. Senators went home without a new Safe Neighborhoods Act.

SUNDAY DENVER POST

Dec 26, 1999

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

★★★★50¢ — May vary outside metro Denver

Fight looms on gun control

By Mike Soraghan
Denver Post Staff Writer

Gun-control bills face an uncertain future in the Colorado Legislature next year, despite the national wave of anti-gun sentiment set off by the Columbine High School massacre.

But if lawmakers refuse to pass tougher gun restrictions, a bipartisan group is threatening to take the measures straight to voters.

Sane Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic is frustrated by Gov. Bill Owens' silence on his own gun-control plan and Republican legislators' resistance to it.

"There's a huge disconnect between the Colorado General Assembly and the voters of Colorado,"

• Ballot initiative likely if Legislature balks

do," said John Head, a SAFE Colorado co-president. "If they do nothing about it in the session, we'll have measures on the ballot, and they can explain why they didn't vote for it."

Gun-rights supporters say they're confident Colorado's voters are with them, though they say the campaign would be ugly.

"There'd be a war here," said House Majority Leader Doug Dean, a Colorado Springs Republican who works closely with the National Rifle Association. "From the polls I've seen, that I believe, people in Colorado support gun rights."

The threat of a ballot initiative could put extra pressure on lawmakers in the session that begins Jan. 5. In the past, the Legislature has been forced to do such things as pass campaign contribution limits because of the threat that voters would do it for them.

The campaign could be a bitter slugfest, fought in the national spotlight shone on Colorado by the Columbine High School massacre in suburban Denver.

"That's sort of news-magazine fodder," said Republican pollster Lori Weigel of Denver. "It

keeps the issue on the front burner."

Even before the April 20 shootings, the NRA spent \$2 million in an unsuccessful campaign to get Missouri voters to allow people in the state to carry concealed handguns.

SAFE has raised about \$100,000 for lobbying and educational efforts to pass gun control, said Head, a Republican who says his party leaders have gone astray on the gun issue.

The group plans to put on the ballot one of Owens' gun-control proposals the Legislature refuses to pass.

Owens' five-part proposal is aimed at keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and children.

Please see BILLS on 28.

This will be on Ballot in 2000

It only takes about 40,000 signatures to put issue on the ballot in Colorado. There is no doubt with \$100,000 in the bank, SAFE could hire the petitioners to collect the signatures.



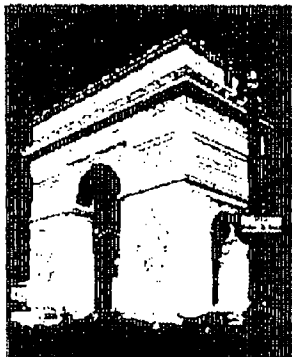
Arizona Democratic Party Primary

**Arizona Democratic Party Selects
Votation.com to Hold World's First
Legally-Binding Public Election
Over the Internet**

DEMOCRATS



Listen to the Arizona Democratic Party and Votation.com make history when they sign a digital contract to hold the first-ever, legally-binding public election over the Internet for the March 11, 2000 Democratic Primary. The signatories to the agreement are Joe Mohen, CEO of Votation.com and Mark Fleisher, Chairman of the Arizona Democratic Party.



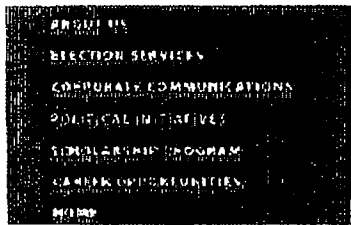
You will need
the Real
Player to
participate.



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For more information about this announcement and how online voting will revolutionize the election process, please click the links below:

- [Press Release](#)
- [Company Overview](#)
- [Security](#)
- [Representative Client List](#)
- [Management Team](#)
- [Board of Directors](#)
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***Arizona Democratic Party Selects
Votation.com to Hold World's First
Legally-Binding Public Election
Over the Internet***



***Arizona Democratic Party and
Votation.com to Digitally Sign
Contract for March 11 Presidential
Primary Utilizing VeriSign's Digital
Certificates***

PHOENIX, AZ -- December 16, 1999 -- The Arizona Democratic Party and Votation.com digitally signed a contract today to hold the first-ever, legally-binding public election over the Internet for the March 11, 2000 Democratic Primary.

"Online voting will revolutionize the election process," said Joe Mohen, Chief Executive Officer, Votation.com. "Votation.com is excited to partner with the Arizona Democratic Party to make it easier than ever before for voters to make a difference. Today's announcement represents an historical moment in the effort to broaden voter participation in the democratic process."

Votation.com's partnership with VeriSign (Nasdaq: VRSN), the leading provider of Internet trust services, makes the election process more secure and accountable than ever

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before. VeriSign's state-of-the-art digital certificate services are the most advanced in the world, and VeriSign is the overwhelming market leader. Digital certificates are electronic credentials used to authenticate individuals and businesses over the Internet and also enable legally-valid digital signatures. Today's contract signing ceremony between Votation.com and the Arizona Democratic Party was executed using VeriSign's digital certificates.

"We're pleased to work with Votation.com to deliver the infrastructure necessary to conduct trusted and secure online elections," said Anil Pereira, Vice President of VeriSign's Internet Services Group. "By leveraging the power of the Internet to interact with citizens, governments and political parties stand to enhance service delivery, reduce costs and increase voter participation."

In a Votation.com election, each voter is assigned a personalized digital certificate that is only accessible through the voter's computer. This certificate contains information that uniquely identifies the voter and is equivalent to a passport or a driver's license. As a result, Votation.com's election services are more secure than the traditional paper ballot and polling machine elections.

"This is a giant step for all Arizonans. We are opening the democratic process not only to the young and the

technologically advanced, but to everyone. Democrats favor greater participation in our elections and by embracing 21st century technologies, we can assure that more people will cast a ballot on March 11. This is a ground-breaking event for people across Arizona and across America," said Mark Fleisher, Chairman, Arizona Democratic Party.

Votation.com has held numerous legally-binding elections. Clients range from associations, non-profit organizations, credit unions, pension funds, unions and Fortune 500 companies. Clients include: the Sierra Club, Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union, The IEEE (The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.), American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the California Bar.

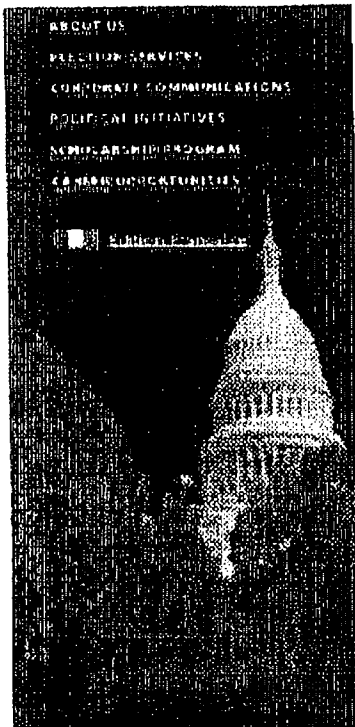
"The Arizona Democratic Party's partnership with Votation.com to hold the first public legally-binding election using the Internet is a watershed event for the future of digital democracy worldwide," said Dr. Bruce Egan, Senior Research Fellow at Columbia University, author of the term "Information Superhighway" and Votation.com Board Member. "Public elections over the Internet give Americans the opportunity to participate in the democratic process from anywhere in the world."

"Votation.Com is setting the standard for legally-binding public Internet voting worldwide," said Dr. Garret Fitzgerald, Former Prime Minister of Ireland and Votation.com Board Member. "Online voting has the capacity to revolutionize the elections process and significantly improve voter turnout around the world."

Votation.com, the first global Internet election company, is committed to broadening voter participation in the democratic process. The company provides public and private election services for governments, trade associations, labor unions, school districts, credit unions and corporations. Votation.com makes the election process more secure and less expensive than ever before. The company's management team has over 25 years of experience in technology and election-related businesses and has conducted more than 600 elections. Votation.com is a privately held company headquartered in Garden City, New York.

The digital contract signing will be broadcast live on the Internet (www.votation.com) with real-time audio feedback.

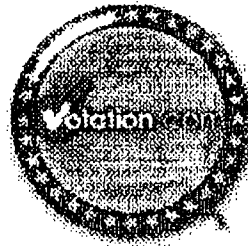
Contact:	Maria Rhose	Sunil Oommen
	212-453-2232	212-453-2315

The Global Election Company

Arizona Democratic Party Selects Votation.com to Hold World's First Legally-Binding Public Election Over the Internet

- [Read full story...](#)
- [Listen to webcast...](#)



You will need
the Real
Player to
participate.



Votation.com, the first global Internet election company, is committed to helping democracy work. By giving voters more choices in where they vote, from an authorized polling station to their home or office, Votation.com makes it easier for voters to make a difference.

Votation.com's partnership with VeriSign, the leading provider of Internet trust services, makes the election process more secure and accountable than ever before. Online voting has the capacity to revolutionize the elections process and significantly improve voter turnout around the world.

If you represent a trade association, labor union, credit union, non-profit organization, or any other organization, *Votation.com* has a solution for you. Odds

are, we can do it better, faster and cheaper. And we can help run your election through any combination of electronic or traditional services.

If you vote in any kind of election, we make it easier for you to cast your ballot in whichever way you choose. We can give you more information that you should want or need to make a more knowledgable voting decision.

If you want to be part of a dynamic team that's working through the Internet, *Votation.com* is the place for you.

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Votation.com, Inc.

Contact: info@votation.com

ERIC:

Saturday, December 25, 1999

THE DENVER POST

Fate of Beanie Babies to be decided by vote

By The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Two weeks after Ty Inc. announced it would stop manufacturing Beanie Babies, the company backed up Friday and said it would leave the fate of the fuzzy toys in the hands of their fans.

Starting Dec. 31, Beanie Baby collectors will be allowed to cast ballots at www.ty.com for 50 cents a pop. Proceeds are to go to the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

After much thought, I am will-

ing to put the fate of Beanie Babies in your hands," Ty Warner, owner of the Oak Brook, Ill., company said in a message posted Friday on the company's Web site.

"You make the decision," he wrote. "You have inspired the Beanie Babies line through your devotion to them."

Warner said he was overwhelmed by letters and e-mail asking him to reconsider his decision. Some toy analysts and collectors question whether Warner ever intended to retire the Beanie Babies.

Warner has expanded his factories and has several trademark applications pending for names such as E. Babies, Bean E. Buddy and Bean E. Baby.

"It's the spirit of P.T. Barnum still alive," said toy analyst Chris Byrne, referring to the shameless circus promoter. "How do you milk even more publicity out of a 4-inch stuffed toy?"

Byrne said the decision to retire the toys was driven by a market weakened by the popularity of Pokémon toys.

"The kids had moved on, but there was a big outcry from the collectors," said Byrne. "I think this might transition into a solid collectibles business. If you can keep a collectibles business going, why not?"

"Of course they are going to vote it back in," said Leonard Tannenbaum, president of Connecticut-based Collectingnation.com, which has an auction site dedicated to reselling the toys. "Would he have made this if people were going to say no?"

IF WE CAN VOTE ON THE FATE OF BEANIE BABIES,
WE OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO VOTE ON OUR
COMMON DESTINY!!!

“ . . . institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the changes of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times.”

Thomas Jefferson, 1787

END OF
FAX
TO ERIC LIU

17 Pages NOT COUNTING
THIS END SHEET

TOM W. RYAN**144 Willowleaf Drive****Littleton, CO 80127**

303-973-5077 (Fax) 303-932-6010**ryandenvier@msn.com****DATE: DECEMBER 28, 1999****3 pages
(includes cover)****TO: TOM FRIEDMAN, DOMESTIC POLICY STAFF****FROM: TOM RYAN****SUBJECT: COPY OF FAX TO ERIC LIU**

- 1) Attached is a copy of the front page of the 17 page fax which summarizes what you should have received from me on Monday December 27th.

If you don't find it, call me and I will re-fax it.

- 2) I checked with United Airlines and I can get a flight into Washington Wednesday to meet Thursday December 30th if you and Eric are available.
- 3) New article on Internet voting in Iowa. (85% of the people in two Iowa counties who participated in a pilot program said they wanted e-voting as an option in the future.)

TO: TOM FRIEDMAN

FYI

P.2

TOM W. RYAN

144 Willowleaf Drive

Littleton, CO 80127

303-973-5077 (Fax) 303-932-6010

ryandenver@msn.com

DATE: DECEMBER 26, 1999

17 pages
(includes cover)

TO: ERIC LIU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DOMESTIC POLICY

FROM: TOM RYAN

SUBJECT: CAN WE MEET WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 29TH?????

I have a flight booked for Tuesday to Washington.

Can we meet on Wednesday December 29th to discuss how Thomas Jefferson's idea to open the doors of decision-making can transform President Clinton's State of the Union into a speech for the Millennium setting forth a new era of democratic participation?

Let me know. History is in your hands.

- 1) Letter to President Clinton;
- 2) Articles on legislative road blocks to gun control in both Colorado and Illinois with historic idea for the President to ask Congress to pass his gun control proposals in 90 days or refer them to the people in a Jefferson-designed National Advisory Referendum;
- 3) Articles on Internet voting for Democratic primary in Arizona making it the world's first binding Internet vote;
- 4) Article from United Airlines "Hemisphere's" magazine that in Amsterdam (site of first non-military Internet connection in 1988) Internet kiosks are becoming as common place as telephone booths--paving the way for universal access to the Internet and making Internet voting accessible to all for the future.

POLITICS

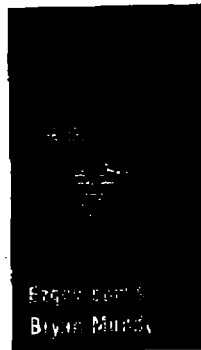
Netting power for the people

Most people cringe at the prospect: standing in line for hours at the DMV; skipping out of work to get to the polling booth; sending letters and calls to unresponsive representatives. The one constant in dealing with government agencies seems to be that it can be frustrating.

But there's hope. Prompted in part by companies and politicians ready to facilitate the transition, the wheels of government are slowly turning to the Internet to interact with citizens.

Ezgov.com (www.ezgov.com)

is ready to build the infrastructure necessary to put federal, state and local governments online. The Atlanta-based company charges service fees ranging

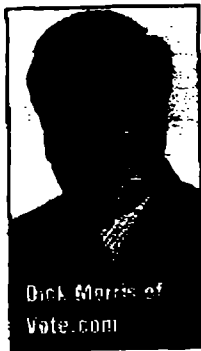


Ezgov.com's
Bryan Mundy

from \$1 to \$5 to allow users to conduct government transactions online, from buying stamps to pay-

ing parking tickets. Users can also research and contact elected officials.

Former congressman Jack Kemp, an Ezgov.com board member, says improved



Dick Morris of
Vote.com

accessibility is imperative to having an informed constituency. "All of us ... believe that empowering people requires that government go online," Kemp says.

Though services vary greatly from state to state (some states offer none), Ezgov.com Chairman Bryan Mundy says surging public demand has created "a mad rush of interest among government agencies

Online voting gets a test run in Iowa

The ultimate act of government-citizen interaction—voting—is gaining popularity as an online option too.

In Iowa, Secretary of State Chet Culver, spurred by decreasing voter turnouts, ran a pilot program on Election Day in which citizens from two counties were invited to vote online at the polling station after they had placed their official ballot in the polling booth. Culver, 33, says that 85 percent of the voters who tried the e-voting option (set up by www.vote.iowa.net) said they would like to have it as an alternative in the future. He predicts that Internet voting will be a mainstream option within 10 years, a time span he says could be shortened by public demand.

"We need to do more to bring the process to the people, more to get young people involved," says Culver.



Chet Culver

looking to get involved."

Dick Morris sees the Internet as fuel for a new grass-roots democracy. The former Clinton advisor is the president of Vote.com (www.vote.com), a site designed to provide citizens with

an authoritative voice.

Users vote on referendums, and the results are tallied and sent en masse to the appropriate representatives. "The Internet gives people a megaphone with which to speak out," Morris says.

TO: Tom Friedman

FYI

TOM W. RYAN

144 Willowleaf Drive

Littleton, CO 80127

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ryandenver@msn.com

DATE: DECEMBER 28, 1999

< 5 pages

(includes cover) >

TO: ERIC LIU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DOMESTIC POLICY

FROM: TOM RYAN

SUBJECT: CAN WE MEET THURSDAY DECEMBER 30TH?????
I have booked a 4 PM Wednesday flight to Washington Dulles.

Can we meet on Thursday December 30th to discuss how Thomas Jefferson's idea to open the doors of decision-making can transform President Clinton's State of the Union into a speech for the Millennium setting forth a new era of democratic participation?

SEE PAGE 2 OF THE ENCLOSED ARTICLE FROM CNNfn
ABOUT THE "POWER TO THE INDIVIDUAL" TREND FOR
THE NEW CENTURY/MILLENNIUM

"Perhaps one of the brightest trends of the 21st century is the one toward individual empowerment. Consumers, investors and employees all promise to benefit from technological advances that simultaneously bolster choice and simplify lives."

Have you seen the DATEK commercial where the glass walls of Wall Street are broken down on top of the brokers and the people come rushing in? My wife is a stockbroker and said to me, "The National Advisory Referendum is going to do to Congress what e-trading has done to Wall Street—open the doors to the people to make decisions"

The political stage is set to transform government as the world of commerce is being transformed. All we need is the President to open the doors of decision-making to the people with Jefferson's idea!
History has been good to those who open doors to the people.

returns," said Allyn.

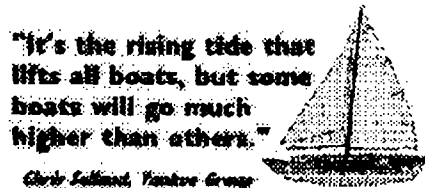
That windfall should become more widespread as the current transformation reaches its culmination in the next millennium. As information becomes more readily available and barriers to entry come down, more people will have the opportunity to succeed in the open marketplace -- be it in commerce, financial services or the media.

"More doors will be open to people, but that also means competition will get much greater," Selland said. "People who win will really win. It's the rising tide that lifts all boats, but some boats will go much higher than others."

Emerging monopolies

Perhaps one of the most ironic developments of the 21st century will be the re-emergence of the monopoly.

As consumers become more demanding and reduced barriers of entry create fierce new competition, companies will feel pressure to stay afloat. Mergers are likely to result in a wide array of industries, as innovation and economies of scale become important catalysts for success.



"You already see this happening in the financial sector," said CyBerCorp chief executive and founder Philip Berber. Technology "is lifting the veil of secrecy under which traditional players have been operating for centuries and none of them want to be left at the altar."

Marriages in other sectors are sure to follow, especially where standardization benefits the consumer.

"Microsoft isn't forcing products down people's throats," said Selland. "They are successful in part because customers like standardization."

But consolidation won't necessarily translate into less choice for consumers, as niche markets are expected to exist alongside dominant exchanges.

"There will always be people who want to pay for something different," said Selland, be it high-end sports cars, strawberry-colored computers or pralines from Switzerland.

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today," said Matt Andresen, president of the electronic exchange Island ECN. "...And the cost will be so much lower that access to markets will increase."

But whether these perks will trickle down to the less fortunate both in and outside the United States remains to be seen.

The great equalizer?

Some enthusiasts believe technology will be the great equalizer, narrowing once and for all the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

"This is an opportunity for some of the developing nations to really leapfrog," said Alexander. "It just depends how the government treats it."

Countries currently lacking proper telecommunications infrastructures, for instance, may skip landlines altogether and set up satellite transponders instead. Alexander envisions a world in which African farmers use wireless technology to access weather data, order seeds and bid on livestock.

But others are less optimistic.

"There will definitely be parts of society that are left out," said Smith.

A society in transition

And no matter how rosy a future the experts paint, there are bound to be bumps on the road to prosperity.

"The price we have to pay for all this is someplace," said Allyn. "Early in the century, we're going to see a real good old-fashioned panic of the kind we haven't seen in a long time." That hysteria, she believes, will be the natural fallout from years of debt accumulation.

**"Early in the century,
we're going to see a
real good old-fashioned
panic of the kind we
haven't seen in a long time."**

Marlene Allyn, Scudder-Kemper Investments

The human price may be even more costly. While the individual is sure to gain from the anticipated technological changes, adjusting to new realities may add new pressures.

As the world becomes increasingly competitive, workers will have to learn new skills to keep apace with new technologies and deal with bigger workloads as they become more "efficient."

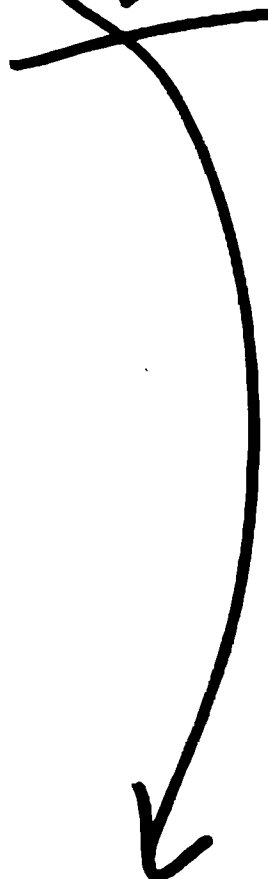
They may also have to live with the fact that colleagues they once considered average are better off than they ever will be.

"Right now, we have a huge difference between rich and poor. But that's fairly typical of a time when you have huge change. The people

**"Right now, the biggest
barrier to the Internet
is the Internet itself."**

Scott Alexander, Yahoo! Internet Life

See Below



"They actually sold motors on their own," said Alexander. But "eventually, you had these devices that had motors *in* them and you sort of forgot they were there."

Similarly, the Internet enthusiasts of this generation are destined to forget that the appliances of the future -- refrigerators that take milk orders when the last carton sours and portable music players that download the latest top 40 hits as they are released -- are actually connected to what we know today as the World Wide Web.

More boom than bust

It's these types of innovations -- along with flat panel displays, nanotechnology and genetic engineering -- that some economists believe will drive one of the biggest boom periods in history.

"I really do believe this technological revolution qualifies as a big one that is going to have a long-lasting impact," said Scudder Kemper Investments' Allyn.

In addition to "virtually no inflation whatsoever for a very long time," Allyn anticipates an unprecedented jump in productivity and a "huge rise in living standards" across the globe.

And others in the field tend to agree.

"This is not a cyclical boom," said Delos Smith, economist and senior business analyst for the nonprofit Conference Board. "This is a special time that does not happen very often... and the macroeconomic numbers do look gorgeous."

Power to the individual

Perhaps one of the brightest trends of the 21st century is the one toward individual empowerment. Consumers, investors and employees all promise to benefit from technological advances that simultaneously bolster choice and simplify lives.

In a world where almost any type of information is instantly available, and costly middlemen play no role, the average Joe is set to come out ahead.

"Customers are becoming much more creative and much more powerful," said Chris Selland, vice president of Internet computing at the Boston-based technology consulting firm Yankee Group. "It doesn't matter what industry we're talking about. Companies now have to figure out what a customer wants and figure out how to deliver it (rather than the other way around.)"

The same holds true for the financial arena.

"The tools and the knowledge that the average investor has in even two years will look like what the seasoned professional has

Predictions for the next century - Dec. 28, 1999

Page 1 of 4

[Return to Story \(http://cnnfn.com/1999/12/28/life/century_future/\)](http://cnnfn.com/1999/12/28/life/century_future/)**CNNfn Printer Friendly Output****A prosperous new century**

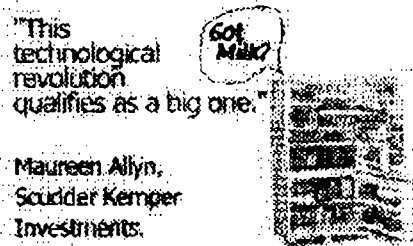
Flourishing economy,
unparalleled technological
advances seen in 2000s

By Staff Writer Nicole Jacoby
December 28, 1999: 6:32 a.m. ET

NEW YORK (CNNfn) - Refrigerators that take milk orders, cell phones that penetrate even the most remote of countries, and a flourishing world economy.

Sometimes utopian, often farfetched, predictions about the 21st century run the gamut. But if there's one thing analysts, economists and stock market strategists seem to agree on, it's that the future looks bright.

"We are really entering somewhat of a golden age here," said Maureen Allyn, chief economist at Scudder Kemper Investments.

sites[Track your stocks](#)

Driving that positive outlook are technological advances that rival - if not exceed -- leaps made during the industrial revolution.

The invisible hand of technology

Undoubtedly, one of the most significant technological shifts of the 21st century will be the disappearance of the Internet.

That's right. After years of being touted as the next big thing, the World Wide Web is set to become history in the new millennium.

"Right now, the biggest barrier to the Internet is the Internet itself," said Scott Alexander, senior online editor for Yahoo! Internet Life. "It can be intimidating. You need to know a lot to get onto the Web. But all that is going to change... eventually you won't even think of it as the Internet anymore."

Technologies of earlier decades have gone through similar transformations. Like the Internet, motor technology was first embraced by avid hobbyists who liked to tinker and enjoyed coming up with new uses for the invention, such as stirring a pot or blending ingredients.

See Page
2

TO: TOM FRIEDMAN

TOM W. RYAN144 Willowleaf Drive
Littleton, CO 80127

303-973-5077 (Fax) 303-932-6010

ryandenvr@msn.comDATE: ~~DECEMBER 28, 1999~~

JAN. 1, 2000

3 pages

(includes cover)

TO: ERIC LIU, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DOMESTIC POLICY

FROM: TOM RYAN (I am in Chicago this week, 800-531-7626)SUBJECT: CAN WE MEET TUESDAY JANUARY 11TH,
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 12TH OR THURSDAY JANUARY 13TH ?

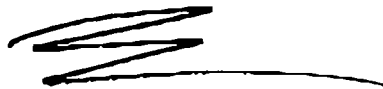
The issues have been briefed, the time has come for a decision yes or nay, on Jefferson's idea to reform our representative democracy with an "advisory" voting process. Can we move forward to the hearing stage of oral argument so that these important ideas can be, in the words of Jefferson himself, "fairly, fully, and peaceably expressed, discussed, and decided" (Letter to Samuel Kercheval).

If Jefferson were able to rise from the dead, you would grant him a hearing. He can't. So, I am asking for oral argument on his behalf. Should we go forward with Jefferson's plan to open the doors of decision-making to the people? Give me 30 minutes for open debate!

We have no time to lose. Even as you read this, the NRA is attempting to undo in Colorado what the President and the public have demanded—responsible gun controls after the tragedy of Columbine—by spreading the cash around the legislature before the new session begins. (See attached article, Denver Post, 12-30-99)

The President has a historic opportunity in his State of the Union address to carry into the next century a new torch of democratic reform passed on to him by Jefferson himself. Jefferson's torch can light the world once again. But for that to happen, President Clinton must provide the fire.

History is in your hands. You have the President's matches!!!

OO
U

NRA gives lawmakers gifts

By Mike Soraghan
Denver Post Capital Bureau

The National Rifle Association has been sprinkling campaign contributions to Colorado lawmakers during the holidays, as the Legislature prepares to debate a slew of gun proposals.

Checks ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 have been arriving in legislators' mailboxes as the beginning of the legislative session approaches. The first hot topic of the session, which starts Wednesday, will be a package of gun-control proposals put forth by Gov. Bill Owens to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals.

Sen. Jim Dyer, D-Durango, returned his \$1,000 check to the NRA, saying it didn't feel right to take a contribution just before the debate begins.

"The timing is too much," Dyer said. "It has the appearance of cause and effect."

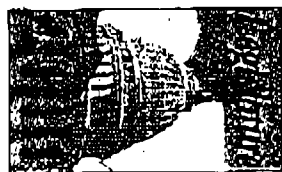
The NRA is not flat-out opposing any of Owens' proposals but disagrees with the philosophy behind most of them and has fought similar proposals in the past.

The group also is trying to weaken the state's instant background check for gun purchases. The NRA wants the state to OK gun buyers with arrest records if state workers can't instantly figure out whether they were convicted.

NRA spokesman Jim Manown declined to disclose how much the NRA has contributed in Colorado, noting the money will be listed on state disclosure forms.

SAFE Colorado, the state's new gun-control lobby group, has about \$100,000, but that won't be used for campaign contributions, said John Head, co-president of SAFE, which stands for Safe Alternatives to the Firearms Epidemic.

"We think what ought to persuade legislators is what the people want, not where



the money is coming from," he said.

SAFE is threatening to put any of Owens' proposals that don't pass on the November 2000 ballot. The group's money is expected to be used for ballot initiatives, an educational effort and a lobbyist.

Owens' gun proposals are part of his response to the Columbine High School massacre. He wants to

Please see NRA on 12B

NRA sends contributions to lawmakers

NRA from Page 1B

require parents to store guns safely, let local authorities prosecute people who buy guns for children or criminals, include juvenile records in background checks, raise the age to buy handguns at gun shows from 18 to 21 and require background checks at gun shows.

Some legislators say the timing of the NRA's contributions may have less to do with the coming debate than changes in campaign contribution law.

A federal judge last summer threw out Colorado's low contribution limits. The NRA and other lobbying groups can't give contributions during the session.

New contribution limits probably will be set during the session, so the chance to give unlimited contributions will end Tuesday.

"Everybody's giving more money," said House Majority Leader Doug Dean, R-Colorado Springs. "They were sitting on a lot of money they weren't able to get out."

Dean got \$1,000 from the NRA earlier in the year, but has not gotten any more lately.

Sen. Norma Anderson, R-Lakewood, said she got \$500 but will have to return it because she has hit the \$15,000 limit on the amount of money she can take from political-action committees.

But one staunch friend of the NRA has not received any money. Sen. Ken Chlouber, R-Leadville, said he's asked twice and has not yet gotten a contribution from the group. Chlouber sponsored an NRA-backed bill last year on concealed handguns.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 20, 1999

Mr. Tom W. Ryan
144 Willowleaf Drive
Littleton, Colorado 80127

Dear Tom:

Thank you for following up again on your ideas about the National Advisory Referendum. As always, it is good to hear from you. Your ideas are interesting, and I have shared your thoughtful recommendations with my staff. I hope you are well and send my best.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

Jan 1, 2000

Mr. President:

Thank you for your thoughtfulness!

In your New Years Eve remarks you spoke of passing the torch to a new generation.

By proposing a National Advisory Referendum,

you can carry Jefferson's torch into
the new millennium!!!

Tom Ryan