

Character is a real issue

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You've heard this before and I know it sounds like a broken record, but, here we are again folks, getting ready to go to the polls and choose between two (or in this case, some say three) evils. It's my own feeling that the most interesting issue, or non-issue, of this presidential race involves the character of the participants. My initial perception is that a man's value to the country depends largely on how far his

thoughts, feelings and actions impact on promoting the good of his fellow countrymen.

If each of us were to sit down and think about our lives, desires and hopes, we would soon discover that everything we are, or can become, is related to the existence of others. Our food is largely produced by others, we live in homes built by others, and a large degree of our knowledge and beliefs has come to us through our association with other people, many of whom we don't even know. Even our lan-

guage, communication skills and mental capacities are learned by being part of a great human society.

Throughout history, on the leading edge of all breakthroughs, from the discovery of fire to the invention of the microchip, lies the existence of a single human being, who was brought to his peak creative development by the cumulative efforts of countless other people.

Less than two generations ago, poverty was simply taken
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for granted and even well-to-do "middle class" people of the time expected little of the qualities of life that we now accept as routine. Health care was almost non-existent and education beyond elementary level, was considered a privilege of the wealthy few. The fact that we now have a choice of life's "essentials," points to the success and power of the "character" of the nation's leaders. But what about future times in which we must live? Americans, in particular and by tradition have, in the past, met the challenges of history and are capable of embarking on a new age of visionary creative government. Answers in government always involve judgment; a choice between different and uncertain risks. Making up the choice is a blend of experience, knowledge and hopes; none of which is perfect, and each having its own costs. There are no "solutions" with respect to the future; only choices and each one is risky and uncertain. Vital to making those choices is the

"character of leadership" and it is essential to the future well-being of us all.

The first thing we should look for in the character of a man who would be President of the United States is that he be a follower of goodness and fair dealing, of truth and sincerity; all of which constitute the very basic parts of justice. He should also be dedicated to practice patience, humility and moderation; such a wise man would avoid all things scandalous and would not be guilty of avoiding duty to his fellow man or to his country. It's no easy matter to be fair and equitable in all one's actions but, when mistakes happen the truly courageous man admits them and makes repairs immediately and always tells the truth. Our world is indeed a very dangerous place, and requires our greatest concern, so fellow voters when you go to the polls consider who, for his honesty and decency (which really are the same things) you want to lead you into the future.