

TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTIONS

# SELF-DISENFRANCHISEMENT



Every now and then, something so embarrassing happens that you never forget it. The U.S. 2000 Presidential Election is no exception to the rule.

Every now and then, somebody develops a miraculous panacea that will prevent all embarrassment.

New, sophisticated technologies helping us humans to better run and administer elections are no exception to the rule.

Every now and then, we discover dividers. Today's hottest one, the "digital divide, with three main characteristics—the global divide, the social divide, and the democratic divide"—is no exception to the rule.

Every now and then, some of us try hard to be, simultaneously, both skeptics and optimists. This issue of *Elections Today* is no exception to the rule.

Every now and then, we rightfully claim that somebody disenfranchises us. However, with my apologies to Eleanor Roosevelt, nobody can disenfranchise us more than ourselves. The case of people who, for years, have not found ten minutes to learn how to cast their votes properly but spend substantially more than ten continuous days and nights claiming that their votes are "stolen" is no exception to the rule.

Every now and then, an exceptionally gifted individual gets credit for his or her talent. Illustrating this issue of our magazine with Alex Dimitrov's cartoons is no exception to the rule.

We have chosen Alex for two reasons. First, he was one of the most dedicated employees at IFES. Tragically, one year ago, he was almost killed in his beloved Republic of Moldova. Now, he is recovering, slowly but surely, as his cartoons eloquently prove.

Second, even the most important matters have a better chance of being solved when they are approached with a little bit of humor. At least, every now and then....

*Editor-in-Chief*

