

THE JOKE IS ON US

“April Fool’s Day is an appropriate time for discussing politics,” said Dr. Steven Porter, independent candidate for Congress in the third district of Pennsylvania. “I say that because the powers that be in the press and in the two major parties have, it seems, dedicated their lives to playing jokes on us—cruel jokes—jokes whose results lead to mortgage meltdowns, needless wars, unaffordable health care, and a host of other crises which go unaddressed.

“We are manipulated every day to believe that the major party candidates will represent us instead of the special interests which own them and the Congress they comprise. We hear promise after promise of what will be done for us if only we swallow our pride and believe yet again that rhetoric will solve problems when in truth it is there only to maintain power.

“Oh yes, here and there we are given a glimpse of an alternative view—a Nader or Gravel or even a Hagel who surfaces to tell us the system is broken. But it is a tiny glimpse and is quickly overshadowed by the continuation of the myths of American government—myths perpetrated by a press whose power has been consolidated into a few hands and by politicians who will say and do almost anything to maintain their control over our lives.

“But in the end, the greatest prankster is us. We ourselves have grown so protective of our prejudices that we refuse to accept facts when they are presented to us and instead cling to our delusions about democracy in America. We ourselves have chosen to remain ignorant, chosen to remain complacent, chosen to think always, always inside the box designed to cage us.

“We borrow beyond our means. We allow Presidents to lie us into war. We stand by while corporations rape our economy and usurp our government. We continue to pollute our environment, to watch idly while our Social Security system becomes bankrupt, while our health care costs become unaffordable. Then we turn like frightened children to the very people who have corrupted our government and say ‘save us.’

“Once again, I plead with the press and the voters to get and to read my book, AMERICA’S DYING DEMOCRACY, and to consider its research.