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Justin Harter

Maybe it's time I join the campaign

I'm prepared to admit something that may make you think less of me: sometimes I want to be a politician. Now before you think less of me, let me explain. Foremost, I don't *really* want to be a politician. There are *times* I want to be a politician — then I can tell people my ideas and feel that some of them might even be good ones.

Take Indianapolis Public Schools as an example. In the past two weeks they have closed schools at 1 PM three times due to extreme heat. A handful of IPS schools do not have air conditioning and it becomes a safety concern to have students boiling in a classroom. Yet IPS is struggling to meet standards and is being forced to close schools because of lagging test scores. To me this seems very simple: start school after Labor Day and you won't have as many heat-related closures. The kids can spend more time in school and you can start building schools with lesser air conditioning systems because the school year would take place in cooler temperatures, thus saving us millions of dollars. If I were a politician I might be able to get someone to listen to me. Instead, I'm writing for a newspaper that doesn't even serve the affected area. Go figure.

There are lots of things that make me question our nation's policies. That's why my general outlook on life comes from: "Everything is ultimately stupid". It just doesn't make sense that politicians go corrupt, it doesn't make sense that everyone thinks their religion is better than another's and it doesn't make sense that some people have two houses when some people don't even have one. The world is full of double standards, needless laws and most of the things we do are a waste of time.

For example, would someone please tell me why every piece of fruit that comes into this country has a sticker on it? Somehow we can put a sticker on every piece of fruit in this country but we can't open up every cargo container that gets shipped into this country through one of our ports and say, "Yep. No bombs here".

And why do people still believe that the average American swallows eight spiders in their lifetime? If I were a spider the last thing I'd do is go crawling down someone's gullet. It seems a national public advertising program needs to fix that.

And how does Paris Hilton stay in the news? I had a nosebleed at a hardware store last week and no one even bothered to call a news van. She gets a speeding ticket and somehow people care. I say a small draft is necessary to get her off the streets and into the military.

If I were the governor or president I might be able to get a following of people to care about things I care about. I figure if George W. Bush has a 26% approval rating I should at least be able to hold a solid 30%.

Then again, some people line up behind a cause by changing their lifestyle — all without getting elected to an office. Take vegetarians; they say cow flatulence is a major cause of excess methane gas in the atmosphere, which is causing global warming. I say we kill the cow to keep it from stinking up the air —

and we'll all have a tasty cheeseburger after we're done. But that doesn't sound very invigorating and instead, I use eco-friendly light bulbs to justify calling myself an environmentalist.

While I feel passionately about these issues and so many others, I feel almost powerless to change them. My columns in the Salem Leader probably aren't going to change the world and at the end of the day I'm still just twenty years old. At my age I'm not supposed to care about anything but beer. I like to think that maybe I can change the perception of my age demographic by showing that someone of my age is capable of leading what can be described as a successful life. And I feel like I raise good points. Regular readers of this column already know my immigration plan and they know I'm all for responsible business. Plus, who couldn't get behind a national campaign to stop putting a sticker on all of our fruit?