

If you're like me, the cover art already has—and the interior prints by Brett Colley soon will have—taken you by the throat and forced you to confront some things you would have been much happier to leave behind this election season. Or repudiate...equivocate...ignore...deny...forget.

Turns out those tactics aren't so easy, either. For better and worse, I lived through these last eight years, and the events that occurred during that time have affected me. As much as I'd rather it weren't true, they have become a part of who I am, and some of the lessons learned have shaped the way I think, hopefully for the better. Still, I feel a very personal need to give an accounting, to my students, to those in other countries, to my children. Wow, they might later say, you were *there* during those times? What did you *do*?

Indeed, what? I voted, for one. But hiding behind my single vote feels cheap. I remember writing four letters to representatives. Not enough? Would a dozen have sufficed? More? Let's see, I did a lot of complaining. I internalized a significant amount of anger and frustration. I got fatter, too. These eight years have been among the least healthy in my life. Connection? Who knows. I'm no prophet, but sometimes I can make a pretty good guess about the effects of certain actions. And I did do a modest amount of warning. The effect of those warnings? Well . . . (pause for laughter). See what I mean?

I'm not even talking about leading a revolution here. I'm just talking about resisting. Inside, I feel like I resisted. But I'm not sure anyone besides me felt that resistance.

So here's my answer, kids: I squandered my civic responsibility. I had the chance to do more than I did, but I did not take it. I could have resisted more vigorously, more passionately, maybe even more effectively. But that would have come at a cost. Time. Effort. Money. Sleep. Relationships. Those things are part of the puzzle, too. In many areas of my life, I feel as if I acquitted myself pretty well. Was that a kind of resistance?

I'm afraid I still don't have the answers, but I suspect that my understanding of what comprises resistance has broadened. Maybe it includes all that you hold in your hands right now.

I hesitated in using these images, especially on the cover, because I imagined that many people, myself included, would rather move on. I'm resisting that impulse. These last eight years happened. They happened. And right now, something else, right outside: Today is happening.

—Chris Haven, Editor

Cover: *New World Order*
by Brett Colley | multi-
block relief print |
19" x 21" | 2008 |

Submissions for *Grand Valley Review* will be reviewed on a continuing basis. We welcome any work that reflects the broad interests of our campus community. The Winter 2009 special issue on the Ravines is in progress, with a first-consideration deadline of November 1, 2008. We are also interested in work on the topic of Migration for a possible double issue. Submit work by campus mail to my office in LOH 345 or as an email attachment to: havenc@gvsu.edu. To subscribe, send your name and address to be added to our list.