

BE A HERO FOR A BETTER WORLD



Do One Thing for a Better World

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What's Your
BetterWorld
Issue:
ENDING
HOMELINESS
 ...make a difference...

Do One Thing
for a Better World.

Together
We Make a World of Difference!

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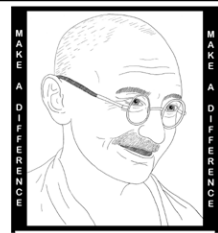
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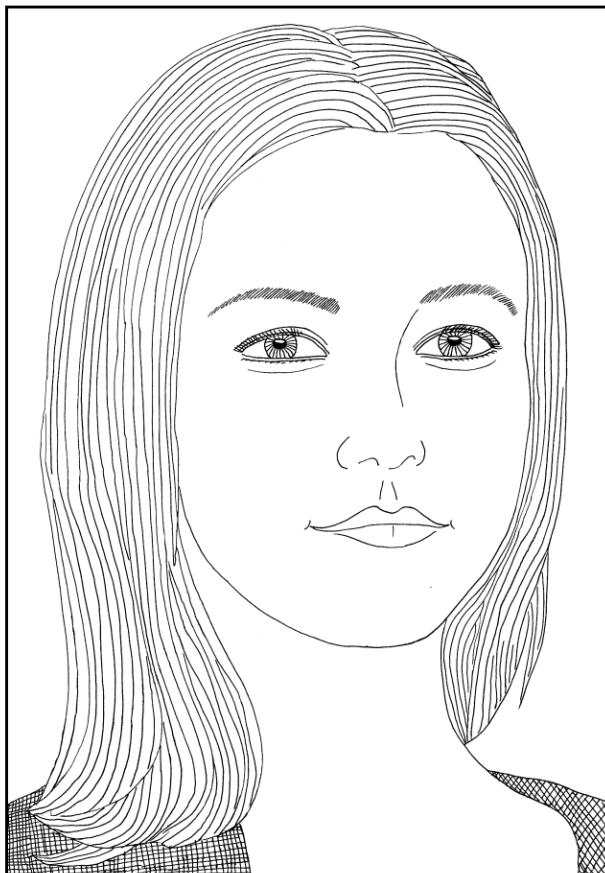
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WHAT'S YOUR BETTERWORLD ISSUE? ENDING HOMELESSNESS



"We must all work together
to end youth homelessness..."
-- Jewel

At any given time in America, there are about half a million people who are "homeless" -- they don't have a "permanent, safe, decent, affordable place to live." Around the world there are about 100 million homeless people, and many of them are women and children.

Homelessness is one of the world's most serious problems. There are many reasons why people become homeless, including mental illness, drugs and domestic violence, but most are homeless simply because they can't afford a decent place to live. One third of the homeless in America are families!

Homeless shelters, operated by nonprofit organizations, religious institutions, and local municipalities, can only provide shelter for some of the homeless families. Many are forced to live out of their cars, or in garages, or move from place to place, staying with friends and relatives. Even short periods of homelessness can result in depression and child neglect, but many families are homeless for months or even years.

To end homelessness, we have to help the homeless find immediate shelter, and affordable long-term housing. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the UN in 1948, declares that shelter is a basic human right. Our economic system needs to change in order to do a better job of ensuring that everyone has a chance to find affordable, decent and stable housing.

Every year the National Coalition for the Homeless sponsors National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day around December 21 -- the longest night of the year -- to raise awareness about the growing problem of homelessness. This day is an opportunity for you to speak to your family and friends about ending homelessness. It's a time to hold a food or clothing drive or volunteer in a soup kitchen or homeless shelter. It's a chance to write to local, state and national leaders to advocate for policies and programs that serve the homeless and create more affordable housing.

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1. Find out more
2. Hold a food drive
3. Volunteer in a soup kitchen
4. Write to elected officials about homelessness and affordable housing
5. Support organizations helping the homeless

End Homelessness Links

- Beyond Shelter (beyondshelter.org)
- Help USA (helpusa.org)
- Homeless International (homeless-international.org)
- National Alliance to End Homelessness (naeh.org)
- National Coalition for the Homeless (nationalhomeless.org)
- UN HABITAT (unhabitat.org)

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“In today's climate in our country, which is sickened with the pollution of pollution, threatened with the prominence of AIDS, riddled with burgeoning racism, rife with growing huddles of the homeless, we need art and we need art in all forms. We need all methods of art to be present, everywhere present, and all the time present.”

-- Maya Angelou

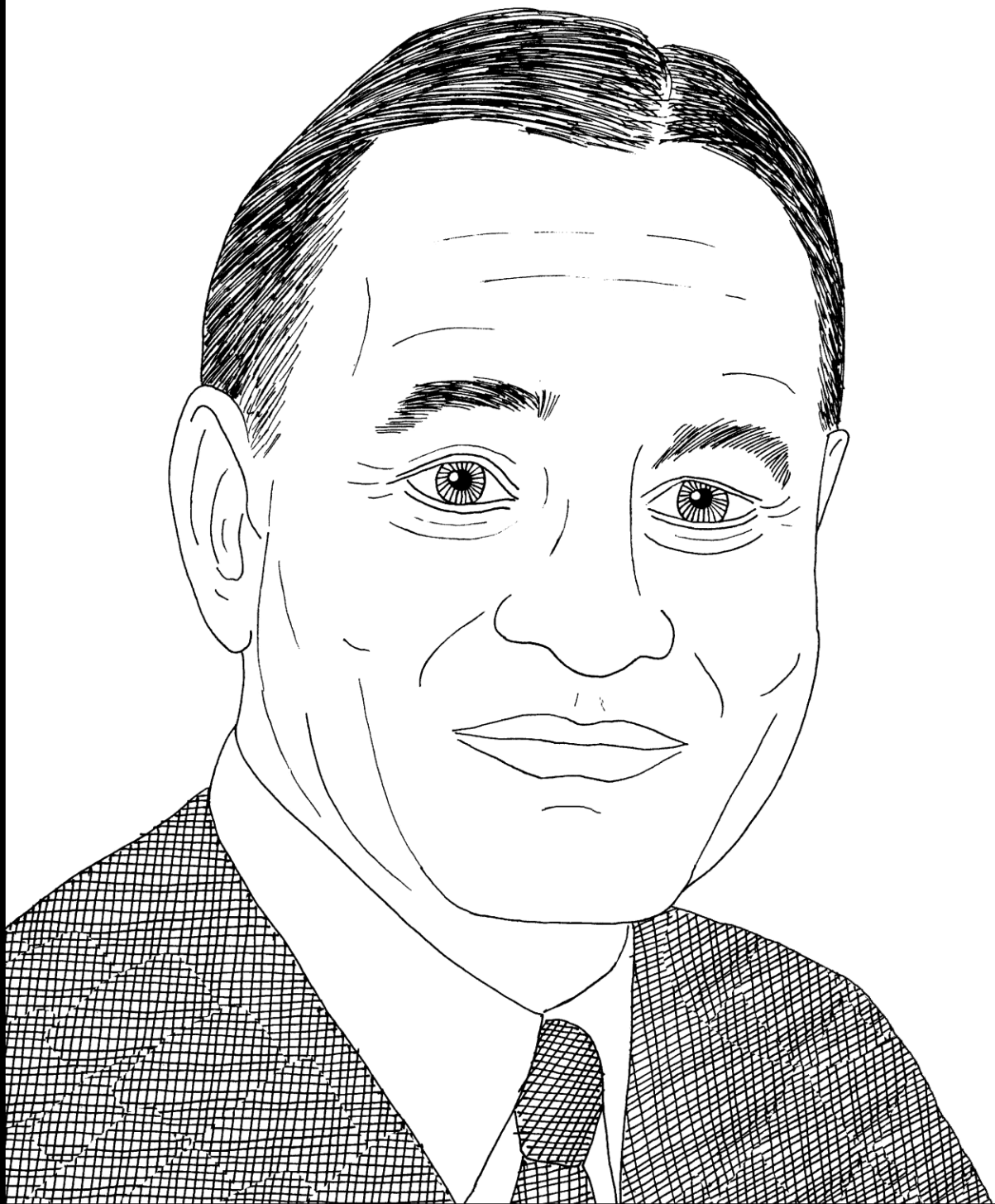
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"Peace, to have meaning for many who have known only suffering in both peace and war, must be translated into bread or rice, shelter, health, and education, as well as freedom and human dignity - a steadily better life."

-- Ralph Bunche

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**"What we would like to do is change the world --
make it a little simpler for people to feed,
clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended for them to do."
-- Dorothy Day**

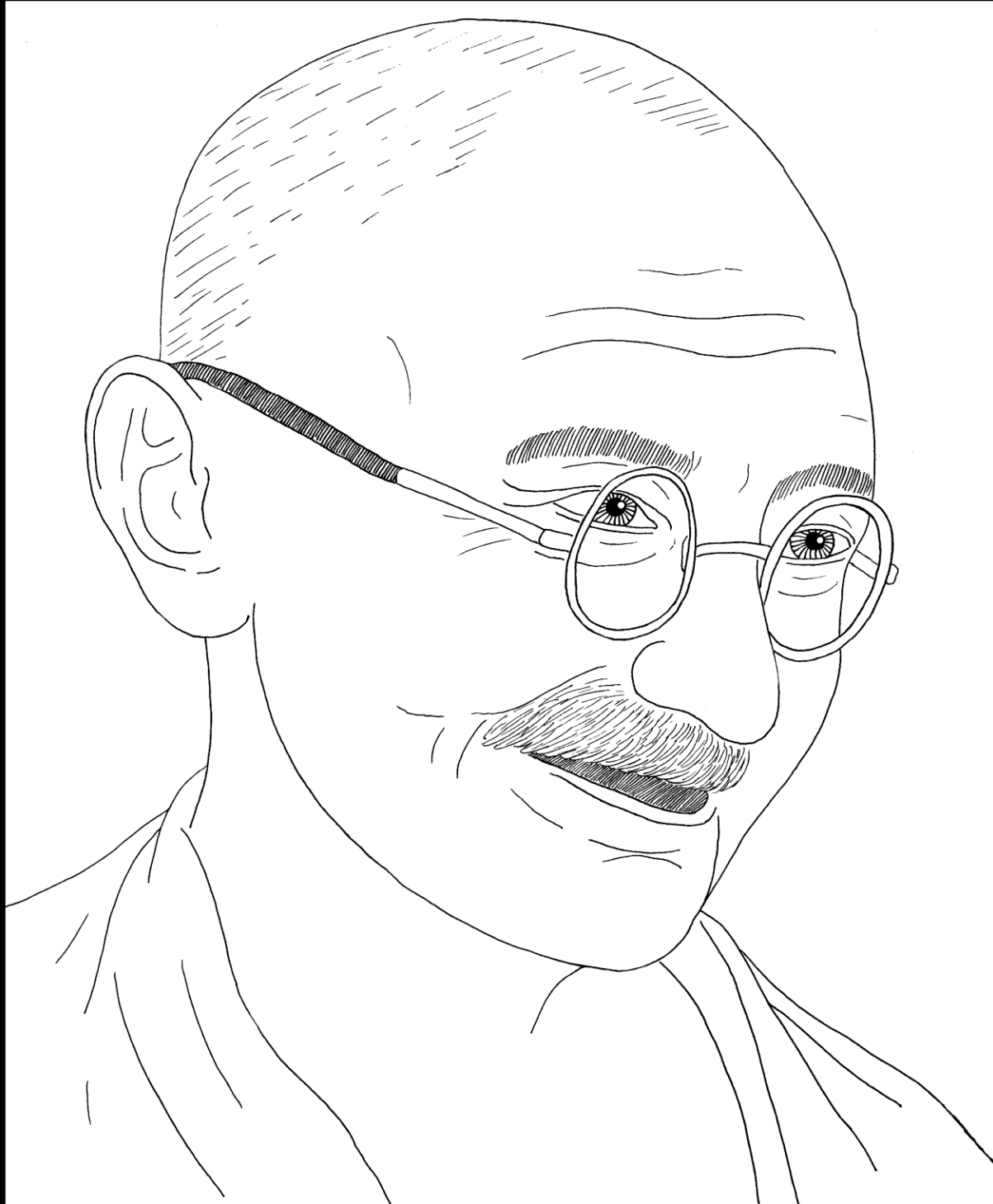
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“What difference does it make to the dead, the orphans, and the homeless, whether the mad destruction is wrought under the name of totalitarianism or the holy name of liberty or democracy?”

-- Mohandas Gandhi

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"When we bear witness, when we become the situation — homelessness, poverty, illness, violence, death — the right action arises by itself. We don't have to worry about what to do. We don't have to figure out solutions ahead of time. Peacemaking is the functioning of bearing witness. Once we listen with our entire body and mind, loving action arises." -- Bernie Glassman

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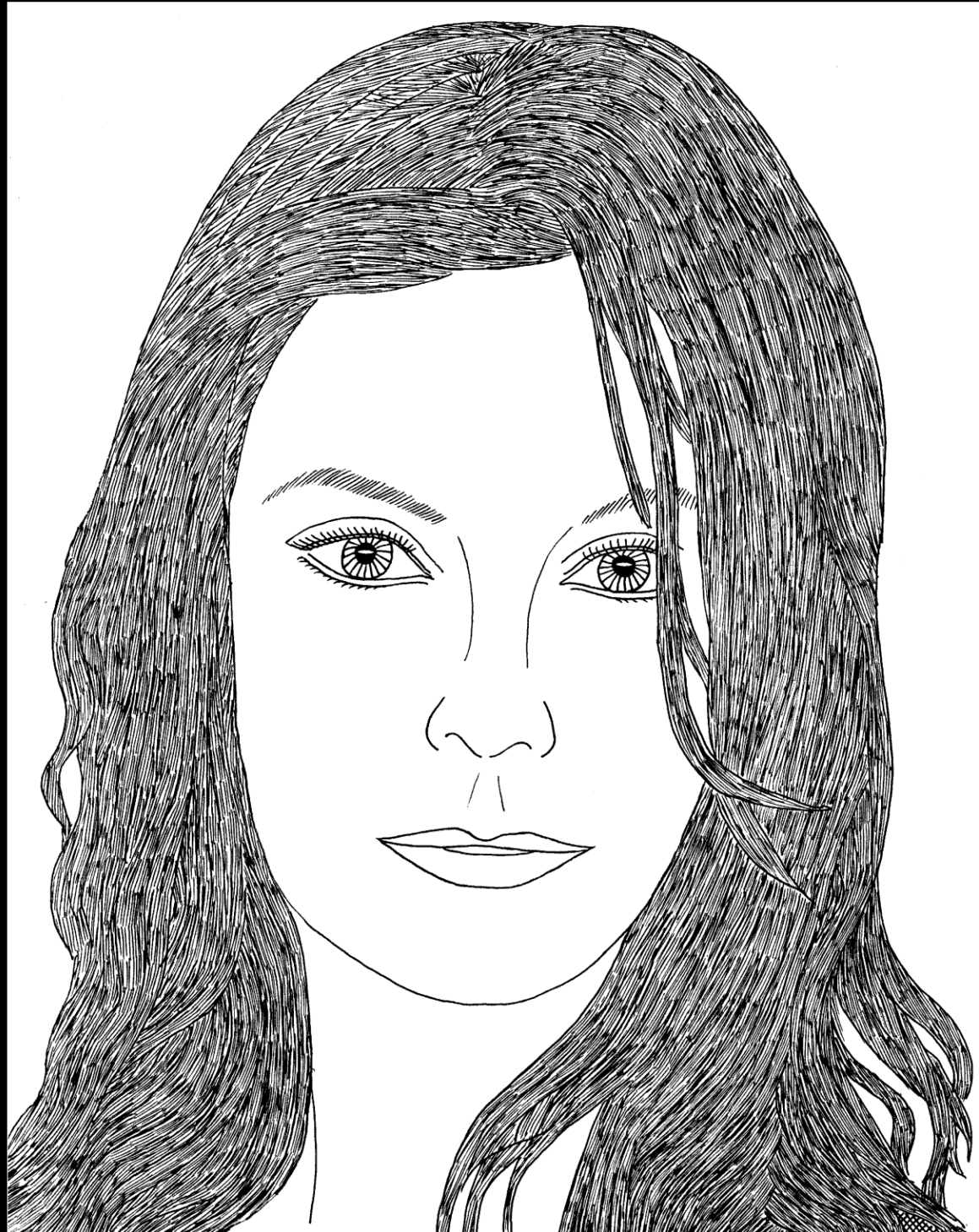
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**"They are safe but they are not in their homes.
They are city-less. I think it's just a disaster for everyone."
-- Teri Hatcher**

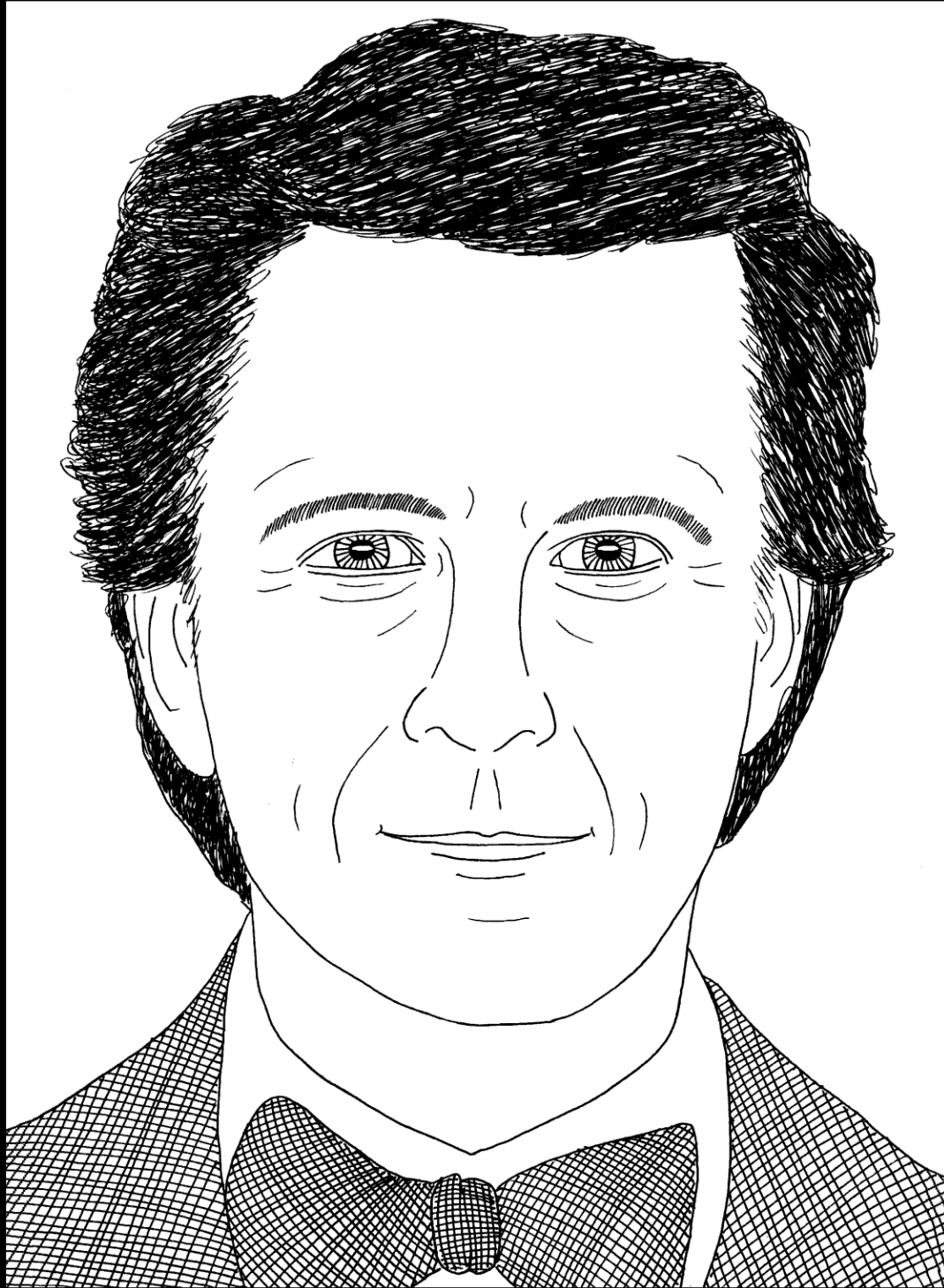
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"I mean, I don't think I'm alone when I look at the homeless person or the bum or the psychotic or the drunk or the drug addict or the criminal and see their baby pictures in my mind's eye. You don't think they were cute like every other baby?"
-- Dustin Hoffman

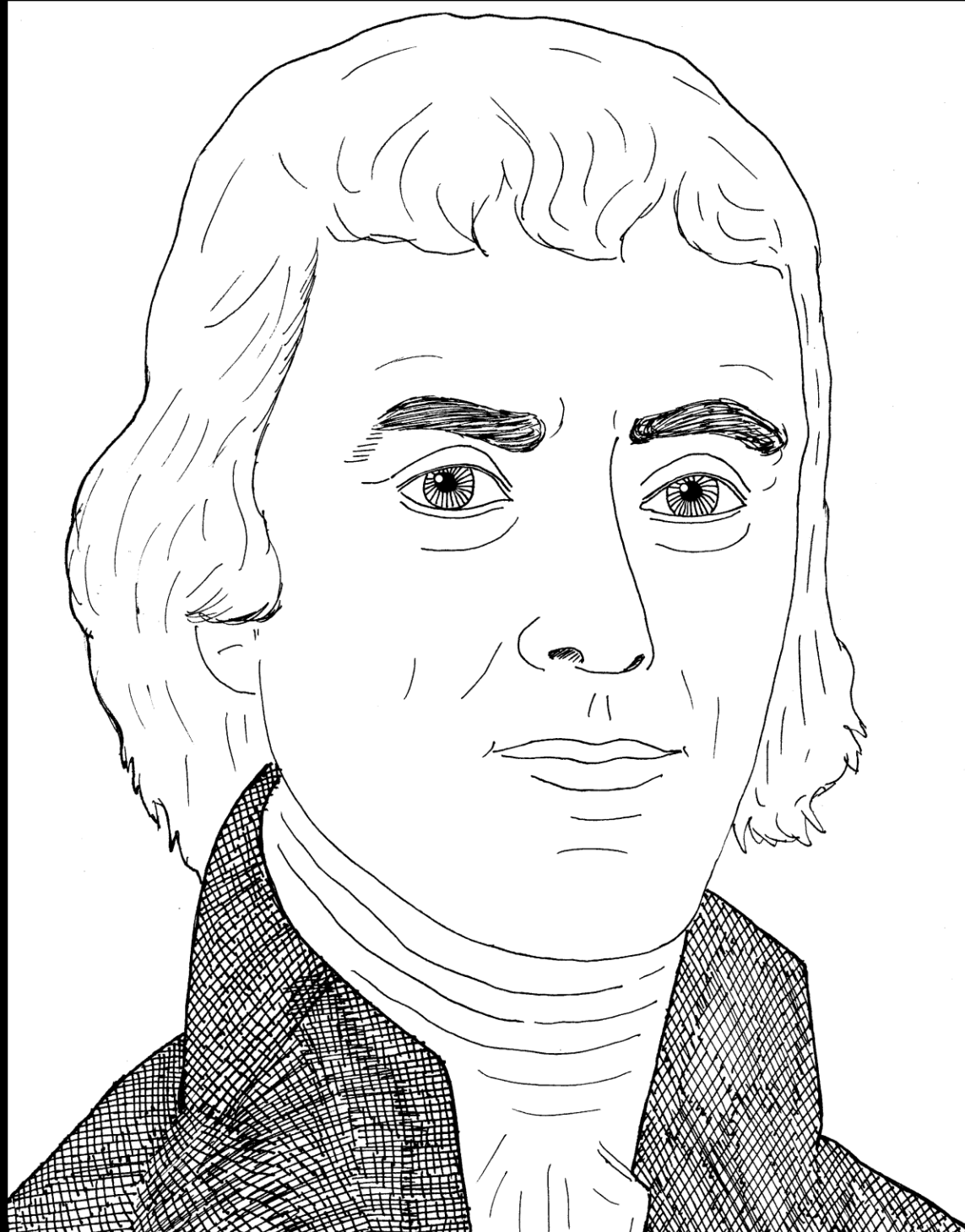
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“If Americans ever allow banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation and then by deflation, the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children will wake up homeless”

~ Thomas Jefferson

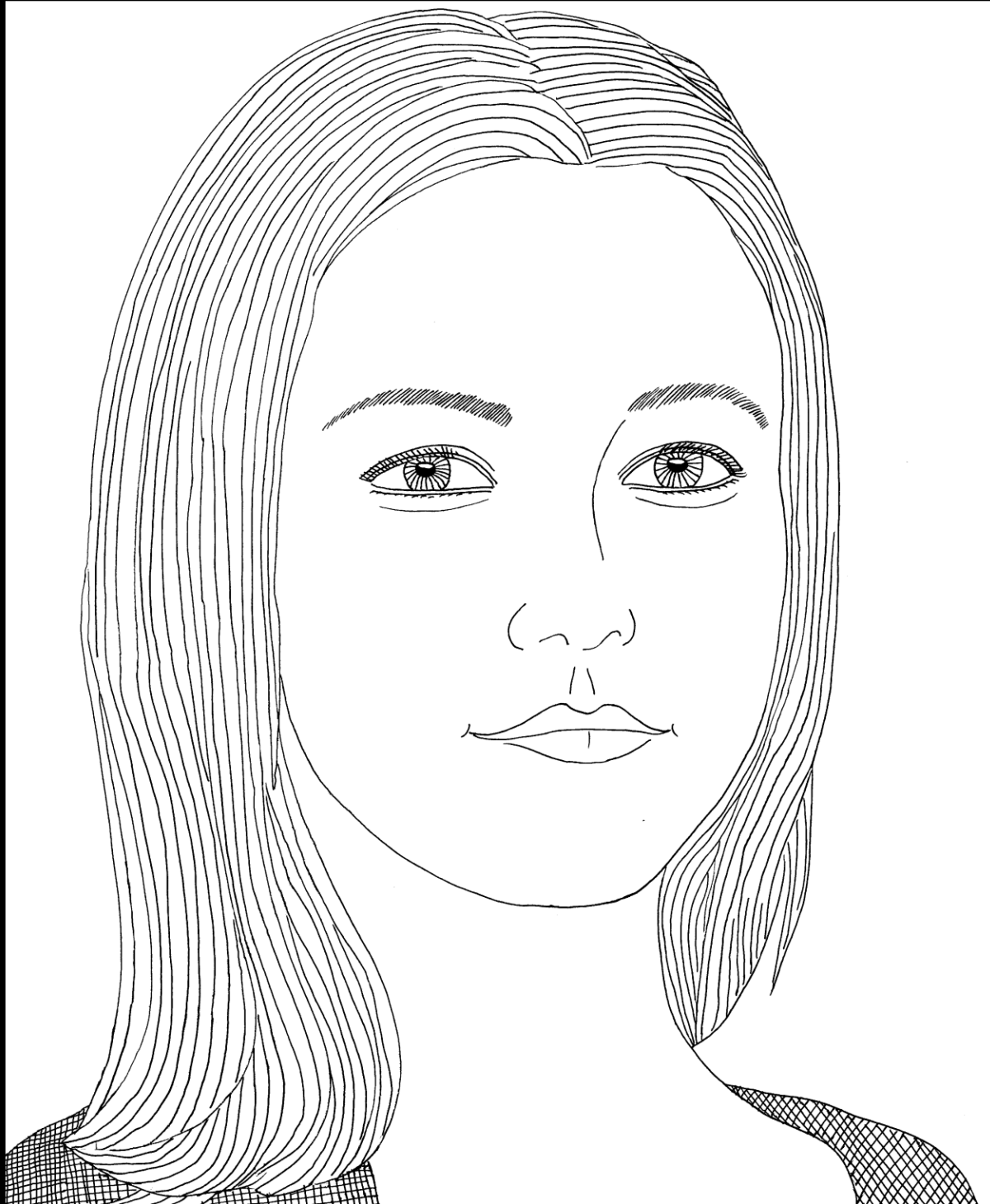
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"We must all work together to end youth homelessness in America."
-- Jewel

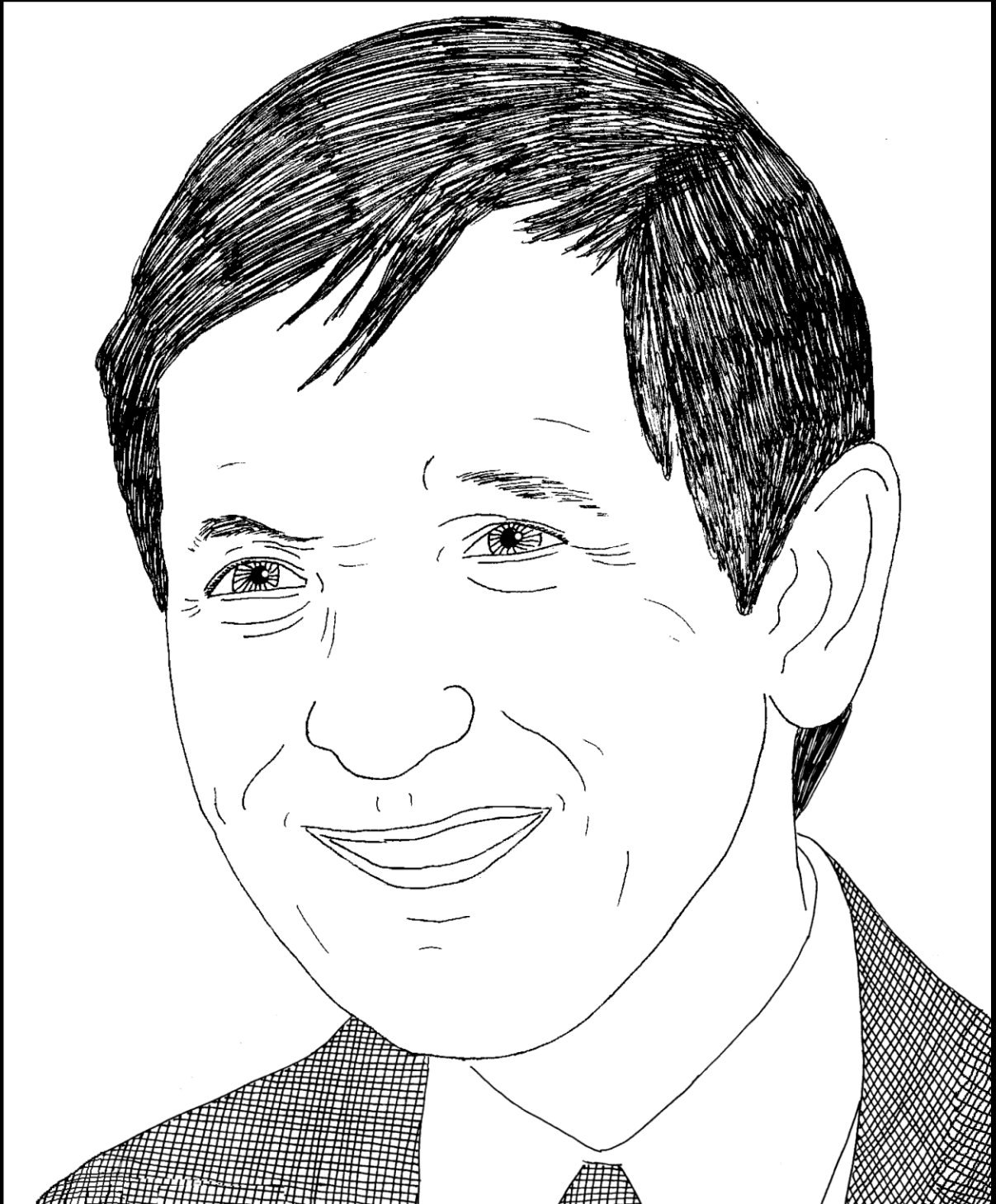
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**"We have weapons of mass destruction we have to address here at home.
Poverty is a weapon of mass destruction.
Homelessness is a weapon of mass destruction.
Unemployment is a weapon of mass destruction."
-- Dennis Kucinich**

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"If you walk down the street and see someone in a box, you have a choice. That person is either the other and you're fearful of them, or that person is an extension of your family."

-- Susan Sarandon

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"Sometimes the lack of substantive freedoms relates directly to economic poverty, which robs people of the freedom to satisfy hunger; or to achieve sufficient nutrition, or to obtain remedies for treatable illnesses or the opportunity to be adequately clothed or sheltered, or to enjoy clean water or sanitary facilities."

-- Amartya Sen

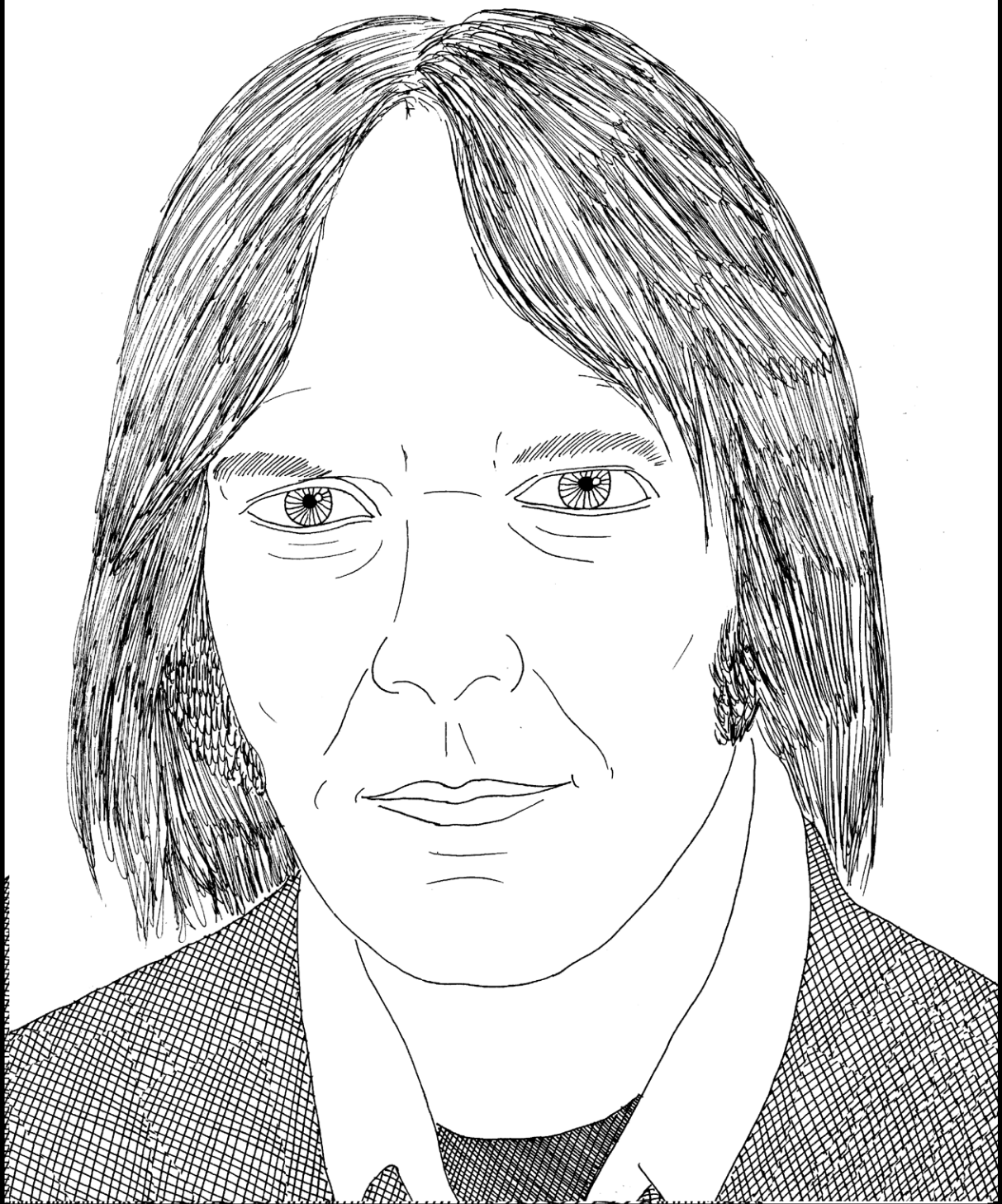
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**"All these people talking about morality should just take a walk downtown. They don't want to go downtown because instantly they see homeless people and they don't want to."
-- Neil Young**

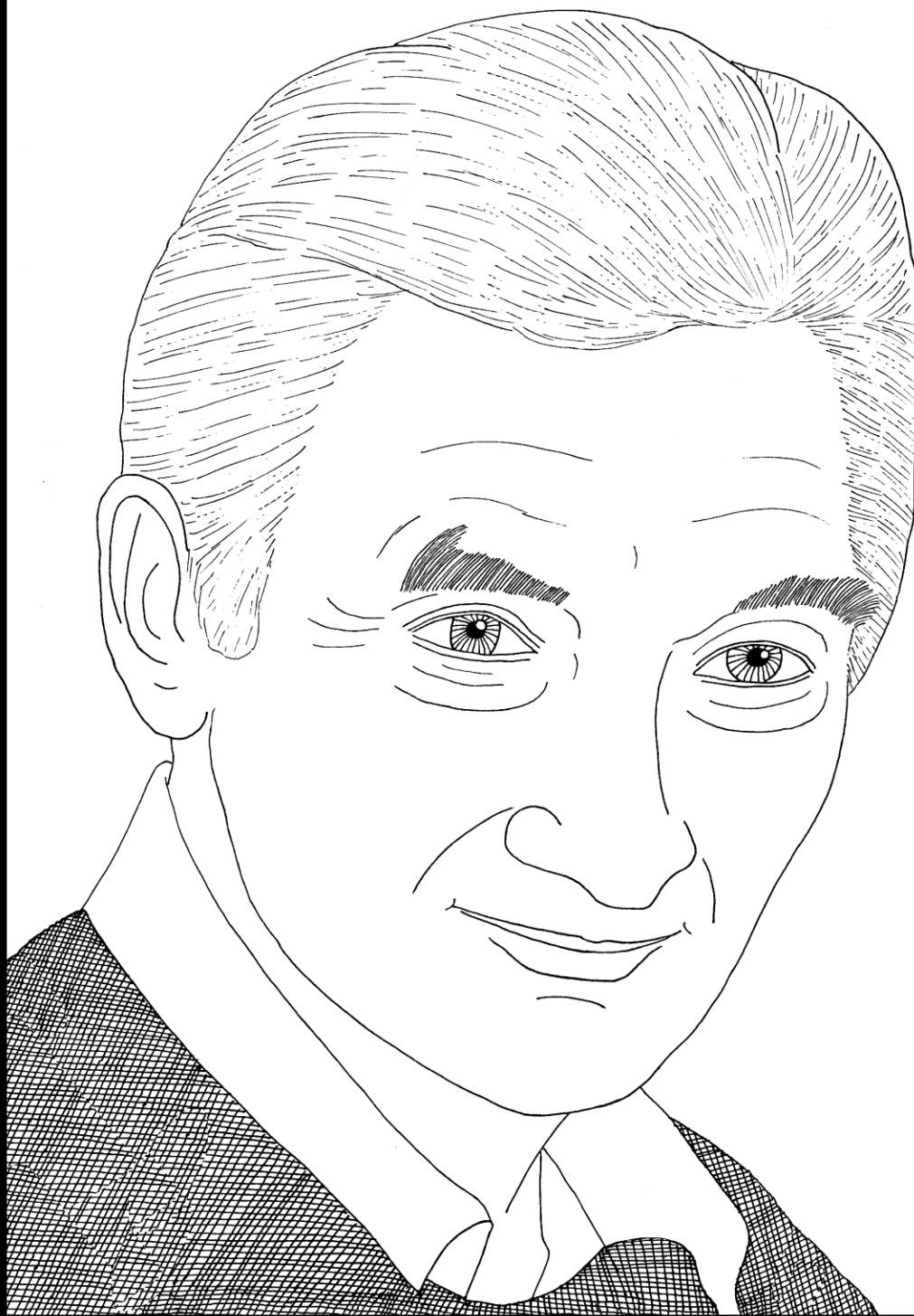
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**"I am convinced that imprisonment is a way of pretending to solve the problem of crime...It is a cruel and useless substitute for the elimination of those conditions--poverty, unemployment, homelessness, desperation, racism, greed--which are at the root of most punished crime."
-- Howard Zinn**

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