

Fellows, Seminars and New Faces

The Capital Fellows Programs are partnerships of the Center and CSUS with the Assembly, the Governor, the Judicial Council and the Senate. The partnerships recognize that success requires mutual respect as well as mutual benefit. Since 1984, when the Legislature first asked CSUS to administer the Assembly Fellowship Program and the California Senate Fellows, and through the creation of the Executive and the Judicial Administration Fellowship Programs in 1985 and 1997 respectively, the partnerships have maintained a strong commitment to an academic component for the Fellows. We regard the programs as a graduate-level experiential learning program which is most effective when supplemented with traditional seminars. Our partners recognize that universities are not labor exchanges and, thus, support the academic component. The Center understands the critical importance of placing Fellows as full-time professional staff at policy-making levels in state government. The academic component, consequently, is designed to minimize disruption and supplement the placement experience.

Each program has an Academic Advisor whose primary duty is teaching the seminar segments of the orientation program and, thereafter, a weekly seminar. The seminar must be academically credible, relevant and appropriate, and commensurate with the 12 units earned by the Fellows.

The Academic Advisors are drawn from the ranks of CSUS faculty as well as the State Capitol. In 2000-2001, the Academic Advisor for the Assembly Fellows is Michael Wadlé, a faculty member of the CSUS Department of Government. Professor Wadlé takes the place of Professor Ken DeBow who, after a decade plus, decided to step down. DeBow brought to generations of Fellows a quiet dedication to excellence that evoked great devotion and loyalty from the more than 200 Fellows he mentored. The transition has been very smooth, equally reflecting DeBow's tutelage of his friend and office-mate and Wadlé's commitment to the program.

The Executive Fellows' Academic Advisor is Professor Ted Lascher of the CSUS Masters Program in Public Policy and Administration (MPPA). Professor Lascher has taught the Executive Fellow seminars since 1996 when he arrived at CSUS from the Kennedy School at Harvard.

Michael Semler is a part-time faculty member with both the Government Department and the MPPA program at CSUS. In September, he started his second year as the Academic Advisor for the Judicial Administration Fellowship Program.

Since 1994, the Academic Advisor for the Senate program has been Ann Bailey, the Chief Counsel for the Senate Ethics Committee and part-time faculty member in the CSUS Government Department. This year, the press of other duties precluded her from continuing as Academic Advisor. She will, however, continue to oversee the Center's California Cases Project.

The new Academic Advisor for the Senate program will be State Senator Patrick Johnston (D-Stockton). Senator Johnston is termed out of office this year and will take up his duties with the Center in December. Ranked by the *California Journal* as one of the top legislators in terms of integrity, intelligence, problem solving and energy, Senator Johnston has taught at the Goldman School of Public Policy at Berkeley. Johnston is, thus, both an experienced teacher and a policy maker of considerable respect and accomplishment.

CENTER ROSTER

The Center for California Studies is a public policy, public service, and curricular support unit of California State University, Sacramento, dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of California's history, cultures, governments and public policies.

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Californiana

The Newsletter
of the Center for
California Studies,
California State
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Reclaiming the Past: African Americans Along the American River Project

By Joe Louis Moore, President, Sacramento African American Historical and Cultural Society

As Californians celebrate the 150th anniversary of the gold rush and California's admission to the Union, many are unaware of William Alexander Leidesdorff, or

board of education and town council. In 1844, the Mexican government gave Leidesdorff a 35,000-acre land grant along the American River, including the area that later became Negro Bar in the present-day town of Folsom. Calling his property Rancho de los Americanos, he raised cattle, planted crops, and built four adobe buildings.

Leidesdorff died shortly after the discovery of gold; but one year later, African American miners were successfully panning for gold at Negro Bar on Leidesdorff's land holdings along the American River. This marked the first of at least 75 documented sites in California where African American gold miners worked. Thus, Leidesdorff's land grant is a link between Mexican rule and what was to become American rule.

Today, visitors to the gold country find it difficult to discern any trace of a black presence in the area's history. The Sacramento African American Historical and Cultural Society (SAAHCS) is working to correct this through its project, *Reclaiming the Past: African Americans Along the American River*. The project will research, preserve and celebrate the contributions of black pioneers who lived, worked, and built communities along the American River. This is a collaborative effort involving SAAHCS, the National Park Service, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the CSUS Pan African Studies Department and the University Archives at CSUS. *Reclaiming the Past* will reconstruct an adobe building at Negro Bar State Park and dedicate it as the William Alexander Leidesdorff Interpretive Center. The Center will acquaint visitors with broad historic themes important to California and the area, including the region's multicultural heritage, slavery, the abolitionist movement, and race relations. The Center will also exhibit gold rush documents, manumission papers, mining claims, photographs and other artifacts of the African American experience along the American River and surrounding areas.

Reclaiming the Past was launched during the summer in conjunction with the first annual Juneteenth Celebration and Picnic held at Negro Bar State Park on June 17, 2000. The event was sponsored by SAAHCS with significant support from CSUS. Approximately 200 people attended and enjoyed music, gold panning activities, historic readings and a presentation in which Dr. Rhonnie Washington, noted scholar and professor of drama at San Francisco State, portrayed William Alexander Leidesdorff.



the black forty-niners, or the rich role that people of African ancestry played in California's early history. Leidesdorff, a Mexican citizen of African descent, became one of early California's wealthiest and most influential citizens. A successful businessman and entrepreneur, he served as vice-consul to Mexico, and he built the first hotel in San Francisco, as well as serving on the town's



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UPDATE ON CENTER PROJECTS

LegiSchool

The 2000-2001 school year is off to an exciting start for LegiSchool, the Center's award-winning high school civic education program. Responding to a statewide LegiSchool teacher survey, events and curriculum materials for this school year have been developed to better meet the interests of students and the needs of teachers.

Beginning with a meeting on voting and how the use of computer technology can increase voter participation, LegiSchool Town Hall Meetings will address timely and controversial public policy issues facing Californians. Subsequent meeting topics include the costs and benefits of corporate advertising on high school campuses, student profiling to prevent school violence, and the role of religion in public schools. In addition, LegiSchool's Fourth Annual Essay Contest will ask students to examine California's recently implemented high school exit exam. Ten winning essayists will be invited to participate in a daylong Student Journalism Conference at the Capitol.

For more information about LegiSchool, or to order LegiSchool curriculum materials, please visit our Web site at www.csus.edu/calst/legischool.htm or contact Kolleen Ostgaard, LegiSchool Project Coordinator, at (916) 278-6906.

Applications Available for the Seventh Annual California Journalism Awards John Jacobs to be Honored

The Center for California Studies will host the Seventh Annual California Journalism Conference and Awards Dinner in Sacramento on Thursday, March 1, 2001. The awards, established in 1994, recognize, encourage and reward excellence in reporting of California state government and policies. The conference will consist of panel discussions dealing with issues relevant to the journalism community. More than 100 capital journalists and students are expected to attend the 2001 conference. The Center provides awards and \$500 cash prizes in the areas of Print, Radio, and Television Journalism and the Katherine Macdonald Award, with a cash prize of \$300, for Student Journalism.

This year, the Print Journalism awards will be named in honor of John Jacobs, the noted author and award-winning political columnist for *The Sacramento Bee* who passed away last May after a lengthy battle with cancer. Jacobs, a second-generation newspaperman who wrote for the *San Francisco Examiner* for 15 years before joining the *Bee* in 1993, was the recipient of a 1998 Journalism Award. His columns appeared on the opinion pages of the *Bee* and other McClatchy-owned newspapers. Jacobs authored three books, including *A Rage For Justice: The Passion and Politics of Phillip Burton*, the 1995 biography of the late congressman from San Francisco.

If you or someone you know has written a story or produced a program about state government or politics in California, we welcome the entry. The Print, Radio and Television categories include separate awards for Special Feature/Enterprise Reporting and Daily Coverage. "Special Feature/Enterprise Reporting" is defined as articles or programs designed for in-depth extended or special coverage. "Daily Coverage" means articles or programs designed to provide routine news coverage within the normal limits of a daily newspaper or program. The application deadline is January 12, 2001. The winners will be announced at the March 1 awards dinner.

For more information regarding the Center for California Studies Journalism Awards, visit our Web site at www.csus.edu/calst or call (916) 278-6906.

California Cases Project

A second volume of cases researched and written by Capital Fellows has been published by the Institute of Governmental Studies (IGS) at UC Berkeley. *Making Government Work* includes 12 cases developed under the supervision of CSUS Faculty Advisor Ann Bailey and Case Project Director Barry Keene. The first volume of cases, *California Public Management Casebook*, was published by IGS last year.

The Center's California Cases Project helps students and others to better understand and appreciate the realities of public service. Case studies are an effective method of teaching—engaging students in role-play, debate, and simulated decision making about real-life public policy dilemmas.

Making Government Work is designed to help people reach their public policy goals through thinking and acting politically. The cases presented are like political fables—stories with a lesson. They can assist others in acquiring the political skills essential to making good public policy.

Case writing and teaching requires participants to shift from an analysis of the merits or policy aspects of particular proposals or actions to the strategies and tactics utilized. Policy is secondary—a backdrop for learning how to get things accomplished in a political arena.

Making Government Work includes the following cases:

The Executive and the Legislature

- Line Appointees: Three Strikes and He's Out!
- The Big Five: From Where the Power Flows
- Time for the Underdog: Acupuncture Pierces the Status Quo

Local Government, Community Action, and the Media

- Room to Breathe: The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
- Shake, Rattle, and Push: West Oakland Moves a Freeway
- Outside Public View: Let the Games Begin!

Intergovernmental Dynamics

- Constructive Squabbling: A Big Mayor for a Little City
- Creative Collaboration: Regaining South Spit—For the Birds
- Federalism Suspended: Boots to Birkenstocks

Implementation and Oversight

- Creative Evasion: The Blighted Desert
- Trial Court Funding: With Justice for All
- Public-Private Partners: 91 Ways to Leave a Toll Road

For information about purchasing *Making Government Work*, contact the Institute of Governmental Studies at (510) 642-6723.

12th Annual Envisioning California Conference

E-Democracy, Education & Initiatives: The Future of the California Republic
September 21-22, 2000

From television to the Internet, citizens now have unprecedented access to the world marketplace of facts and ideas. Inevitably, this Electronic Information Age has impacted all of our society's activities, as did the Industrial Revolution. The question posed by the 12th Annual Envisioning California Conference titled, *E-Democracy, Education & Initiatives: The Future of the California Republic*, was not if, but, rather, how we can influence it. The Conference gathered community leaders, policy makers, academics and students at the State Capitol for a lively, provocative and enlightening look at how new electronic technologies will alter public life in California.

A number of panels focused on the intersection between information economy and public policy, including: *Dot.coms, Cyber Communities, and Wired Government: The E-Future of California*; *Electoral Disinterest: Can the Internet Stimulate Voting and Interest in Politics?*; and *A Republic or a Democracy: Legislatures in the Electronic Future*. Panelists included Kim Alexander, California Voter Foundation; Senator Debra Bowen (D-Marina del Rey); Richard Chabran, UC Riverside's Center for Virtual Research; Tessie Guillermo, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum and Community Technology Foundation of California; Senator Ray Haynes (R-Riverside); Steve Nissen, Director, Innovation in Government, Office of the Governor; Professor Don Taylor, Department of Communication Studies at CSUS; and Tracy Westen, Grassroots.com.

The Conference paid particular attention to the "digital divide" controversy. The proceedings began Thursday evening with a dinner and keynote address by Magda Escobar, titled, "Youth and Development in the Information Economy." Ms. Escobar is the Executive Director of Plugged-In. Plugged-In is a Bay Area program cited by the federal government as a model for bridging the digital divide through its technology-based after school programs and teen-run Web design business. On Friday, the luncheon keynote was Martina Hone, Vice President of PowerUP and former Associate Undersecretary of Commerce. Ms. Hone, whose duties with the U. S. Department of Commerce

included supervising Census 2000, spoke on public-private collaborations to bridge the digital divide. PowerUP is a public-private partnership providing comprehensive support to thousands of community- and education-based programs throughout the nation.

Complementing the discussions on the e-future were panels on various issues facing California. *Master Plan for the 21st Century: Higher Education and Public Policy* focused on how the state's higher education segments intend to address the challenges of the next decade. Moderated by CSUS President Don Gerth, the panel included Bruce Darling, Vice President of University and External Relations, The University of California; Brice Harris, Chancellor, Los Rios Community College District; and David Spence, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer, The California State University.

The Great California Experiment: Heterogeneous Populations and Homogeneous Electorates explored the myths and realities and the problems and opportunities of a state with a very diverse population but an electorate that is far less so. The panel moderated by Jaime Regalado, Director of the Pat Brown Institute, CSULA, included Sacramento City Councilmember Lauren Hammond, political analyst Tony Quinn, and author Peter Schrag.

Finally, *Unorthodox Communities: Mapping the Real California* started with the state Supreme Court's definition of the natural geographical regions of California and quickly progressed to a discussion of the real California with the help of University of Santa Clara literature professor Terry Beers; A. G. Block, Managing Editor, *California Journal*; Jackie Donath, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, CSUS and moderator; James Reede, Jr., California Energy Commission; and Angus Wright, Director of Environmental Studies, CSUS.

The Center is grateful to our partner, The Center for Southern California Studies, California State University, Northridge. We also wish to acknowledge the support of the California Cable Television Association, the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research, the California History Center at DeAnza College, the California State Association of Counties, the *California Journal* State Net, and the Center's Statewide Advisory Council and Campus Advisory Board. Their generosity and support enable the Center to hold its annual Envisioning California Conference.

Staff Notes

After 10 years, 17 conferences, 150 Fellows, thousands of applicant packets, and innumerable days of keeping the Center centered, Donna Hoenig-Couch has moved on to new opportunities and challenges. Donna joined the Center in 1991 as the Director of the Executive Fellowship Program. In 1997, when the Judicial Administration Fellowship Program was created, she took over that program as well. Donna was heavily recruited by the Chancellor's Office of the California Community Colleges and, this summer, accepted a gubernatorial appointment as the Director of Fiscal Policy.

Donna will, of course, be greatly missed, but the Executive and Judicial Administration Fellowship Programs continued without interruption thanks to a dedicated Center staff and the arrival of Sandra Perez as the new Director. Sandra is a graduate of the University of Southern California, where she was a Kellogg Fellow, and a graduate of the Kennedy School at Harvard. Among other things, she has worked for former Assembly Member Phil Isenberg, the Sacramento Community Services Planning Council, and the Rural Health Advocacy Institute. Sandra brings to the Center an impressive record of policy expertise, administrative skill, political savvy, and, most importantly, a deep commitment to public service.

Also joining the Center this summer were Don Nahhas and Shela Schubin. Don is a native of Sacramento and an accomplished photographer. He provides administrative support for the Senate Fellows and the LegiSchool Project. Shela entered the McGeorge School of Law in August and works part-time at the Center providing administrative and organizational support to the Faculty Research Fellows Program, the *Eureka!* Project and the Legislative Oral History Project.

CALENDAR

2000-2001 LegiSchool Activities

October 26, 2000	Building a Strong Electorate: High Tech Solutions to Low Voter Participation
December 7, 2000	Advertising at Schools: Is There Room in Public Education for Sodas and Snacks?
January 15, 2001	Essay Contest Deadline
February 1, 2001	School Safety: Who Fits the Profile?
March 22, 2001	The Exit Exam: Road to Reform or Barrier to Success?
May 3, 2001	Religion at Public Schools: Free Speech or Public Sponsorship of Religious Beliefs?

Bibliography

Internet Resources

(Note: This list represents both Internet sites devoted to E-Democracy issues as well as sites that provide election, candidate and political information.)

California Voter Foundation: www.calvoter.org/2000preview/measures.html

The pioneer Web site on California elections and politics. The site includes contact information for ballot measures and candidates as well as links to relevant news articles.

Center for Voting and Democracy: www.igc.apc.org/cvd

The Center for Voting and Democracy studies how voting systems affect participation, representation, and governance and disseminates its findings to civic organizations, elected officials, journalists, and the general public.

Choose or Lose: www.mtv.com/news/chooseorlose/index.html

MTV's election web page.

Debate America: www.debateamerica.org

This site seeks to demonstrate the value of communications for solving social problems and to create discussion among concerned citizens on local, national, and international issues.

Grassroots.com: www.grassroots.com

A private, non-partisan venture that melds media with technology; its goal is to reconnect all Americans with their political system.

Ideas 2000: www.ideas2000.org

This site promotes the importance of issues in the presidential and congressional elections.

Kids Voting California: www.kidsvotingcalifornia.com

The mission of Kids Voting is to promote voter participation and to educate students regarding the voting process.

MoveOn: www.moveon.org

MoveOn attempts to build electronic advocacy for causes its members believe legislators have ignored and, thus, to be a catalyst for a new kind of grassroots involvement.

Impact Online: www.impactonline.org

The mission of Impact Online is to facilitate community involvement via the Internet. Impact Online seeks to collaborate with existing organizations and to build community resources for getting more people involved.

Project Vote Smart: www.vote-smart.org

Project Vote Smart is a national library of factual information on over 13,000 elected offices and candidates for public office – President, governors, Congress and state legislatures.

Rap the Vote: www.rapthevote2000.com

Rock the Vote: <http://www.rockthevote.org>

These sites are dedicated to protecting freedom of expression and to helping young people realize and utilize their power to create change in the civic and political lives of their communities.

Service Vote 2000: www.servicevote.org

A national campaign to encourage full civic engagement of American youth by linking their involvement in community service and the political process.

The Center for Responsive Politics: www.opensecrets.org

A non-partisan, non-profit research group based in Washington, D.C. that tracks money in politics and its effects on elections and public policy.

VoteHere.Net: www.votehere.net

This is the site of the leading provider of Internet voting services.

Voter.com: www.voter.com

The site offers political news on local races and allows viewers to track pieces of legislation. One section of the site is devoted to campaign finance and lists both contributors and the amount they have donated to various causes/candidates.

Web White & Blue 2000: www.webwhiteblue.org

A non-profit, non-partisan project of the Markle Foundation designed to highlight the ways in which the Internet can expand and enhance citizen participation in our nation's democratic process.

Books, Articles, Reports

Becker, Theodore L. *The Future of Teledemocracy* (2000)

Bowler, Shaun, et. al. *Citizens As Legislators: Direct Democracy in the United States* (1998)

Broder, David S. *Democracy Derailed: Initiative Campaigns & the Power of Money* (2000)

California Secretary of State, *California Internet Voting Task Force: A Report on the Feasibility of Internet Voting*. (1999)

Gutstein, Donald. *E-Con: How the Internet Undermines Democracy* (1999)

Morris, Dick. *Vote.Com* (1999)

United States Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications & Information Administration. *Falling*

Through the Net: Defining the Digital Divide (1999)

Weberg, Brian. "Instant Democracy for Everyone." *State Legislatures* (July/August 2000)

The E-Democracy Debate

(continued from front)

E-democrats and E-republicans

E-democrats share the technologists' certainty that advances in technology will render moot security concerns of things like on-line voting, but they find the goals of Informationists too modest. Advocates for E-Democracy have a wide range of opinions and proposals, but a common theme is a technology-based political system that will, according to Ted Becker, a Political Science professor at Auburn University and a well-known E-democrat, merge citizen power with technology to produce teledemocracy and "transform democracies into the next phase of their evolution." The writings of E-democrats often reflect widespread frustration with the responsiveness and representativeness of current political structures and processes. Some see methods like Internet voting as essential to reconnecting future generations to their obligations as citizens and, thus, to preserving our system of government. Others argue that, to make the system more responsive, voters should be able to sign initiative petitions on-line and, once a measure has qualified for the ballot, an on-line election should be held as soon as possible rather than waiting for the next regularly scheduled election.

E-republicans fear the impact of E-Democracy on the American Republic. They argue that a republic or representative democracy is based on two beliefs, perhaps, best articulated in the Federalist Papers. First, all legitimate authority comes from the people; but, because people are not angels, a system of checks and balances is absolutely necessary for the protection of liberty and freedom. Second, one of the most important elements of checks and balances is the ability of the people to elect representatives who will make decisions that, in James Madison's words in Federalist #10, "will be more consonant to the public good than if pronounced by the people themselves. . . ." E-republicans ask what checks and balances would be present in an E-Democracy. Others question the equity and justice of a political system based on access to, and knowledge of, computers when such access is neither universal nor likely to be. What, they ask, happens in an E-Democracy to the 80 percent of Native Americans on reservations that do not have telephones, let alone Internet access?

The consensus at the Center's 12th Annual Envisioning California Conference: *E-Democracy, Initiatives, & Education: The Future of the California Republic* was that technology will have profound impacts not only on our politics and government but, also, on the very foundations of our system of governance. That there will be an impact is certain. What is left to determine are the nature, extent and focus of the impact and, most importantly, how we can shape that impact.

Snap Shots

Capturing Current California Issues:

The E-Democracy Debate

Introduction

In 1787, at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked what type of government the Convention had given America. Franklin replied, "A republic – if you can keep it."

Whether this exchange is apocryphal or historic fact does not diminish the power of its message as well as the importance of the unstated question, "How do you keep a republic?" In the year 2000, a debate is underway that Franklin, the scientist, would undoubtedly find fascinating, and Franklin, the statesman, find challenging and important. That debate is how our republic or representative democracy will evolve in a digital age.

Some argue the Internet will revolutionize politics by creating a truly democratic society wherein disaffected young people will be galvanized into active citizens and all citizens will routinely make informed decisions on issues now decided by legislators and governors. Others invoke incidents of computer fraud and the proliferation of Web sites peddling racism or benignly repeating misinformation to question the idea of a Net-informed electorate. Still others warn that our current system of multiple checks and balances may not be perfect but has, generally, been very successful in protecting liberty and freedom, and they question what checks and balances there could be in an E-Democracy.

The debate on E-Democracy can be understood as falling into several camps which could be labeled Technologists, Informationists and Skeptics, E-democrats and E-republicans.

Technologists, Informationists and Skeptics

Technologists tend to see the world in terms of technical feasibility and problem solving. It is the general attitude that if it can be done, it should be done. The technologist approach has revolutionized science, communication, business, entertainment and much of our personal lives. To technologists, E-Democracy is a question of feasibility. If you can use the Internet to make a hotel reservation in Singapore, why shouldn't you be able to reserve a camping spot at a state park? If you can bank on-line, why not vote on-line?

Informationists are less driven by the challenge of solving technological problems than by the prospect of using new communication technologies to both disseminate information and increase public access to in-

formation. The former involves the ever-increasing candidate and campaign Web sites as well as political and government news sites on the Web. (Some Web sites are little more than digital campaign mailers. Other candidates, such as Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura and former Republican Presidential candidate John McCain, create virtual campaign structures through adroit and imaginative use of the Internet technology.) The latter is a logical progression of the movement for open meetings, open records and political disclosure laws. In a representative democracy, the forums in which the people's representatives make government decisions should be open to the people. Thus, in California, thousands of state and local officials file annual statements of economic interest, must publicly notice time, place and agenda of their meetings, and hold records publicly available. E-technology can assist this dedication to openness by easing the accessibility of public records.

To skeptics, the notion that if something is technologically feasible, then it should be done, misses the essential question—should it be done? To them, technological developments are often societal as much as engineering issues and, thus, when possible, should not be embraced until societal questions are asked and debated and until some consensus is reached. Luddites may want to control the technology at the start, but most skeptics recognize that advances will occur regardless of societal wishes or political preferences. However, the mere fact that a technology exists for providing secure Internet voting or for human cloning does not justify an immediate acceptance of the technology. Will, for example, Internet voting increase voter turnout or just increase turnout among white middle class voters (who already have high turnout rates) while leaving the "have nots" even more alienated from a political and governmental system already seen by poor and minority groups as indifferent if not hostile?

Skeptics also include those who doubt if ease of access to information disclosed publicly will have any appreciable impact. After all, proponents of campaign disclosure argued that candidates would be disinclined to accept contributions from sources, or in amounts, voters deem suspect if those contributions were publicly disclosed. Yet, candidates for both federal and California elective office have been subject to strict disclosure laws since 1974 with little evidence that disclosure has achieved that goal. Skeptics, moreover, remind us that the Internet offers a wealth of both information and misinformation with little to distinguish the two. This will continue to limit the capacity of technology to improve political discourse.

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