Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1   Removing informed guidance of RTM would be a loss

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

2

####END SUBHED####

3   TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

4   In listing the dozen voter groups who, for various

5   reasons, cannot or will not participate in an open Town Meeting,

6   Thomas Franks (Representative Town Meeting member, District

7   9), argues against himself in advocating for the Australian ballot.

8   If all these voter groups so predictably fall victim to

9   circumstances that prevent or preclude their participation,

10   removing the informed guidance the RTM model provides its

11   constituents would seem to distance voters further from achieving

12 the informed consent that is desirable on matters of good

13 governance.

14   Removing the accountability of elected town

15 representatives and expecting the voters to inform themselves

16 well enough on the issues to responsibly cast their vote is

17 unlikely, in my view.

18   In place of RTM, the Australian ballot will do … what?

19 Allow unelected, unaccountable interest groups to influence the

20 most suggestible voters in a direction not debated in public.

21   The RTM is a wise tradition, and if we're the only

22 Vermont town using it? Well, wear it as a badge of honor: "The

23 One and Only Brattleboro!"

     ####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

     ####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

24

     ####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

     ####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

25   0

     ####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

     ####BEGIN LINKS####

26

     ####END LINKS####

VIDEO:

     ####BEGIN VIDEO####

27

     ####END VIDEO####

Logline (social media):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

28

####END LOGLINE####