

Subject: Re: call to the Dove In!

Date: Wed, 09 Jul 2003 20:30:13 -0400

From: Dennis Burke <Dennis@smallplanetinstitute.org>

To: Doris Haddock <grannyd@monad.net>

California

Pending

Most of the big statements we make in our lives and with our lives are not shouted loudly by way of momentous deeds. Most of the big statements we make about our values, our dreams, our hopes for this world and for our loved ones and for ourselves, are made through our small deeds: the little note left behind, the extra phone call to a friend, the little contribution to a good cause. In these small ways we shape the world in a bigger way than we can imagine.

What we all learned anew in the run-up to the Iraq War was that standing, just standing, in a street corner vigil or walking calmly in a peace march can be important, ~~though it is easy to do~~. The New York Times, in the days before that war, said on its front page that there are now two superpowers in the world: the Pentagon and world public opinion. We are that second superpower, and we wear our power gently and wield it with love and for love. But it is an awesome power.

Standing together for peace, for our dreams, for our values, is not a foolish waste of time. It is the way we change the world. It is how we send out waves of love and ripples of wisdom. When our friends see us standing, or they hear that we have done it, they think freshly upon the needs of our era, validated by their old friends' concern. And they have influence.

So if my friends on the West Coast invite me to stand with them for peace, and in our standing make the shape of a dove, I will do it. If it were the shape of a child, I would do it. Or of any man or woman or living thing. For we are standing for life in a time when the forces of death defy us to take our stand. So we stand.

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