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ALLIANCE FOR DEMOCRACY
Portsmouth Chapter
4/8/03
American Emergency

Thank you for the fine introduction *4/20/03*

We meet in disturbing times, but we must not be disturbed. We must be calm and peaceful, for peace cannot come from hearts disturbed and angry. And peace, if it is to come, must come from us, from our hearts.

Here are some things to give us calm comfort. France and Germany ^{were} ~~are~~ together in something at last, and our man in the White House deserves a Nobel Peace Prize at least for that, if for nothing else.

The man in the White House is the best political organizer we have ever had. He generated the largest protest demonstrations the earth has ever seen in the last few months. He has us organizing on the peace front, the civil liberties front, the environmental front, and the domestic budget front - everywhere, people all over the world are waking up after a long sleep. It is a dangerous time, but a great time - a great awakening - and we must give credit to the man whose

monumental presumption has made this possible.

~~Insert joy~~ Bush 10
Will our hearts be on a rollercoaster of his design?
Will he control our happiness and our anger? We will not give him that. There is only one way off this rollercoaster, and that is to focus our lives now on November 2nd, 2004. That is the mountaintop we must have in the center of our vision. We Americans have a dream of independence, of responsible self-governance and individual freedom. We want to see ourselves as a beacon in the world for the great dreams of freedom and justice and for simple kindness and common sense. We have offered to the world that dream of freedom and plenty that dream that humans have always held in their hopes for themselves and for their children.

We have held this dream in spite of the reality of our history. We have engaged in slavery and we wiped out a noble race who lived in this land before us. We held our dream in spite of everything, because it has been our duty to hold this dream, imperfect as we are. All the nations of the world remind us of our duty when they send us their children to educate or to assimilate into a culture where individuals have a chance to freely live up to their unique potentials The French reminded us of our duty with their gift of Lady

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Liberty that stands today in New York Harbor. Oh, I hope they don't want ~~it~~ back!

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We must not be discouraged because in our slow and wobbly path forward to a better world, we sometimes find ourselves taking great steps backward.

And so it is now, as we discard our Bill of Rights and discard our international cooperation of all kinds and remake the world for power and greed instead of for justice. It has happened before. But always there have been activists who pulled us back from the brink of Fascism and recovered our Democracy. And so it will happen today, if we do the job fate has given us to do. This is a dark and violent time in a dark presidency, but it is no coup. This is not the end of American Democracy, or the beginning of some fascist regime. We are too big, we are too willful and too brave a people for that to ever be so, through there is great cause for worry. We have invaded and bombed before when we might have negotiated, or when we might have worked cooperatively. Americans have gone to jail before, and suffered popular abuse before because they stood against great wrongs. History usually proves them right. And so it is now, as many of us prepare to go to jail rather than pretend that nothing serious is happening in America. We must do

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our best until the nation awakes again and embraces its dream again.

Insert bids & fees

So, Here is what we must do now. We must of course find a good candidate who can represent all of us well, including the moderate middle of American thought where elections are won. We must not look for the perfect candidate, but for a candidate who believes in the value of our planet and who will uphold the bill of Rights, which is now under attack by Bush's wildly unpatriotic Patriot Act and its planned Patriot Act II, which is a treason.

In the 2004 presidential election, we must not split our vote between Greens and Democrats. I know the Greens have party building to do, but there will be no America for them to build their party in if Mr. Bush wins again. So they must defer this time and earn our respect and admiration for doing so.

Here is what you and I must do. We must arrange to vote by absentee ballot in the general election, so that we can go to the swing states and work to get out the vote on election day. I will do that, will you?

If you live in a swing state, of course, you can do your work in your own neighborhood. But if you live in a

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state that is clearly on one side of the ledger or the other, you must get in your car or a bus or an airplane and go, at your own expense, to an area where you can do some good getting people to the polls. You can also do some good in advance of that to make sure that people are registered to vote.

We can be happy in this great adventure, upon which so much depends. We will not let anger and frustration poison our lives. We will get busy and make our plans. ~~We look now to November 2, 2004.~~

Sign up with me as a swing state suffragette on ~~Grannyd.com~~. Lets build an army and be happy about it. ~~When you were a child, did you not want a chance to save the world? Well, be happy. We have been given that job.~~ We have work to do now with our neighbors, so that they have refreshed in their heart the idea of a great America. One that takes care of its people and one that acts as a force for reason and peace and justice throughout the world .

SWING STATE '04

We ~~stand~~ ^{are} here together ~~today~~ ^{this evening} because we care about each other. We care about our brothers and sisters who struggle in poverty and injustice, not only here but everywhere in the world We are for freedom. We are for the justice that allows all people the proper pursuit of happiness. We are for love. We are for

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love. And while other people are for bombs and guns
and war we are for love and for truth

~~Thank you and good luck~~