

Dec. 23, 2006
Progressive Ponderings
Department of Peace

"Imagine a Department of Peace," Mee Moua of the Minnesota Senate coaxed us at the Homemade Peace Workshop last Saturday.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" – artists, poets, musicians, writers – a place for the dreamers, the thinkers, all of us with imaginations, to bring constructive ideas before the American public in an official capacity.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" – historians, geographers, sociologists grappling with past and present to determine the best movements in human history and to apply those concepts toward today's world.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" – linguists to sort through the doublespeak, the ambiguities, the couched phrases inflicted on the populace by ideologue politicians today.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" – Psychologists, psychiatrists, scientists applying the science of human motivation, of reward and punishment, of hate and hope toward peaceful ends.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" – cultural anthropologists studying and teaching all aspects of human development as social beings and emphasizing those that have resulted in peaceful communities.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" – moralists and ethicists emphasizing values and principles governing national conduct that best serves the human family and the environment, and that the actions towards others affect us all.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" – not attached to or dedicated to one particular economic system but open to providing methods that seek to satisfy the needs and wants of ALL humanity.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" – language and cultural specialists attached to all of our embassies so that we can truly understand and honor the uniqueness of each neighbor nation and culture.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" – a legitimate arm of our government bringing peaceful solutions into mainstream American policy.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" – educators developing a curriculum for our schools that changes our history texts from the emphasis on generals and war to emphasis on the constant peace movements that occurred throughout history.

"Imagine a Department of Peace" - our Peace Corps spreading to every corner of the earth and promoting true understanding and friendship, to replace our military bases.

The majority of people in the United States and the world now seem to be convinced that empire and power are not able to solve conflicts between nations no matter how those conflicts come about or for whatever reasons. Ambitions of imperial design and power are lurking underneath the surface when leaders urge and engage a docile population to participate in violent aggressive action. Citizens need to become aware of the true fruits of these types of actions to "Imagine a department of Peace."

For peace,
jmayer

