

LETTER TO WORLD CITIZENS

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Garry Davis

I write on October 20, the day after the last U.S. presidential TV debate. By the time you read this, one of the three candidates will have been elected. But what no one has revealed - nor can reveal who perseveres on the strictly national level - is who (or what) really "won."

All three candidates put on a good show, especially Perot who entertained as well as enlightened us. That's a clue. Television itself dominated the debate. It was a stage. The candidates had to perform. ABC estimated that Monday's debate was seen by 88 million viewers in the United States alone. What the worldwide viewing audience was is anybody's guess, especially CNN's Ted Turner's whose telecasts reach a global audience.

And TV provided the stage....the space... space, however, that opened into millions of living-rooms, bars and sundry viewing posts throughout the planet. In other words, it, the space, was global, ubiquitous. But while each candidate was an actual global performer, **none of the candidates had programs to match**. None even acknowledged the **fact** of global space. None acknowledged a global audience as relevant to their candidacy much less global problems relevant to their U.S. audience. So none of their programs actually met the criteria of the very space they were using. On the contrary, they were introverted to the point where all absurdly agreed to a continued "strong" national military posture.

Their "performance" was not only inconsistent but a betrayal...of the American people and the world's people. And themselves.

A strong military when the world of nations is being ripped apart by military thinkers and actors, when the U.S. government authorized the sale of \$63 billion worth of weapons to 142 nations and supplies weapons to 59 authoritarian governments including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Morocco, Thailand, and Guagemala, when millions are starving and refugees proliferate, when armies pollute, ravage, rape and kill with seeming impunity for lack of any law to stop them?

But this betrayal is not unique to American politicians. The entire national political world telecasting to a global audience betrays that audience daily and with the utmost presumption of rightness.

Politics is communication...global communication. CNN, for instance, prides itself on half-hour global coverage. It **connects** the world public with news. It pervades and uses world space.

But where is the politics to match?

In yesteryears, the king, queen, prince or emperor spoke directly to the people once a year outlining policy. Now national presidents and prime ministers go on television almost daily. And they talk literally to the world public. But they continue blindly to defend "national interests." Since the rap never equates with the space they are using, it is essentially irrelevant and insidiously deceptive.

Two hundred years ago in Independence Hall in Philadelphia, 55 men perceived and claimed the "space" beyond and between their state allegiances. They "occupied" that space first with their own human sovereignty then set about defining their new relationship with each other and their fellow Americans with a new set of laws. The United States was born. Today's political world is replete with large and small states. But there is no "space" **within** their fictional borders. Their laws become increasingly bureaucratic and dictatorial...by necessity. Wars and their hideous effects proliferate. How else can those in power justify that too-limited and now suffocating political framework? "A nation-state is a group of people with an enemy," wrote a 19th century philosopher. But then most state's constitutions ironically refer to the power of the people as the *raison d'être* for the

government itself. Many mention human rights as legitimate in their constitutions. Others even go so far as to include "international law" as fundamental to their national safety and well-being.

But the space above and beyond their sovereignty remains empty of political and legal constructs.....except for one.

So the "winner" last night (and all last nights) was....space. In these letters I have written about Star Trek. I daresay there are millions of Trekkies throughout the world. We accept space as the "last frontier." But it is more than a phrase. It is a reality, both physical and philosophically. For when we depart our earthly and thus temporal bodies, where do we go? What's left? Only space.

Lao-Tsu's Tao Te Ching, some 2,500 years ago, in 57 words revealed the sublime reality that all things are dependent of and defined by no-things: space. Chapter 11 is worth quoting:

Thirty spokes share the wheel's hub;
It is the center hole that makes it useful.
Shape clay into a vessel;
It is the space within that makes it useful.
Cut doors and windows for a room;
It is the holes which make it useful.
Therefore profit comes from what is there;
Usefulness from what is not there.

McCluhan was only partially right. The medium is not the real message. It is only the carrier for The Message.

The message is Space. For if you reflect upon it, our differences divide us while space is what unites us, not only one to another and to humanity, but to everything else. Even the stars.

Politically, no plan or program today has value unless it relates to the "space" beyond the present anachronistic legalisms. The upcoming Infosets to be launched in July, 1993, are in reality new space communication vehicles wherein each and every world citizen can enter with full sovereignty yet united with his/her fellow human within the world community to establish a holistic social contract.

Again, the global technosphere wherein TV occupies a dominant place, permits this revolutionary advance in peacemaking.