

From: "Lindsey Brass" <lbrass@wam.umd.edu>
To: <ekaufman@cidcm.umd.edu>
Date: 1/11/01 9:40PM
Subject: Re: Our Shared Vision

Dr. Kaufman,

Here's the draft of Our Shared Vision including the breakdowns (positive and negative) . I sent it as a Word attachment and I'm pasting it on the email just in case. Please email me back if there are any problems.

Thanks,
Lindsey

Our Shared Vision

We have a responsibility to each other and ourselves to envision and strive for a better future. Though there is something paradoxical about moving toward an ideal, if we don't insist on forward motion we will inevitably begin to drift, from not just our ideals, but from the progress we have already made. As we are constantly learning and understanding more about ourselves and our society, we are constantly increasing our capacity to do more, and we must commit ourselves to acting on what we have learned. So it is that, we must all ask ourselves to envision our future and not allow it to simply become background noise in our daily lives. We owe what we have now, both good and bad, to the not so long ago visions of others.

So what is it we envision for ourselves?

A diverse society in which.

.no one is judged by the color of their skin.

.where stereotypes are obsolete and a thing of the past.

.where there is less fear and more dialogue among different groups.

.inter-racial and inter-ethnic marriages are an outcome of the better relationships between different groups.

.people celebrate differences and embrace other cultures.

A society in which.

.a minimum wage is a wage you can live on.

.equal pay comes with equal jobs.

A better educated society in which.

.opportunities at all levels of education are equal.

.students learn multiculturally.

.teachers are not taken for granted.

.literacy is universal.

.multi-lingualism prevails, and the chance to see other parts of the country and world is available to all.

A politically aware, politically active, and politically empowered society in which.

.equal representation of all ethnicities in political positions on all levels is a fact of life.

.the privileges and duties of citizenship are understood and taken advantage of by all.

.private money does not control our political processes.

.every public dollar is spent effectively and efficiently.

A just and fair society in which.

.there is a balance between justice and mercy

A society which cares for itself in which.

.access to quality health care is available to all, regardless of income level.

.homelessness isn't considered a fact of life.

A less violent society in which.

.terms like school-shootings, rape, gang wars, car-jackings are terms of the past.

.millions of people don't find themselves in hospitals or jail because of drug and alcohol problems.

.people don't feel the need to protect or express themselves with guns.

It's up to us. Every choice we make is a step in the direction of our future. We can choose to move towards our ideals or we can end up in a world in which corruption, violence, injustice, hate, fear, and ignorance run rapid. Do we want to live in a place in which the government controls the information system, yet cannot provide, assist, or improve life for its people? Can we be proud of a country in which the disparity among classes has become so great that education, health care, justice, and even constitutional rights, can only be afforded by the rich? Drugs. Violence. Prejudice. Hate. Words we never want our children and our future to become desensitized to. Instead, of deluding ourselves with the naïve belief that more mainstream hate groups, more frequent domestic terrorism, widespread poverty and corruption are impossibilities, we must take action to prevent the downward spiral and reach for our ideals.

Our Shared Vision

Diversity

Not judged by color of your skin.

Stereotypes be obsolete and a thing of the past

More inter-racial/inter-ethnic marriages

Less fear among groups

More dialogue

Embrace diversity

No more race boxes on forms

Acknowledgement of past/present suffering of oppressed groups and effect on present lives

Education

Equal opportunity education

Multi-cultural education

Increase literacy

Greater respect for teachers

Increase language education

Better opportunities for students to travel abroad

Less violence in schools

improve public education

Economic

Minimum wage equal a living wage

Equal pay for equal jobs

No glass ceiling for elite class

Social

Greater quality of life

Less violence and drugs

No homeless or ghettos

Less selfishness

Strengthen sense of community within groups and on national levels

Increased sense of responsibility to the many communities in which we belong

Equal opportunity health care

Socialized medicine

Political

Equality in the judicial system

Every ethnic group has their own economic power base that will eliminate ethnic strife

More equal representation of ethnic group in government, especially in top position

Constitution hanging on every wall in classroom

Relaxation of immigration policy and ethnic quotas

Increased awareness of global issues, especially in less developed countries, i.e. environmental, political,

U.S. be a better global citizen (contribute more to the rest of the world)

Friendlier relations, more compassion especially with Latin America

Government more efficient in helping everyone

50% reduction in use of natural resources, use of more renewable resources

More interested and active electorate

A political process devoid of private money

Our Worst Nightmare

Government/Law

People will resort to underworld power because they can't trust the government for protection, justice, esp. minorities, immigrants, the poor

Government controls information system ("Corporate Republic")

Constitutional rights violated by government routinely, especially the Bill of Rights

Political corruption increases

Corruption of Police and Law Enforcement

Economic

Caste system

"White Flight"-races are separated: white in more gated communities in suburbs, abandoning the inner cities

Massive increase in disparity of classes, widespread poverty

Economic Civil War

Drugs/Violence

Ethnic cleansing

Domestic terrorism

Drug use reaches epidemic levels

Hate groups are mainstream

Ethnic isolationism

Institutional slavery, especially ethnic minorities, foreign women, children

Mob justice

Powerful private militias

Education

Education system split-affluent/lower class

Education system based on ideology and not fact

Global

Economic isolationism

Decline of US role in global affairs

US closes its borders completely

Medical

Uncontrollable spread of disease, increased epidemics

Healthcare for the rich

Spiritual

Decline of morality and family values