

A Nonagenarian's Thoughts About the Future

The United States is becoming a technology-driven civilization. While we have vestiges of previous drivers of agriculture and of industrialization which enabled one to be more productive, this is the first driver that replaces human labor with technology-driven alternatives. We are each unique with different wherewithal, that is, inherent physical and intellectual capabilities and circumstantially acquired knowledge, skills and sense of self. Some have more than others and some, not enough. In a technology-driven civilization, there will be decreasing opportunities for those with limited wherewithal to enable them to live self-sustainably.

In a technology-driven civilization, the resources of time, energy and money needed to prepare a child to live self-sustainably when an adult are significant. In the past, hands-on experience was sufficient to prepare one. This is no longer the case. Children must be adequately prepared. Estimates suggest that raising a child from birth to age 18 can cost anywhere from \$200,000 to \$310,000.

For selected careers, the Internet enables those with sufficient wherewithal to pursue them with greater independence from wherever they decide that to be. Such workers are welcomed by smaller, remote communities because #1: they do not depend upon the community for their livelihood and #2: they bring money into the community. One can locate to minimize housing and living costs, to pursue a better quality of life, and to distribute populations over a wider area. A woman can mother a child and be there to meet the needs of her baby and later, to be readily available to help her child learn how to learn and to guide them in their development of their sense of self.

In my quest to understand living life, I've come to recognize the natural world, planet Earth, and the influence of one's beliefs upon populations.

The natural world is defined by observable processes and systems governing life and the environment. They are absolute and prevail.

When confronted with a belief, one has five options. Accept or reject it, accept or reject it with qualification, or recognize that it exists.

Living in the natural world, one has unalienable natural rights. One can believe, choose and do what they will to themselves and to another who has given their consent. One can terminate their life, ingest what they will, and, if a woman pregnant, can terminate her pregnancy. Man-made laws exist that address the situation when one does to another without the other's consent.

Some beliefs are inconsistent with the natural world. Some refuse to accept what we learn. They do not modify their beliefs accordingly. When one imposes an inconsistent belief upon others they create social entropic disorder, the consequence of which is social and political chaos. Some, driven by their beliefs, strive to deter one from exercising their natural rights. Some, driven by their beliefs, strive to have government be responsible for situations over which they have no control.

In thinking about the future three things emerged prominent in my thinking:

1. Population. Climate change and the decreasing aquifers suggest there is a limit to the population the natural world can support. Population growth and its distribution will need to be addressed.
2. Technologies. Automation, robotics, artificial intelligence, personal computing, the Internet and World Wide Web, satellite communications and the Cloud will have significant impact.
3. Women. Women, enabled by technologies, will seek self-sustaining careers that afford them financial independence. They will seek to experience the wonder of creating new life and the enjoyment of the sexual pleasures unique to their sex without entering into marriage. Birthrates will fall. The future of procreation will rest with women.

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Living life is more than living self-sustainably and financially secure. It is also about enabling those, who have demonstrated they have sufficient wherewithal, to be the best they can be. Those who acquire sufficient wealth are looked upon to fund those institutions that enable one to become a practitioner. That is, one who acquires and maintains an ever increasing body of specific knowledge and the skills to apply it that another will pay them to do on their behalf. Governments cannot do it. Governments treat its citizenry equally. They cannot differentiate based upon one's wherewithal. In 2024, a \$1 billion gift to John Hopkins University made medical school free for most students.

About population:

In 1700, the world population was estimated to be about 1 billion people. In 1950, the world population was about 2-1/2 billion people. In 2050, the world population is expected to be 10 billion people. That is 4x greater than it was in 1950. It represents an annual birthrate of 1.4%. Unless there are changes, one can expect that the world population will be around 20 billion by 2100. The natural world now is struggling to support the current population as evidence by climate change, pollution and lowering levels of aquifers. Population growth will be addressed. There is no acceptable legislative approach to population management. Only a natural approach will be acceptable.

Some seek to have an ever increasing population for their personal benefit from financial investments. They are guided by the law of supply versus demand. When supply exceeds demand, the cost of whatever is forced lower. When demand exceeds supply, the cost increases to what ever the market will bear. With larger populations, the cost for labor is forced lower and the cost for things increases.

Every person has two carbon footprints, their own in living life and a portion of that produced by others to enable them to do so.

History suggests that we exist to evolve. Evolution is predicated upon one being the best that they can be and that only those whose best is good enough to live self-sustainably are intended to survive to procreate the next generation.

Our reproduction process is a random in context process aptly characterized by "let's try this and see what happens". Some newborns are born with inherent limitations that will prevent them from ever living self-sustainably or without human intervention.

An adult, living in community, is expected to live self-sustainably, harmoniously and responsibly. Why would one want as a neighbor one who didn't? Parents are expected to prepare their children to do so, to help them learn how to learn and to guide them in developing their sense of self. If not by the parents then by whom? The first several years of a child's life are their formative years. At 2-3 years of age they experience self-recognition and begin developing a sense of self. Some children are adequately prepared. Some are not.

The take away from these observations is that in the natural world, not everyone is intended to live a long life. Adults who are unable to live self-sustainably and without human intervention are not intended to survive to procreate. Some believe that a life, in and of itself, is important. They intervene to extend the lives of others. This is inconsistent with the natural world.

In the future, I envision that all government sponsored social support programs intended to enable one to live longer or better will be discontinued. One who struggles to or cannot live self-sustainably will be encouraged to terminate their life. Those women who become pregnant and who do not have the means with which to prepare their child to live self-sustainably as adults will be encouraged to terminate their pregnancy. For newborns born with physical limitations that will forever prevent them from living self-

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sufficiently and without human intervention and those unable to nurse from its mother's teat and subsequently defecate, nature will be allowed to take its course. Medical procedures necessary to enable one to live longer will be age restricted. The older one gets, the less available they'll be. These actions are consistent with living in the natural world.

It is illogical to expect one to be held responsible for something over which they have no control. No one, community or government can be held responsible for those who have inherent limitations, insufficient wherewithal or wealth or whose best is not good enough. An individual may choose, though, to be responsible for another.

There will be facilities, like hospitals, to which one will go to terminate their life or if a woman pregnant, terminate her pregnancy conveniently, safely and with dignity.

About technologies:

We seek new ways for doing meaningful things that we can't do now or to do things we are currently doing but doing them more effectively. Technologies enable us to do so.

As the cost to acquire and operate technology-driven alternatives decreases while their capabilities increase, it becomes easier to make the business case to replace human labor with technology-driven alternatives especially for routine, repetitive, non-creative work. Some work that is performed now by those with lesser wherewithal will be accomplished by technology-driven alternatives.

In the near future, I envision, every 3 year old will be provided a tablet device that will be their personal assistant for learning, their PAL, throughout their life. It will work in conjunction with an AI driven educational system based in the Cloud. Some courses now available on the World Wide Web (WWW) are impressive. Resources spent for developing and providing a course to be accessed by thousands of students can be more readily justified than for those to be presented to 5 classes of 30 students each. The cost to provide local school systems will continue to increase with ever increasing teachers' salaries and increasing costs to maintain and operate the infrastructure.

As the delivery of public education moves to the Cloud, there will be opportunities to provide remote curriculum guidance and course specific assistance. Course presentation and content will be continuously updated as more effective ways are uncovered for presenting material.

Personal AI chatbots will provide individuals encyclopedias of knowledge at their fingertips tuned to their specific needs. There will be opportunities for practitioners to provide personalized chatbot maintenance services. The relationship between the chatbot owner and practitioner is a confidential one. I envision that all peer-reviewed articles will be accompanied by a tokenized version for training chatbots.

AI constructs. It doesn't create. Intuition and creativity are enabled by deep thinking, inductive reasoning and feelings. AI does not have feelings. A chatbot knows what it has learned from its training and experiences. Collectively, they offer opportunities for one to bring together the individual capabilities of multiple chatbots from which to arrive at an intuitive, creative solution.

About women:

A sperm from man and an ovum from woman are needed to create a blastocyst from which an embryo develops within a woman's uterus. To develop a new life, an embryo must exist. New life is only developed in a woman's body. Everyone has a mother who gave them life. Without woman there is no evolution.

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Technologies enable women with sufficient wherewithal opportunities to pursue self-sustaining careers and to live more independently subsequently seeking the unique wonder of birthing new life and experiencing the sexual pleasures unique to their sex without having to enter into a marriage. Technologies enable women to work from their home. Women will be able to pursue a career and to have children and be there for them, readily available to the needs of their baby and during their formative and early teen years helping them learn how to learn and guiding them in their development of their sense of self.

A woman's body is designed to create ova, ovulate and conceive or menstruate to do so again and to develop a new life given a blastocyst. A man's body is designed to create sperm and ejaculate it onto a woman's ovum through her vagina. A woman can be impregnated naturally or by artificial insemination. Upon conception, a single cell zygote is formed containing the genetic information of both. The zygote divides into a multi-cell blastocyst that implants naturally or by in-vitro fertilization in the woman's uterus to become an embryo. With the embryo, a woman's body begins the development of new life. It begs the question. Given that a man's single ejaculate contains millions of sperm cells, how many men are needed to provide enough sperm to maintain the desired birthrate with sufficient diversity?

Given the right circumstances, a woman would seek to experience the wonder of creating new life.

As a species we enjoy sexual intimacies for their pleasures alone. Men find ejaculating sexually pleasurable. They seek opportunities to do so. Most women do not find copulation sexually pleasurable. The clitoral nerve endings that give woman sexual pleasure are not involved. When a man is sufficiently aroused, he ejaculates after which there is a recovery time. When a woman is sufficiently aroused, she enters a climatic state in which she can remain and experiences sexual pleasure repeatedly. Once so experienced, a woman seeks out the sexual pleasures unique to her sex. No man knows what a woman feels when he does what he does and how. Only another woman knows. It suggests that women are innately bisexual.

Some women will seek polyamorous relationships in which one joins with another, man or woman, in a committed relationship to be there for the other when needed and will have secondary relationships driven by their interests. In polyamory everyone is aware of everyone else. The number of concurrent polyamorous relationships one can maintain is limited by one's available resources of time and energy. The amount of resources needed to prepare a child for adulthood restricts the number of secondary relations that can be maintained. As we live longer with greater viability, no one person can be the "be all" for another.

I can readily envision two bisexual women entering into a primary committed polyamorous relationship in which each mothers a baby using either artificial insemination or in-vitro fertilization with the intent to raise them jointly. The sperm cell could be selected from a sperm bank. They would have secondary polyamorous relationships with men and/or women based upon their interests. Men with whom they share a relationship would be welcomed into their home to interact with their children.

A woman is ultimately responsible to insure her child is adequately prepared to live self-sustainably, harmoniously and responsibly when an adult. Her child is her creation. Other than public education, she cannot depend upon outside resources. While an individual may offer assistance, the community has no responsibility. Whether to procreate or not and when will be determined by the woman.