

Herald Election

I'm waiting for a political leader *I or we* can follow. I am hoping that person reminds us that, contrary to appearances, we are not a rodent species: whose population overruns a terrain, covers the ground with its waste and despoils the air and water. Nor an ignorant life form which affect its own demise by visiting war, deprivation and pestilence upon other bodies and clusters of humanity.

We have minds that comprehend incredibly intricate and complex experiences. We can discern interactive patterns which produce most of the everyday states and conditions of our existence. And we know that humanity is but one form of regenerating life which surrounds us with bounties of beauty and fascination.

In addition, we have the collective genius to affect our destiny in ways that will preserve our continued survival. A leader for our time would have the imagination to connect us to the forms of civilization that will build a successful future. At the same time, I hope, such a leader would not be shy about calling for us to throw off tribal feuding, open hostility, and hidden perfidy justified by parochial or spiritual allegiances.

Now is the time to set ourselves upon a successful scenario of global human development. In this or the next election let us take some time to consider our consent and participation in decisions and processes that will shape the future. But not too long, please. The demands the human population places on the earth are growing.

Even if we solve global warming, if we haven't also transformed industrial society, and restored the biosphere; in two or three generations we will be approaching the environmental limits of our population. If our councils of leaders don't act degradation may go too far. In as little as ten years it may be too late for our children, grandchildren and their grandchildren to save themselves. The fate of our progeny depends upon our forward looking wisdom overcoming our hind bound pettiness.

Whether or not many of our distracted citizens have noticed, historic change is already upon us. Visionary leaders also have humility to admit they don't see everything. Instead of putting down, isolating or suppressing different solutions, the people we elect should heed the voices already circulating in active minds and willing bodies of our young. This blossoming population is most sensitive to moments when new destinies are formed. A characteristic of youth is willingness to try something new.

Most new enterprises fail. We know that going in. And it doesn't really matter. Our society needs to make room, not punish: those who embark on experimentation and formative stages of change that may or may not succeed and develop into permanent sustainable features. We will still end up better people for our striving.