

A POINT OF VIEW: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

(To the citizens of San Jose, Tim's Point of view)

By Tim K. Fitzgerald

PREFACE

(Points and Authorities)

I first heard ten years ago, from a friend, you may want no part of this Revolution. But I tell you today, you are already in one, whether you like it or not. So now, who will 'stand by me...'? Who is with me, who against? The time has come for the watershed decision.

As Mick Jagger said in song 'When the train left the station, there were TWO LIGHTS on behind...' Was that not the signal from the Old South Church Paul Revere awaited in Boston over 200 years ago? Who sees we have turned back the clock to fight tyranny, totalitarianism, and the inhumanity of man to man once again? Now is the time, today is the day that was prophesized. Get in the boat or GET OUT. As B. Dylan sang four decades ago, 'which side are YOU on?'

I am running for the Seat in District One in the San Jose Unified School Board of Trustees once again. My reasoning is explained below. Noting, for all those who want life broken down into 30 second sound bites, and a one paragraph summary . I must remind them that Rome wasn't built in a day. Tolstoy's 'War and Peace' can't easily be condensed down to a simple one page synopsis (without losing nearly all its imagery and sense of purpose it was meant to implant). For those who find this unmanageable, they will find a 200 word statement in their Sample Ballot in October. I have this Web site at www.timfitzgerald.org and can be reached at timothyfitzgerald97@yahoo.com.

Granted, I am a writer by temperament and trade, with three books on reserve in the San Jose Main Public Library, and a book of 100 Poems citing my views on life as a matter of record, available thru 'Amazon.com' or 'Barnes and Noble' Web pages -under 'Timothy K. Fitzgerald' titled 'Impressions from Idle Rock. . .' I take pride in my writing as an artist, asking only that you accept my judgment and values on equal footing, as I accept yours. Thank you. Here with are the Campaign Announcement, Proposals, Platform and Policy.

A SUMMARY POSITION

(What we may find Out)

From Christ to Dylan, we have been admonished. You are either with us or against us. Dylan put it definitively when he said more recently. 'You got to serve someone. It may be the devil, or it may be the Lord, but you got to serve

someone.' The fence can no longer be straddled, having been warned from the start: "No man is an island unto himself . but each is a piece of the continent." (Jonne Dunne). "No man can serve two masters. . .You must render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and render unto God that which is Gods."

This community in Silicon Valley chose years ago, to become a cross-road of the world. With that ambition comes certain caveats. Knowing from the start . Rome wasn't built in a day. And this nation must stop its quivering at its own shadow. Remember. ...?

"To every season, turn, turn, turn.
To every season turn, turn again.
There's a time for every purpose under heaven.
A time to be born, a time to die,
A time to reap, a time to sow.
A time for Peace, I swear it's not too late."

Eclessaties reworked by
The Momma's and the Papa.'
(Another 60's folk singing group)

That is my faith and my position. And so, my neighbors, I ask you, what has life taught you, that you think you should pass along to posterity? Having achieved beyond our fondest dreams the goals we set out for ourselves and the objectives we decided would make life worth living. For world leadership lies not in Washington DC, or New York or London, so much as it resides in the Corporate offices, Think Tanks, and Research Labs right here in the Valley of the Hearts Delight. . .once the agrarian center of Northern California - Santa Clara County and Valley.

So I ask you as you profess to know, what vital lessons do our children need to know, to prevent the senseless carnage, terror, and literally uncertain fear that filled the last few centuries? Can we do better? We are leading the world into global prosperity and founding a world community based on knowledge, reason and thought - not some ancient culture in the remote hinterland of the past, or far flung dynasty of the recent present.

The world awaits our next decision and lead. We must do better than man's record shows from the past. Recognizing we cannot stop the force of time and circumstance by the weight of our own history. To do better requires drawing on the wisdom of the world. Facing the future united in the certain faith that residing in the mind of Mankind is the certain key to our survival - indeed it always has been, and in the end, may be all that remains for us to secure us and that of the posterity of the species.

You must admit you are naked against the enemies you create, helpless against

the institutions you design, and hopeless against the tyranny from above and totalitarianism from below without seizing your advantage democratic principles may avail you. Unquestionably, that means accepting responsibility for your mistakes, taking corrective action when they occur . as they always will . and assuming for the sake of sanity and well-being, these errors in life's path are, to every degree possible, not repeated again.

Any other course, by the record and account already registered of mankind's performance thus far, is certain sooner or later to lead to failure and possible disaster. . .maybe for mankind itself. As one who has known both historically incredible success and devastating personal failure, I speak from raw and brutal experience.

WHAT SHOULD WE BELIEVE?? (What we must come to know)

Life is not kind or just - unless you are. 'Love thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thy self,' Jesus admonished mankind when he found himself surrounded by hatred and tyrants, and this civilization set out on its uncertain journey - over 2,000 years ago. And it still is the soundest policy in making our way through the jungle of conflict and contradiction that surely lies along mankind's path in the coming decades - as it has almost throughout our entire journey - from humble origins of subsistence, to the wealth of our first urban settlements, to our apex with the world at our doorstep.

Jean Battista Say, claimed in the 19th century, 'Supply creates its own demand.' A statement heavily questioned and challenged since by such minds as John Maynard Keynes and his followers in the next century. But conventional wisdom has maintained if you "build a better 'mousetrap'. . .the world would beat a pathway to your doorstep." And no small thanks to the genius of the likes of Steve Wazniack, Bill Gates, and the corporate founders of everything from Hewitt-Packard to Intel, the world now awaits the global leadership expected and anticipated from Silicon Valley. Still the 'Valley of the Hearts Delight.'

It is little known that as an entering student to San Jose State in 1963, I competed in a Track and Field event - the 440 yard dash . in local summer invitational. And well remember San Jose State's Coach, Bud Winter, a portly man, who called every guy on his team – 'Champ.'

Nobody was inconsequential to Bud Winter. And among those who knew him I am certain all would agree. This fall, I intend to apply Winter's philosophy in the race I decided to enter for the San Jose Unified School Board. Trying in the process, to imitate the courage and fortitude demonstrated by Winter's other athletes . like my classmate, and fellow Dorm Hall resident, Tommie Smith - who followed his coaching and support.

Throughout this contest, I intend to ask, as did Jimmy Carter in his campaign for United States President: "Why Not the Best?" Looking toward the outstanding contributions made by this Valley and people just like Tommie Smith, and those pioneering the advent of the PC, the Internet, and World Wide Web, to create a vast network of global telecommunication leading to the possibility -perhaps for the first time . of genuine world peace, and harmony between nations.

I now embark on a candidacy, once more for San Jose School Board 12 years after I filed against Jorge Gonzalez and two others for what was an 'open seat' in the school district. I left suddenly, shortly after that, to accept a teaching assignment offered by a new Community College Branch in Mammoth Lakes on the East Side of the Sierra. But previous to that move, I had hoped to contribute as a native of San Jose, born and raised in this Valley, to the leadership and decisions most certainly to be faced by this community at the end of President Clinton's residency in the White House.

Now finding, as Olympic Boycott leader and one time ally Harry Edwards, was prone to say, "What goes around comes around." Quite unexpectedly life and opportunity have again placed me with an opportunity to serve the community by setting policy in its public schools. Candidly, this is where I feel I may make the greatest contribution in the public arena of what remains of my long history of activism and civic service in greater San Jose.

What follows are informed opinions, and educated beliefs by which I intend to govern as I urge the citizens of San Jose to seriously consider a virtual 'Revolution' in classroom management and curriculum and teaching methods. Only by the grace of God do we still have that freedom to apply our right to self government, even though only in a small way, to a society and world where the vast number of decisions are increasingly centralized and made from the top.

Policy like 'No Child Left Behind,' and state mandates from Sacramento and Washington DC, have undeniably taken the responsibility for raising our own children out of our hands and the community - placing us under the supervision and authority of distant and authoritarian mandates. It will be my purpose to make the case the contest for .world leadership. of tomorrow has virtually already begun in the classroom and minds of students today.

It is my conviction that to succeed as a community and a people we must depart, perhaps radically from the format first laid down by the likes of Horace Mann. His followers in this country endeavored by little more than what amounted to rote memorization to pass the wisdom of the West on to posterity and the nation's children. That is inadequate. . .We now should know such practice is unacceptable to our purpose and detractive of our success. And we must reexamine our purpose - taking to heart the meaning of what was first advanced by thinkers in this country such as John Dewey almost 100 years ago, when he said: "All life educates, and formal education is only a small part of the education of the child."

Dr. Robert Clark, President of San Jose State College in the 60.s when I was an undergraduate, - and a close personal friend of mine - made a point of advocating that his students embrace a .life time of learning. through the .life of the mind.. And largely because of his vision, this community has founded and led in the high tech .Information/ Knowledge Revolution.. It is my conviction we must return to the sage advice of Dr. Clark, preparing our youth for the massive task ahead . if they are to remain the undisputed leaders in this multi-faceted and literal explosion of knowledge and Revolution in its uses.

SOURCES AND CITATIONS

(How You Learn all This)

Speaking for myself, in addition to being a learned, if understated Historian in this community, I admit I have been a lifelong student of the economy and economic principles - with two degrees in the subject - and know all to well as you may not from whence I speak. I would not even attempt in this Valley driving the High Tech engine feeding the world economy to re-write computer programs, or design software - though I at least know a few of the basics.

And unless you have made it a matter of diligent study, I suggest you may be unprepared to evaluate what I am proposing, beyond agreeing or disagreeing with the conclusions I have arrived at after a life time of learning - that is something most people in this community are adequately, in my opinion, prepared to hold a learned judgment.

I believe as did one long time local legislator, State Senator John Vasconcellos, that man is basically good. Tracing the origins of this sentiment and perception back through Western tradition to people like 18th century philosopher Jean Jacques Rousseau, and ultimately to Christ himself. Finding accounts that his gospel was .to love thy neighbor as thy self.. And concluding as Rousseau did the flaw in human endeavor often remarked about, lay not in the mind and being of mankind, as suggested by followers of Sigmund Freud, but in their Institutions . each established out of ignorance and fear, rather than any kind of understanding or plan. . .in most cases.

For this reason, I am sympathetic to the conclusion Jesus arrived at in his final moments on the cross: "God forgive them, they know not what they do." Indeed, attaining that level of insight and enlightenment often is not less than a life time pursuit - and then with uneven success. I myself finding my circumstances such as with Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane his last night on earth, when I would go to bed praying: "Lord, take this cup from my lips." Only to awaken most mornings resolved: "Not my will be thine be done."

I will be the first to admit, decisions have to be made against man's wishes, and

in a state of uncertainty. Indeed as was a popular statement around here a decade ago: "Sh*t Happens." But sometimes sooner or later, someone has to 'flush the toilet.' The mistakes and transgressions which are legion, of the past must never be allowed to guide our hopes, aspirations and agenda for the future. Progress, if it is to occur at all, must not only set higher standards of living, but a more agreeable life style and sense of purpose - or it is all for nothing and 'sound and fury signifying nothing' (as was first suggested by Shakespeare who went on to insist, "life is a tale told by an idiot. . .All the world is a stage, and all the people players."

Such approach made at the end of the Middle Ages must be upgraded and reversed toward a more hopeful and pertinently positive outlook or we may well be eventually doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past least we obliterate the path altogether. What this means to the individual and resident in Silicon Valley and the community of San Jose may mean a departure - perhaps a radical departure - from past habit and social custom, if we are to remain competitive in the evolving global economy as presently constituted.

That may mean for those who want to play an active role in our public affairs, or even further their personal goals, foregoing the six pack with the guys on Saturday afternoon, followed by more 'Monday night football.' And voting a hundred times for your choice of the 'American Idol.' Technology, and the freedom it brings, must become your servant - you must never allow yourself to become its slave. We are entering a phase in our national development and cultural growth akin to the Great Gobi Desert. And here is where great civilizations succeed or lack the patience and vision to not have a failing of nerve or become overwhelmed by their very success they become entrenched and swallowed up in their own self absorption.

Even if you reject me at the polls, I warn you if you thought life were taxing in the last century, and survival of the Cold War were the limit you could endure, life for your children and perhaps your children's children will in all likelihood for the most part be doubly tough That is the economic reality this nation chose as the path it depended upon for its survival. As was first suggested by Alexander Hamilton as our first Secretary of the Treasury - much over the vehement objections of the author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson.

And if you do not begin as has been suggested for over 150 years to teach the next generation the failures to be found in Hamilton's plan to survive, you have failed as parents and teachers and leaders. Ralph Nader the Green Candidate for President in 2000, was not just blowing smoke and mirrors when he pointed out the dangers in Corporate Capitalism. He was warning us of a grave threat across the planet, that we may not again be able to bring to heel. Thereby ending a threat to our survival not anticipated at the outset of our journey some 200 years ago.