

## FOOTPRINTS OF THE FUTURE

Richard Neville's Handbook for the Third Millennium.

Reviewed by the World Future Society's FUTURE SURVEY 25:8 August 2003:

Brief and provocative statements on a wide variety of topics, in a wide variety of McLuhanesque type styles: 1) **Future**: the future can no longer be taken for granted; it needs to be rescued ("the future is not at the end of a trend-line"), 2) **Change**: the sweeping away of traditional values and lifestyles puts a mental strain on millions of people; unless we hasten our evolution, it will trigger a global psychotic collapse; 3) **Disappearances**: childhood, time, certainty, fresh water, loyalty to institutions, distance, privacy, secrets, jobs for life ("if who we are is based on what we do & what we do keeps changing, then who are we?"), 4) **Time-Saving**: the more stuff we acquire to save time—the laptop, the mobile, the palm top—the more our time is annihilated; 5) **Infotech**: as information expands our attention span contracts; the more connected we are electronically, the more disconnected we are in real life ("What lies beyond the information age? An escape from information"); 6) **Millennial Skills**: adaptability, creativity, foresight, the savoring of paradox; 7) **Sustainability Revolution**: "after Agriculture, Industry, and Knowledge, the next revolution is Sustainability"; 8) **Vanishing Boundaries**: East & West, wholesale & retail, left wing & right wing, childhood & adulthood, day & night, mind & body, science & art, tool & toy, fact & fiction, product & service, men & women, original & copy; 9) **Education**: true education begins with knowing who you are... then suspecting that you might be wrong... and starting over ("at its core, education is about transformation"); 10) **Living Machines**: unlike machines of the 20th century, which conquered nature. Living Machines of the sustainable economy will partner nature (e.g., 95% of the radioactive waste in a pond near Chernobyl was cleaned up by sunflowers); 11) **Fast Food**: the problem of fast food is not only the food; it is enslavement to speed, sameness, the quick fix; 12) **Genetics**: "now that Genetics puts the levers of evolution in the hands of humans. God has been downsized" (genetics is a revolt against death—but not against poverty); 13) **Enron**: ethical terror at Enron destroyed thousands of futures; 14) **Enhanced Performance**: sport fiends will continue to enhance their performance with drugs, nutraceuticals and embedded tech, the legalization of which is inevitable (coming soon: the first bionic Olympics); 15) **Growth**: what the industrial economy calls growth is usually plunder from nature & the poor; 16)

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Reviewed by Michael Marien, editor, Futures Survey, A monthly abstract of Books, Articles, and Reports Concerning Forecasts, Trends and Ideas about the Future, a World Future Society Publication, Vol 25, Number 8