

Memo to RN

From Buchanan

This is Gavin's Brief piece on THE ~~NAKED~~ AMERICAN DREAM
For RN's perusal and possible use somewhere.

Buchanan

The America Dream

The fate of a nation can be seen in what it dreams
as much as in what it does. Some nations have been content
to day-dream, to happily lose themselves in a reveire of past
glories or in fantasies of future conquests. But the day-dream
is not the vision which nourishes a people; the fantasy ~~xxx~~
of the future is not the means by which the future can be
molded.

It is America's dream which has alone been the kind of dream
which is closer to a vision, closer to the overpowering and
incontestable dreams which have seemed to men throughout history
to be not only reflections of past actions but positive guides
to future endeavors. It is America's dream which came to this
nation not in a day-dream, but in the midst of a long sleep
of our European heritage. That long sleep suddenly, in the middle
of the eighteenth century was interupted by a wild , an
improbable, a glorious dream, a dream which stunned and
exhiliarted a continent, a dream which told of a future in which
each man would be free, u der God, to make of his life what
he wanted, a dream which with its great power and undeniable call to
action ended the long sleep of the old world.

And this is the American dream of which I speak: not the cliché, but the reality, not the day-dream, but the vision. That dream transformed us not only from servants to our own masters, but into a new kind of people, a people whose very history since that first fine dream has been a series of variations on the original dream.

The dream of America--when we awoke, it was still fresh in the national mind and, although there have been times when the freshness of the dream seemed to fade, even times when some spoke as if we had never dreamed, as if the vision was something which never happened, the strength, the vigor, the all but incredible truth of the dream has sustained us, has given us hope. For man--and a nation--cannot live on bread alone. What is unique, what is special, what is so profoundly important about the American dream is the fact that it exists: it is not lost in the mists of history, or hoped for in some utopian future---it is here, now, we are part of it, the reality of our lives, the work we do, the creations of our hands and hearts, the ^{struggles} ~~xxxxxxxx~~ and the triumphs---now, at this moment, all of these things are part of that dream, for it has remained in the national

consciousness in the same way that a vivid dream will stay
in the individual consciousness. And the more we follow its
visionary message, the more we translate the vision into
reality, the more clear and the more strong does the dream
become.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Has there ever been another people so possessed by
 a dream? Has there ever been another dream which has so quickly, so
 tenaciously been transformed to reality. Has there ever been another
 time and place in history when the sweat of the brow and the
 were merged
 dream in the soul ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ so well, and produced so
 much.?

The American dream is as real as your home. Or the home you
 want and are willing to work to get.

The American dream is as real as the pain of those who have
 seen the dream in operation, but have not yet been able to see it
 work in their lives.

The American dream is as real as you children, their faces, their
 future, their education, their sense of wonder.

The American dream is as real as the blood on a hundred beachheads,
 on a hundred battlefields.

Yes, the American dream is also part of those things which cause us pain, of which we are ashamed, of which we look back in grief.

For this is not a daydream. We did not awake from the long sleep of our heritage, we did not regain the vitality of that heritage, we did not sweat and work and pay and die in order to day-dream of utopias where all are happy--or all are unhappy.

To speak of the American dream does not mean that we speak only of what good has come from it, but of how much more good must come from it.

To speak of the American dream does not mean we can all sit back and think that our work has been done because we as a nation have dreamed and many of us have benefited from the realistic application of that dream.

No, it means, that the dream is real and its reality will pursue us most of all when we feel content, for our dream has the terrible power of a vision, in its depths and profundities is no rest, but constant seeking. For those who say the American dream is for some and not for all, the dream can turn into a hideous nightmare; for those who say that there is no dream, they have created a nightmare of their own.