

# Age 30 Vision

## - Career

- **In General:** I see myself in a leadership role when I am 30. I have always been a leader in middle school, high school and college. In middle school I started and for 3 years ran our church youth group. In high school I was President of the Letterman's Club and President of my Senior Class. In engineering school I have been the Vice President of my fraternity and was just elected President of the Student Body. I co-founded the school newspaper and have been the editor for the last year. I worked in two summer Management Development Programs: Indiana Bell (Soph-Jr summer) and Pacific Bell (Jr-Sr summer).
- **In what area?**
  - **Technical:** Should I continue on the path I started when I entered engineering school and pursue a technical career? I am only one year away from graduation and the last semester of the senior year is really easy so why not finish. But do I want to end up as the Director of Engineering for a company or run my own engineering company?
  - **Business:** I am not sure I really want to practice engineering and I think I might enjoy a business career more. If that is my choice should I get an MBA or just go out and take a job that leverages my engineering degree on a business path.? Several grads from this school have gone immediately to get their MBA's.
  - **Legal:** If I decide I don't want to practice engineering there is always law. The Business Law class I just took was fascinating and I definitely have the mind for law. That of course would require going to 3 years of law school. Several grads from this school have taken that path.
- **What I Don't Want to Do:** I don't want to do something that requires my hands and practical skills such as being an electrician or plumber. My four summers of working in my Dad's business showed this is not me.
- **Summary:** I have a lot more Career questions than answers. But I think I will be a leader in what ever I choose to do.

## - Whole Person Parameters - Personal

- **Personal Relationship:** I got married in the summer on 6/6, about 6 months before my birthday. My wife is two years younger than me and we met at the gym when I was 27. The reason we picked 6/6 as our wedding date is we met on 6/6. We started dating seriously about 6 months later. After a year of dating we moved in together for about a year. We both like to travel and keep in shape. My wife works in something creative so she helps provide balance to my more analytical linear thinking jobs. She is

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vivacious and outgoing, always getting me involved with people and activities. When we travel it is an adventure with her. I am willing to go along with her whims and they almost always turn out “interesting”. I provide some of the common sense and stability she is lacking and she appreciates that. We are truly friends and lovers.

- **Kids:** We are still on the fence about kids. Since my wife is only 28 we figure when she is 32 we will need to make up our mind. Until then we can continue to enjoy the close couple (w/o kids) life we have now had for the past 2 ½ years.
- **Location:** We live in Manhattan Beach – one of the nicest beach towns in Los Angeles. We love living by the beach and in West LA. We are renting this great little two bedroom one bath house just 3 blocks from the beach on a walk street. We don’t get any of the car traffic or parking problems that are normal from a beach town. I had always wanted to live in California from the first time I saw the Rose Bowl while sitting in snow in the Midwest.
- **Fun:** We are a work hard/play hard couple. Both of us have demanding jobs and work long hours but we make time on weekends to have a lot of fun. There are so many restaurants, from so many different countries. We enjoy comedy clubs and low key plays, not big on opera. We use our vacation and sick leave to travel. We exercise during the week so we are in shape for weekend activities like skiing and hiking. We both love California. It is an ideal place for people like us. We can be in the mountains for skiing in the winter and hiking in the summer. We can fly up to San Francisco for a fun weekend or go up to the wine country for fun weekends. We took our first exotic vacation last year when we hiked the Inca Trail.
- **Health:** We are both in excellent health because we eat right and exercise 4 days/week. I am still playing pick up basketball and play in a league. I can keep up with the kids coming out of college. Because of my wife I took up running and now that has become a regular part of my week day routine. I gave up smoking when I left college. I lost the weight I had gained in college and am now down to only 5 pounds above my high school weight.
- **Friends:** I am still close friends with Bud, who I met in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and became my best friend through high school. When we get together, which is only when I go back home once or twice a year, it is like we never parted ways. I see Larry & Don, my friends from grade school, when I go home but in a different way because they never left our 400 person farming town. Yet I am still able to keep a connection with them. I am still close friends with several of my fraternity brothers.

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- **Family:** I am still close with my parents but with them living in Illinois and me in LA it means we only see each other once or twice a year. My sister and I have become closer now that we are adults. My wife grew up in Southern California and we get to spend time with her family. I get along with them really well. Her older brother and I are almost like brothers.
- **Financial:** We both have very good paying jobs and have been conservative spenders. We have enough money for a down payment on a house and the monthly income to qualify for a loan. Our plan is to find a small starter house in one of the beach towns next year. If and when we have kids we may move out of the beach house when they start going to school into a town with a better school system. But we figure we can sell the beach house and trade up.

### - Whole Person Parameters – Work Related

- **Commute:** Both of us work in West LA so we don't have typical LA commutes. But then everything in LA takes 30 minutes.
- **Cars:** Because it is LA we both need cars to get to work. My only splurge is my used Porsche sports car. My wife is more practical, and environmentally conscious, because she drives a VW.
- **Physical Work Environment:** My wife works in a converted warehouse that is very "with it". It is really a kick to visit her at work. I work in a more formal work environment.
- **Social Work Environment:** Both of us work in social environments that match our personalities and needs. My wife's is artistic and open. Mine is a more intellectual and work hard/play hard.

## INSIGHTS

This has been helpful because I was forced to put down on paper my career choice dilemma – which of the 3 paths do I want to take. It has been rolling around in my head for the last year, but I have not really been focusing on it. This let me remove myself from my immediate decision and think about what I want my work life to be when I am 30.

It was fun to think about all the other elements of my life at that time. Some I have thought about, e.g. location (I have wanted to live in California, which means LA to me, for a long time), commute (I worked two summers in big cities and had to commute) and fun (with a salary I know I will be able to do a lot of fun things). But a lot of the others, e.g. personal relationship, kids, friends, parents, I had not given much thought.