

BEYOND VS

A DYSTOPIAN FUTURE



#10



4 YEARS LATER



LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
ESTEEMED FACULTY, HONORED
GUESTS, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY,
MY FELLOW GRADUATES...



TODAY WE STAND AT A
MOMENTOUS CROSSROAD - A NEXUS OF
AMBITION, HOPE, AND CHANGE. WE HAVE ALL
CLIMBED MOUNTAINS AND OVERCOME CHAL-
LENGES TO GET TO THIS MOMENT: GRADUA-
TION. I AM BOTH HUMBLD AND ELATED
TO STAND BEFORE YOU
AS VALEDICTORIAN.



THE WORLD WE ARE STEPPING INTO HOLDS EVEN GREATER, SEEMINGLY INSURMOUNTABLE CHALLENGES: CLIMATE CHANGE, SOCIAL INEQUITY, AND CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE.

WE ARE OFTEN SOLD A DYSTOPIAN FUTURE, BUT I'M HERE TO PUSH BACK ON THAT NARRATIVE. THIS WORLD IS BURSTING AT THE SEAMS WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRANSFORMATION.



I STAND HERE TODAY WITH A MESSAGE OF OPTIMISM WHILE FACING THESE COMPLEX, URGENT ISSUES: INNOVATION HOLDS THE PROMISE OF A BRIGHTER, SAFER, AND MORE SUSTAINABLE WORLD. LET'S HARNESS THE POWER OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES TO BUILD OURSELVES A BETTER TOMORROW.



IN MY YEARS HERE, I'VE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO LEARN FROM THE BEST - BRILLIANT PROFESSORS, VISIONARY RESEARCHERS, TALENTED PEERS, AND...



...OTHERS.

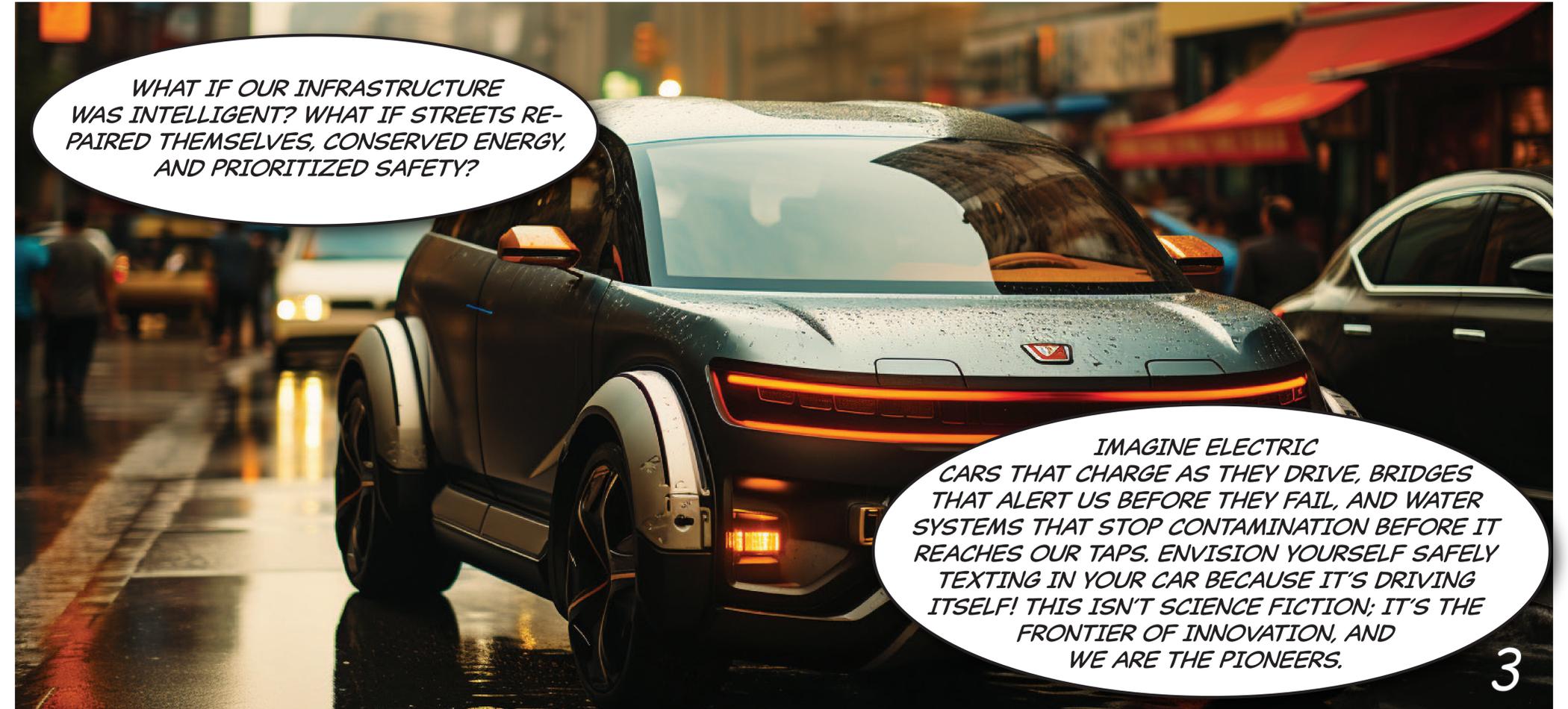


MANY AMONG US ARE ALREADY USING TECHNOLOGY TO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO. FROM PIONEERING CLEAN ENERGY ALTERNATIVES TO FORGING SMARTER, SAFER CITIES, WE SPARK INNOVATION IN TRANSPORTATION, MEDICINE, LAW, AND HUMANITIES.

TOGETHER WE ARE A TRANSFORMATIVE WAVE - A NEW GENERATION POISED TO REINVENT AND REJUVENATE OUTDATED SYSTEMS.



WE ARE NOT JUST FUTURE ENGINEERS, SCIENTISTS, OR ENTREPRENEURS; WE ARE THE ARCHITECTS OF A NEW REALITY. TAKE OUR INFRASTRUCTURE, FOR EXAMPLE. OUR ROADS, BUILDINGS, AND UTILITY GRIDS WERE DESIGNED FOR THE NEEDS OF THE PAST, NOT THE DEMANDS OF THE FUTURE.



WHAT IF OUR INFRASTRUCTURE WAS INTELLIGENT? WHAT IF STREETS REPAIRED THEMSELVES, CONSERVED ENERGY, AND PRIORITIZED SAFETY?

IMAGINE ELECTRIC CARS THAT CHARGE AS THEY DRIVE, BRIDGES THAT ALERT US BEFORE THEY FAIL, AND WATER SYSTEMS THAT STOP CONTAMINATION BEFORE IT REACHES OUR TAPS. ENVISION YOURSELF SAFELY TEXTING IN YOUR CAR BECAUSE IT'S DRIVING ITSELF! THIS ISN'T SCIENCE FICTION; IT'S THE FRONTIER OF INNOVATION, AND WE ARE THE PIONEERS.



IN FORGING OUR FUTURE WE MUST CONFRONT THE TICKING CLOCK OF CLIMATE CHANGE - A CHALLENGE THAT REQUIRES US TO ELIMINATE OUR DEPENDENCY ON FOSSIL FUELS.

TRANSITIONING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY IS NO LONGER A QUESTION OF WHETHER WE CAN AFFORD IT, BUT WHETHER WE CAN AFFORD NOT TO. BY LEVERAGING ADVANCEMENTS IN SOLAR, WIND AND HYDRO-ELECTRICITY, WE HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO REVOLUTIONIZE OUR ENERGY LANDSCAPE.



I SEE CITIES POWERED BY SOLAR GRIDS, CARS RUNNING ON ELECTRICITY, AND INDUSTRIES OPERATING SO EFFICIENTLY THAT THEIR CARBON FOOTPRINTS BECOME MERE WHISPERS. WITH SMART GRIDS AND ADVANCED BATTERY STORAGE, OUR HOMES EVOLVE FROM MERE ENERGY CONSUMERS TO POWERFUL PRODUCERS.



WITH THE HELP OF AI, WE CAN TRANSFORM WASTE INTO WEALTH. IN DOING SO, WE DON'T JUST STEM THE TIDE OF CLIMATE CHANGE; WE USHER IN AN ERA OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE, JOB CREATION, AND A CLEANER, SAFER PLANET FOR US ALL.



AS WE FACE THE MONUMENTAL CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY BECOMES OUR UNDENIABLE CALL TO ACTION. WITH INTELLIGENT DESIGN, BIOMIMICRY, AND SMART TECHNOLOGY, WE CAN ENGINEER SOLUTIONS THAT DON'T JUST DIMINISH DANGERS, THEY ERADICATE THEM.



AS YOU PICTURE A FUTURE RICH IN TECHNOLOGICAL PROMISE, I'M DRAWN TO THE TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF PUBLIC TRANSIT - A SUBJECT CLOSE TO MY HEART.

VISUALIZE A WORLD WITH SELF-DRIVING BUSES AND TRAINS, POWERED BY RENEWABLE ENERGY, COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE WHILE ALLEVIATING CONGESTION AND MITIGATING URBAN SPRAWL. A NEW AGE OF ACCESSIBLE, GREEN, EFFICIENT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ISN'T JUST A PIPE DREAM; IT'S OUR PATH TO LIVEABLE, SUSTAINABLE URBAN ENVIRONMENTS.



IT DEMOCRATIZES MOBILITY, COUNTERS SOCIAL ISOLATION, AND RECLAIMS LAND COMMITTED TO PARKING LOTS AND SUPER-HIGHWAYS. BY INVESTING IN SMARTER, CLEANER TRANSIT, WE'RE NOT JUST MOVING PEOPLE FROM POINT A TO POINT B; WE'RE COLLECTIVELY JOURNEYING TOWARD A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND EQUITABLE WORLD.



BUT OUR VISION FOR A BETTER FUTURE DOESN'T STOP AT AUTOMATED BUSES AND ELECTRIC TRAINS; IT EXTENDS TO THE VERY STREETS WE WALK ON. IMAGINE A CITY THAT INVITES YOU TO LIVE CAR-FREE. PICTURE WIDE, WELL-LIT SIDEWALKS, SAFE BIKEWAYS, AND DEDICATED SPACES FOR ELECTRIC SCOOTERS AND SKATEBOARDS. THESE AREN'T JUST DESIGN CHOICES; THEY ARE INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH, SOCIAL INTERACTION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.



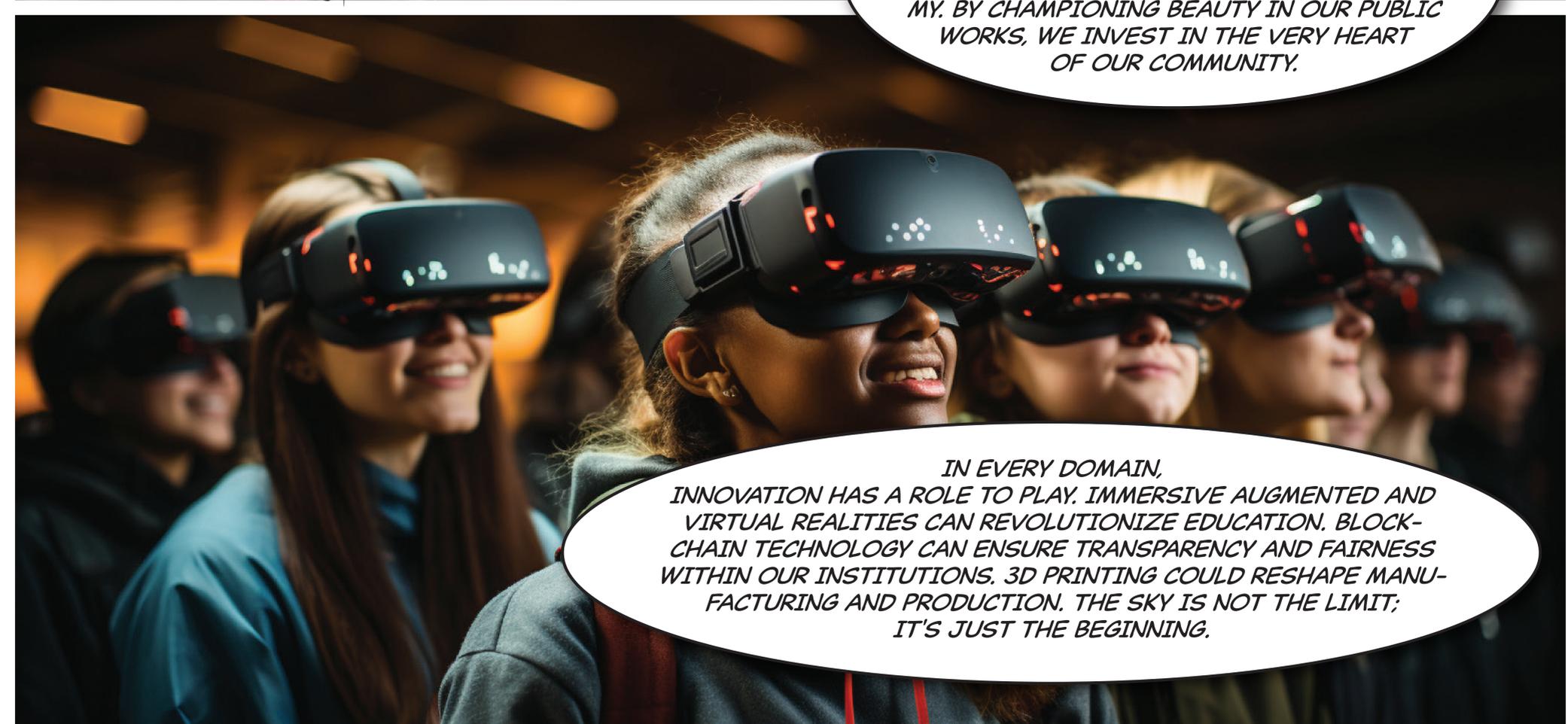
IN THIS LANDSCAPE, EVERYONE - REGARDLESS OF AGE OR ABILITY - FEELS COMFORTABLE WALKING TO THEIR LOCAL GROCERY STORE OR CYCLING TO A NEARBY PARK. THROUGH SMART URBAN PLANNING WE CAN OPTIMIZE THE FLOW OF PEOPLE AND PRIORITIZE THE SAFETY OF A STREET'S MOST VULNERABLE USERS. BY DOING SO WE EMPHASIZE NOT JUST MOVEMENT, BUT COMMUNITY. ORIENTING OUR CITIES AROUND PEOPLE - NOT CARS - IS A GIANT LEAP TOWARD A MORE LIVABLE, INCLUSIVE URBAN EXISTENCE.

AND WHILE INNOVATION OFTEN FOCUSES ON EFFICIENCY AND FUNCTIONALITY, WE MUST NOT OVERLOOK THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF BEAUTY, ESPECIALLY IN OUR URBAN LANDSCAPES. A CITY THRIVES NOT ONLY FROM STURDY BRIDGES AND SWIFT TRANSIT, BUT ALSO FROM VIBRANT PUBLIC SPACES, ENCHANTING PARKS, AND CAPTIVATING ARCHITECTURE.



THROUGH CREATIVE URBAN DESIGN, WE CAN CRAFT GREEN ROOFS, VERTICAL GARDENS, AND PUBLIC ART THAT ENRICH OUR LIVES AND DEEPEN OUR BOND TO OUR SURROUNDINGS. INNOVATION PERMITS US TO BLEND SUSTAINABILITY WITH AESTHETICS, LIKE RAIN GARDENS ALONG CITY STREETS.

AESTHETICS AREN'T JUST A LUXURY; THEY'RE A VITAL FORCE THAT FEEDS THE HUMAN SPIRIT, ENHANCES OUR QUALITY OF LIFE, AND PROPELS OUR ECONOMY. BY CHAMPIONING BEAUTY IN OUR PUBLIC WORKS, WE INVEST IN THE VERY HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY.



IN EVERY DOMAIN, INNOVATION HAS A ROLE TO PLAY. IMMERSIVE AUGMENTED AND VIRTUAL REALITIES CAN REVOLUTIONIZE EDUCATION. BLOCK-CHAIN TECHNOLOGY CAN ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND FAIRNESS WITHIN OUR INSTITUTIONS. 3D PRINTING COULD RESHAPE MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION. THE SKY IS NOT THE LIMIT; IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING.



BUT REMEMBER: TECHNOLOGY IS A TOOL, NOT A SAVIOR. ITS INFLUENCE IS MOLDED BY OUR CHOICES. WE MUST WIELD IT WITH CARE, ETHICS, AND CONSCIENCE. AS WE LEAVE THIS ESTEEMED INSTITUTION, LET'S COMMIT TO BE LEADERS WHO USE INNOVATION TO LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD, UNIFY, AND BRIDGE GAPS RATHER THAN WIDEN THEM.



*AS SOMEONE I'VE GROWN
TO TRUST ONCE TOLD ME IN REGARD TO THE MONUMENTAL PROBLEMS WE FACE, "THE BEST HOPE MAY BE THE NEXT GENERATION". WE ARE THE NEXT GENERATION. THE TIME IS NOW.*

CLASSMATES, AT THE BRINK OF THE REST OF OUR LIVES, LET'S UNITE AS ARCHITECTS OF A LEGACY THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL BE PROUD TO INHERIT. TOGETHER, LET'S BUILD A WORLD THAT IS NOT JUST SMARTER, BUT WISER; NOT JUST INNOVATIVE, BUT COMPASSIONATE; NOT JUST FUNCTIONAL, BUT BEAUTIFUL.

*CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. MAY YOUR FUTURES BE AS BRIGHT AND LIMITLESS AS YOUR IMAGINATIONS.
THANK YOU.*