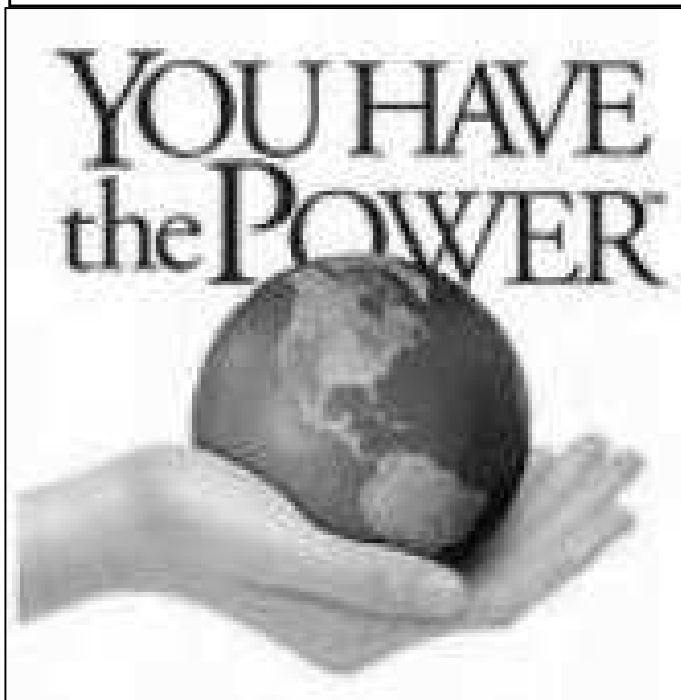




THE MESSENGER

The Green Issue



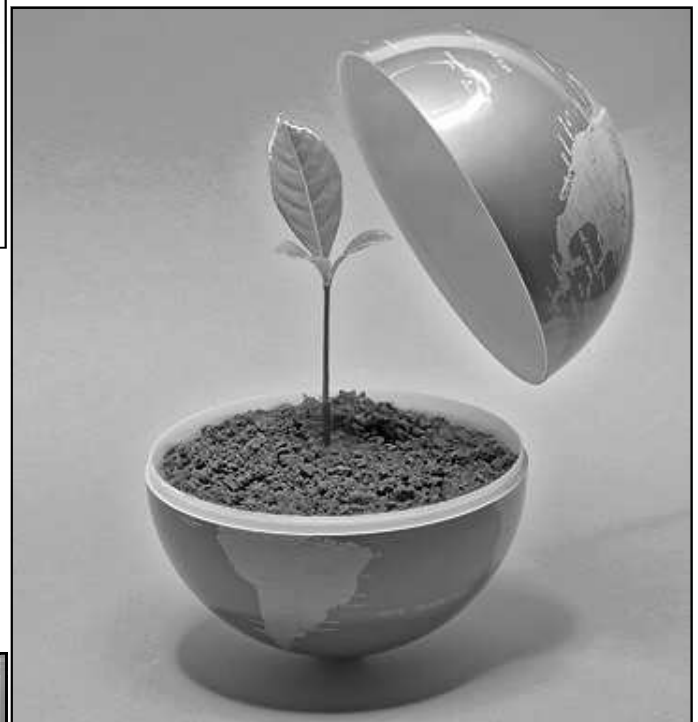
By: Katya Ivanova

Dear Readers,

Imagine the following: One day you look out of the window and all you see is dark grey smoke spreading around. Nothing can be seen except factories, cars, and people in masks. No trees, no flowers, no birds. The wildlife barely exists, the last surviving species are kept in zoos, and most of the animals



will never be seen by the next generation. The air is irreversibly polluted, and all you can smell is gasoline. What kind of life is that? Problems such as pollution, acid rain, global warming and many more show that we (humans) are damaging the environment we live in. This issue of The Messenger is dedicated to different environmental problems and ways of making the world a little bit better. There are plenty of small steps that people can take individually to help our ecosystem; some of these steps will be discussed on the following pages in greater



detail. But in general, all we need to do is try to be less wasteful, or choose a cause and get passionate about it; support charity, or even adopt a puppy from the closest animal shelter. Even one person can make a difference, but thousands of people doing the same thing will have a greater impact.

Transportation



Hybrid Transportation

By: Chelsea Blair

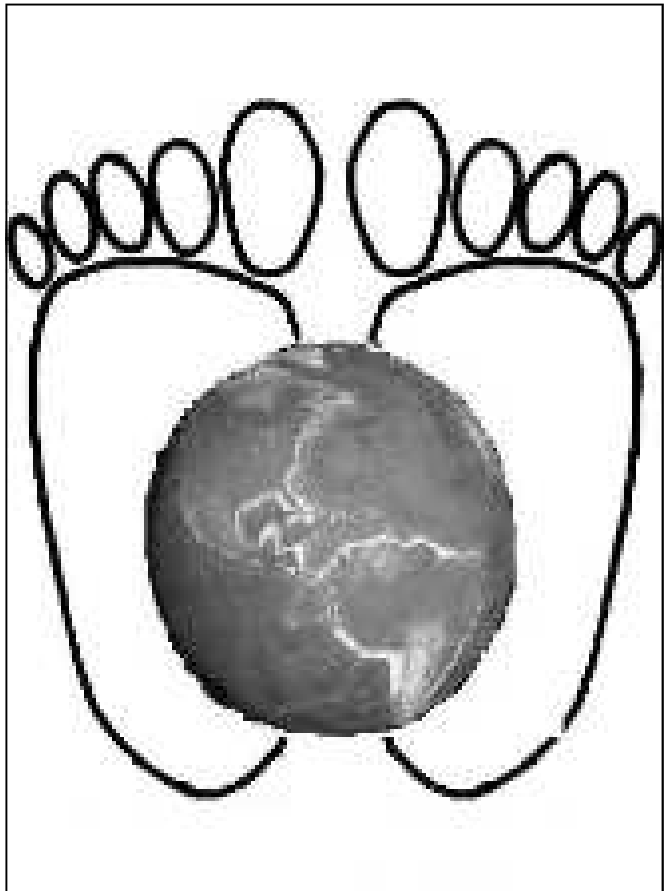
Hybrid cars are the transportation of the future. They need to be; with oil being nearly 100\$ a barrel, and a very narrow segment of the population who actually have oil wells in their back yards, cars need to be more economical for the rest of the population. Governments are also playing their part and offering many incentives for people who drive hybrids. As well, it is becoming increasingly trendy to be "Earth conscious" and owning a hybrid car is the ultimate fashion statement. And heck, while we're saving money and being fashionable why not help the environment too; our children just might resent us that much less in the future.

Hybrid cars were first popular among the die hard environmentalists and now the interest has shifted to people who would like to preserve their bank accounts as well as the ozone. As of January 2006, the U.S government implemented a tax credit for people who buy hybrid cars for up to \$3150 (depending on the car's emissions profile). More government incentives include free parking for hybrids at meters and the use of the "car pool" lane not matter how many people are in the care.

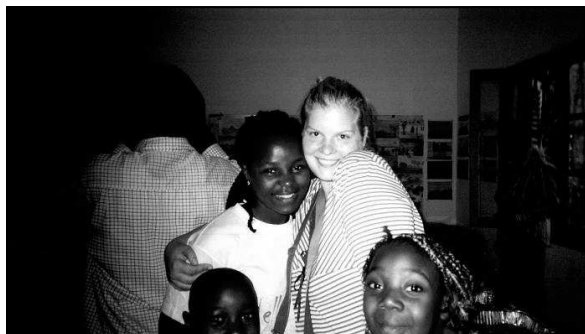
What annoys consumers and initially drives them away from the hybrid car is that they are slightly more expensive to buy. For instance, 2008 Toyota Camry hybrid sedan goes for roughly

\$25 000 and the non hybrid version of the same model is \$18 000. However, according to Consumer Reports hybrid cars WILL save you money on gas in the long run. Their studies found that within the first five years and 75 0000 miles of ownership of a hybrid car, the gas savings could total up to \$2500 on top of the price premium.

It's hip to save the environment. Manufacturers have sleekly designed models because people need to look cool while they save the planet. The hybrids do their part by cutting emissions by about 25-35%, as compared to a new non-hybrid car. Hybrids are also known for having more efficient miles per gallon; it ranges from 15 MPG to the top end of about 60 MPG. This is important because for every gallon of fuel NOT burned, 19 pounds of carbon dioxide is prevented from entering the atmosphere. Hopefully this trend is here to stay.



Volunteering



Location: Cameroon

Mission: Successful

By: Maja Florsic

According to a planetclub.hu definition, “volunteering means to go somewhere, often to a different country, where you work for a period of time on some project, hosted by an organization.” Of course, this is done out of one’s free will and for reasons other than profit.

As you may already know, on Wednesday 14th November, a McDaniel student, Krisztina Kovalcsik, held a speech on volunteering in Africa. She talked about her personal experiences concerning volunteering in Cameroon.

“It was summer and I wanted to travel. I thought I should do something useful and that’s how I decided to volunteer. This way, I could learn much more about a culture than just by traveling.” This was Krisztina’s answer when asked how and why she decided to do volunteer work in Africa; Cameroon more precisely. She started looking for websites and information and came across Planet Club Foundation www.planetclub.hu. Planet Club is a Hungarian foundation based in Budapest which aims to help people going abroad as voluntary workers.

After contacting them, Krisztina decided that she would like to volunteer with children. She didn’t mind too much where she was going to go, but as some places are safer than others, in the end she decided on Cameroon. Planet Club gave her much useful information as well as ways to contact people who had previously done this kind of work and who might be able to give her advice.

The information she got wasn’t as positive as she had hoped for it to be. She heard some frightening stories of people who had volunteered before. She was initially supposed to go to Nigeria but after she was told there was quite a big chance she might be kidnapped, she decided on Cameroon. “I was scared but I didn’t want to admit it”, she told me. No one actually believed she would end up going through with it, and it was precisely because of her stubbornness she did go through with it in the end.

After the decision was made, she had 5 different

vaccinations (yellow fever, hepatitis A and B etc) and malaria pills as well as having to take with her stomach, fever, wound, snake bite and every possible medicine you can think of.

After all these initial warnings and scares, Krisztina had extremely positive experiences! “The host family was amazing, they were so nice to me and they tried hard to keep me comfortable, even with the cooking.” Krisztina’s host family spoke English which is a little unusual for Cameroon as French is the language most people speak there.

The original idea was for her to volunteer in an orphanage; change baby diapers, play with kids, teach them English and so on. However, a group of Dutch volunteers had organized a holiday camp for the children from four orphanages and Krisztina ended up helping and working in this camp.

Along with other volunteers, she taught the children from ages 7 to 18 English, helped prepare food for them, taught them to use computers, and generally cared for them.

“Before I went there I thought I was doing a good thing but when I got there I thought of how I had to leave these kids and return to my normal life. They had already been left before and somehow, this seemed cruel.”

This is when Krisztina decided to form her Smiley Mission foundation to collect money for these children and children like those all over the world. Smiley Mission’s main goal is to collect money to create more holiday camps for orphans and also to raise money to build a roof on one of the orphanages in Cameroon. As this orphanage doesn’t have a roof, the children get very sick, especially when it rains a lot.

From talking to Krisztina about this, I got the feeling she is extremely happy she did this, despite her initial fears. Most people wouldn’t have the courage to do something like this; to go volunteer in an unknown country, work with orphans in perhaps unsafe conditions. She is hoping and happy to go back to Cameroon soon, to see once more the children she spent time with before; to let them know that they are not alone.

Krisztina’s Smiley Mission foundation will soon have its own website at www.smileymission.hu. If you feel you can in some way help, or donate money to help orphans, please visit this website when it is functional. You can also go to www.planetclub.hu for information about volunteering.

It really doesn’t take a lot of money or effort for someone like you and me to help, but it means more than we can even imagine to these children.





The Demise of Earth, Our Common Home

Simple Steps to Take, Less Tragedy to Face

By: Dadvey Zargaran

Optimistic or pessimistic, take it seriously or not, it is a matter of life extension and survival. It is about buying some more days, hours, or even minutes. Time is running out fast and humans have still not become united nor have even decided to measure the depth of an upcoming disaster. What is most vital and crucial is first to know the depth of the beginning of the demise, second how much time is left to take action. And finally, comes the time to take both individual and collective action. There is no need to talk about the environmental accelerating disasters taking place. Unfortunately, from West to East, from US to China, many countries' industries have been polluting the environment for many years. Today's China is growing demand for oil and other has avoided signing the tance for giving up her consumption pattern. been destroyed up to 30% earth's lungs in the proc- and fresh oxygen producing water sources have heavy metals and all other wastes. Among the worst, level rise and fast melting ronmentalists and experts Despite the foundation of organizations like Green- done in order just to slow Remember, the earth does be new generations soon difference! A new culture spect should be adapted between us and the environment for better preservation and peaceful usage. You and I can separate our mule for recycling; buy less, and therefore, consume less unfriendly products made of plastic or any other harmful combination; push and prevent our cruel and ignorant politicians and short-sighted economists from letting the industrial monsters and immoral pollutant infra- structures to operate next to our green neighbourhood. It is only the matter of understanding, free will, and therefore, voluntarily action. Take it!



fast and creating a much bigger fossil fuels. US administration Kyoto protocol claiming reluctant lifestyles and fuel- Rainforests in the Amazon have by now; they operate as the ess of carbon dioxide absorption tion. Rivers and springs provid- been polluted by waste water, types of industrial complexes' ozone layer destruction, sea poll ices are worrying the envi- tremendously. few environmental protection peace, much more needs to be down an accelerating process. not just belong to us; there will in fresh demand. We can make a of mutual understanding and re-



Nanotechnology: A Widely Unknown World



By: Anna Donaldson

Do you remember a time when there was no internet? How about when cell phones were the size of a real phone, or better yet, when iPods were not around?

The fact is, in less than a lifetime a technology boom has changed the face of reality. Just in one generation so much has changed; for example have you ever tried to explain the simple concept of AIM to your parents, or had to explain to your grandfather how to turn on a computer? These things display how we live in a generation of technology that moves so fast, one generation back hardly knows it exists.

Information builds on information; technology evolves faster and faster with the large amount of information that is available to fuel the technology blaze. And to a large extent, the world of technology is moving so fast, a majority of us do not have a clue what is happening.

One wave of technology has been Nanotechnology, which is best explained as saying building things on the 10 to the negative 9th scale. This means being capable of building something smaller than the width of DNA. Nanotechnology started as a theory in the 1960's as making things "atom by atom". Then by 1990, the theory started to become reachable. And today, all sorts of products and grants for research in the field have come about.

While the benefits from nanotechnology are many, its effects on the environment are specifically interesting. Since the Industrial Revolution technology has done a great amount of harm to the environment, but now technology is evolving to help the environment.

The reason Nanotechnology is so amazing is the size at which you're working at is almost sheer surface area and nothing extra that would be waste. More simply this means that six ounces of nano particles can do the job a ton of micron-sized particles could do, because of the lack of extra bulk of micro particles. While this may not sound exiting, imagine this applied to computers: a ton of micro chips could be replaced by six

ounces of nano chips; meaning the next iPod with actual nanotechnology may hold more music than you've ever heard.

The best part is, this technology is already being used and applied in our lives, and we are just for the most part unaware of it. For example, while fuel is still a bad source of energy, nano particles are added to fuel to make it more efficient. Certain nano particles are also being developed to pull metal particulate matter from car exhaust out of the air, water, or even soil.

It just goes to show, technology today moves so fast it is basically impossible to try and keep up. In fact, I bet you did not know that scientists have taken spinach extracts coated with very tiny materials that work with the spinach extracts to convert sunlight into an electrical current. This means that scientists have essentially taken spinach and turned it into a natural solar panel. So next time you find yourself huffy trying to explain what internet is to an elder, just remind yourself that lettuce might be the next great source of energy for a computer, and a nano iPod is nothing like the technology of what a real nanotechnology iPod would be.

Make our planet better: become a better tourist

By: Sasha Grigorasenco

A lot of people don't care about the environment, or if they do they can't do a lot about it. No matter what, a lot of pollution is produced day by day in big cities. But, there are people who are trying to save at least those places which have a biological importance. If those places are destroyed a lot of animals and plants will disappear just because of curious and uncaring people. Over the last 20 years people created the term "eco tourism" and tried to make it work.

Eco tourism is a smart way of traveling which helps not only nature, but the social and the historical/cultural parts of a country as well. It's not only a way of traveling but also a way of thinking.

The main difference between tourism and eco tourism is that eco tourism has 3 main goals: protecting natural treasures, protecting and helping the cultural parts of the country to be in better shape, and helping the economical

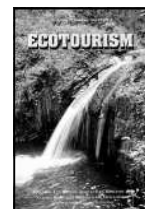
and social part of a society. The word protecting means that the eco tourist travel agencies try to teach, or to give advice and also to explain to people why it is important to preserve nature and the historical parts of a country. A percentage from any traveling with eco tourism agencies goes to the restoration of memorials and historical places, and also to clean up nature and create the possibility for animals to live in their natural environment. We should not forget that tourism also provides new places of work and helps the local society economically. Natural treasures such as the Danube Delta (Romania), rain forests, and others should be protected because lots of animals and plants will disappear if those places are harmed.

The most popular places where people go are the Third World countries, especially Africa (Kenya, Zanzibar, etc.). Tourists can visit and also live in a traditional way where they experience and also learn a lot about the culture. The tourists also help those people economically, which is not a small thing. It's a big help to those places and people. The tourists come and bring their money and also spend that money. The

tour agencies provide new work places which give local people an opportunity to live better (lots of people in Africa live on less than \$1 per day).

Ecotourism has existed worldwide for the past 20 years. Every country has its own sites, where people go and relax--no city noises or masses of people. Humans can be really dirty "animals" and it is very hard for a region's administration and also for a country's budget to keep tourist places clean. Even such countries like America, Canada or Australia, which are big and wealthy, can't maintain those places clean, and unharmed. That's why they support ecotourism.

You might be an eco tourist without knowing the term, because you think like one. By hiking and visiting a country's sights, and also cleaning up after yourself, you'll not only be able to visit those places again, but maybe your grandchildren will, too.



Editorial

Do we really care?

By: Fidan Sudzadinowa

Do we really care? I do not mean to sound judgmental, but do we, young students enjoying a certain rather carefree lifestyle, find time between college, parties, and hobbies to actually stop and think about those who live in a completely different reality? The reality not pleasant to think about, as it is stuffed with poverty, struggle, and disease. It is simply impossible to relate to living conditions so poor that there is no place for a meal or basic medical care. How can we understand what that means, all these words we keep hearing in the TV news, all the horrible facts shouting from the newspapers. We can not be charged with any sort of empathy, as it is simply beyond the realm of our comprehension. So what do they want from us, they who say "ignorant youth!?" It might not be our fault. Thus, the point may be not at all in who is to be blamed, but who is to care for a change. And then, is caring enough? No one likes to be called ignorant, lazy, or just plain selfish – I don't particularly like to think that of myself. But where should the line be drawn between a desired hierarchy of values, and acting upon it? Can we be called ethical simply because we care, and at the same time not moral, because we don't care enough to act? Can you just for a second forget about reading this article because of expected entertainment, and ask yourself "Really, why don't I care?"

There might be as many answers as people who'll take the challenge, but in essence we have a lot in common. So, let's admit, it is not our business. Our business is our life, correct? We may be leading a relatively carefree life, but it is a good thing; life should be fun after all, and we happen to be the lucky ones, and if we are grateful, we are all set. Besides,

we may not be starving, or freezing, or suffering from a deadly virus, but we have our own worries, don't we? We have to take care of our grades, pets, and relationships, maintain a scholarship, get a degree, plan for the future, and not run out of budget - our worries are also important. How can I, or you, really make a difference anyway? Crying over one or two articles, won't change much, will it now? Besides, facts can be easily overwhelming. We find out that sweatshops in the Third World countries are not phantoms of the past, but an ongoing reality. In Indonesian sweatshops, for instance, workers earn less than \$2 per twelve hour day; all get no more than two bathroom breaks, menstruating women are no exception. Employees of Nike's factory in Jakarta, for example, work under such conditions. Unfortunately there are more examples; John Perkins, former "economic hit-man" working for the U.S. government, in his books mentions such companies as Levi's, Ralph Loren, Fila, Tommy Hilfiger, Reebok, just to mention a few. Not only New York Times bestsellers cry for the public attention for such horror, but of course the press does as well. In its October issue, The Observer published an article on yet another variation of labor abuse - child sweatshops; Gap's factory in New Delhi was involved. Apparently the truth is sometimes the hardest to imagine.

On the other hand, is it really hard to imagine that humans are being exploited by humans in the 21st century? Sadly it is not a new phenomenon is human history, so why would it be hard to imagine now? "Humans always are acting strictly in their own interest, using all the means possible to seek satisfaction," many would claim this to be "human nature," which will never change. But what if nature is change? That evokes the possibility for improvement. Today, compassion is simply too time consuming. It does not have

to be that way tomorrow.

How would such change be possible? First, let's acknowledge that we all take part in what is going on in the world. I am not saying: "let's feel guilty," but let's not take innocence for granted either. Every choice we make as consumers does have a consequence. Every purchase we make transfers funds to specific corporations. These corporations employ specific policies; policies that obviously maximize the company's profit, but too often violate basic human rights. Find out what this means in your case. Check where the main factories of your favorite brands are situated. See what labor practices hide behind the slogans "Just Do It," "Peace.Love.Gap" or "Impossible is nothing." Realize what practices you are actually directly supporting, and if it goes against your belief, then decide for yourself what will be your next step; support them or not, and at what price.

Since we are lucky enough, we were given the freedom to think and act the way we want. Maybe, that very freedom means also responsibility, but again, it is only up to us whether we embrace it or kill it. We might be lucky, but luck comes and goes. So, good luck to all, with finding your own way in the maze of decisions to be discovered. They impact not only you, but also people far away; they shape societies. Allow yourself to chose and change; keep the world in mind.




Jokes

By: Katya Ivanova

Environmental Quotes

"Fall is my favorite season in Los Angeles, watching the birds change color and fall from the trees."

— *David Letterman*

"Never wear anything that panics the cat."

— *P.J. O'Rourke*

Lisa: "Do we have any food that wasn't brutally slaughtered?"

Homer: "Well, I think the veal died of loneliness."

Matt Groening, The Simpsons

"I love little children too but I don't cut off their heads and stick them in vases."

— *Geroge Bernard Shaw, on flowers*

"According to a survey in this week's Time magazine, 85% of Americans think global warming is happening. The other 15% work for the White House."

Jay Leno

"Some national parks have long waiting lists for camping reservations. When you have to wait a year to sleep next to a tree, something is wrong."

— *George Carlin*



Jokes

Submitted by: Chelsea Blair



Sports Schedule

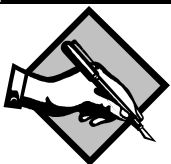
The hours below are available at the Veterinary College gym (across the square) for student use:



Friday



Football: 4:00 - 5:30
Basketball: 5:30 - 7:00



The Messenger staff encourages our readers to send their comments in letters to the editor.

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