

WorldLink

Youth Town Meeting Newspaper

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Standing in solidarity:
A Ghanaian's experience of
hunger and hope



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Ron Bonn reveals
Media Bias



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Youth No Longer On The Fringes

BY VANESSA ZARATE
STAFF WRITER



Global Warming has been a "hot topic" among scientists since the early 70s, but not until recently did it actually gain the momentum and recognition it deserves. After Al Gore's call-to-action, "An Inconvenient Truth," people were left shocked by the number of issues surrounding climate change. Suddenly, the light bulb came on, and the world began to see the harmful effects of technology, industry, and overall bad habits. While some were left eager and ready to diminish this crisis, others had yet to be moved by this "new" discovery.

It was a day to be inspired January 24, 2008: students from San Diego, Mexico, and South Korea gathered at the University of San Diego (USD) for the 11th Annual Youth Town Meeting. This year's theme was voted by last year's delegates to be, "Untying Global Knots: Global Warming, Poverty/Health, Corruption, and Media Bias." Featured speakers included: **Lynne Talley** (professor, Scripps Institution of

Oceanography), **Alec Loorz** (founder of Kids vs. Global Warming), **Ron Bonn** (professor, former TV news journalist and executive producer), and **Thomas Awiapo** (native of Ghana who survived devastating childhood poverty), and many others.

Before the Youth Town Meeting commenced, approximately 700 youth delegates from middle schools and high schools crowded into the Shiley Theatre and waited anxiously to be informed. The stage was aligned with nametags for the opening plenary speakers, and the intrigued students crammed before it to see who would be opening the day. Cameras were placed strategically around the room, journalists sat in the front with pens and paper in hand, while the rest of the students excitedly chatted. At 8:30am, guest speakers Talley, **Lisa Shaffer**, Loorz, **Richard Matthew**, **Scott Anders**, and High Tech High International's **Mark Hargrove**, filed onto the stage and took their respective

seats.

Hargrove was the first to address the audience and students listened attentively to his remarks about the United States government's lack of action concerning climate change. Hargrove commented that, "the money that should be given to the hungry is sitting in their [government] bank account," while referring to the government as a big "denial machine." He could not have been more adamant in his observation about corrupt practices in powerful offices.

Talley, one of the many lead authors of the report of the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was awarded, along with Al Gore, the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007, encouraged all youth to be "skeptical" and to ask questions about climate change.

"Opening Plenary" Continued on Pg. 3

Kids vs. Global Warming

BY KELLIE ROUSSOS
STAFF WRITER

Alec Loorz, 13, the founder of Kids vs. Global Warming truly inspired many WorldLink students with his enthusiasm, youth, and self-confidence in the fight against climate change.

Loorz was the youngest speaker at the WorldLink opening plenary, but the only one to receive a standing ovation. He didn't try to act intellectual or more grown up, he just honestly let his audience know that kids do care and are going to do something about this climate change "mess" that previous generations got them into.

He knows, "it's discouraging for some kids to think that [we're] inheriting a world that is pretty messed up." However, Loorz doesn't see youth as a drawback, but as an advantage. The young are the ones who are going

to have to live with this problem, and are the ones who must eventually do the most about it.



Loorz's target audience for his awareness campaign is kids his own age. He visits schools to do presentations, designed a kid-friendly global warming website, and is planning a booth at Earth Day which will feature activities for kids.

He presented scientific graphs, showing that the temperature of the earth and output of carbon dioxide and have sky rocketed, starting in 1950 (around the industrial revolution and the widespread use of cars).

Another chart revealed that the United States produces 28% of the earth's carbon dioxide, and China produces 23%. This seems comparable, right? Then Loorz explained that the United States is home to only 4%...

"Loorz" Continued on Pg. 3

Looking for New Sources of Energy

BY CATRINA ALVAREZ
STAFF WRITER

“My job is to paint a picture for you, to show you what is going on,” remarked **Jim Cole**, senior advisor to the California Institute for Energy and Environment (CIEE), at the beginning of his briefing.

In 1972, Cole worked with a military electronics research center at Bell Telephone Laboratories. Soon after the energy crisis of 1972, he decided to switch professions and moved into the energy field. He took a job at Syracuse University Research Corporation, which eventually led him to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. During this time, Cole became director of CIEE. When he stepped down in 2002, Cole accepted his current senior advisor position. Over the past several years with CIEE, he has assisted the California Energy Commission in creating an electric transmission systems research and development program. He has multiple years of experience in the fields of conducting and managing energy and communications technology research and development.

Cole began his presentation by first explaining the greenhouse effect, which is primarily caused by the buildup of carbon dioxide in the

atmosphere resulting from the combustion of fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas. Melting glaciers, less rain, increase of drought, species extinction, and even desertification are just a few of the many problems created by the greenhouse effect. The large amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is due to an increase in both population and energy use per capita. Unfortunately, the “addicted” United States is the leading emitter, with 22.4% reaching the ozone.

Cole pointed out that the leading alternative at the moment for a different source of energy is wind plants which, with the addition of 19,000 miles of new transmission lines, can create enough energy for 120 million homes. Sadly, this option has not been used as often because of the difficulty of installing more transmission lines.

Another option is to charge a carbon dioxide tax per emission. The funds raised would be directed either by the government or a market-based system that would allow more research towards finding other energy solutions. The European Union, for example, is currently using a market-based approach for

reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and the U.S. Congress is currently discussing establishing a similar mechanism.

At the moment, the California Energy Commission researches and invests in renewable energy sources. Although it is a slow process, Cole stresses that individual small changes can make a big difference. By simply using more efficient vehicles, investing in carbon capture and storage (CSS) at coal plants, and being aware of one’s daily bad habits (such as not carpooling), these smaller steps could all have a positive effect on this growing problem. Yet, the choice needs to be made now because it has been estimated that in fifty years carbon dioxide levels could double.

As teenagers, Cole explained that we can make the choice to look ahead and choose careers which make a

difference in climate change. In addition, by creating more public awareness, campaigning and receiving political support, we will get one step closer to a solution.



The Media’s False Portrayals

BY MATTHEW WONG
STAFF WRITER

The media has always occupied an important role in society. Today, newspapers, magazines, and blogs are only a few of the many ways in which Americans can obtain news and information. Yet as **Kathy Sangha**, film documentarian and co-founder of Sun & Moon Vision Productions, explained the media’s

penchant for bias, tension filled the air and left WorldLink delegates intrigued.

Sangha started her briefing with an enlightening comparison. “Media is like water; it is everywhere, constantly flowing all around you and subliminally through you,” she said. “It plays a big role in shaping our culture, thoughts and history...and it is everywhere, so it behooves us to be informed of what we are watching, who is represented, how they are represented and the subliminal messages that we are absorbing.”

While it is true that many media outlets exist, people have a certain affection for mainstream media. Because several major media conglomerates hold control over the industry, Sangha explained that the public should be aware of every bit of information

they take in from the media and should supplement what they learn from mainstream media with other sources, particularly independent ones. “If all your information is coming from mainstream media, you have to realize that there are only a handful of companies, and a handful of executives who are deciding what you should be informed about. In this way, it (the media) really does act like a dam,” Sangha observed.

Well before she became a producer and director, Sangha acquired a profound interest in the depictions that the media puts forth. “As a young woman I realized that the images of women as reflected by mainstream media/television/and film did not relate to me, and were nothing like women who surrounded me: my mother, sisters, teachers, friends,” she said. “They were also not the type of people I particularly aspired to be like.”

Sangha thus began the goal of exposing social injustice to the world and educating the public about youth, women and under-represented groups through film, documentaries, and media arts. Gender bias, Sangha found, threatened public opinion and set forth unreasonable representations of women. “Women whose stories are not told should be told. That is why I feel particularly compelled to highlight women in many of the film

projects and to encourage more women to get involved in creating media,” she commented.

What is the solution to correcting the unfair portrayals of women in the media? Sangha explained that the first step is to “get more women, and men, that believe in and want to represent gender equality and empowered women, involved in creating media and working at the decision making levels of production or broadcast.” Furthermore, the public should support those in the media who portray women in leadership roles and should not be swayed by mainstream examples. More that anything, Sangha asked for those dissatisfied with the gender bias to voice their opinions and tell their own stories.

Sangha ended her presentation by fielding a number of questions from WorldLink delegates and asking how they can lessen their reliance on mainstream media. As delegates explained their hopes and plans, Sangha expressed her approval. “Youth have the power to create great change and their involvement makes a tremendous impact, not only on themselves, but in the community and individuals around them. History has shown us that there has never been any significant social change without the participation of the student movement,” she said. As delegates filed out of the room, they left empowered and cognizant of their ability to not only change the media, but also to change the world.



“Loorz” Continuation from Page 1

of the Earth’s population, while China contains 20% of the population. “We are clearly using more than our fair share of environmentally destructive gases here in the homeland,” he told the delegates.

Loorz explained the flaws in the logic of different types of skeptics, from those who say global warming does not exist because it’s cold out, to those who say scientists don’t really agree that it exists anyway.

He referred to a University of California study, which revealed that out of 928 scientific articles on global warming, none of them disagreed on the existence of global warming. However, out of the 3,543 news, tabloids, and other non-scientific articles, 53% disagreed on global warming’s existence.

In response to the “Its cold today so global warming cannot exist” argument, Loorz took it upon himself to teach his audience the difference between weather and climate. Weather, being defined as the actual state of the earth’s surface at a given time, and climate, the average or normal state of the earth’s surface conditions, are clearly not the same. Thus it is possible for it to be cold somewhere, although the average temperature of the earth is rising, exposing the fallacy of this argument. He clarified, “cold days do not disprove global warming, and hot days do not prove it.”

Loorz’s youth-friendly presentations captivate and inform his audiences, leaving them empowered and enthusiastic about doing something about global warming. By request he can visit schools, and then start an action team there to help with future events and

projects.

To join Loorz, you can visit Kids-vs-global-warming.com. Loorz and his supporters have proven that “youth are not on the fringes” in the

fight against global warming. They are in the foreground.

To youth, Loorz urges you to remember, “We are the future. But we are more than that: We are the now.”



An Anthropologist’s Take on Global Warming

BY ASHLEY CHANG
STAFF WRITER

Global climate change is real – scientists have proven this. We have everything – the numbers, the graphs, the white lab coats – to put the validity and urgency of this environmental crisis in plain view. It’s here, before us, written in permanent marker, and has left a stain that detergent cannot remove. But even with all the quantitative research, scientists have been unable to string together a coherent image of what is actually happening to humans. Anthropologists like **Robert Hitchcock**, chair of the Department of Anthropology at Michigan State University, look at the “people side of the equation,” he said. “We need a nuanced view to see what’s happening.”

Hitchcock explained that the threat of global climate change lies not in the destruction of the atmosphere itself but in the destruction of human lives. Environmental changes provoke a sort of domino effect, where the poorest are the first pieces to fall. Those who live in poorer regions lack the basic means and bare necessities to care for themselves and are the least able to deal with the impending impacts

of climate change. It is the 600 million indigenous people who will suffer the most when heat intensifies or rain falls without cessation. This segment of the population depends mostly on agriculture for sustenance. A shortage of sustenance will lead to an undernourished society and the need for greater assistance.

Typically, humanitarian and non-governmental organizations like Greenpeace and the Sierra Club have endorsed such enterprises as bringing health and comfort to the sick and hopeless. But it’s not as simple as it sounds. These organizations typically need government permission to enter and work in their countries. Sometimes the very government is reluctant or even uninterested in the assistance.

Hitchcock noted that there is a close connection between environmental change and terrorism. Global warming will increase ethnic conflicts, as we are already seeing in such countries as Kenya, Uganda, Mali, and Chad. Secessionist movements are typically related to “poverty” and “dissatisfaction with the government,” Hitchcock described. This discord certainly has environment-related roots. When sustainability is up, peace reigns. However,

since global climate change is wreaking havoc on our world’s poor, various countries are dealing with different struggles, including terrorist activity. Often times, the poorest countries’ biggest investments lie with the military; because of instability, measures to improve health and the environment are not the top priorities. Countries are “spending more on counter-terrorism than environmental programs,” explained Hitchcock. Instead of focusing on this, Hitchcock suggested funding more relief efforts if we are to effectively mitigate the forces of terrorism.

As far as the future goes, Hitchcock said grimly, we “won’t make changes fast enough.” Right now there are people all around the globe trying to make a difference, but global climate change is winning the race – we’re mired in a situation where there’s “more cost before benefit.” Of course, countries are beginning to take a more progressive path. The world is finally waking up and realizing what needs to be done to stop the issues at hand; people can affect change, and help indigenous minority populations. “It’s getting better,” Hitchcock said.



“Opening Plenary” Continuation from Page 1.

In a world of miscommunication and extreme hyperbole, it is very easy to be steered onto the wrong path. This happens most often when the uninformed pose as experts. Talley strongly discouraged youth from believing everything they are told (especially when it is coming from politicians), and encouraged all to question the credibility and origin of information. She dispelled any beliefs of a catastrophic planet collapse in the next ten years, or century for that matter. However, she did conclude that climate change is very real and should be

taken seriously.

Matthew, associate professor of International and Environmental Politics in the Schools of Social Ecology and Social Science at the University of California Irvine, described the audience as a “unique generation” - one of change and action. He believed strongly that the teens in attendance would start a revolution in global awareness. He spoke of the dangers surrounding global warming in places like South Asia, where they are ill equipped and have “little resilience” against climate change catastrophes. He warned that if no one wanted to help the planet, there were going to be “a lot more Darfurs, and a lot more New Orleans’s.”

Shaffer, executive director of the University of California San Diego’s Environment and Sustainability Initiative, spoke next and opened her own speech with a curious statement, “everything is connected to everything.” While the audience paused to dwell on her comment, she further explained that one decision could change everything-positively or negatively. Her approach was meant to show the youth before her how it was possible to fight global warming, and how simple it was to make it worse.

13-year-old Loorz, founder of Kids Vs. Global Warming, spoke passionately about what was to come if humans continued to harm the earth

and how kids can and will make a difference; it left the audience on their feet roaring in applause.

A serious tone shift followed, and humorous Anders, director of the Energy Policy Initiatives Center at USD’s School of Law, was given the difficult task of concluding the opening ceremony after Loorz’s incredible speech. He added to Loorz’s statement and made it clear that, “what the world really needs is leadership in youth, not new inventions.”

The morning plenary was a fantastic start to an awe-inspiring day, and as students left the theatre, they couldn’t help but wonder what was to come.

Environmental Conservation

BY CATRINA ALVAREZ
STAFF WRITER

"The elephant is in the room," **Harriet Hentges** said as she locked eyes with everyone seated in her presentation. "Global warming is here." The statement seemed to lure in the people in the room.

Hentges is an independent consultant to business and non-profit organizations on sustainability and public-private partnership and is most known for her corporate strategy and sustainability work at Wal-Mart. Hentges was also the former chief operating officer (COO) at the U.S. Institute of Peace that specializes in conflict resolution. She was the partner at the Angus Seed Operation, vice president at Sears World Trade, and the COO of the League of Women Voters. Working with the government, she was involved in the U.S. Office of the Special Trade Representatives and in the U.S. Department of State.

Hentges' interests were sparked in environmental conservation due to her realization of the unsustainable path the earth is taking and the fact that everything one does makes a difference. For these reasons she changed small habits, spread awareness, and became part of a company which is contributing to ending global warming. This corporation, Wal-Mart, set three goals: to be supplied by 100% renewable energy, to create zero waste, and to sell products that sustained re-

sources and the environment.

The best way to succeed in these goals was to start from the bottom up, which is what Wal-Mart did. It began to analyze its whole supply chain, from the creation of its products to when the products reach the shelves. In doing so new trucks were built to conserve the ozone and even censored lights were put within stores to conserve energy. Part of its large success came with its packaging. It used "Packaging Principles" which included: removing packaging, reducing packaging, reusing packaging, renewing packaging and recycling packaging.

Although Wal-Mart and other corporations such as General Mills fight for green, Europe is far ahead of the U.S. And unfortunately, "going green," in Hentges' opinion, is not a priority in all businesses. Yet awareness is growing and new innovations and ideas are sprouting every-

where.

The first giant steps that can be made will be with knowledge. Wal-Mart recognized this and educated its 1.6 million employees on global warming and what one can do to prevent it.

Going green can also increase jobs in corporate responsibility, citizenship and sustainability. Therefore, the new generations will be able to innovate and create new solutions; one just needs the knowledge and the chance.



As the Media Sheds it's Principles, Ron Bonn Urges Students to Restore Them

BY JULIE NA
STAFF WRITER

Today, the media has tremendous power to influence and inform. The Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s demonstrated the extent of that power. Television showed the raw news—students being arrested and beaten as they sat in restaurants and buses, marched, or boycotted for equal rights. The events that took place were directly delivered into America's living rooms. And then something amazing happened. Viewers, both black and white, watched the events and were outraged at the atrocities the students suffered. America's segregated society began to move toward an integrated community.

Ron Bonn, currently an adjunct professor in the University of San Diego's Communications Studies Department, witnessed that power of the media in the 1960s. When he served in the army in the 1950s, he was stationed in Georgia, where he saw firsthand the segregation and then the gradual path to integration. When he entered the realm of television, there were only three TV programs. Since then, Bonn has worked closely with television's evolution. From 1960 to 2000, he worked as a television news journalist for CBS News, NBC News, as well as CNN and The Discovery Channel. Bonn worked for a short time in Vietnam for CBS, and covered the First Gulf War in Israel for NBC. In addition, Bonn headed the coverage of the Apollo moon missions.

As he stood in a classroom on January 24th, 2008, he talked about the inefficiencies of today's news media. According to Bonn, it is vastly different than the traditional and principled journalism he produced in his day. Bonn spoke of his beliefs that the media has the ability to shed light on pressing issues that people would not otherwise be aware of. "Give light and people will find their way," claimed Bonn. He explained that lately the media seems to be doing just the opposite. Images of Britney Spears' misbehavior and Paris

Hilton's jail-time are only a few of the superficial news stories that occupy the forefront of American media. Bonn suggested that the realm of reporting has become a business of guessing, with media sources providing what they think will sell, news that viewers would like to see. However, Bonn emphasized that this is not entirely the media's fault; viewers have become more passive, demanding less and less from the news. "Pester the media and the government with letters, emails and calls. They do count and matter," Bonn iterated.

Apathy toward current events is dangerous, especially as business corporations continue buying TV networks. Today, big name companies such as General Electric and Walt Disney own TV networks, and affect the news that is aired. The news is more prone to report what the corporation approves of. Bonn reminded the students of the famous line in "X-Files"—"The truth is out there." He urged his audience to never sit idly by and accept the news. He implored the students to demand legitimate news from the corporations who dictate the contents of the news reports. He claimed that the news is an industry that will not become objective unless the viewers force it to. "Demand not what they think you would want but what you deserve. And we deserve the truth and news that matters."

Bonn stood next to an old Emmy he had received for his straightforward and ethical journalism, before the news industry deteriorated into the "mess" it is today. As he stared at the Emmy, he talked about the global knots that have entangled this world, including the media. As he looked to the young students, eager and attentive, he bid them farewell. "This is no longer my problem. I'm an old guy. We're leaving this world for you. It's lousy. All we can do now is wish you well."



Roots & Shoots

BY AILEEN PANTOJA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Knowledge, Compassion, Action." That is the Roots & Shoots motto when it comes to engaging the youth.

Roots & Shoots, a non-profit organization founded and inspired by world-renowned primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, allows students all over the country to give back to their communities. Internet based communication facilitates the interaction between groups in different locations and ideas created are shared with all of the Roots & Shoots groups. Through their website www.rootsandshoots.org, students are allowed to get updated on projects fellow groups are doing as well as getting into contact with them.

The speakers in the panel took turns in explaining what the organization was all about. **Bridget Hahn**, 16, started the briefing by informing the room about Goodall, her famous work with chimpanzees and all of her accomplishments. From there, the rest of the panel members: **Lacy Weil**, 15; and **Torri Igou**, 15; and **Megan Nangle**, discussed the origins and goals Roots & Shoots aimed for.

Roots & Shoots began in 1991 when Goodall and students in Tanzania decided to make a change in their community. Since then, the organization has grown into an interconnected network of clubs attempting to create change one step at a time. The mission of Roots & Shoots is broken up into three main points: fostering respect to all living

things, understanding of cultures and beliefs, and inspiring to make positive changes in their communities and in result, the world. The name Roots & Shoots holds the meaning of roots acting as a foundation and shoots being able to break through walls when reaching light.

Although there is not a main Roots & Shoots group, national activities are planned. Roots & Shoots groups are expected to create and finish projects to help not only themselves, but also their community. Activities can range from aiding the environment, to aiding wildlife. In the process, students create social skills, responsibility,



and self-awareness.

When it came time for Q&A, the students were eager to get their questions answered. Students wished to know more about the possibility of creating a group of their own as well as the process into getting into the panel. Hahn, assured them all that it was possible to add Roots & Shoots activities into their curriculum but it was wise to get acquainted with the program before applying for higher positions.

The students left the briefing inspired to make a difference in their community. The idea of leading a group for change allowed the students to plan on creating a club of their own in order to not only instill leadership skills in themselves, but also, inspire those around them.

Closing Youth Town Meeting Plenary

BY STEPHEN HUERTA
STAFF WRITER

The closing statement at the 11th Annual Youth Town Meeting was by **Zealan Hoover** of the Bishop's School: we, the future leaders, have the power to affect change through bold actions and the knowledge learned at WordLink. It is a statement that was repeated throughout the day, in every briefing. We can create change, from the youngest to the eldest.

A panel of five speakers presented during the closing plenary. Each speaker had an important view on how to untie global knots. **Harriet Hentges**, independent consultant to business and non-profit organizations who previously held



a senior position in corporate strategy at Wal-Mart stores, discussed the role of business. **Vicente Valle**, senior foreign service officer and diplomat-in-residence at the University of New Mexico, represented the government. **Jim Cole**, expert in energy and communications Research & Development discussed science developments. **Jamieson Davies**, director of Emergency Operations at the Catholic Relief Services, highlighted the importance of humanitarian relief. **Ron Bonn**, a television news journalist with 40 years experience, illustrated the role of media and media bias.

Hentges spoke of the recent increase in sustainability efforts by ma-

marketing is extremely lucrative. Mr. Valle spoke on the U.S. expenditures for AIDS relief, which is now at 18.8 billion dollars, and is up for renewal for the next five years. Mr. Cole spoke about the development of wind and solar energy. He included other viable energy sources that could supply 20-30% of electricity by in 2030. Ms. Davies spoke on how global warming is indeed negatively affecting developing countries, but also how simple

student-led governments can help respond to and prevent resulting disaster. Lastly, Mr. Bonn reminded us that global warming is not a new development, receiving coverage as early as the 1970's. When asked the question, "Can the world be saved?" he replied, the same as he did 30 years ago, "Honest to God, I don't know."

Each of these 5 minute statements are only facets of the problems discussed by all at WorldLink, problems that we are beginning to understand and resolve. However it is imperative that we, as future leaders, continue to spread these ideas and create solutions so that we can have an environment worthy of bringing our future generations into.

From Poverty to Salvation

BY AILEEN PANTOJA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Thomas Abaruk Awiapo, member of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Ghana, opened his briefing session with a recollection of the harsh times he endured as a child growing up in poor villages in Africa.

He spoke about the tragic death of his parents and siblings due to extreme starvation. His three brothers and he had to fight amongst each other for a small portion of food contained in a single small bowl. It was impossible for them to share what they



did not have, and were constantly left with empty stomachs. Awiapo's younger brothers were weakened by extreme malnourishment and died shortly thereafter. Eventually his older brother also left, hoping to find a better life after living in such poverty. Awiapo has not seen his brother in nearly 25 years; he has no inkling of whether he is alive and well.

Living alone, Awiapo's future looked bleak, and the chance of surviving looked even bleaker. Food was becoming more and more scarce, and Awiapo felt desperation hanging heavily on his shoulders. CRS arrived just in time, building a small school in his village in hopes of drawing children to education. For many African children, school was something they could hardly consider, especially when they had to work in order to provide for their families. Awiapo realized this school was hope for the future.

"They lured me in with snacks," said Awiapo when describing the beginning of his education. CRS would serve kids who attended school a lunch and a snack. This of course appealed to the hungry children who not only received food but also an education.

Awiapo continued his studies and now has a master's degree from California State University. When he first arrived to the United States, he was surprised by the over-facilitated lifestyle that sharply contrasts the hardship faced by African citizens on a daily basis. While Americans indulge in the custom of buying bottled water and eating at restaurants, Awiapo assured the delegates that in Africa, drinking water comes from the watering holes shared with wild animals and food cannot be

found so abundantly in one place.

At first, Awiapo only allowed himself to drink from the school water fountains because of the guilt he felt for living in a privileged country. Those around him would tell him he was going to get sick if he continued, but he replied, "the germs know me." Awiapo then spoke sadly about how different Africa is compared to America. He noted that Americans often take little notice of life's "simple pleasures" like hot water, a comfy bed, and air conditioning; things which would be praised in Africa.

Political corruption is vast in Africa and does not allow for the inclusion of voices of the many Africans to decide what is best. In many cases, country leaders will take any measures to ensure their position, including bribes and even death. Although these drastic actions are unimaginable in American society, Africans have had to accept the idea of dictatorship.

Although climate change was not a central issue in the briefing, Awiapo connected the issue to the droughts and floods in Africa. The region suffers from lack of agricultural prosperity and a changing climate only complicates the situation further.

Awiapo closed the briefing with the conclusion that he has not forgotten his roots. Visiting the United States, while easy as it may be, cannot take the place of Africa in Awiapo's heart. Being a part of Catholic Relief Services has enabled Awiapo to give the children of Ghana a second chance. He has made it a tradition to visit the little village of Ghana where he grew up to instill hope in the future generations.

Talley Tells Youth to Ask Questions

BY VANESSA ZARATE
STAFF WRITER

Is the earth getting warmer? This question has polarized the nation. But does anyone really know if climate change is factual or fictional? Scientists hypothesize that within 50 years, the world as we know it will be hundreds of feet underwater. After hearing this, one wonders, "is our environment in that much danger? Is that possible?" According to Dr. **Lynne Talley**, professor of oceanography at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at UCSD, it is; but on a much smaller scale.

Talley was one of the many lead authors of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report which earned the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize along with Al Gore. She traveled all over the world in pursuit of data on ocean circulation and climate change.

Talley opened her briefing session by immediately stating that global warming would not turn into a catastrophic planet event, and the audience sighed in relief. This assumption has been one of the biggest misconceptions about global warming, and Talley wanted to clarify that it would take thousands of years of environmental entropy to cause such a drastic change in climate.

The briefing session focused primarily on climate science and how to identify its validity. Talley stressed that youth need to be "skeptical" and "ask questions," because one can never be too sure if s/he is internalizing the correct information. But how does one know what to believe when both sides of the story seem plausible? Talley recommended that everyone, both students and adults, read the IPCC

reports on climate change to learn the facts.

The IPCC website offers information from leading scientists and other experts who are interested in climate shifts. The website presents evidence regarding global warming. Talley recommended to "never listen to politicians on global warming," because the majority of the time they are extremely biased and poorly educated about the issue.

A student in the audience asked if climate change was real and Talley responded seriously, "most scientists have come to the consensus that climate change is indeed real." She then continued to explain that although there are many doubters in this world, most do not have the patience or interest to believe that such devastation is taking place, so they search for the most preposterous theories to prove it false.

As a scientist, Talley's scientific peers initially doubted her research. However, she calmly explained that, "arrogance is needed to be a scientist; you have to believe in what you're doing because if you don't, no one else will." This is what she wanted to express to her audience; that if people cannot believe in what they know, those around them will try to prove them wrong.

With the world in a worried haze about the ozone and earth's dete-

riorating atmosphere, there is even more difficulty comprehending climate change. Society is drawn more to the hype than to the issue itself. In order to change this, Talley encourages this generation to "stand up to the crowd" and be the ones who know; because ultimately it is up to us, the nation's youth, to make right of what has gone wrong.



Youth Can Change Our Environment

BY CECILIO LANZ
STAFF WRITER

Environmental justice took primary importance along with global warming at this year's YouthTown Meeting. Two young apprentices at the Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) organization, **Francisca Orellana** and **Michel Vasquez**, discussed environmental justice, the effects of air toxics in our lungs, and the lifestyle of the community of Chilpancingo, in Tijuana.

Orellana and Vasquez, defined environmental justice as the right of all people to live, work, and play in an air pollution-free and healthy environment. They also added that no one has the right to destroy the environment, neither a single person nor an important organization.



Orellana and Vasquez have both developed an air toxics curriculum for youth, which they discussed at WorldLink.

Ever since the creation of cars with petroleum gas, humans have been emitting a certain amount of polluted particles called air toxics. Since then, emissions have been damaging our ecosystems and our own organisms.

Air toxics affect Mexico and the United States, as well as many other countries. Serious damage to our lungs could be caused by these air toxics because the particles of the contaminants, such as gas petroleum, or toxic waste near our houses, go directly to our respiratory system. People breathe polluted air while walking in the street.

These air toxics could cause asthma, limit lung growth in children, and induce premature births; they can even be deadly.

Orellana and Vasquez studied air pollution in Barrio Logan in National City, San Diego, and the community of Chilpancingo, in Tijuana, Mexico. They have been taking community surveys, as well as air and water testing to keep record of what is happening in these communities.

There is a place in Chilpancingo that was very hazardous, just 150 yards away from a group of houses; these residents with limited resources did not have

any other option than to live there. After more than ten years, EHC successfully organized a clean-up which is scheduled to be completed early this year.

Orellana, Vasquez, and their partners have been testing the community of Chilpancingo, and they found out that a route for trucks passes just in front of a kindergarten where the young children breathe the toxics released by the trucks every day.

Unfortunately Orellana and Vasquez don't have enough influence or money to make a big change for the people in Chilpancingo; but they informed us about their struggle against this problem.

Orellana moved to the U.S. from Chile; she is involved with many progressive groups in San Diego, including Californians for Justice and Youth Action. When she was asked about the obstacles standing in her way of achieving her goals to help the environment and having youth involved, she answered that she hoped for a multigenerational project so that adults and teenagers can become involved. Another obstacle she cites is ignorance, because many people do not know what environmental justice is.

One of the solutions Orellana provides to these problems is, "making sure that there's a difference between what an ecologist and an environmentalist is, and acknowledge that we can



all work together. Most of all, break the cycle of ignorance and bring about social justice. It's all connected: social justice, economics, and environmental justice." Perhaps the most impressive thing about these two young girls, are their dedication, perseverance and efforts to help the community.

They suggested that students can help acknowledge the problem, make an effort to keep our ecosystems clean, and take care of life forms. Although many students will not go on to take action on a global level, all students have the chance to do something local that really makes a difference.

Tragedies May Decrease if Youth Take Action

BY JOHANA ROJAS
STAFF WRITER

The first question on Disaster Trivia asked, "What is the average income in Tabasco?" While the second question asked, "What percentage of Bangladesh's population lives under the poverty line?" The delegates discussed their answers within groups and when the answers were revealed they were jaw dropping. The average income in Tabasco is about \$5,000 and about 50% of Bangladesh's population lives under the poverty line.

Jamieson Davies proved the reality of poverty and how climate change and natural disasters

affect these people. As the director of Emergency Operations at Catholic Relief Services, Davies has been working to provide international relief for 15 years with a team that responds to disasters and helps communities prepare for potential catastrophes.

Davies continued her briefing by stating that the United Nations (UN) reports that that number of global disasters, since 1975, has increased fourfold. As the complexity of disasters increases, Davies shared the concern for the people who do not have the income, resources, or sometimes even education to handle or prepare themselves for disastrous situ-

ations. "You're a little better off if you have more income," she said. Over 4,000 people died during the cyclone in Bangladesh and the flooding in Tabasco affected one million people. If these situations are hard enough for high class and middle class families, how much harder must it be for those under the poverty line? Since natural disasters are economically demanding Davies emphasized, "the poor are disproportionately affected... the most vulnerable are hit the hardest."

Besides poverty there are also many other issues that contribute to a lack in preparation when a natural disaster is detected. All of these issues are linked together.

For example, 40% of the New Orleans's population, which was affected by Hurricane Katrina, could not read or write. Davies explains that, "people who have less income, living under the poverty line, tend to have less access to land and education making them the most likely to suffer." How were these victims expected to prepare for a disaster when they did not have the appropriate tools needed to survive, when there is a correlation between income levels and il-

literacy levels? The aim is to act before disasters to provide the community with efficient preparations. "Can't we do a better job at preventing these things?" asked Davies.

The biggest challenge has yet to be faced. What can be done to help prepare for disasters? Davies showed that there is hope for those less fortunate with the help of others. Help was described as immediate assistance to save lives by providing them with the basic necessities such as food water and shelter, helping reconstruct to not only return to normalcy but to help prevent impact.

Finally, Davies' last suggestion was made when she stated that another possibility is empowering others to help themselves by organizing evacuation routes and passing out life vests. Once the major challenges are addressed, how can the underlying causes be addressed? Although it is difficult to rebuild after a natural disaster, organizations can help provide victims and evacuees with activities and try their best to continue with children's education.

There are many ways to help and Davies provided the delegates with a website, <http://crs.org/act/participate.cfm>, on important volunteer information. Tragedies will continue to bombard the world but the way the world is prepared to handle them is in the hands of those that choose to take a stand. "We can help prevent some of the impact."



Wrestling With Corruption

BY ARIELLE PARDES
STAFF WRITER

In a conference room ablaze with the fervor of keen high school activists, **Vicente Valle** opened his briefing with the idea of a knot and the process of untying it.

The global “knot” that Valle had been asked to address at this year’s Youth Town Meet-

ing was corruption. The heart of his presentation was the political and economic struggles facing the Ivory Coast in West Africa. After working there for several years as a Foreign Service officer, Valle witnessed governmental corruption and greed distorting western Africa. He explained that the Ivory Coast used to be “the Paris of West

Africa,” with a thriving economy of flourishing wealth. Then a shift in presidential power caused altercations on immigration policies, thrusting Africa into a division of three separate social factions: natives, migrants, and foreigners. These social inequalities plunged the Ivory Coast into an era where civil war erupted, and al-

though peace agreements were made, they were not kept; bribery and corruption were seemingly inevitable.

So how does one end corruption in global proposals? According to Valle, civil service salaries are low, and there are few incentives to give thorough attention needed to efficiently solve the problem at hand. Bribes are to be expected, and limiting governmental power is a first step. “It’s a very frustrating process,” he articulated.

Although fervently concerned with the roots of African problems, the honorable speaker offered insight as to how the issue of corruption is interconnected with the three other WorldLink themes. In Africa, unfavorable climate changes have decreased agricultural production, which has led to a steady worsening of the economy. Wealth is all the more attractive as citizens struggle for political positions at the top of the social ladder. Valle explained that this kind of greed is what causes corruption, and how avarice is a result of the expansive poverty in western Africa. Through a connection to all of the WorldLink 2008 topics, Valle made it clear that corruption is no

independent force.

Students eagerly asked questions about both Valle’s experiences and opinions. His most memorable recollections involved learning about the culture, fighting for the reunification of the Ivory Coast, and working towards resolution. The environment, in Valle’s opinion, needs to take a back seat to the pressing economic issues facing us all. He offered a controversial stand on the Kyoto protocol, highlighting the effects that it might place on the economy. Emphasizing cost-efficiency, he probed students with inquiries such as, “What would it take to do this? How much would it cost? Are the benefits worth the price?”

When asked what his most rewarding experience was during his residence in Africa, Valle took a moment to think before replying, “All of it was rewarding.”

The fight for resources makes corruption very difficult to evade; summarized Valle, “It’s a long process, and there’s no easy solution.” Still, the endless potential packed into the conference room with Valle that morning revealed hope for the future where struggles with corruption might possibly be resolved.



The Case of Santa Teresa: Business Leadership for Social Change

BY GARY GAMZA
STAFF WRITER

Patricia Marquez, visiting professor at the University of San Diego School of Business, began her briefing session by telling the students that of the six billion people inhabiting this planet, roughly four billion of them currently live in poverty. In light of this, many citizens have come to believe that big corporations are the villains in this scenario, and focus their criticism on the rich owners of such businesses who appear to have no care or worry for anyone beside themselves and their money. However, Marquez explained that we should consider the role of big business in social change.

Marquez’s native Venezuela, she continued, has been split apart by politics and greed. The country is known for two main exports: oil and rum. The first is quite possibly the most controversial, since it led to violent conflict between nations, leaving those countries’ populations in extreme poverty. Furthermore, the oil crisis is the reason why Venezuela has the single largest gap between the rich and the poor. Marquez explains that Venezuela is filled with money-hungry oil barons looking for more power and impoverished masses who live in squalor.

The second export, however, is slightly less controversial. Rum has proven to be a lucrative business

for Venezuelan businessmen. Alberto Vollmer, executive president of Ron Santa Teresa, is no exception. Marquez explained that despite opposition, which included a board of executives who told him that he should sell the company and a community who had no faith in him, Vollmer believed that his company would flourish. He was a man who valued family history and trusted employees. As a business man who cared about more than money, it comes as no surprise to hear that one morning, after receiving a phone call telling him that 400 homeless families had invaded his land, Vollmer decided to create a community for them instead of sending them away. “Why should we treat the poor like they don’t deserve it?” Vollmer said to a reporter days after the incident. It is this type of attitude that Marquez feels modern business should adopt.

Months later, three members of a local gang called La Placita entered Vollmer’s grounds, stole some equipment, and assaulted a security guard. Instead of calling the police right away, Vollmer went to the community and confronted the gang members. He gave them a proposition:

they could either work off their debt to him or he could have them arrested. They accepted his offer to work off the debt, but only if the rest of their gang could join as well.

This was how Proyecto Alcatraz started. Soon after Vollmer accepted the young gang as employees, other gangs got the news and wished to join as well. Proyecto Alcatraz became a program to keep juveniles from getting into trouble, ultimately giving them a base from which they could begin to build a solid life. Many gang members in Venezuela have joined the program,

and Vollmer is hailed as a hero to many kids in the country.

Marquez explained that this story is proof that big businesses are capable of bringing positive change to the world. Currently, Proyecto Alcatraz is working on releasing a brand of coffee which will raise money to expand the program, as well as spread the word to the world about its cause to help youth internationally. “We need good people,” says Marquez.

For more information about Proyecto Alcatraz, contact Patricia Marquez at pmarquez@sandiego.edu.



Sustainability: Shaffer's In It For The Long Haul

BY HANNAH OSTROW
STAFF WRITER

If asked exactly what sustainability means, Dr. **Lisa Shaffer** would probably give a rather long-winded answer, one that could easily span a 45-minute briefing session. So for the sake of space, sustainability is, "meeting the needs of society while preserving the natural systems on which we all depend," according to the website for the Environment and Sustainability Initiative at the University of California, San Diego, where Shaffer is the Executive Director.

Shaffer spent her briefing session at this year's Youth Town Meeting discussing a plethora of topics related to sustainability, climate change, and going green. She focused less on the scientific aspects of global warming, and more on presenting ways to find a more sustainable path to our future. Like most efforts to make lifestyle changes, it is important to realize that the first step on this path is to measure one's current habits, such as recycling, car-pooling, and eating locally grown organic produce. Taken together, these habits result in one's carbon footprint, i.e., how much each of us contributes to carbon dioxide emissions. As Shaffer puts it, "If you don't measure it, you can't manage it."

Once you have calculated your carbon footprint, the next step is to look for ways to reduce it. One of the most important aspects of leading a more sustainable life, according to Shaffer, is to get rid of

the consumer mentality that "more is better." Americans tend to associate abundance with status—a bigger house means more wealth, which means more power, which means a higher social standing. A person with a more sustainable lifestyle buys a house that is just big enough to fit his or her needs, thus exemplifying the very definition of sustainability.

Shaffer's career path was not always geared toward sustainability. Shaffer originally wanted to be an international lawyer, but she changed her plans after she was rejected by Harvard Law School. She moved to Washington D.C. and eventually found herself working at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on international cooperative projects with developing countries. She says of this career choice, "It seemed to me that if countries could work together to do... constructive things... then we were less likely to get into wars with each other." Shaffer has, in her own words, "spent [her] career... working on ways to show people... how to use their talents to... make the world a better place, and, in so doing,

hopefully reduce the amount of international conflict." There is a direct link, according to Shaffer, between the environmental stress of global warming and international conflict.

Shaffer explained that the path we are currently on is simply unsustainable. We would, in fact, need somewhere between four and six more planets to sustain our current lifestyle. "We need to change that," asserts Shaffer. "And we do have the power to get there... you have the power... We are the people we've been waiting for."



Climate Change and Human Security

BY ZULMA MONZALVO AND SAKEENAH SHABAZZ
STAFF WRITERS

"Our lives are shaped by global forces," said **Richard A. Matthew**, associate professor of International and Environmental Politics in the Schools of Social Ecology and Social Science at the University of California at Irvine and director of the Center for Unconventional Security Affairs. After receiving his Ph.D. at Princeton University, Matthew has dedicated his life to find a way to conserve and sustain the environment. He has traveled to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Uganda and many other countries looking for answers.

During his briefing, Matthew explained the meaning of human security by looking back through history. Throughout the 20th century, studies and policies focused on problems concerning the World Wars and nuclear weapons. By the end of the Cold War, however, the United States started to shift its focus towards new areas, including human security.

Human Security focuses on the people rather than the state. It promotes freedom from fear, freedom from want and freedom from vulnerability to violence. Human security protects and empowers. But what affects human security? For one, climate changes and environmental degradation, which can be particularly big issues in countries where agriculture is the only source of production. Other factors include disproportionate population growth and governance failures.

As a man who fights for the vulnerable of the world, Matthew brought forth the important topic of climate change. In the American culture, it is necessary for our economy to grow to keep up with its increasing population, industry, and consumption of natural resources. Luxury comes at an unseen price; the price people pay as they burn carbon dioxide in order to live lavish lifestyles with little concern for the rest of the world. Matthew, a political scientist, brought this issue to the table and has begun to fight climate change so that the future of our world will be suitable for living. But sometimes he feels that the damage that has been done is beyond repair.

Matthew explained that if there was ever a glacial melt or a halt in the monsoon season, Southern Asia would be devastated. This means one fourth of the world's population would suffer from famine, greatly impacting the global economy.

Climate change would not only affect food insecurity for these countries, but it would also impact health, cause social breakdown, and population displacement. Many of the governments in these countries are already corrupt. If climate change were to destroy the land, it would bring about more complications for these countries. The United States is already searching for new modes of transportation, as well as irrigation systems, to reduce greenhouse gases and conserve water. Nevertheless, "As of December

2007, it was reported that the United States spent two hundred million dollars to report Global Warming to its citizens, that's it," said a disappointed Matthew.

When it comes to addressing climate change, Matthew pointed out two types of groups: private sectors and non-profit organizations. Private sectors have the mentality that if there is money to be made in creating positive global change, they will do anything to increase their economic benefit. Non-

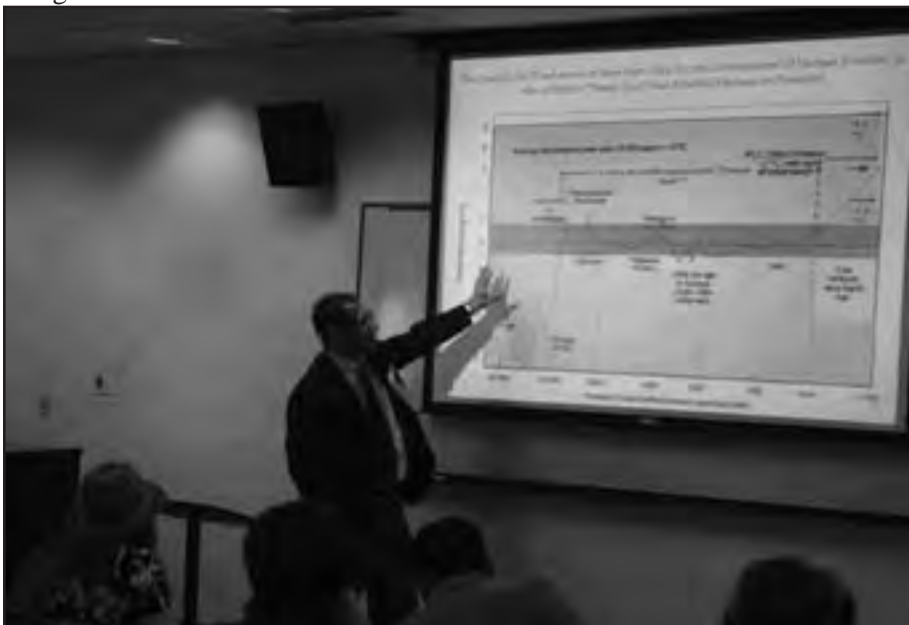


profit organizations are not governed by money; they create social value and seek to fulfill their objective. This is why Matthew says we should support non-profit organizations with generous contributions.

When Matthew opened the floor to questions, one student asked if other countries were doing a better job than the United States at informing their citizens about global warming. Matthew, having traveled all over the world, said that many countries such as Australia and Mexico, have created policies and have invested much more money than the United States in educating the public about global warming. The United States is in fact one of the main problems because we contribute about twenty percent of the greenhouse gases emitted in the atmosphere. Other developing countries are still somewhat behind in reporting the consequences of global warming to its citizens, but the United States is trying to change that.

Another student asked, "How can we go into other countries and change their ways when the United States cannot even change our own ways because we are governed by the green that is in our pockets?" Matthew conceded that until individuals begin changing their own values, global warming will keep escalating. However, it is our responsibility as a nation to set the example for other nations so that they can follow. Together, the whole world can slow down global warming.

What can one do? It is important for us as individuals to alert our friends and family about global warming and, as Matthew said at the end of his briefing, "prepare to accept the cost of change."





What Did You Learn Today?

“WorldLink has made a huge difference in my life. Through the past 3 years that I have attended it has really inspired me to be a leader, become more involved, and to inspire other teens and kids. Thank you for everything.”

- 2008 Delegate

“Thank you for all the hard work you put into making this happen for our students. I am personally grateful to have an event like this to bring my students to each year. They overwhelmingly enjoyed the day and all of the speakers I conversed with were helpful and are willing to continue a dialogue with my students and I into the future.”

-Christopher Greenslate, La Costa Canyon High, teacher

“This youth meeting really opened my mind even more to the world and everything that’s happening around me. It gave me an opportunity to be a part of a change.”

-2008 Delegate

“As a teen, I will try to let the people that surround me know what we can do to change our world, acting in our community. Remember we have to think globally and act locally.”

- Thania Herrera, CETYS, Mexico, 2008 moderator

“I did enjoy the day very much - the classroom meetings were more informal and more delightful than I’d expected. I actually didn’t end up really using any slides at all since there were so many questions right off the bat.”

-Lynne Talley, professor, UCSD, 2008 Speaker

“I am really glad that I had the opportunity to be here. The people I heard today are experts and passionate people. Thanks for everything!”

-2008 Delegate

“Environmental issues, especially global warming, are topics that are so often overlooked. The speakers were all amazing this year and it was especially inspiring to have younger speakers. Having the benefit of peer perspectives on these historically mature issues kept the audience engaged throughout the briefings...”

The actions of my generation will be determining factors in the advancement or digression of these issues.”

- Felicia Coito, Our Lady of Peace, 2007 and 2008 moderator

“I truly enjoyed the WorldLink Town Meeting, learned a great deal, and was completely inspired by the engagement, creativity & enthusiasm of the students. The world will indeed be a better place with their leadership.”

- Jamieson Davies, Catholic Relief Services Director of Emergency Operations, 2008 speaker

“WorldLink gave me an opportunity of a lifetime. I gained much needed information from all the topics that were discussed. I also gained a connection with a prominent figure in politics. Also I gained friendships with the other student moderators and interns. I am forever grateful to WorldLink for what it did for me, and what it does for everyone else. I hope I can be more involved with WorldLink in the future.”

- Brandon Cloud, Charter School of San Diego, 2008 moderator

“The WorldLink 11th annual Youth Town Meeting has been a joy and a greatly astonishing learning experience. This type of program is one LARGE step towards healing the world we live in.”

-2008 Delegate

“I really liked how not only did you invite older, experienced people, but also people who are my age. I really enjoyed listening to Alec Looz speak about how he has made a difference in the world by making people aware of global warming. But not only how he has made a difference but also since he is only thirteen and has made a huge difference.”

- Sophie Casillas, Otay Ranch High School, 2008 moderator



De la Pobreza a la Salvación

BY AILEEN PANTOJA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Thomas Abaruk Awiapo, miembro de la agencia humanitaria internacional Catholic Relief Services (CRS) en Ghana, comenzó su sesión con un recuento de los tiempos difíciles que vivió cuando era niño viviendo en los pueblos pobres de Ghana.

Platicó sobre la tragedia que fue la muerte de sus padres y hermanos a causa de hambre. Sus



Photo By Peter Kaizer/CRS

tres hermanos chicos y el se peleaban por comer pedacitos de comida que no les alcanzaba para todos. Era imposible compartir lo poco que tenían y sus estómagos vacíos los forzó a una batalla de sobrevivencia. Desafortunadamente, los hermanos mas chicos eran demasiado débiles y murieron. Eventualmente su hermano mayor huyó en búsqueda de otra oportunidad. Awiapo no lo ha visto en más de 25 años y no sabe si aun vive.

Quedándose solo, la existencia de Awiapo era miserable con un futuro y sobrevivencia que no tenía esperanza. Al pasar de los meses, era aun más difícil encontrar comida y Awiapo crecía mas desesperado por sobrevivir. CRS llego justo a tiempo, construyendo una pequeña escuela para ofrecer una educación para los niños del pueblo. La mayoría de los niños africanos raramente consideran ir a la escuela ya que muchos deben trabajar para poder proveer para sus familias. Sin embargo, para Awiapo, esto era una esperanza para un futuro.

“Me atrajeron con comida,” admitió Awiapo al describir el comienzo de su educación. CRS les daba comida a los niños que atendían la escuela. Como tenían hambre, CRS utilizó la comida para después interesarlos en la educación y ayudarlos a sobresalir.

Awiapo siguió con sus estudios y ahora tiene una maestría de la Universidad de California. Cuando llegó a los Estados Unidos, se sorprendió por todas las modernidades y exceso de materiales que existían en el país. A comparación de los americanos, los ciudadanos africanos viven una vida mucho mas difícil. Awiapo se dió cuenta de que los americanos no le daban valor a la comodidad de poder comprar agua embotellada y salir a comer a restaurantes. Awiapo aseguro su audiencia que en África, el agua para tomar viene del mismo lugar de donde toman los animales y que la comida

no se encuentra tan fácilmente en un solo lugar.

Al principio de su viaje a EE.UU. Awiapo solo se permitía tomar agua de los bebederos públicos de su escuela porque sentía mucha culpa que el ahora vivía en un país tan afortunado. Muchos le decían que se iba a enfermar si seguía tomando esa agua, pero les contestaba diciendo, “los gérmenes ya me conocen.” Awiapo platicaba con tristeza sobre la diferencia entre África y América. El noto que los Americanos raramente valoran los “gozos simples” como agua caliente, una cama cómoda, y el aire acondicionado; cosas que serian adoradas en África.

En varios países de Africa, la corrupción política solo permite decisiones de los ricos y apoderados y no incluye las miles de voces de los mas pobres. En muchos casos, los líderes de esos países toman cualquier medida para asegurar su posición, incluyendo mordidas y hasta asesinatos. Aunque estas acciones drásticas son inimaginables en la sociedad americana, los africanos han tenido que aceptar varios años de dictadores.

Aunque el cambio climatológico no fue un tema central en su presentación, Awiapo conectó el tema a las sequías e inundaciones de África. La región no puede estabilizar su agricultura a causa de estos cambios.

Awiapo concluyó la presentación diciendo que el no se ha olvidado de donde viene. Aunque el visita a los EE.UU. con frecuencia, jamás podrá reemplazar el lugar que Ghana que lleva en su corazón. Ahora que trabaja con CRS, Awiapo puede darles otra oportunidad a los niños de Ghana. El regresa al pueblito de Ghana donde creció cada año y espera darles esperanza a los niños que crecieron bajo las misma situación que el vivió hace años.

Talley les Dice a los Jóvenes que Hagan Preguntas

BY VANESSA ZARATE
TRANSLATED BY AILEEN PANTOJA
STAFF WRITER

¿Se está calentando la tierra? Esta pregunta ha polarizado la nación. Pero, ¿alguien sabe si realmente el cambio climático es real o ficticio? Los científicos creen que dentro de 50 años, el mundo tal como lo conocemos estará cientos de pies bajo el agua. Después de escuchar esto, uno se pregunta, ¿estamos en grave peligro? ¿Es eso posible? Según la doctora **Lynne Talley**, profesora de oceanografía en el Instituto Scripps de Oceanografía en la Universidad de California San Diego (UCSD), si lo es, pero en una escala mucho menor.

Talley fue una de los muchos autores principales de El Grupo Intergubernamental de Expertos sobre el Cambio Climático (IPCC) un órgano intergubernamental que forma parte de la Naciones Unidas. El IPCC recientemente publico el Fourth Assesment Report, el cuarto informe de un reporte muy largo

y el cual gano el Premio Nobel de la Paz en el año 2007 junto con el previo vicepresidente de EEUU, Al Gore. Talley viajó por todo el mundo en busca de datos sobre la circulación de los océanos y el cambio climático.

Talley comenzó su sesión inmediatamente indicando que el calentamiento global no se va convertir en un evento catastrófico en el planeta, y el público suspiró de alivio. Esta hipótesis ha sido una de las ideas falsas mas grandes sobre el calentamiento

global. Talley quería aclarar que tomaría miles de años de entropía del medio ambiente para causar ese cambio drástico en el clima. Pero ¿cómo se sabe qué creer cuando ambos lados de la historia parecen ser creíbles? Talley recomendó que todos, tanto los estudiantes como los adultos, deben de leer los informes del IPCC sobre el cambio climático para entender los hechos.



La página de internet del IPCC ofrece información proveído por los científicos principales y otros expertos que están interesados en los cambios climáticos. El sitio presenta las pruebas en relación con el calentamiento global. Talley recomendó que “nunca escuchen a los políticos sobre el calentamiento global”, debido a que la mayoría de las veces son muy parciales y mal educados acerca del tema.

Un estudiante en la audiencia preguntó si el cambio climático es real y Talley respondió seria-

mente, “la mayoría de los científicos han llegado a la conclusión que el cambio climático es real.” Continuó explicando que hay muchos escépticos en este mundo, pero la mayoría de ellos no tienen la paciencia o el interés para creer la devastación que se está llevando a cabo. Es por eso que buscan la explicación más absurda para comprobar que las teorías son falsas.

Como científica, los compañeros de trabajo de

Talley inicialmente dudaban de sus investigaciones. Sin embargo, explicó que “, la arrogancia es necesaria para ser un científico. Uno tiene que creer en lo que está haciendo, porque si no lo hace, nadie más lo hará.” Esto es lo que quería expresar a su público; si uno no puede creer en su propia inteligencia, los que lo rodean tratarán de demostrar que están equivocados.

Con un mundo preocupado por el ozono, la tierra, y el deterioro de la atmósfera, es aún más difícil comprender el cambio climático. Desafortunadamente, la sociedad se interesa más en la publicidad que con el problema en sí. Para cambiar esto, Talley anima a que esta generación “se ponga de pie” y forme parte de aquellos quienes están luchando contra el cambio climático porque nos corresponde a nosotros, la juventud del país, hacer conciencia de lo que se ha hecho mal.

La Juventud Combate los Cambios Climaticos

BY KELLIE ROUSSOS

TRANSLATED BY AILEEN PANTOJA

STAFF WRITER

Alec Loorz, un activista de solo trece años de edad, lucha contra el cambio climático por medio de Kids vs. Global Warming, una organización que educa a niños sobre el clima y de la cual Loorz es fundador. Con su entusiasmo y confianza en sí mismo, Loorz inspiró a muchos estudiantes que atendieron la 11 va junta regional juvenil de WorldLink.

Loorz fue el orador más joven de la ceremonia de apertura de WorldLink y el único que recibió una ovación de pie. En vez de tratar de actuar como un gran intelectual o un adulto, Loorz aseguró a su audiencia que a los jóvenes si nos interesa el medio ambiente y vamos hacer los cambios necesarios, que por generaciones, han afectado los cambios climáticos.

El comenta que la manera en que se encuentra el mundo que estamos heredando es realmente desagradable. Sin embargo, Loorz no ve a la juventud como una inconveniencia sino como una ventaja para poder sacar el mundo delante de estos problemas.

Loorz se enfoca en presentar a niños de su edad para ponerlos en conciencia de los cambios del



clima. El da presentaciones a escuelas y creó un sitio en la red especialmente para niños. También planea tener una muestra el día de Earth Day llena de actividades para niños.

Durante las sesiones individuales, Loorz presentó graficas científicas, analizando como es que la temperatura de la tierra y emisiones de dióxido de carbono han incrementado catastróficamente desde el año 1950.

Otras de su graficas revela que los Estados Unidos produce el 28% de dióxido de carbono del planeta y China produce 23%. ¿Esto parece comparable, cierto? Loorz comenta que solo 4% de la población de la tierra vive en los Estados Unidos mientras China contiene el 20%. Es evidente que EEUU está utilizando más gases destructivos hacia el medio ambiente de lo que debe. Loorz explicó las fallas lógicas de los escépticos, desde los que dicen que los cambios climatológicos no existen porque aun hace frio, a los que dicen que los científicos no están de acuerdo sobre este problema.

Loorz se refirió a un estudio de la Universidad de California, el cual reveló que de los 928 artículos escritos por profesionistas expertos en el área del calentamiento del planeta, ninguno de ellos negó la existencia del calentamiento global. Sin embargo, de las 3543 noticias, tabloides, y otros artículos no escritos por científicos, el 53% niega los problemas climáticos.

Para aquellos que señalan las temperaturas frías como evidencia en contra de los cambios climáticos, Loorz decidió enseñarle a su audiencia la diferencia entre el tiempo y el clima. El tiempo se define como el estado real de la superficie de la tierra en un momento dado, y el clima como estado promedio de la superficie del terrestre, evi-



dentamente no es el mismo.

Entonces, es posible que este haciendo frio en un lado y el promedio de la temperatura del planeta este incrementando. Loorz aclaró que "... días fríos no desmienten cambios climáticos, y días calientes tampoco lo comprueban."

Las presentaciones de Loorz cautivan e informan a sus audiencias por ser agradables para los jóvenes y los deja entusiasmados con la idea de hacer algo sobre el calentamiento global. El está listo para visitar escuelas y así empezar equipos de acción para ayudar con eventos y proyectos.

Para unirse con Alec Loorz, se puede ir a su sitio de internet Kids-vs-global-warming.com. Loorz, junto con sus simpatizantes, han comprobado que "los jóvenes no están al margen," en la batalla contra los cambios climáticos. Ellos están en el primer plano.

A los jóvenes, Loorz les pide que recuerden, "Somos el futuro. Pero más que eso: Somos el ahora."

Ron Bonn les Urge a los Jóvenes que Restauren los Principios del Medio

BY JULIE NA

TRANSLATED BY AILEEN PANTOJA

STAFF WRITER

Hoy en día, los medios de comunicación tiene el poder de influir e informar. Este poder fue demostrado durante el movimiento de los derechos civiles en los 60s. Los programas de televisión enseñaron las noticias tal y como fueron – estudiantes arrestados y golpeados por sentarse en restaurantes, protestando derechos iguales. Los eventos que ocurrieron fueron vistos por miles de personas alrededor del mundo desde su televisión. Fue entonces que algo increíble ocurrió. La gente, de todas razas, quienes vieron los eventos se enojaron y apoyaron a los estudiantes. En una sociedad donde lo normal era separar a las razas, se comenzó un movimiento para integrar a la comunidad.

Ron Bonn, profesor en el departamento de comunicaciones en la Universidad de San Diego, fue testigo del poder de los medios en los 60s. Cuando estuvo en el Army, lo mandaron al estado de Georgia en los 50s. El vio la segregación y el cambio hacia la integración. Cuando comenzó su carrera en la televisión, solo habían tres programas de televisión. Desde entonces, Ron Bonn ha sido parte de la evolución, incluyendo los Años Dorados de la tele, cubriendo los viajes a Apollo, la guerra de Vietnam, y la Guerra del Golfo. El es uno de los primeros que influyeron el comercio de la televisión.

Pero al pararse en el cuarto el 24 de enero del 2008, Bonn platico sobre las ineficiencias de los medios de hoy en día. El relata que el peri-

odismo ha cambiado mucho desde sus días en la tele. Esta generación de reportajes parecen haber perdido su esencia. Bonn cree que los medios de comunicación tienen la habilidad de proveer información sobre temas importantes. "Si les das luz a la gente, ellos encontrarán su camino," dijo Bonn. Sin embargo los medios han hecho lo opuesto. Imágenes de los errores de Britney Spears y la encarcelación de Paris Hilton son solo unas de las muchas noticias que ven los americanos. El reportaje ahora parece un juego de adivinanza para ver cuales noticias llamarán más atención. Sin embargo, los medios no son los únicos culpables. Los espectadores se han hechos mas pasivos, demandando menos y menos de las noticias.

"Manden cartas, emails, y llamen a los medios y al gobierno. Si cuentan," dijo Bonn.

Al involucrarse menos en el proceso de los medios de comunicación, la situación se pone más peligrosa cuando corporaciones grandes están comprando redes de televisión. Hoy, compañías grandes como General Electric y Walt Disney son dueños de redes y ellos dictan el tipo de noticias que se compartirán. Los noticieros cubrirán temas que son aprobados por los dueños. Bonn les recordó a los estudiantes de las

frase popular del show X-Files – "La verdad esta allí." El estresó la importancia de que uno nunca debería de sentarse y simplemente aceptar las noticias. El les pidió a los estudiantes que lucharan contra las compañías que están dictando el contenido de las noticias. El dijo que la industria no cambiara hasta que los espectadores los fueren. Demanden lo que ustedes creen que merecen.

Bonn se sentó junto a su premio Emmy que recibió por su periodismo ético y eficaz. Al enfocarse en su Emmy, el platico sobre los nudos que han apretado al planeta, incluyendo a los medios de comunicación. Se fijo en los estudiantes antes de decirles adiós y les dijo, "Esto ya no es mi problema. Yo ya estoy viejo. Vamos a dejarles este mundo que no vale la pena. Todo lo que les podemos hacer es desearles buena suerte."



Zealan Hoover: Youth Town Meeting Closing Plenary Speech

The following closing speech was presented by ZEALAN HOOVER, a senior at the Bishop's School, and a former WorldLink intern who addressed the Afternoon Plenary.

Long ago the ancient land of Phrygia was ruled by King Gordias, who would ride through the city on a Chariot of Gold. King Gordias was a jealous man who did not want to share his power so he refused to father a child, and never appointed an heir. One day the oracle of Zeus prophesized that Gordias's successor would be the one to ride the Golden Chariot through the city gates. When King Gordias heard wind of this prophesy he ordered that his chariot be lashed to the columns of Zeus's temple, and then to spite the oracle he tied it there with a knot so intricate that neither beginning nor end could be seen amidst the countless weavings. When King Gordias died the men of Phrygia came to the temple in droves, each seeking to untie the knot and ride the Chariot through the city gates to assume the kingship, yet not one of them was capable of doing so. Every man in the kingdom, and every man to visit the kingdom, was brought into the temple and shown the knot yet none of them could untie it. Not one that is, until Alexander the Great came through on his march to Asia Minor. When he was shown Gordian's Knot he drew his sword and sliced it in half.

Even today, well over two thousand years later, the story of Gordian's Knot is a well rehearsed proverb when discussing intricate problems and the bold actions that are often needed to solve them. That is why it came to mind when I heard that this year's Youth Town Meeting's Theme was "Untying Global Knots." And not just any knots, but those that are bound together by global warming, corruption, and media bias. As I am sure you have learned today, it's no small feat. However, I hope that you have also taken away the knowledge that it is not an impossible feat either.

Solving these problems requires bold solutions just like Alexander the Great's. The Arctic Ocean is not going to stop melting because we want it to stop. It will stop when we take a stand for more fuel efficient cars, take the time

to plant trees, remember to recycle, and live more environmentally conscious lives. It will stop melting when we, the next generation of leaders, decide that we want it to. Now, I do not mean to bash my parents' generation- especially since we have some of the 20th century's best right here in this room- but in all honesty, they kind of screwed

to change them. If you take one thing from this conference I hope it is the knowledge that you have the power to affect change.

For those of you who have been to previous conferences I am sure that that message resonates with what you have heard in the past because it is a creed that many of us involved with

who work year round to share their knowledge with you, there is no way that the experience that you had today can be made available to every high school student in Southern California and Northern Mexico. Even if we ran conferences like this every month we would not come close to reaching every single student. That is why you are so important. Today you became ambassadors of the IPJ. You are now vessels of knowledge who have received briefings on the most pressing issues our world faces from global leaders in those fields, but the time and effort that they have put in today and that the IPJ staff and student interns have put in over the past year, will be lost if you push it into the back of your mind and live tomorrow just like you lived yesterday.

You must carry what you have learned back to your schools and spread the knowledge with your peers. Start a club, organize an event of your own, or simply talk about it with your friends. Today there are 700 students in this room. If you go back to your schools and get ten of your friends and family members interested, then together we just reached 7,000. And if you get each of them so passionate that they spread the word to ten more people, then together we will reach 70,000.

Passion is infective. If you act on what you learned today and step out of the apathetic constructs of the high school social scene and say "I want to make a difference" your peers will notice you, respect you, and follow you.

So start spreading that passion tonight when you go home and tomorrow when you return to your schools. On behalf of all of us at WorldLink, and our partners at Enviro-Tote, a "business with a conscience," we want to help you take that first step towards a more environmentally conscious lifestyle by presenting all of you with cloth totes that you can use to replace your use of plastic bags and reduce your personal carbon footprint.

On that note I want to thank all of you for attending the 11th Annual WorldLink Youth Town Meeting. And on behalf of the IPJ staff and Interns, I wish you the best of luck until we see you again next year. I hope that you use the knowledge you have found today to make the world a better place.



things up. Not each and every one of them; but collectively those that have passed before us have left behind some big problems.

However, they have also left us with the knowledge that we need to clean them up. Organizations like the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, through programs like WorldLink, are preparing youth like us around the world so that we have the knowledge we need to set things right. Sir Francis Bacon put it quite succinctly when he said: "Knowledge is power." That is what you have been given today: knowledge of the causes behind pressing global issues, which in turn gives you the power

WorldLink strongly believe in. We believe that youth can change the world.

If this has been your first Youth Town Meeting then I hope that you take that message to heart. For those of you who are here for your second, third, or even forth conference, I hope that you have already taken it to heart and have shared the knowledge that you have received. For me, this is my last Conference. I have been involved with WorldLink since ninth grade and in that time the Institute has opened doors for me and broadened my horizons just like I hope it has broadened yours.

Yet despite the many dedicated men and women here at the Institute

Wondering Who Created This Year's Youth Town Meeting Artistic Design?



Donald (Donny) L. Kleinhen
WorldLink 2007 Fall Intern

Donald (Donny) Kleinhen is currently a junior at High Tech High Media Arts (HTHMA). As reflected by his school's name, he is a multimedia aficionado. He has developed multiple documentaries, websites, and animation shorts over the years. He has also worked on many posters, flyers, and ads using his skills with graphic designing. This year Kleinhen plans to expand his intellectual horizons by learning engineering at his high school. Kleinhen has been fueled in his goal to become an engineer and website designer by his teachers Effren Villanueva and Feroze Munshi.

As a WorldLink intern, Kleinhen was responsible for creating all of this year's WorldLink images and graphics. Kleinhen, who spent hours designing the Youth Town Meeting's fantastic graphic, was also working on developing a new, interactive WorldLink website. Upon completion of his internship, Kleinhen laid the foundation for the continuation of the forthcoming website.



2008 WorldLink Youth Town Meeting

Briefings

- A *Knowledge. Compassion. Action.*
IPJ Theater
Presenters: Bridget Hahn, Torri Igou, Megan Nangle, Lacey Weil, Roots & Shoots California
Moderators: Cassie Vasquez (OLP) and Thania Herrera (CETYS)
- B *Blaming the media: Why didn't somebody warn us?*
Conf. Room B
Presenter: Ron Bonn, adjunct professor, University of San Diego Communications Studies
Moderator: Daniel Stein (LJCD)
- C *Climate change and ecological sustainability: The outlook for residents of planet earth*
Conf. Room C
Presenter: Jim Cole, senior advisor to the California Institute for Energy and Environment
Moderator: Shane Mitchiner (ORHS)
- D *Organizing and advocating for environmental justice*
Conf. Room D
Presenter: Francisca Orellana and Michel Vasquez, apprentices at Environmental Health Coalition
Moderator: Esteffany Grivel (CETYS)
- E *The case of Santa Teresa: Business leadership for social change*
Conf. Room E
Presenter: Patricia Márquez, visiting professor, USD School of Business Administration
Moderator: Sofie Casillas (ORHS)
- F *Standing in solidarity: A Ghanian's experience of hunger and hope*
Conf. Room F
Presenter: Thomas Awiapo, senior staff member with Catholic Relief Services in Ghana
Moderator: Kimberly Davis (HHS) and Erik Landi (HTHI)
- G *Climate change science: What's credible and how do we know?*
Conf. Room H
Presenter: Lynne Talley, professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UCSD
Moderator: Youssif El-Rakabawy (ORHS)
- H *Globalization and climate change: Challenges to poverty, health, and human rights*
Conf. Room I
Presenter: Robert Hitchcock, chair, Department of Anthropology, Michigan State University
Moderator: Cesar Damian (CETYS)
- I *Sustainability: Living as if the future matters*
Room 214
Presenter: Lisa Shaffer, executive director of the UCSD Environment and Sustainability Initiative
Moderator: Cassie Won (LJCD)
- J *How changing disaster patterns affect the world's poorest*
Room 215
Presenters: Jamieson Davies, director of Emergency Operations at Catholic Relief Services
Moderator: Brianna Castrence (ORHS)
- K *How can we fight corruption?*
Room 217
Presenter: Vicente Valle, U.S. Department of State Representative
Moderator: Brandon Cloud (CSSD)
- L *Climate change and human security*
Room 218
Presenter: Richard Matthew, director of Center for Unconventional Security Affairs, UC Irvine
Moderator: Alix Reicher (OLP)
- M *Kids vs. Global Warming: Empowering the next generation*
Room 219
Presenter: Alec Loorz, founder of Kids vs. Global Warming
Moderator: Annalise Mason (HTHI)
- N *The media: A dam or a reservoir?*
Room 220
Presenter: Kathy Sangha, co-founder of Sun & Moon Vision Productions
Moderator: Felicia Coito (OLP)
- O. *The elephant in the room – business takes on the tough issues*
Room 223
Presenter: Harriet Hentges, independent consultant on sustainability and public-private partnerships
Moderator: Jessica Wilson (LJCD)

Thomas Awiapo was born in northern Ghana and survived childhood hunger by attending a school where meals were served. Today, he is a senior staff member with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Ghana. His work with CRS has included organizing meal programs at village schools, training rural leaders for effective advocacy and governance, and promoting solidarity among communities in Ghana, across Africa and in the U.S. By sharing his story and his insights, Awiapo has addressed and inspired hundreds of school and church communities to get engaged in ending global poverty.

Ron Bonn, adjunct professor in the University of San Diego's Communications Studies Department, is a 40-year veteran television news journalist; he has served as producer and executive producer for CBS News, NBC News, CNN and The Discovery Channel. As senior producer of "The CBS Evening News with Walter Cronkite," he also created "Universe," the first science magazine for television, and was in charge of coverage of the Apollo moon missions. International news assignments include the Vietnam War and the First Gulf War. Among his many honors are three Emmy Awards.

Jim Cole, senior advisor to the California Institute for Energy and Environment (CIEE) has forty years of experience in conducting and managing energy and communications technology research and development (R&D). Since retiring as CIEE Director in 2002, Cole has assisted the California Energy Commission in establishing an electric transmission systems R&D program and most recently managed a real-time electric system operations R&D program focusing on integrating wind and other renewable energy resources and improving the reliability of California's electric system.

Jamieson B. Davies, director of Emergency Operations at Catholic Relief Services, the international relief and development agency of the U.S. Catholic community, supervises a team with a network of emergency technical advisors based in Baltimore and overseas that responds to disasters and helps communities to prepare for potential catastrophes. She has 15 years of international relief and development experience in Africa, Central America and Southeast Asia, including nearly four years leading CRS programs in East Timor as it transitioned to national independence.

Bridget Hahn, 16, a leader in Roots & Shoots California Youth Leadership Council (CAYLC), had her interest in animals and nature sparked by growing up next to the San Diego Wild Animal Park. Planning and implementing service projects in the San Diego area as part of the SAVY Leader program, she is also Escondido High School class president and plays for the volleyball team. Through CAYLC, she hopes to create more ways for youth to make differences in their communities.

Harriet Hentges, independent consultant to business and nonprofit organizations on sustainability and public-private partnerships, previously held a senior position in corporate strategy and sustainability at Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. The former chief operating officer (COO) at the U.S. Institute of Peace, a federal agency specializing in international conflict resolution, was vice president at Sears World Trade, partner in an Angus Seed Stock operation and COO of the League of Women Voters. Her government service includes the U.S. Office of the Special Trade Representative and the U.S. Department of State.

Robert Hitchcock, chair of the Department of Anthropology at Michigan State University, is a development-oriented cultural anthropologist, concentrating on globalization, human rights, environment and resettlement issues in Africa and North America. His work focuses on challenges facing indigenous peoples, refugees, women, children and small farmers over the past 30 years. He works with the San (Bushmen) and other peoples in the Kalahari Desert and is a member of the Panel of Environment Experts of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project of the governments of Lesotho and South Africa.

Torri Igou, 15, has been involved with the Rancho San Diego Roots & Shoots Club for two years. Her group recently built a greenhouse at her school for students to study and record plant life. She has also helped plant, water and monitor Tecati cypress trees. These trees are the only place where the endangered thorn hair-streaked butterfly larvae can pupate. She hopes to one day have a career in medicine.

Alec Loorz, 13, is founder of Kids vs. Global Warming, a youth-inspired and youth-led organization that informs, trains and empowers youth about the issues of global warming in terms that inspire action. On Earth Day 2008, the team will be installing 120 Sea Level Awareness Project (SLAP) poles throughout Ventura, showing where the future sea level will be if nothing is done about global climate change. Loorz gives multimedia presentations about global warming to schools, events and nonprofit organizations. His website is <http://kids-vs-global-warming.com>.

Richard A. Matthew, associate professor of International and Environmental Politics in the Schools of Social Ecology and Social Science at the University of California at Irvine, is the director of the Center for Unconventional Security Affairs. Working closely with the United Nations, numerous nonprofit organizations and a variety of government departments and agencies, he is also senior fellow for security at the International Institute for Sustainable Development and focuses his research on international relations related to transnational security threats including climate change, infectious disease, terrorism and landmines.

Patricia Márquez, professor at Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración's (IESA) Center for Leadership and Organizations in Caracas, Venezuela, is a visiting professor of management at the University of San Diego. She developed the participant-centered learning initiative at IESA and currently coordinates the Social Enterprise Knowledge Network research project, "Market-Based Poverty Reduction in Iberoamerica." Márquez has been a visiting scholar at the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies and Harvard Business School. She teaches corporate social responsibility, social enterprise, organizational behavior and leadership.

Megan Nangle, the program assistant for California Roots & Shoots, a program of The Jane Goodall Institute, has a zeal for changing the world, which is reflected in her work in a free health clinic through AmeriCorps; the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program, where she was part of their field communications; and with the Master Yoga Foundation. She spent two years working in El Salvador teaching English, assisting the local government, working with children and learning about sustainable global living.

Francisca Orellana moved to the U.S. from Chile at age 15. She became involved with many progressive groups in San Diego, including Californians for Justice, Youth Action Network, O.R.G.A.N.I.C. Collective and California Coalition Against Poverty. She joined Environmental Health Coalition's Youth Program as an apprentice, where she focuses in National City's mixed land use issues and has developed an air toxics curriculum for youth. She is currently studying sociology at Southwestern College.

Andrew Revkin has spent nearly a quarter century covering subjects ranging from Hurricane Katrina and the Asian tsunami, to the assault on the Amazon, and from the troubled relationship of science and politics to climate change at the North Pole. He has been reporting on the environment for the New York Times since 1995, a job that has taken him to the Arctic three times in three years. In 2003, he became the first Times reporter to file stories and photos from the sea ice around the Pole. In Dot Earth, a Times blog, Revkin examines efforts to balance human affairs with the planet's limits. Supported in part by a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, Revkin tracks relevant news from suburbia to Siberia, and conducts an interactive exploration of trends and ideas with readers and experts.

Kathy Sangha, co-founder of Sun & Moon Vision Productions, is a film documentarian. Her credits include the "Women Leading the Way to Peace" Documentary Series, produced in collaboration with the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice; the James Cua awarded-documentary "Youth Out Loud!"; and many public advocacy and educational video projects focused on social justice and humanitarian consciousness. Sangha works with youth and underrepresented groups on media production for social change; her awards include Arts & Culture Woman of the Year from the Women's Resource Center.

Lisa Shaffer, Ph.D., executive director of the University of California at San Diego's (UCSD) campus-wide Environment and Sustainability Initiative, is an adjunct professor in the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at UCSD. After 25 years with NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the private sector, focusing on international cooperation in studying the earth from space, she joined the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in 1998, becoming responsible for international relations and program development until assuming her current post in the UCSD Office of Research Affairs.

Lynne Talley, Ph.D., a professor of oceanography at Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD, was one of many lead authors of the report of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was awarded, along with Al Gore, the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. She is a seagoing physical oceanographer, with main interests in ocean circulation and climate change. She is a fellow of the American Geophysical Union, American Meteorological Society and American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Vicente Valle, senior foreign service officer, serves as the U.S. Department of State's diplomat-in-residence at the University of New Mexico. Valle has 27 years in the Foreign Service, most of them spent abroad. He joined the U.S. Foreign Service as an economic officer in 1990, and served as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Brazzaville, Congo in 1997-99. He was detailed to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative from 1998 to 1999, where he was director for Africa. He has also served as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Asmara, Eritrea (2000-2002), deputy director of the Office of Central African Affairs at the U.S. Department of State (2002-2004), and deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (2004-2007). In previous assignments, he has served in Venezuela, France, Indonesia, Mozambique and United Arab Emirates.

Michel Vázquez recently graduated with a B.A. in public administration from San Diego State University. Born in Tijuana, she worked with Casa Familiar in San Ysidro for over a year with resident communities in urban planning. She is an apprentice in the Environmental Health Coalition's Youth Program, where she focuses in Colonia Chilpancingo, Tijuana, developing air toxics curriculum for youth.

Lacey Weil, 15, is an El Cajon, Calif. resident. Before she was accepted into the Roots & Shoots California Youth Leadership Council, Weil was active in the Rancho San Diego Roots & Shoots Club. She has organized a Peace Day for her community, helped conduct a five-year habitat study of endangered trees and built homes for barn owls that were displaced in the 2003 wildfire.

Glorious Journey Photography

BY HAYLEY SHERWOOD
STAFF WRITER



When walking into the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice rotunda on January 24, 2008, you couldn't help but notice the brilliant photography of **Gloria Garrett** displayed on easels in the rotunda of this gorgeous building. Her



photos circled the interior of the space, creating

an inclusive environment that was perfect for welcoming the delegates, journalists, moderators, and speakers to the Eleventh Annual WorldLink Youth Town Meeting.

Garrett, the photographer featured in the exhibit, specializes in showing the beauty and struggle of our world today. In this exhibit her pictures focused mostly on the cultures and wildlife in



Africa. Her photos were of professional quality and possessed an effervescent energy that pulled you in, forcing you to delve deeper and

read the informative blurb that was located at the bottom of every photograph. Although there were many different photos, some of her subjects included an elephant, a tree frog, and a salamander. Besides showcasing "the

wonder of this planet," Garrett's Glorious Journey Photography donates 100% of its proceeds to select non-profit organizations that help to preserve the planet. Her work and gifts fit in perfectly with the theme of this year's Youth Town Meeting, "Untying Global Knots." Garrett has been WorldLink's patron for the past three years.



Attention all High School Students!

Looking for something *interesting* and *exciting* to do this summer? Why not become an intern for **WorldLink** and do your part to connect youth to global affairs?*



Responsibilities include:

- Researching topics for the annual WorldLink Conference
- Gathering materials for the student reader
- Preparing materials for "Forums"
- Participating and assisting in the organization of "Forums" during the Spring, Summer, and Fall semesters
- Reaching out to schools and students to expand the WorldLink program
- Participation in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice special events, panel discussions, and film series
- Updating the WorldLink website

*Required time commitment of 8-10 hours per week

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

No later than Friday, May 23rd, 2008 at 5:00 PM



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Karla Alvarez
WorldLink Program
Coordinator
kalvarez@sandiego.edu



12th Annual Youth Town Meeting On the Brink: Responding to Underlying Causes of Conflict

Gender Inequality
Global Racism and Religious Intolerance
Lack of Economic Development
Xenophobic Nationalism



Friday, January 23, 2009
7:30 AM - 2:00 PM
University of San Diego
<http://peace.sandiego.edu>
kalvarez@sandiego.edu
(619) 260-7509

Topics chosen by high school delegates of the 11th Annual Youth Town Meeting

Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor,

I am Mark Hargrove, a junior at High Tech High International and WorldLink intern at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. Before helping to organize the 11th Annual WorldLink Youth Town Meeting (YTM), I had a vague and general perception of WorldLink's mission. I attended the 9th annual YTM as a freshman moderator. The sheer turnout of interested students impressed me. Their eagerness to learn more and to create change gave me hope because I realized that the minority of globally cognizant students I belonged to was much larger than I had known. Still, I was one of three attendants from my school. This scant number grew to a few dozen who represented HTHI two years later at this year's YTM.

The 11th Annual YTM truly brought out the best in the attending students. I saw students from my school who I would not have expected to be interested in world affairs. I spoke to a few of my friends, who were enthusiastic about starting their own student environmental groups at school. Three different students on three different occasions mentioned that they were intensely interested in interning at the Institute in years to come. In addition, one of these students is in the process of organizing an O Ambassador group, a student interest organization dedicated to mitigating international issues. There were also several more students who became interested in attending more Institute events after participating in the YTM. While it is true that not each of the 700 students who went to the YTM will start a new student group or lower the global climate change back to its normal status, many did, and many will. The YTM has a significant impact on the students who care to take part which then has an impact on the issues that the meeting aims to resolve.

I am proud of the work that WorldLink invests in the annual YTM's and subsequent Youth Forums and of my part in this one. It makes me hopeful that this generation is equipped to face the emerging global difficulties. In my experience with this program, WorldLink remains steadfast in its adherence to its mission, "Connecting youth to global affairs." It connected me and hundred of others who are now ready to make their voices heard and contribute to resolving global issues.

Hopefully and faithfully,
Mark A. Hargrove, WorldLink Intern

"Change"

While many people fear it, the students at the Youth Town Meeting embody the positive transformational power of change. Facing a future with many challenges – from media bias to corruption to global climate change – the YTM delegates exuded confidence in their ability to promote constructive and creative initiatives to foster human security. Conversations in the hallways revealed engaged and informed interactions that are at the heart of the WorldLink program. Seven hundred middle school and high school students from diverse backgrounds burst from the final plenary session with a renewed sense of their own agency as change makers and united in their vision to work together for a better world.

-Laura Taylor, IPJ Program Officer

Dear Readers,

I would like to first say that being the Editor-in-Chief of the Youth Town Meeting newspaper is a great honor. WorldLink has given us youth the opportunity to not only learn about social issues but interact with experts in each area.

I remember attending the Youth Town Meeting last year and leaving with little pieces of the speeches I had attended. Although many might be inspired for a couple of days, I have been inspired to make a change since then. I have learned that it's wise to set small goals and reach for those because ultimately they can evolve into something bigger.

This year's diverse group of speakers proved that anyone can make a change, regardless of your age or where you come from. Also, this year's Youth Town Meeting covered huge controversial issues, and although very different, all were interconnected.

The work I have put into this newspaper is a token of appreciation to both those who have made WorldLink a reality and those who attended and left inspired. I hope that this will reignite the spark that first made you want to make a difference in the world, no matter how small of a change.

Sincerely,
Aileen Pantoja, Editor-in-Chief

Dear Editor,

The WorldLink program once again proved to be a driving force behind the involvement of high school students in current world affairs with its 11th Youth Town Meeting. When I arrived at the Shiley Theater, I was met by the sound of hundreds of students awaiting the opening panel. As I walked through the aisles of seats, I heard my peers discussing not the stereotypical teenage subjects, but their views on the current state of our world. They talked about Al Gore and his campaign to end global warming. They agreed upon the need for an effective HIV/AIDS treatment in Africa. They complained about the misleading media and its inability to provide an unbiased approach to journalism. As the speakers filed up on stage, the audience went quiet. My peers absorbed every word, taking in the advice of the scientists, professors, and even students their own age.

At the end of the day, I had a similar experience as I had that morning, impressed by many new conversations. The students began to plan ways of taking action. I heard people proposing ways to recycle or reduce energy consumption. One of the students I heard earlier suggested writing a letter to the editor of The Union Tribune. Another wanted to start a fundraiser for Africa. On the bus ride home, my teacher had each of the students state one thing they would do to take action. I was amazed by all of the suggestions my classmates had. It was evident to me then that I was among a remarkable group of people that day. Every student that walked through the doors of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice that day was dedicated to instituting change. In today's world, it is hard to find students who are motivated to take a stance on a position or express their ideas on an important political issue. It was an unbelievably reassuring realization that I spent my day with seven hundred of the world's future advocates and activists. My experience with WorldLink will be one I will never forget.

With sincerest hope,
Sarah Levin, The Bishop's School

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Academy of Our Lady of Peace: Virginia Fitzhugh, Gloria Hernandez, Allison Palmer; Bishops School: Ashley Chang, Julie Na, Hannah Ostrow, Francis Parker, Christina Wright; High Tech High International: Donald Kleinhen III; Instituto Mexicoamericano Noroeste: Cecilio Lanz; La Jolla Country Day: Catrina Alvarez, Matt Wong; Lincoln High School: Sakeenah Shabazz, San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts: Monica Elizondo, Stephen Huerta, Gary Gamza, Zulma Monzalvo, Johana Rojas, Kellie Roussos, Katie Valleau, Vanessa Zarate.

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Karla Alvarez, (Program Coordinator), Dee Aker (Program Founder), Paola Alvarez, Scott Anders, Bryson Armstrong, Lisa Anderson, Gladys Bennet, Arielle Bennet, Anne Birkel, Valerie Bratton, Nate Burke, Julia Campagna, Louis Cappella, Alejandro Castro, Pamela Cordes, Wayne Cusick, Mark Dubois, Felipe Espindola, Mark Hargrove, William Headley, Neil Khaner, Donald Kleinhen III, Emi Koch, Diana Kutlow, Erika Lopez, Nubia Macias, Brian Majeski, Athenia Mansour, Idalia Maytorena, Elena McCollim, Joyce Neu, Emiko Noma, Jess Partain, Zainisha Ogwaro, Karen Oropeza, Stephanie Rake, Lily Rodriguez, Bill Smith, Tiffany Sultzer, Nathan Swett, Laura Taylor, Dana Twal and Tom Weismann.

Participating Schools and Youth Organizations

Academy of Our Lady of Peace, AVID in Escondido, The Bishop's School, Charter School of San Diego, Crawford High School, Del Dios Middle School, Francis Parker School, High Tech High International, Hoover High School, Instituto Mexicoamericano Noroeste, John Muir School, La Costa Canyon High School, La Jolla Country Day School, La Jolla High School Model United Nations, Lincoln High School, Mueller Charter Leadership Academy, Otay Ranch High School, Preparatoria Federal Lazaro Cardenas, Preparatoria CETYS Universidad Campus Tijuana, Sierra Vista Schools/GRF, School of Business and Technology Charter School, SD School of Creative & Performing Arts, Sunset High School, Warren Walker Middle School.

Delegate Reactions to the 11th Annual Youth Town Meeting



“My favorite briefing was global warming with Alec Loorz. He went in depth about what causes it.”
- Ivan Deryugin, La Jolla High School



“[It] was very interesting. They listened to us and encouraged us to ask questions.”
- Armando Torres, Arturo Soto and, Ricardo Martinez, CETYS



“WorldLink was the best day of my life. I had tons of fun and I learned a lot about the world.”
-Gary Gamza, San Diego School of Creative and Performing Arts



“This was my first and definitely not my last Youth Town Meeting, I can’t wait ‘till next year.”
-Journalist Catrina Alvarez and speaker Harriet Hentges



“The speaker has had experience with the Media (Ron Bonn). The speakers were very well informed because they’re passionate. [They] were very interactive, asking us question.”
- Cecilia Dominguez and Paulina Velasco, Our Lady of Peace



“WorldLink has given me knowledge about the world and the problems that exist within it. This program is helping solve those problems and I really enjoyed being part of it.”
- Journalist Sakeenah Shabazz and WorldLink Patron Gloria Garrett



“WorldLink was a great motivator for me. I have a whole new insight on this small world of ours, and I now have the inspiration to help change it.”
-Journalist Vanessa Zarate and Editor-In-Chief Aileen Pantoja



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