



Rivers Chronicles

The Newspaper of Rivers International School



A SNEAK PEEK INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

WE ARE UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE KNOW EVERYTHING OR THAT, IF WE DON'T KNOW, WE WILL IN A FEW YEARS. WE BELIEVE THAT SCIENCE WILL PROVIDE AN ANSWER TO EVERYTHING, AND IT WILL ALL MAKE SENSE IN THE END. BUT WE DON'T KNOW THAT. COME TO THINK OF IT, WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.

ON THE NATURE OF
UTOPIA - P.1

UTOPIAN FUTURE

WE'VE GOT A WEBSITE!

Check out our website at riverschronicles.wixsite.com/mysite to find more information on us, our themes, publishing dates and the previous editions.

We care very much for your feedback and opinions on the content, layout or anything else in between! On the website there is a chat box where all the comments go directly to us, or you can go to the 'contact' sub heading and send us an email. We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully you enjoy the website!

Editorial: The Last One

Dominique Wagemaker



Sadly, this will be my very last edition. Next month will be DP2s final exams and then we're free from the pressures of performance. Its with a heavy heart that I leave this newspaper. When I first started it, I have to say, I had a lot of faith but didn't believe it was entirely realistic - but ever since the 23 initial people showed up at the very first meeting its been like a ball rolling with no resisting forces. It's been a very big honor not only to be head but to work alongside such a motivated group who created some of the most creative and unique content for every theme - and always stuck to deadlines, which is unique for people of our ages.

I would have loved to be allowed to continue being head for another few years, but I think a lot of other people are just as worthy for the job as I am. To be able to share the experience that is being head of this newspaper is something I would want to bestow only on the best. So to leave my legacy of the newspaper and hopefully see it prosper into something even more interesting and eye opening next year I chose Aengus Schulte, someone I have absolutely no doubt can do an even more amazing job than I did and will further develop this newspaper:

"Hey everyone! Aengus from DP1 here. As mentioned above, I shall be taking responsibility of the Rivers Chronicle next year, and I really hope to continue Dominique's great work by taking more than a few pages from her book. I have loved the layout and presentation of the newspaper this year, and don't intend to change that anytime soon. One thing I do hope to accomplish is getting your opinions. I want to get out amongst you guys through reporters and interviews, and to see if we can make the school a part of our little creation. But that will have to wait until next year. Until then, toodles!"

Of Course, to end my time here with this team I was inspired by a fellow members theme for a 'Utopian Future' - allowing the creators to explore what the future means to them and how they see the opportunities and possibilities of the future expanding.

With that I'll say my goodbyes and hope everyone enjoys this edition! See you next time in May with Aengus' newly revised very first edition.


Yours,
Dominique Wagemaker
Previous head of the Rivers Chronicles

The top corners of the page are decorated with abstract geometric patterns. On the top left, there is a large circle surrounded by smaller dots and a cluster of lines radiating from a central point. On the top right, there is a similar cluster of lines radiating from a central point, with some lines ending in small circles. The patterns are composed of dark teal and light teal colors.

We've got a website!

RIVERSCHRONICLES.WIXSITE.COM/MYSITE

*On it you can find all of the editions, the
future themes and ideas and a contact
page and chat box for feedback or
questions.*

The bottom corners of the page are decorated with abstract geometric patterns. On the bottom left, there is a cluster of lines radiating from a central point, with some lines ending in small circles. On the bottom right, there is a large circle surrounded by smaller dots and a cluster of lines radiating from a central point. The patterns are composed of dark teal and light teal colors.

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AENGUS SCHULTE

ON THE NATURE OF UTOPIA

One of my favourite quotes is from the sci-fi novel *Dune* written by Frank Herbert. It goes as follows:

"Think you of the fact that a deaf person cannot hear. Then, what deafness may we not all possess? What senses do we lack that we cannot see and cannot hear another world all around us? What is there around us that we cannot know?"

Whilst not quoted by a famed philosopher or politician, I believe that it has a very profound message for our society. We are currently living in an age full of technological innovation and discovery. Many cynical people say that our generation was born too late to explore the world and too early to explore space. I disagree. I think that we are currently living at the beginning of a new epoch of human history, an epoch in which we are developing new ways to improve our lives: from making the access to information easier to eradicating diseases. We have put our collective faith into science, we've used it to fuel these innovations, and we've found the reason and method behind almost every natural phenomenon in the known universe. In short, we have almost run out of things to fix.

And that's the problem. The invisible elephant in the room. We are under the assumption that we know everything or that, if we don't know, we will in a few years. We believe that science will provide an answer to everything, and it will all make sense in the end. But we don't know that. Come to think of it, we don't know anything.

Going back to the quote above, we assume that we have the means to discover anything, even if we have not encountered it yet. To a certain extent, this is true. Using technology and human ingenuity we have not just discovered, but we've understood things our ancestors scarcely believed possible: from the scale of galaxies to the microscopic world of cells.

As of right now, however, we are like our ancestors. We have next to no idea what the future holds for us, or the extent of our knowledge. Look at how far we've come in a thousand years; the most intelligent human in that era didn't have the faintest clue about the process of respiration, or the existence of gravity, or even the shape of the Earth. What might we have discovered in another thousand? Will our descendants look back at us and consider us primitive and ignorant, just as how we consider our ancestors? Probably. Those who came before us claimed that lightning was the result of Zeus' wrath, and the rising sun Ra's daily travel through the Duat. We know better now; or do we? What if we are in fact wrong as well? What if lightning isn't caused by two opposingly-charged particles, but rather by some inexplicable reason that we can't even comprehend?

That's the cost of utopia. The more those who come after us achieve, the more we are remembered as unknowing and uncultured savages.

I'm not a prophet. I can't predict what will happen fifty years from now, let alone a thousand. I can't talk about the future state of politics, or trade, or religion. I most certainly can't say whether we'll be better or worse off than we are now. I sincerely hope that it's the former, but one can never be sure.

What I can do is assure you that it will be very different to what we know now. That's a part of nature; constantly adapt, never remain in one state. Whilst none of us will likely live to see into the far future, we can see what we have now - acknowledge that we live in a universe full of unique possibilities.

Consider that next time you're grumbling about how much waking up early sucks.

Youth for climate

Students for the environment

Helena Voorhuis



On March 14th, 2019, a couple of my fellow school students and I skipped school to catch a train that was headed for Amsterdam. We weren't only going to get out of math class or to visit the Rijksmuseum, but on this specific day, we decided to join thousands of other Dutch students in the student strike for the climate.

Kids all around the Netherlands travelled for hours to show their support for the cause and to demonstrate students concern on this pressing issue, to not only the Dutch government but also the adults that are responsible for the outcome of our elections.

Young kids, teenagers and even grandparents showing their support all walked the streets of Amsterdam displaying cardboard pieces filled with slogans while chanting "CO2 weg er mee" (translates 'to CO2 go away').

Amsterdam was only one of many countries where students went on strike because of political inaction against global warming.

It is estimated that over 2000 cities worldwide were part of this initiative to mitigate Climate change. Around 1.4 million students, which is almost twice the total population of New York, joined this protest.

This huge global protest started because of the actions of one 15 years old girl.



SKOLSTREJK
FÖR
KLIMATET



Greta Thunberg struck by sitting in front of the Riksdag during school hours. She decided to protest her government's inaction against the pressing global warming issue after heat waves and wildfires hit Sweden, her home country.

Personally, her determination to take action and the impact that she seemed to have all around the world showed me a lot. Such as the fact that even though as students we can't vote or change the laws, we can have our voices heard and make a difference for the things we believe in.

The marches and protests organized by students for students was a way for our generation to act to wake up the people in charge.

Climate change and more specifically global warming is mainly the result of human activity. Deforestation, the burning of fossil fuels and the extreme increase in the farming of livestock are just a few examples of how we increase the amount of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases that are released into the atmosphere. Global warming can result in the destruction of ecosystems, rising sea levels (which is troubling as we live in the Netherlands), and harsher weather conditions like more extreme droughts or larger hurricanes and multiple other negative results.

For the generations to come, a more sustainable way of life should be adapted and measures should be taken to reduce the number of greenhouse gases released.

The Boosting Club

The boosting club is about providing **free** and **private** tutoring by and for students right here in our school.



Are you in **MYP 4/5** or in the **DP** and need help with a subject?

Or are you a **DP1** or **DP2** student willing to help fellow students out with a specific subject you're good at?
(It counts as **CAS**)

Get in contact with me:

- at this email; jonah.smans@outlook.com
- ask your teacher to contact me
- walk up to me in school

Include the subject you want help with and make sure to share your **timetable**.

Jonah Smans, the head of the boosting club

REINCARNATION IN BUDDHISM

Therese Steffensen

The thought of rebirth, the concept of receiving a new chance at life, reincarnating as something new such as a newborn baby or even a stone. This concept of life is present in many religions and cultures and would be greatly overwhelming to explain every single one, so instead of summarizing all of them, the focus will be on one; Buddhism. To understand this better, it is essential to know more about Buddhism itself.



What is Buddhism

Buddhism is the fourth largest existing religion with strong beliefs regarding happiness or enlightenment. Practices such as meditation is a very common practice among Buddhists to find awareness, kindness, and wisdom. What makes Buddhism stand out? is that it does not follow a god or a higher being and does not take into account factors such as gender, race, or nationality when it comes to members of this religion. Buddhism has many doctrines; a set of beliefs held and taught by other Buddhists.

The meaning of life in Buddhism

Buddhism has a very interesting view on life. Their view specifically surrounds the idea that nothing is fixed, things are constantly changing, but that change is possible. A defining factor in Buddhism is karma, meaning that your actions will have consequences. But many Buddhist have the goal of finding the one true enlightenment. This will lead to a life of happiness, living fully, and naturally to this enlightenment that they have received, which symbolizes the end of suffering. It's about enjoying what is there.

Reincarnation in Buddhism

Now that you know a little bit more about Buddhism itself, let's focus on the main topic of this article; Reincarnation. However, in Buddhism, it is referred to as rebirth. It is one of the foundational doctrines of Buddhism; the others being karma, nirvana, and moksha. Rebirth in Buddhism is seen as a cycle called samsara and is shown to be dukkha. Dukkha is the concept of suffering and painful mundane life. This cycle can only be broken if the individual has achieved the ultimate insight into life.

But being reborn does not mean you get to live as another human. Depending on how much good and evil karma you received throughout your life, how you will be reborn differs. There are six possibilities or realms, which are Deva (heavenly), Asura (demigod), Manusya (human), Tiryak (animal), Preta (ghost), and Naraka (hell). The ultimate goal is obviously to reach Nirvana but most Buddhists focus on making sure they are reborn in a good realm in their next life. And while this is the most common knowledge taught, many Buddhists find it hard to truly explain what rebirth is and how it occurs. Some early Buddhist scripts say even Buddha had difficulties in explaining it and there are still many theories of what it truly means to be reborn.



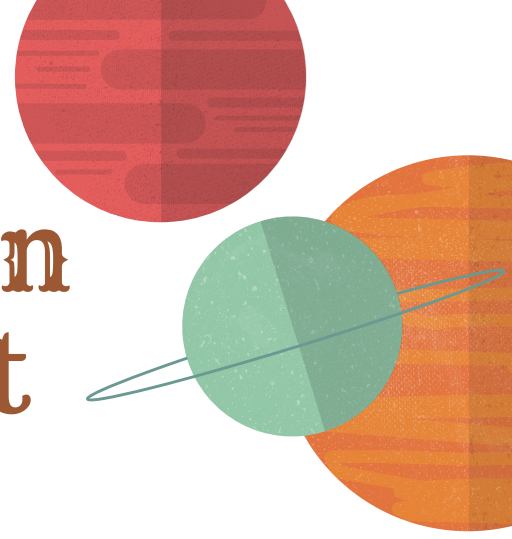
AAVA MÄÄTTÄ

Robot City



EMMA AJAYI

When will human colonization hit Mars?



On July 20th 1969, Neil Armstrong, an American astronaut became the first man to walk on the Moon. It turns out that humanity is taking a further “giant leap” by making attempts to colonize the planet Mars. Mars is the fourth planet counting from the Sun, with a distance equal to 228 million kilometers. Mars also happens to be the second smallest planet in our Solar System with a surface area of ‘only’ 145,000,000 km². It’s referred to as the Red Planet because of the red iron oxide that gives Mars its bold orange-red pigment.

Scientific research shows how similar Earth and Mars are to each other, at least when it comes to geographical landscapes and structures such as volcanoes, canyons, and mountains. The most important similarity is the presence of liquid water on both planets, which was discovered only recently on Mars. These similar characteristics that Mars shares with Earth makes the colonization of Mars possible, especially because of the vital presence of water, needed for human survival. Arguments and discussions concerning the future of Earth and us as people, including our planet’s inability to sustain future generations in terms of resources, has definitely made the colonization of Mars an idea that should be considered.

Investigative explorations regarding the habitability and possibility of sustainment for life of Mars already exist on the Red Planet.

Mars 2020 is a mission organized by NASA set to take place on the 17 of July 2020 meant to research geological processes, history, as well as past life on Mars. The mission will also plan to gather rock and soil samples which can be used to study and gain more knowledge about Mars geographical placement, natural materials, and help humanity with the required technology needed to assist future generations with their Mars expeditions.

@AEDAN_S_



TECH TEAM

EVERY THURSDAY

6TH PERIOD

FLOOR 3

RUN BY

JOHN MANNION

YAY for Earth day

Sarah Stuttaford

As we all know, Earth Day rolls around every year on April 22nd. We promote the protection of our planet and the preservation of our future by observing this day. We are also all aware of the bleak statistics that inhabit the back of our minds. The reduce, reuse, recycle mantra has been instilled in us since the beginning of primary school, and this marvelous solution seems less effective than we may believe. Only about a “fifth of plastic is recycled globally.” The reducing aspect seems like a joke because plastic production has augmented exponentially with “nearly half of all plastic ever manufactured” being produced in “2000”. It seems hopeless because as soon as a solution is created another gargantuan problem arises; however, while four-fifths of plastic are not recycled annually, at least some plastic is and that’s a start.

The aura of pessimism engulfing climate change deters people from taking initiative. They believe their actions are inconsequential compared to the rest of the world. No matter how insignificant the action may seem, it is still progress towards a more beautiful and clean world. You can bike more and even if you only do it once, it’s still improvement. You can use water more efficiently. You can try and conserve how much paper you print. Simple things make a difference. Maybe you don’t care that much about our future, but at least consider the lazy way to keep our planet clean. And if you still aren’t convinced, consider the fate of these animals that won’t be able to make you smile if they’re gone.

- > Just like us, “cows have best friends”
- > The type of monkey “Macaques in Japan use coins to buy vending machine snacks”
- > They also like to make snowballs
- > “Dolphins have names for each other”
- > “Crows can prank one another”
- > Squirrels adopt abandoned baby squirrels
- > “Snails can sleep for three years”
- > Some penguins propose to each other with pebbles
- > “Elephants are the only animals that can’t jump”

Happy Earth Day!

After the Apocalypse

Mirell Leskov

Usually, I find myself wondering to the same exact spot every day. A deserted street between the once magnificent skyscrapers of New York City. I always sit on the hood of the same rusted taxi cab. Moss covers it almost entirely. Only that one spot I occupy daily, slightly reveals the formerly bright yellow color of the vehicle. I cross my legs and rest my hands in my lap.

Looking around me I see greenery and vines drowning out almost every inch of the wide concrete street. Cars that belonged to somebody ages ago are now left sitting on the road never to be used again. The buildings that were offices, stores, company headquarters, apartments, and cafes have been left unattended for the longest time. Their walls are sporting cracks. Most of the previously glimmering glass windows have been destroyed but there are some high up that have remained untouched.

Street lamps are not working anymore but they still stand on both sides of the road like majestic trees. Further down the street lies the entrance to the subway. It has been closed for quite a while now because people who wander in do not come back out anymore.

I look up. There, in the distance, the highest building of the street stands out like a spark of light in the complete darkness. The Chrysler Building. I have always admired its architecture even though it is covered in vines and it is hard to see the details. At this very moment, the few remaining glass windows in its upper floors are glittering in the sunlight.

The sun itself is already starting to descend and twilight is making its entrance. The blue sky behind the tall buildings changes its colors to orange, pink, yellow and purple and the occasional clouds have the same pastel tones to that of the sky.

A flock of birds fly past the towering buildings heading to an unknown destination. Hearing a small noise further down the street I lower my eyes. A lone deer raises its head, startled as if sensing me or some other sudden change in the environment. It only takes a second for the deer to dash between two tall buildings and disappear to an adjacent street. Sometimes I wish I was as free as the animals.

I can feel the darkness slowly approaching and wanting to cover the city in its shadows. I get up off the taxi cab. Dusting off my old jeans I take the crumpled and stained postcard out of my back pocket. Raising it to my eye level I look at the same exact spot I am standing at now.

Same street, same buildings, same time of the day. Only entirely different. Putting my great great great grandmother's heirloom back into my back pocket I start walking back to my house. I make my way through the empty and awfully quiet streets. Hard to believe that this city was once called a city that never sleeps.

THERESE STEFFENSEN

Spring Blues



Rivers Chronicles' Members



Dominique Wagemaker, DP 2
Head of Newspaper



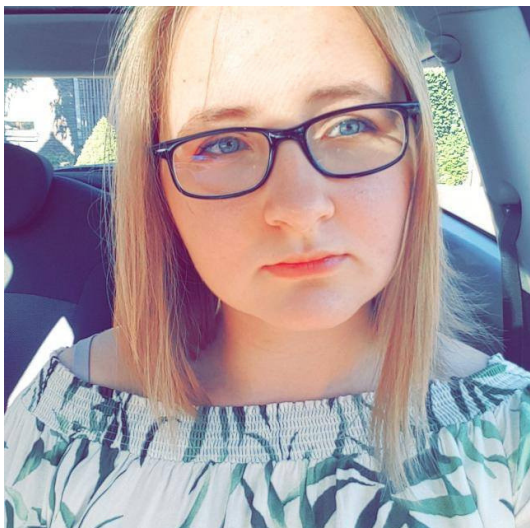
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With Special thanks to:

Sander Hordijk