



МИНИСТЕРСТВО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И НАУКИ РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

ЮЖНО-УРАЛЬСКИЙ ГОСУДАРСТВЕННЫЙ УНИВЕРСИТЕТ

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Society

Vocabulary

average (male/ female) life expectancy
birth/mortality/morbidity rate
breadwinner
corrupt officials
crisis/crunch
crooked officers/policemen
delayed wages
feel financially (in)secure
generation gap
go bankrupt/bust
house maintenance costs
insolvent
knee-deep in the red/heavily (deeply) in debt/run up huge debts
live at a (minimum) subsistence level
living standard/standard of living
material values
rampant corruption
sustainable development
taxes
utility bills
alimony/maintenance/child support
census
census taker
check identity papers and residence permits
child abuse
civil society
disperse a rally
dual citizenship/nationality
dysfunctional family
ethnicity
foster parents
homeless (the)
human rights activist
generate/create new jobs
labor market
minors
nationwide/throughout the country
nepotism/cronyism
organizational snafu(s)
orphan
orphanage
outreach centre
public backlash
problem/ unruly /troubled teenager
pro-choicers /pro-choice activists
pro-lifers
social policy
state-paid worker/employee of a government-financed organization
STDs/sexually transmitted diseases

struggling/problem/precarious neighbourhood
tokenism
tramp/vagrant/bum/bag-lady/transient
unemployment/full employment
violations of human rights/human rights
benefits/subsidies
birth and maternity/child benefit
call for the restitution of benefits
draw/take out an old age/disability/invalidity pension/pension for loss of breadwinner
nursing/retirement/old people's home
retire
social safeguards
social security
developmentally challenged/mentally retarded person
disabled (the) / handicapped
drug abuse
drug addict
nonsighted/unseeing person
optically challenged/visually inconvenienced
orally/vocally challenged
people eligible for social benefits/entitled to benefits
physically incapacitated person
retiree/pensioner
seniors
socially vulnerable groups
substance abuser
underprivileged (the)
demote smb
dismiss/sack/fire
gross/net salary
insurance premiums
make smb redundant
maternity leave
monthly salary
part-time job
part-timer
perks/fringe benefits
piecework
quit (quit/quit)
resign
resignation/ hand in the resignation
seniority
sick leave
work record book
armed forces
bogus medical discharges/certificates
civilian service
compulsory military service
conscription/draft
conscript/draftee
contract soldiers
deferment of military service

defense ministry
desert
dodge the draft
hazing/bullying in the army
inapt for military service
military training
ranks (private; sergeant; lieutenant; major; lieutenant colonel; colonel; general)
recruit/enlist
troops
WMD/weapons of mass destruction

Texts for written translation

Text 1

A sickness of the soul

Russia's demographic outlook is dire—even before it feels the full impact of AIDS

OLGA wants her first baby, just delivered in the Siberian city of Irkutsk, to have two siblings. Whether he will get them depends on whether she and her husband can afford them. Yes, she says, President Vladimir Putin's new plan to boost child support, and pay a lump sum for second babies, might help.

Mr. Putin's aim is to boost Russia's birth rate, which plummeted after the late Soviet period and has stabilised well below replacement level. His ultimate goal is to arrest and reverse Russia's headlong population decline. Despite a large influx of ethnic Russians from elsewhere, the population has fallen by 6m since the Soviet Union collapsed, to 143m. It is falling still, by around 700,000 a year. There may be fewer than 100m Russians left by 2050.

Olga's interest notwithstanding, Mr. Putin's plan is unlikely to halt the slide. That is partly because the trend is an old and accelerating one. Money worries do not entirely explain it: some of the poorest groups in Russia (most of them Muslim) are the most fertile. In a way, wealth is even a contributor: Western lifestyles and expectations have spread into Russia and, by European standards, the birth rate is low but not outlandishly so. Anatoly Vishnevsky, of the Russian Academy of Sciences, points out that, elsewhere, maternity bribes have produced a short-term baby rush but little long-term effect.

But the bigger reason for scepticism is that Russia's truly startling demographic problem is its amazing death rate, which has leapt as fertility has crashed, and is now more than twice western Europe's. Most of the leap is accounted for by working-age men. At less than 59, male life expectancy has collapsed in a way otherwise found only in sub-Saharan Africa. It is around five years lower than it was 40 years ago, and 13 years lower than that of Russian women—one of the biggest gaps in the world. Male life expectancy in Irkutsk (not the country's lowest) is just 53.

Russia leads the world, in fact, in a staggering range of scourges and vices. Nicholas Eberstadt, of the American Enterprise Institute, speculates that the heart-disease rate may be the highest anywhere, ever. Russians' propensity to die violently is probably unprecedented in industrialised societies at peace. The suicide rate is more than five times Britain's. With fewer cars, Russians are four times more likely to die in traffic accidents than Britons. Murder is 20 times more common than in Western Europe. And so on.

There is an obvious culprit: booze, especially the Russian taste for strong spirits, sometimes not fit for human consumption and often moonshine. Heart disease and violence, the two biggest factors in the mortality surge, are strongly alcohol-related. Alcohol poisoning itself killed 36,000 Russians last year; in America, it kills a few hundred. Mikhail Gorbachev's efforts in the late 1980s to rein in alcohol consumption briefly improved life expectancy. In Irkutsk Igor Bolugin runs a club for children of alcoholics, sometimes taking them to Lake Baikal. Many are

themselves drinkers from around 13; in the villages, says Mr. Bolugin, the drinking starts much younger.

But the obvious culprit is only part of a complicated, self-destructive syndrome. Other factors include smoking (among the highest rates in the world), pollution, including radioactivity, and a grim and corrupt health system. Alcoholism itself is a symptom. Some see the stress and inequality brought on by the Soviet Union's fall as the cause. But a wanton disregard for their own lives set in among Russian men long before that, and has persisted even as the economy has turned round. Sergei Voronov, deputy governor of Irkutsk, blames the local gene pool, derived largely from Soviet-era prisoners.

Whatever its causes, and shocking though it already is, Russia's national sickness is now likely to worsen, because of AIDS. Since the disease arrived so late, the Russians ought to have been ready. Instead, out of prudishness, intolerance and Soviet-style pig-headedness, the response was criminally lackadaisical. This year the federal AIDS budget is around 3.3 billion rubles (\$124m) with extra funding coming from abroad: it was a big increase, but it is piffling by international standards. (*The Economist*)

Text 2

Вопросы народонаселения

Вопросы народонаселения занимают одно из высших мест на шкале приоритетов Правительства Российской Федерации, поскольку в последние годы демографическая ситуация в нашей стране может быть охарактеризована как кризисная. Ее основными чертами являются: ухудшение здоровья и беспрецедентный рост смертности населения, особенно для трудоспособного возраста, стремительное снижение рождаемости, сохранение тенденции к уменьшению ожидаемой продолжительности жизни, особенно у мужчин, высокая младенческая смертность, рост заболеваемости на фоне увеличения масштабов вынужденной миграции, старения и абсолютного сокращения численности населения.

Демографический кризис порожден рядом факторов, к которым наряду с общемировыми долговременными тенденциями снижения рождаемости можно отнести и специфические для России тенденции роста смертности и сокращения продолжительности жизни. Непосредственное влияние на процессы развития народонаселения оказывает социально-экономическая ситуация в стране.

На сегодняшний день Россия переступила черту, за которой начинается депопуляция населения. Естественная убыль как главный показатель демографического неблагополучия сложилась в целом по стране с конца 1990 года.

Что касается причин смертности, то опыт России подтверждает вывод об общем сдвиге соотношения причин смерти от инфекционных заболеваний в сторону неинфекционных хронических и приобретенных болезней, среди которых преобладают сердечно-сосудистые заболевания и злокачественные новообразования.

В последние годы смертность от несчастных случаев, отравлений и травм среди населения трудоспособного возраста, прежде всего мужчин, впервые превысила смертность от рака и является одной из негативных черт современной демографической ситуации в России.

Не последнюю роль играет в развитии ситуации поведенческий фактор, в свою очередь зависящий от политики по пропаганде здорового образа жизни.

Некоторые позитивные сдвиги в 1995-96 гг. пока общей тенденции не изменили. Особенно выросла и стала одной из самых высоких в мире мужская смертность. На высоком уровне продолжают оставаться детская и материнская смертность.

Начиная с 1995 г. также проявляются признаки увеличения продолжительности жизни: у мужчин и у женщин она постепенно выростала, составляя у мужчин — 59,8 года, а у женщин — 72,5 года. Начали просматриваться обнадеживающие тенденции снижения младенческой смертности.

Важнейшей задачей в этой связи становится выяснение истинной и достоверной информации в сфере народонаселения. Важнейшим источником такой информации остается перепись населения, так как без достоверных статистических данных и индикаторов невозможно формировать адекватную политику в области народонаселения.

Text 3

FACTORS OF POVERTY

by Phil Bartle, PhD

Poverty as a social problem is a deeply embedded wound that permeates every dimension of culture and society. It includes sustained low levels of income for members of a community. It includes a lack of access to services like education, markets, health care, lack of decision making ability, and lack of communal facilities like water, sanitation, roads, transportation, and communications. Furthermore, it is a "poverty of spirit," that allows members of that community to believe in and share despair, hopelessness, apathy, and timidity. Poverty, especially the factors that contribute to it, is a social problem, and its solution is social.

The simple transfer of funds, even if it is to the victims of poverty, will not eradicate or reduce poverty. It will merely alleviate the symptoms of poverty in the short run. It is not a durable solution. Poverty as a social problem calls for a social solution. That solution is the clear, conscious and deliberate removal of the big five factors of poverty.

Poverty on a world scale has many historical causes: colonialism, slavery, war and conquest. It is well known that many nations of Europe, faced by devastating wars, such as World Wars I and II, were reduced to bare poverty, where people were reduced to living on handouts and charity, barely surviving. Within decades they had brought themselves up in terms of real domestic income, to become thriving and influential modern nations of prosperous people. We know also that many other nations have remained among the least developed of the planet, even though billions of dollars of so-called "aid" money was spent on them. Why? Because the factors of poverty were not attacked, only the symptoms. At the macro or national level, a low GDP (gross domestic product) is not the poverty itself; it is the symptom of poverty, as a social problem.

The factors of poverty: ignorance, disease, apathy, dishonesty and dependency, are to be seen simply as conditions. No moral judgement is intended. They are not good or bad, they just are. If it is the decision of a group of people, as in a society or in a community, to reduce and remove poverty, they will have to, without value judgement, observe and identify these factors, and take action to remove them as the way to eradicate poverty.

The big five, in turn, contribute to secondary factors such as lack of markets, poor infrastructure, poor leadership, bad governance, under-employment, lack of skills, absenteeism, lack of capital, and others. Each of these are social problems, each of them are caused by one or more of the big five, and each of them contribute to the perpetuation of poverty, and their eradication is necessary for the removal of poverty.

Text 4

Marry your like

In "Mad men", a series about the advertising industry in the 1960s, women are underpaid, sexually harassed and left with the kids while their husbands drunkenly philander. Sexual equality was a distant dream in those days. But when Don Draper, the show's star, dumps the brainy consultant he has been dating and marries his secretary, he strikes a blow for equality of household income.

Nowadays, successful men are more likely to marry successful women. This is a good thing. It reflects the fact that there are more high-flying women. Male doctors in the 1960s married nurses because there were few female doctors. Now there are plenty. Yet assortative mating (the tendency of similar people to marry each other) aggravates inequality between

households—two married lawyers are much richer than a single mother who stacks shelves. A new study of hundreds of thousands of couples investigates the link.

The wage gap between highly and barely educated workers has grown, but that could in theory have been offset by the fact that more women now go to college and get good jobs. Had spouses chosen each other at random, many well-paid women would have married ill-paid men and vice versa. Workers would have become more unequal, but households would not. With such “random” matching, the authors estimate that the Gini co-efficient, which is zero at total equality and one at total inequality, would have remained roughly unchanged, at 0.33 in 1960 and 0.34 in 2005.

But in reality the highly educated increasingly married each other. In 1960 25% of men with university degrees married women with degrees; in 2005, 48% did. As a result, the Gini rose from 0.34 in 1960 to 0.43 in 2005.

Assortative mating is hardly mysterious. People with similar education tend to work in similar places and often find each other attractive. On top of this, the economic incentive to marry your peers has increased. A woman with a graduate degree whose husband dropped out of high school in 1960 could still enjoy household income 40% above the national average; by 2005, such a couple would earn 8% below it. In 1960 a household composed of two people with graduate degrees earned 76% above the average; by 2005, they earned 119% more. Women have far more choices than before, and that is one reason why inequality will be hard to reverse.

Text 5

По данным опроса

В июле Аналитический центр Юрия Левады поинтересовался у россиян: «Что в настоящее время больше всего осложняет жизнь вашей семьи?» В репрезентативном опросе приняли участие 2108 жителей различных регионов нашей страны. Выяснилось, что больше всего граждане обеспокоены низкими зарплатами и нехваткой денег. Эта проблема занимает умы 69 % опрошенных. В 1994 году она также стояла на первом месте: тогда недостаток средств волновал 68 % респондентов.

Значительно меньше заботят жителей России трудности с лечением и плохое здоровье. Главными эти неприятности назвал лишь каждый третий. Правда, по сравнению с 1994 годом цифра увеличилась на 2 %. Так же, как и десять лет назад, пятую часть опрошенных больше всего «напрягают» бытовые трудности, 17 % не могут побороть усталость и переутомление, а 15 % категорически не устраивает плохое жилье. Зато в будущее россияне стали смотреть с большим оптимизмом. Если в 1994 году безысходность и отсутствие перспектив в жизни были самыми большими проблемами для 22 % человек, то теперь мир в черном свете видят лишь 14 % опрошенных.

Почти в два раза, по сравнению с прошлым десятилетием, у людей снизился страх потерять работу. В своих опасениях остаться без места статистикам признались 13 % респондентов, в то время как в 1994-м призрак безработицы не давал спокойно спать четверти россиян. Характерно, что при этом народ стал чуть меньше жаловаться на недостаток свободного времени. Десять лет назад его отсутствие было основной сложностью в жизни 11 % человек, нынче ощущает нехватку часов досуга каждый десятый. А вот не верящих в возможность дать своим детям хорошее образование стало чуть больше: не 9 %, а 10 % опрошенных.

Удивило специалистов, что снизилось количество тех, кого волнуют пьянство и наркомания кого-либо из членов семьи. В 1994 году эта беда заботила 6 %, а теперь лишь 2 % респондентов. Впрочем, статистики уверены: данный показатель снизился не из-за того, что проблема потеряла свою актуальность, просто ее «слегка потеснили другие бытовые и материальные трудности». («Независимая Газета»)

Text 6

Silent Violence (summary translation)

You may not have seen the bruises, but someone you know has been hit by a man. So, why won't she tell?

Think of a domestic violence victim and you probably picture a softly spoken, shrinking violet, someone who can't stand up for herself and who hides away at home. You don't picture a woman who sits opposite you at work and cracks you up with her silly jokes, or the man-magnet you hit the pub with on a Friday night, or your best friend.

But the fact is, a quarter of women will experience domestic violence at some time in their lives. If you have ten friends, the chances are at least two of them could be the victims of abuse in their lifetime and might even be suffering now.

Shocking research states we are all just two people away from a woman in the grip of domestic violence – in other words, one of your friends, or one of your friend's friends, will suffer.

Model and actress Lisa B, 35, knows this all too well. Two of her friends have been involved with violent men. "The first time, Marie started dating a man who I'd heard had hit his ex-girlfriend", she recalls. "I didn't quite believe it. He always seemed a complete gentleman – very educated, very charming. I know you can't typecast abusers but it seemed so unlikely, so I put it down to Chinese whispers".

Initially her friend appeared to be happy. But when he took her away for a romantic weekend, things changed. "He knocked her about in their hotel room", says Lisa. "Then he left some money on the bedside table as if that would make up for it. I guess he thought she would go shopping and everything would be fine. His reaction – like it was perfectly acceptable behaviour – freaked her out and she ended the relationship".

Lisa's second friend, however, was in deeper than that. Jane stayed with her violent partner for years. "I would say, come and move into my place, but she wouldn't leave him", Lisa recalls. "Once he stabbed her in the arm and locked her in the house – it was terrible. I'd be a shoulder to cry on and then it was as if nothing had happened. After all the support and the charged emotion I felt like I wasn't getting anywhere and even ended up thinking 'What's the point?' But then I always worried that one time it could be fatal and I would regret it forever if I wasn't there to give support".

As the statistics show, the chances are we too could end up in this position. "Whether we realize it or not, we will all know a woman who has been abused in some way", says Sandra Horley, Chief Executive of Refuge. "Domestic violence knows no boundaries. It's experienced by women from all walks of life, and their abuser could be anyone, from a traffic warden to a lawyer." And they are even harder to spot than the women they victimize. "Abusers tend to be charismatic but switch readily from charm to rage. They are jealous and possessive and systematically isolate their partners, cutting them off from family and friends. They are also highly manipulative and brainwash women into thinking they are worthless and that the abuse is their fault."

It's a dilemma for any friend – watching a woman they care about lose self-esteem. Not knowing what to do. When you finally realize what's going on, the natural reaction is to say, "He's a bastard, leave him". But according to Refuge this can have a reverse effect and drive the friend away from you and towards a man who is trying to destroy her.

"She has to make her own decisions at her own pace. On average, it takes seven attempts for a woman to leave before she does so permanently", says Horley. "Be patient, listen and don't judge her for going back". So although you can help your friend recognize that her relationship isn't healthy, and gently encourage her to do something about it, she has to make the decision to leave. Don't give up on her, however frustrated and mystified you are about why she stays with her abuser.

Caroline Skerry says she found it hard to understand how her husband's sister, and her close friend, Jill Bluestone, coped with her violent husband, Karl. Jill suffered years of abuse,

until Karl, a policeman, bludgeoned her to death in August 2001, and killed two of their four children before hanging himself.

Jill, who was 31, was a successful, high-flying council manager. Caroline first found out what was going on when Jill confided that Karl had punched her in the stomach while she was pregnant – so hard that she spent the night at hospital. “I was surprised that Jill would go back to a man who’d done that, but she was such a dynamic woman that I respected her judgment. It almost didn’t seem serious because of the way she handled it. One minute she’d be telling me about the abuse, the next about how they were buying a new car, as if everything was fine. It was difficult to comprehend.”

But in 2001 Jill had finally decided she’d had enough. “She’d told Karl she wanted to separate and was trying to keep him happy while she planned a new life”, said Caroline, who used to get long calls from Jill every Friday night on the way home from work, admitting what was happening. “She’d started to see someone else which gave her hope. A month before she died she told me Karl had strangled her until she passed out. She was her usual calm self, wearing high-necked tops to cover her injuries”.

By this point Caroline was really scared for her friend. “I urged to her to leave as soon as she could. I called her back three or four times that night. Each time after I hung up, the seriousness of what she’d told me sank in more. “You can’t survive any worse than this”, I told her. She assured me she would be leaving and had it all under control.

Two days later, Jill was dead. “For a long time I felt that I should have been able to save Jill. She didn’t look like a victim. She wasn’t downtrodden, crying and scared. Now I know that anyone can be affected by domestic violence”. Caroline coped with her helpless feeling in the only way she could think of – she started working with Refuge and became a trustee of North Tees Women’s Aid to try and help others start a new life – a chance Jill didn’t have.

Domestic violence kills more 19 to 44 year-old women worldwide than anything else – including war, cancer and traffic accidents. In the UK alone, around 100 women are killed by their partners each year. Young women aged 15 to 24 have the highest risk of being killed by their partners or boyfriends. You could know one of them.

Kimberley Workman, 22, used to think it was only something that happened to older, married women – until her friend was affected. Kimberley, a student from Sunderland, and her friend Fiona were just 15 when Fiona started seeing Dan, 18. Older, with a job, he seemed a great catch. Her friends were impressed. Then, one day Kimberley noticed a cut under Fiona’s eye. “She was trying to hide it behind her hair and when I asked her about it she wouldn’t say what had happened”. Later, Fiona admitted that Dan had punched her in the face. It hadn’t been the only time. “Back then, I thought of domestic violence as wife-beating”, says Kimberley. “I never imagined it would affect friends my age”. There was psychological abuse, too. “He told Fiona that we – her friends – didn’t really like her and he got angry when she wanted to go out without him”, says Kimberley.

She and other friends urged Fiona to stop seeing Dan, which she did after a few months. But Dan threatened to slit her throat. Eventually, one evening, after he had dragged her down an alleyway, Fiona confided in her parents who immediately called the police. A court-ordered injunction was put in place to stop him from coming near her. Kimberley and her friends continued to watch out for Fiona and give her their loyal support.

According to Horley, it takes a great deal of courage to admit that your partner is abusing you, let alone finding the strength to leave. “It can’t feel very shameful”, she says. “Most abused women deny it because if they admit what’s going on in their relationship, they have to do something about it. So many women hide domestic violence from even their closest friends and family.” The abuser thrives on this secrecy, and if you suspect your friend is a victim of domestic violence, you can help by bringing up the subject with her. If you are really worried about damaging your friendship, asking general questions like “You don’t look very happy – is everything OK at home?” will give her a chance to confide in you.

“You might be saving a life by saying something”, says Horley. “Even if it means you lose contact with that friend temporarily, she will come back to you. It may make you feel helpless, frustrated, even angry, but just being open and honest could help a friend see a way out”. (*Elle magazine, UK*)

Text 7

Вопрос о положении женщин

С одной стороны, экономические преобразования в странах с переходной экономикой открыли перед женщинами новые горизонты, дали возможность по-новому реализовать себя, а с другой - солидные издержки рыночных реформ больше всего сказываются именно на женщинах: усиливается феминизация бедности, растет женская безработица, ухудшается здоровье женщины. Нас беспокоят негативные демографические процессы: снижение рождаемости, низкие показатели ожидаемой продолжительности жизни, высокие цифры смертности населения, особенно в трудоспособном возрасте, негативные тенденции в репродуктивном здоровье. Снижился уровень занятости женщин, среди безработных 60% составляют женщины. Говоря о нравственном состоянии общества, следует отметить факты жестокого обращения в семье и насилия в отношении женщин.

Проблемы безработицы, проблемы положения женщин и многие другие общественные вопросы носят глобальный характер. Массовая хроническая безработица бьет и по тем, кто смог найти работу. Ведь угроза быть выброшенным за ворота вынуждает их мириться с произволом предпринимателей. Так, по данным МОТ, предприниматели, как правило, платят молодым работникам 40-50% от зарплаты взрослых за аналогичную работу.

Незанятость значительной части молодого поколения является первопричиной многих социальных зол. Лишенные возможности трудиться, молодые люди начинают ощущать свою отчужденность, ненужность обществу. А это, в конечном итоге, ведет к росту наркомании, преступности, проституции.

Конкретным результатом работы в части улучшения положения женщин стали предпринимаемые меры по обеспечению занятости женщин. Принято генеральное трехстороннее соглашение между правительством, работодателями и профсоюзами, программа поддержки и развития малого предпринимательства. Проводится опережающее обучение работников, находящихся под угрозой увольнения, осуществляется социальная адаптация безработных. Организована профессиональная переподготовка безработных женщин, оказывается содействие в трудоустройстве оканчивающим высшие учебные заведения. Социальная помощь переходит на строгую адресность.

Text 8

Aids is back on message

God bless Thabo Mbeki. It is not often that sheer bloody-mindedness on the part of a politician becomes a force for good. Thanks to the South African president airing his irrational doubt that HIV causes Aids earlier this year, the world has again taken some notice of the appalling progress of this disease.

Aids is orphaning children in unprecedented numbers, wrecking lives and unpicking the development gains of the continent. But in the mud clouds stirred by the Mbeki controversy, it was hard to see clearly where we were with Aids, let alone the road ahead. Now before Aids slips once more into the background as just another of those disasters that are impossible to grasp and don't really affect us in Britain anyway, it is time for some clear and strategic thinking.

Fallacy number one is that it doesn't affect the UK. Most Britons don't notice it in their daily lives. There are no more iceberg advertisements on prime-time TV. Yet the number of HIV infections is soaring in the UK. Last year 3,300 people tested positive for the virus. That is more

than double the average rate of diagnosis in the 1990s. Within five years it is expected that 45000 people in Britain will be HIV positive – half as many again as have the virus now. They won't die within ten years, which is the fate of impoverished African, but there is no cure. They will be condemned to a life preserving cocktail of powerful drugs, which are at some unpredictable point the virus may mutate to overcome. Aids is held at bay in rich countries – but that is all.

Although the West's plight is nothing when set beside the disaster in sub-Saharan Africa, it is important to remember that the virus lurks and spreads there, just as it does in Zambia or Malawi. This sickness is a disaster for every human being on the planet. The global statistics are frightening. About 3m people died of Aids this year, according to UN-Aids figures last week, of whom 500000 were children.

The numbers incubating HIV who will probably die of Aids are far, far larger. There are 36m people living with HIV, of whom 1,4m are children. In some parts of the world new infections are rising almost off the scale. UN-Aids talks of "exponential growth" in the Russian Federation, where 50000 new infections have been reported in the first nine months of the year. There were only 29000 registered in the previous 12 years. This massive rise is caused not by heterosexual sex, nor by gay sex, but by intravenous drug use, and the real figures are very much higher even than this, because only the minority of such cases will be reported. Throughout Eastern Europe and the former Soviet bloc the picture is the same. In the debris left by political and social upheaval, an epidemic of drug abuse and commercial sex has acted as a fast breeder of HIV. At the end of last year there were 420000 cases in the region. Now the conservative estimate runs at 700000.

In sub-Saharan Africa, where 25,3m men, women and children are effectively under sentence of death with HIV, there is for the first time a glimmer of light. The number of new infections dropped slightly this year to 3,8m from 4m last year. Prevention programmes like Uganda's may be part of the answer, but it is also true, that so many are now infected, that there are smaller and smaller pool of sexually active people to whom the virus can be transmitted.

There is new fear for Asia. Huge populations are at risk. Unicef, the UN's children's fund, fears Asia could eclipse Africa if more is not done to stop the virus spreading. In India the numbers are thought to be underreported in a political climate of denial that unsafe and promiscuous sex is rife. China is now seeing a steep rise in sexually transmitted infections, which usually brings HIV infection in their wake.

So much fear and horror can paralyse the best of us. No effort to tackle Aids will be big enough. The WHO has launched an impossibly heroic all-out drive to slash the numbers of people with HIV and those who die with malaria and TB. It is a call to arms and a call to the wallets of the donor nations, but they are setting targets so daunting that they are scarcely credible. Money is certainly needed in unprecedented sums. But the wrangling over what should be done with it doesn't encourage donors. While UN agencies have prevention at the top of their agenda, many of the Aids agencies are calling for treatment. They say that antiretroviral drugs available in the rich countries must be made available for the poor countries at prices they can afford.

War has been declared on the pharmaceutical companies. Organisations such as Medicins sans Frontieres have got Aids drugs for the developing world on to the agenda. In May five of the biggest drug companies told the Wall Street Journal that they would slash their prices for poor countries that wished to negotiate the discount. But only Senegal has done so.

Even at the discount these drugs, which cost \$10000 a year in the developed world, are beyond the reach of countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Some countries such as Brazil make generic versions, but they are not cheap enough, and countries that might buy them are afraid of falling foul of international patent law or incurring the wrath of the US.

It is shameful that the oldest drug, AZT, which was patented in 1987, should not now be given to the developing world. One really positive step forward has been nevirapine, which is to be made freely available to prevent mothers transmitting HIV to their babies. But drugs are never

an answer on their own. There must be much money for doctors, nurses and clinics to hand out the drugs and to advise and monitor people taking them. Wrong use means the virus will become immune to them.

Yes, we need the drugs and the clinics, but we have more hope of having them if the renewed concern about HIV/Aids can be sustained. Everyone on the planet needs to remember that sex can deliver HIV/Aids just as easily as it can make a woman pregnant. It is a fact of life, and countries where it is denied, hidden or where women are not given the moral authority to refuse unprotected sex are contributing to a massacre. The one hope on the horizon is a vaccine, but that may be a decade of deaths away. Until then we all must share a huge problem.

Text 9

ВИЧ

ВИЧ - это сокращение, означающее вирус иммунодефицита человека. Наличие ВИЧ в организме называется ВИЧ-инфекция. Этот вирус был открыт в 1983 году. Вирусы могут существовать только в организме, так как они размножаются внутри живых клеток. Часто люди путают понятия ВИЧ и СПИД, считая их синонимами, хотя это совсем не так. СПИД - синдром приобретенного иммунодефицита - это лишь одна из стадий ВИЧ-инфекции, до того, как она появится у человека с ВИЧ, может пройти много лет. Другими словами, у человека может быть ВИЧ, но не быть СПИДа. Пока не существует кардинальных методов, которые позволили бы полностью избавить человека от ВИЧ-инфекции. Возможно, когда-нибудь такое лечение появится, ведь наука в области ВИЧ не стоит на месте, а постоянно развивается. Но уже сейчас человек с ВИЧ может сделать все возможное, чтобы оставаться здоровым и не дать вирусу контролировать состояние организма. Для этого в распоряжении есть: здоровый образ жизни, медикаментозное лечение и альтернативные методики оздоровления. Даже если у человека есть ВИЧ, это не значит, что срок его жизни "отмерен". ВИЧ-инфекция - это серьезное и потенциально опасное для жизни хроническое заболевание, но с ним можно жить многие годы, и только от самого человека зависит, насколько полноценной и насыщенной будет его жизнь.

История СПИДа в нашей стране отличается тем, что эпидемия все время застает нас врасплох, как зимние холода или авария на АЭС. Вначале считали, что вирусу не пройти сквозь железный занавес. Когда с 1987 г. начали появляться случаи ВИЧ-инфекции среди наших соотечественников, у многих все еще была надежда, что пострадают лишь несколько десятков "гомосексуалистов, наркоманов, людей с беспорядочными половыми связями", а основную часть "добропорядочного" населения ВИЧ-инфекция не затронет. Тогда же сложилась философия борьбы со СПИДом, основанная на том, чтобы выявить всех людей с ВИЧ-инфекцией, поставить на учет и, если уж их нельзя полностью физически изолировать (звучали и такие предложения), то хотя бы изолировать частично, запретив лечиться где-либо, кроме СПИД-центров, и пригрозив уголовной статьей за "постановку половых партнеров в опасность заражения." Такую реакцию можно понять. Проблема СПИДа настолько необъятна, неуправляема и не решаема на нашем современном уровне сознания, что первым ответом на СПИД не только у нас в стране, но и во всем мире было нежелание признавать, что он существует. За этим последовали и до сих пор продолжают попытки запретить что-то передающее СПИД (наркоманию, проституцию), закрыть границы, чтобы люди с ВИЧ не перемещались свободно по всему миру.

По утверждению Объединенной Программы ООН по СПИДу, "самый резкий рост ВИЧ-инфекции в 1999 году был зарегистрирован на территории новых независимых государств бывшего Советского Союза: только за период с конца 1997 до конца 1999 количество людей, живущих с ВИЧ на данной территории, увеличилось в два раза". На смену расхожим представлениям о том, что проблема СПИДа неактуальна для России, пришло убеждение, что ВИЧ-инфекция "бывает только у наркоманов. Эпидемия тем временем стала приобретать новый характер. В 2001 году России зарегистрировано 88 120

новых случаев ВИЧ-инфекции, что в полтора раза больше, чем за предыдущий год. В 2002 году по официальной статистике, зарегистрировано более 200 тысяч ВИЧ-положительных, реально число это достигает 1 миллиона. Стремительно увеличивается количество случаев половой передачи ВИЧ. В 2000 году случаи заражения гетеросексуальным путем составили 6% от общего числа случаев ВИЧ-инфекции, в 2001 году - уже 15%. По данным ООН, темпы эпидемии в России одни из самых высоких в мире. Очевидно, что игнорировать проблему дольше невозможно.

Text 10

The Second Stage

The first stage of the women's movement, says Friedan, was fought against the "old structure of the unequal polarized male and female sex roles." In their struggle for equality, however, some militant feminists went too far and also rejected the family itself. In the second stage, Friedan believes that women should fight for a restructuring of our institutions so those women can be truly free to choose their roles - including the important choice of having children.

The women's movement is being blamed, above all, for the destruction of the family. Churchmen and sociologists proclaim that the American family, as it has always been defined, is becoming an "endangered species" with the rising divorce rate and the enormous increase in single-parent families and people - especially women - living alone. Women's abdication of their age-old responsibility for the family is also being blamed for the apathy and moral delinquency of the "me generation".

Can we keep on shrugging all this off as enemy propaganda - "their problem, not ours?" I think we must at least admit and begin openly to discuss feminist denial of the importance of family, of women's own needs to give and get love and nurture, tender loving care.

What worries me today are the agonizing conflicts young and not-so-young women are facing - or denying - as they come up against the biological clock, at thirty-five, thirty-six, thirty-nine, forty, and cannot "choose" to have a child. I fought for the right to choose, and will continue to defend that right, against reactionary forces who have already taken it away for poor women now denied Medicaid for abortion, and would take it away for all women with a constitutional amendment. But I think we must begin to discuss, in new terms, the choice to have children.

What worries me today is "choices" women have supposedly won, which are not real. How can a woman freely "choose" to have a child when her paycheck is needed for the rent or mortgage, when her job isn't geared to taking care of a child, when there is no national policy for parental leave, and no assurance that her job will be waiting for her if she takes off to have a child?

What worries me today is that despite the fact that more than 45 per cent of the mothers of children under six are now working because of economic necessity due to inflation, compared with only 10 per cent in 1960; no major national effort is being made for child-care services by government, business, labor, Democratic or Republican parties - or by the women's movement itself.

Texts for sight translation

Text 1

Russia facing difficult social problems

Russia's sharply declining population is building to a demographic crisis that is in marked contrast to the country's macroeconomic progress.

Russia's population is aging, just as populations are all across Europe. The difference in Russia is that life expectancy is also declining. But an even more disturbing trend emerges as one looks deeper into the statistics.

Russia's breadwinners are dying. They are dying from alcohol poisoning. "Every year in Russia, about 40,000 people die from alcohol poisoning alone," said the Russian President in a

speech on April 25, 2005. Breadwinners-young men-are dying from traffic accidents. They are dying from poor healthcare where access to hospitals under the corrupt and inadequate health system depends on bribing doctors and nurses.

In addition, the suicide rate in the Russian Federation has increased 50 percent since the 1990s. The AIDS epidemic in Russia is the worst in Europe, and every year there are 120,000 new cases of tuberculosis.

According to the Population Reference Bureau the life expectancy of males in Russia is 59 years. The average male life expectancy in Eastern Europe is 63 years. The average male life expectancy in all of Europe is 71 years.

Among the economic consequences of this demographic crisis detailed by the World Bank are: fewer workers, the destabilization of families, social and political challenges due to regional disparities, and national security risks.

Text 2

When people live as close together as they do in urban settlements, some social problems will eventually occur. Differences between social classes and pressure from the environment may cause social disorder. People often get problems when they feel that they are socially incompetent or that they have failed to realize their dreams, when they feel isolated or just happen to know the wrong people. For instance, social problems occur when people are drawn into the swamp of drugs. Moreover poverty is a significant cause of crime, hopelessness and feelings of hatred towards the wealthy people in the city.

Cultural diversity and differences within the social classes in urban societies may cause disorder among people. Poverty for instance, feeds hostility towards political authority and those better off and is one of the reasons why young people commit crimes and why many poor people are addicted to drugs. As a result of, for instance, the pressure to have a career among the rich, or gang fights among the poor, individuals may experience personal disorder and social deviation. In the lower classes rates of schizophrenia are high while in the middle and upper classes rates of manic depression are high. The social deviation is also reflected in the crimes committed in the different social classes. Among the lower classes crimes such as burglary and other violent crimes are usual, while among the middle classes adult crimes involve fraud and embezzlement. Sexual crimes such as rape, child molesting and incest are more usual in the lower classes than in the middle and upper classes. As for the cultural differences, people from different cultures may have trouble understanding each other and because of that conflicts rise between them. An intercultural marriage for instance may end in trouble in one way or another; a divorce or maybe even a child kidnapped and taken to another country.

Text 3

A new United Nations report has found that healthcare systems across the world are becoming more unequal. The annual World Health Report, launched on October 14th by the World Health Organization (WHO), found that the healthcare gap between rich and poor people is wider today than it was thirty years ago. Even people living in the same city experience enormous differences in the quality of medical care they have access to. The WHO said in its report: "In far too many cases, people who are well-off and generally healthier have the best access to the best care, while the poor are left to fend for themselves." Perhaps the saddest conclusion of the report is that health care today is frequently treated as something which hospitals can make profits on.

The WHO recommends a return to a more basic "primary health care" system that many countries developed in the 1970s. Back then, the sick could visit a family doctor and get the treatment they needed. The report says healthcare no longer focuses on poorer members of society: "Health care is often delivered according to a model that concentrates on diseases, high technology, and specialist care," it stated. WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said: "Viewed against current trends, primary health care looks more and more like a smart way to get

health development back on track.” She added: “We are, in effect, encouraging countries to go back to the basics.” More than 100 million people are pushed below the poverty line each year because they cannot afford healthcare.

Text 4

In the twenty-first century, hunger and a lack of food still kill six million children a year. This is according to a new report by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Another depressing fact from the report is that in sub-Saharan Africa, there are more children dying from starvation today than in the 1990s. Hunger and malnutrition are the main reasons for poverty, illiteracy, disease and deaths in developing countries. The report says the developed world has not provided enough aid to the hungry. Many children die every day from easily preventable diseases such as diarrhea, malaria and measles.

The UN food agency said it is unlikely to meet its goal of cutting in half the number of hungry people in the world by 2015. This target was made by the World Food Summit in 1996 and boosted by the Millennium Development Goals in 2000. Countries that joined these programs have been slow to deliver on their promises of aid. The only bright spot in the gloomy report was for South America. Asia too has a good chance of reaching targets. Agency boss Jacques Diouf stated: “Most, if not all of the ... targets can be reached, but only if efforts are redoubled and refocused and priority given to agriculture.”

Text 5

Feeling wanted

At the age of 44, childless and single after the death of her long-term partner, Sarah had given up hope of being a mother. But tomorrow, the part-time teacher from south London will meet Louise — the one-year-old child she is about to adopt.

Sarah has been encouraged to adopt as part of a pioneering drive by Southwark council. The authority’s campaign aims to raise adoption and fostering rates by targeting those who assume — wrongly — that they are unsuitable to adopt or foster.

Louise has been in foster care since her young, single mother gave her up for adoption at birth. Her right foot is slightly malformed and will need minor corrective surgery and physiotherapy over the next two years, but she is expected to develop into a healthy child. For her, adoption will give her the stable and permanent home she desperately needs. For Sarah, it will mean she is finally able to realise her desire to care for a child.

“I’d always wanted to have children, but it never happened,” says Sarah. “After my partner died I wondered if there was something I could give and something that I wanted and didn’t have. I looked into adoption, but thought I’d only be considered for very hard-to-place children. I was bowled over when I heard about Louise — I didn’t think I would be a first-choice adopter.”

Southwark launched its three-month campaign, entitled Never Thought I Could, at the end of March. The drive — the first actively to recruit people falling outside the stereotypical family unit — was a response to government plans for the biggest shake-up in adoption law in a quarter of a century. The Queen’s Speech last week outlined details of the adoption and children bill, designed primarily to speed up the process and aiming to increase adoption rates by 40 %.

Southwark’s campaign included advertisements on billboards and buses emblazoned with messages such as: “Valued, wanted, needed — whether you’re over or under 45, you could be eligible to adopt.” The posters were tailored to appeal to couples or single people over 45, those who work fulltime, or are unemployed, and gays and lesbians.

The Labour-run council says the response has been huge: the adoption and fostering team has received calls from 204 people wanting to adopt or foster long-term, and another 40 want to foster short-term. The majority of inquiries have been from those who would otherwise have ruled themselves out of being adoptive parents because of their sexuality or age. (*The Guardian*, by Saba Salman)

Text 6

- What do you know about unemployment?
- Unemployment is the condition of one who is capable of working, actively seeking work, but unable to find it. It is important to note, that to be considered unemployed a person must be an active member of the labour force and in search of work. Statistics on unemployment collected and analyzed by government labour offices in most countries is considered to be the chief indicator of economic health. In the United States an unemployment rate of two percent is often cited as a "base" rate.
- What do you think about the problem of unemployment in Russia?
- The problem of the youth unemployment is one of the most important ones. The number of the young people looking for job is constantly increasing In Russia young people are looking for job not only for the sake of earning money, but because they want to be independent from their parents. Moreover, job gives the young people a chance to adjust themselves to the real life of adults and stir their ambitions.
- Is it possible for Russian school-leavers to find any job?
- Yes, it is. But unfortunately, they are able to find employment only for shorter than normal periods. School-leavers can be part- time workers, seasonal workers, day or casual workers. In general their job is not welcomed. Very often preference is given to adult people. To ensure a balance of working groups in our society the government should work out some social employment programmes.
- Is it easy to find a job for a graduate in Russia?
- It depends upon the ability of the person, his qualification and an element of luck by which he or she can find a job. Sometimes the graduates are overqualified for the jobs offered to them. But if the person is persistent he will always find the job he is looking for. Unfortunately not all the required professions are well paid Underpayment can also be regarded as a kind of unemployment. Certainly to find a job for a student or a graduate is easier than for a school-leaver.
- Have you ever tried to apply for a job?
- No, I have not. But my friend have. And the results are not optimistic. Employees prefer to hire an undergraduate than a school-leaver, who can sit with a baby or wash dishes in a cafe.
- What are you going to do after finishing school?
- Unqualified jobs can be good for pupils or students. But if one wants to get a good job and reach something in this life one must continue education. I am going to enter the University. I want to become a journalist. Journalists are always at the forefront of the people's activity.
- Are your friends going to enter institutions of higher education?
- Some of them are going to enter universities, others are dreaming about colleges, others are intending to work and study at one and the same time.
- What do you know about the problem of unemployment in Europe?
- In Western Europe, unemployment is by far the most important issue. When presented with the choice of 15 different areas of concern, west European nations put unemployment either first or in the top three. Europeans felt that unemployment was the main cause of poverty. Elsewhere in the world, people were likely to choose lack of education as the main reason. Europeans also put great emphasis on insufficient welfare funding. People from the former eastern bloc put slightly less emphasis on unemployment and more on drug and alcohol abuse. These countries also tend to be more concerned about the environment than about economic growth.

Text 7

Aids in Russia

The first official case of HIV in the USSR was recorded in the end of 1986, in a Russian who contracted the virus in Africa and then infected 15 Soviet soldiers with whom he had homosexual relations. This was immediately publicised in a mass media campaign which proclaimed that HIV/AIDS was a disease of a corrupt life style. The USSR was not ready

socially, ideologically, or economically for a serious prevention campaign at that time - homosexuality was illegal, issues related to reproductive health were not considered appropriate themes for public discussion, and the country was reeling from the instability of perestroika.

Between 1987 and 1989 a system of regional AIDS centres throughout the USSR was set up to carry out testing and limited prevention activities. Government policy emphasised using HIV antibody testing on a wide scale in an attempt to identify HIV-positive people.

Between the years of 1987 and 1991 over 142 million people were tested. Only 0,004% of these tests were done anonymously. The majority of these tests were conducted without the knowledge or consent of those being tested and no protocols involving pre or post counseling were instituted. Positive tests were often followed by aggressive contact tracing. The primary prevention campaign consisted of a discriminatory, fear-based mass-media campaign which often leads to heavy persecution of people with HIV/AIDS.

The political and economic instability of the late 1980s and early 1990s resulted in a general lack of attention to the issue of HIV/AIDS. In 1991, the Institute of Preventative Medicine stopped translating foreign literature about the issue. Information campaigns ceased to exist. The public gave little consideration to the threat of HIV during this period which is often associated with Russia's "sexual revolution", an increase in IV drug use, and a surge in prostitution. Today both the public's and the government's perception of the risk of HIV are very distorted.

In 1995, according to official governmental statistics, there were over 10 million cases of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) reported in Russia.

Although it can be assumed that the level of HIV infection has some correlation with STD prevalence, this is not readily apparent from a glance at the official statistics of HIV infection in Russia. As of May 1996, there were approximately 1150 cases of HIV-infection reported among Russian citizens. Many specialists estimate that the actual prevalence of HIV is closer to 10,000. These distorted statistics may be due in part to the fact that people who engage in high risk behaviours, unaware of their right to be tested anonymously, often avoid testing for fear of persecution. Moreover, Russian medical specialists are given very little training in HIV diagnostics; therefore it is likely that many HIV-related complications and symptoms go unrecognised by gynecologists, oncologists, pulmonary specialists, dermatologists and other specialists. Artificially low HIV statistics cause HIV related issues to be given very low priority by the public or government.

Russia's official AIDS prevention centre has reported in July, 2, 1999 a twelve-fold increase in new HIV cases in Moscow and its surrounding suburbs over the first six months of 1999 compared with the same time period of 1998. The increased incidence of HIV in and around Moscow is considered epidemic level. Previously, Kaliningrad had the largest number of HIV cases in Russia.

Ecology

Vocabulary

acid rain
arid
awareness
ban
biodegradable
biotechnology
carbon footprint
carcinogenic
carcinogen
CO₂ Carbon dioxide
climate change
conservation
dead zone
deforestation
desalinisation
desertification
disposable
drought
dump
ecosystem
emission
endangered species
environment
food chain
fossil fuels
genetic engineering
genetic modification (genetically modified)
global warming
greenhouse gases
habitat
herbicide
insecticide
irradiation
landfill
methane
nuclear energy
oilrig
organic
pesticide
fume
pollution
contamination
recycling
septic tank
smog
surface water
sustainable development
waste
wetlands

wind farm
predator
prey
herbivore
carnivore
obliteration
heavy polluters
energy-efficient technologies
environmentally conscious
to pose a threat
lethal dose
combustion of fossil fuels
decomposition
mining
precipitation
evaporation
water supplies

Texts for written translation

Text 1

The Greenhouse Effect

The earth's climate is predicted to change because human activities are altering the chemical composition of the atmosphere through the build-up of greenhouse gases – primarily carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. The heat-trapping property of these gases is undisputed. Although uncertainty exists about how exactly earth's climate responds to these gases, global temperatures are rising.

Energy from the sun drives the earth's weather and climate and heats the earth's surface; in turn, the earth radiates energy back into space. Atmospheric greenhouse gases (water vapour, carbon dioxide, and other gases) trap some of the outgoing energy, retaining heat somewhat like the glass panels of a greenhouse.

Without this natural greenhouse effect temperatures would be much lower than they are now, and life as known today would not be possible. Instead, thanks to the greenhouse gases, the earth's average temperature is a more hospitable 60 F. However, problems may arise when the atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases increases.

Since the beginning of the industrial revolution atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide have increased nearly 30 %, methane concentrations have more than doubled and nitrous oxide concentrations have risen by about 15 %. These increases have enhanced the heat-trapping capability of the earth's atmosphere. Sulfate aerosols, a common air pollutant, cool the atmosphere by reflecting light back into space; however, sulfates are short-lived in the atmosphere and vary regionally.

Why are greenhouse gas concentrations increasing? Scientists generally believe that the combustion of fossil fuels and other human activities are the primary reason for the increased concentration of carbon dioxide. Plant respiration and decomposition of organic matter release more than ten times the CO₂ released by human activities, but these releases have generally been in balance during the centuries, leading up to carbon dioxide absorbed by terrestrial vegetation and the oceans.

What has changed in the last few hundred years is the additional release of carbon dioxide by human activities. Fossil fuels burned to run cars and trucks, heat homes and businesses, and power factories are responsible for about 98% of U.S. carbon dioxide emissions, 24 % of methane emissions, and 18% of nitrous oxide emissions. Increased agriculture, deforestation,

landfills, industrial production and mining also contribute a significant share of emissions. In 1997, the United States emitted about one-fifth of total global greenhouse gases. Estimating future emissions is difficult, because it depends on demographic, economic, technological, political and institutional developments. Several emissions scenarios have been developed based on differing projections of these underlying factors. For example, by 2100, in the absence of emissions control policies, carbon dioxide concentrations are projected to be 30-150 % higher than today's levels.

Global surface temperatures have increased 0.5- 1 F since the late 19-th century. The 20th century's 10 warmest years all occurred in the last 15 years of the century. Of these, 1998 was the warmest year on record. The snow cover in the Northern Hemisphere and floating ice in the Arctic Ocean have decreased. Globally, sea level has risen 4-8 inches over the past century. Worldwide precipitation over land has increased by about one percent. The frequency of extreme rainfall events has increased throughout much of the United States.

Increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases are likely to accelerate the rate of climate change. Scientists expect that the average global surface temperature could rise 1- 4.5°F (0.6-2.5 C) in the next fifty years, and 2.2 – 10 F (1.4 – 5.8 C) in the next century, with significant regional variation.

Evaporation will increase as the climate warms, which will increase average global precipitation. Soil moisture is likely to decline in many regions, and intense rainstorms are likely to become more frequent. Sea level is likely to rise two feet along most of the U.S. coast. Calculations of climate change for specific areas are much less reliable than global ones, and it is unclear whether regional climate will become more variable.

Rising global temperatures are expected to raise sea level, and change precipitation and other local climate conditions. Changing regional climate could alter forests, crop fields and water supplies. It could also threaten human health, and harm birds, fish, and many types of ecosystems. Deserts may expand into existing rangelands, and the character of some of our National Parks may be permanently altered. Most of the United States is expected to warm, although sulfates may limit warming in some areas. Scientists currently are unable to determine which parts of the United States will become wetter or drier, but there is likely to be an overall trend toward increased precipitation and evaporation, more intense rainstorms and drier soils. Unfortunately, many of the potentially most important impacts depend upon whether rainfall increases or decreases, which can not be reliably projected for specific areas.

Text 2 **Now What?**

The Kyoto Protocol won't save the planet. A more robust and inclusive plan is needed-fast

By Coco Masters/Tokyo

American ecologist Garrett Hardin outlined a rather grim future for mankind when he published «The tragedy of the Commons" The seminal essay, which appeared in the journal *Science* in 1968, described how a freely shared resource – in this case, the Boston Common, once a community pasture - is ultimately destroyed because sheepherders, acting in their individual interests, pile on the livestock beyond the land's carrying capacity. In the 40 years since the essay's publication, its thesis has been demonstrated again and again in the crash of fisheries and obliteration of forests. «In a crowded world of less-than-perfect human beings, mutual ruin is inevitable if there are no controls, Hardin wrote. "This is the tragedy of the commons".

Today this scenario is playing out on an epic scale. The commons is the entire planet. The looming tragedy is global warming. Not that the world is indifferent to the increasing odds for catastrophe due to climate change. Consumers, businesses and governments are taking steps to reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse-gas emissions. But there is only one comprehensive, international program in place to fight global warming- the Kyoto Protocol- and the countries that ratified the landmark 1997 agreement are falling short of even the minimum levels of

reductions that scientists say can avert the worst effects of climate change. Europe is failing to meet its targets. The top two polluters –China and the U.S- have not joined the effort, arguing the pact is unfair and toxic to their economic growth. Kyoto's greatest failing, according to critics, is that developing countries including China and India, which rely heavily on cheap, polluting energy sources such as the burning of coal, are not participating. Since it is estimated that by 2030 emerging economies will account for half of all greenhouse-gas emissions, "The idea of dealing with climate change without asking the opinion of China would be plainly absurd," said former British Prime Minister Tony Blair following a recent meeting on climate change with Japan's Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda.

Fortunately, the global-warming battle plan is still a work in progress. The Kyoto Protocol expires in 2012 and search for an improved, more inclusive version is under way. Starting July 7, the leaders of the G-8 industrialized countries will meet for a three-day summit in Toyako, Japan. Global warming will be high on agenda, and there is a growing sense of urgency to the debate. The deadline for a new agreement is December next year at a meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen. "At this stage, we do not have time for the G-8 heads of state to not agree on something", says Kiyoshi Kurokawa, science adviser to Fukuda's administration.

As it has in the past, Japan is taking a leadership role. The country's economy, second largest in the world, surpasses many other major countries in energy efficiency- Japan uses roughly half the energy that the U.S does to generate a dollar of economic output, for example. Japan also has the toughest carbon-reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol. By 2012, it must reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions to 6% below 1990 levels; the overall average Kyoto target is 5.2%. But it appears unlikely Japan will be successful. The country now emits nearly 7% more greenhouse gases than it did in 1990.

How can countries do better? Much of the debate revolves around the Kyoto Protocol's central mechanism for emissions reductions. Under this system, known as "cap and trade," countries agreed to reduce their total emissions by a certain amount — measured against their output in 1990 — by a certain time. That's the cap part. The trade part comes via the creation of a market for the buying and selling of carbon credits — which represent the right to spew a specific amount of greenhouse gases. Companies that cannot reduce emissions must buy credits from those that pollute less. In effect, the buyer pays a penalty for polluting, while the seller gets a bonus for having reduced emissions by more than was required under the cap.

In theory, the trading of carbon credits creates economic incentives for companies and countries to clean up. But in practice, critics say, cap and trade is difficult to monitor, easy to manipulate and, when applied on an international scale, tends to penalize the developing world. In part that's because industrializing economies are growing more quickly (and increasing their use of energy more quickly) than advanced economies, so a cap on emissions is like yanking on an economic handbrake. Not only that, poorer countries can afford mainly older, dirtier industrial technologies. Upgrading to cleaner infrastructure is costly and puts companies at a competitive disadvantage in the global marketplace.

In the search for a solution that includes China, India and the emerging-world peloton, Japan is lobbying for change. At the World Economic Forum's Davos conference in January, Fukuda introduced a scheme called the "sectoral approach," which seeks to mitigate emissions starting with individual industries, rather than by imposing blanket emissions caps on a country-by-country basis. The idea, greatly simplified, is that by focusing attention on industries, not countries, that pollute the most — and by channeling investment in cleaner technologies into those sectors — the debate can be scrubbed of some of the "us-versus-them" thinking that bedevils the international dialogue between developed and developing worlds. "It's an opportunity for a new direction," says Ichiro Kamoshita, Japan's Environment Minister. Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) calls it "fair, equitable and scientifically proven."

It's hardly that clear-cut. There are differing proposals for implementation of the sectoral approach. Nippon Keidanren, Japan's largest and most conservative business lobby with close

government ties, is calling for every industrial sector, such as steel and cement, to be analyzed taking into account national production levels and how advanced the industries are in the use of green technologies. The goal is the establishment of realistic, voluntary emission-reduction goals that can be applied within each country. This approach, say Keidanren officials, will drive technological innovation, while cap and trade actually has the potential to undermine green research and development because it forces polluters to pay for carbon credits when the money would be better spent on green-tech investments.

Japan has thrown in a sweetener for the developing world. At the Davos summit in January, Fukuda proposed a program called the Cool Earth Partnership, a multinational effort to develop energy-efficient technologies in emerging economies. Japan promised to contribute \$10 billion over the next five years to jump-start the program. Instead of binding emissions targets, "If we focus on technology transfer and financing, developing countries are very willing to adopt the sectoral approach," says Masami Hasegawa, manager of the environmental group at Keidanren.

But critics say Japan's proposal is actually a backdoor way for Japan Inc. to rid itself of onerous reduction requirements. "It is a way for business to avoid mandatory controls," says Yurika Ayukawa, vice chairwoman of the G-8 Summit's NGO Forum. "Japan's energy efficiency is better than most countries and so Japan feels it doesn't have to make an effort toward reductions." Others say a system based on voluntary compliance may work in socially cohesive, environmentally conscious Japan, but it won't work on an international scale, where the every-man-for-himself ethic prevails in business. "Nippon Steel might think the sector-based approach is useful, but Alcoa would not," says Dominic Waughray, director of environmental initiatives for the World Economic Forum.

Besides, cap-and-trade variants are quickly becoming the gold standard. Programs are already operating in Europe, and a cap-and-trade system was central to environmental legislation recently debated in the U.S. Congress (the bill was defeated, but similar legislation is expected to be reintroduced next year). "Japan is going to realize [at the G-8 summit] that around the world cap-and-trade programs are emerging as the preferred instrument," says Robert Stavins, director of the Harvard Environmental Economics Program. Still, Koji Tsuruoka, director general for global issues at MOFA, makes the point that "cap and trade and the sectoral approach can coexist," with the latter helping to set achievable national reduction targets. "The sectoral approach is a tool, and if the tool is sophisticated, it can be very effective."

Although Fukuda is chairman of the G-8 summit in Toyako, he may not get far with the sectoral approach. Some observers say the conference will be counted a success if a more humble goal is met: that the holdout U.S. agrees to join other nations in a long-term target of reducing global emissions 50% by 2050. The target was announced by Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and former Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at last year's G-8 summit. "For this year's Japan G-8, the essential thing is to get the global 2050 target agreed and then get the elements that will go into the package for next year," said Blair on his recent visit to Tokyo.

The devil will be in the details. "The post-Kyoto agreements are likely to be some of the most complex and some of the most difficult ever undertaken," says Theodore Roosevelt IV, chairman of the Council on Climate Change, which directs global-warming initiatives for U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers. No one said Hardin's tragedy of the commons is inevitable. But avoiding a planetwide environmental meltdown may require an unprecedented level of international cooperation and sacrifice.

Text 3

Изменение климата будет основной темой на саммите G8 (большой восьмерки), который пройдет 7-9 июля в Японии на острове Хоккайдо.

Он напомнит об инициативе Японии вдвое сократить выброс парниковых газов к 2050 году. Срок действия Киотского протокола, к которому так и не присоединились страны со значительными объемами выбросов - США, Индия, Китай, истекает в 2012

году.

В конце прошлого года все страны- члены ООН договорились о начале новых переговоров по новому соглашению. В дискуссии по так называемому "посткиотскому" процессу участвуют также США, Индия и Китай.

В новом документе Япония предлагает зафиксировать ряд инициатив. Одно из правил, которое будет применяться в борьбе за сокращение отходов, заключается в том, что если, например, Япония передает России технологии сокращения выбросов, то такое сокращение идет "в зачет" Японии.

Вторым пунктом переговоров по новому соглашению является содействие сокращению выбросов в развивающихся странах.

Одна из трудностей состоит в том, как нивелировать разницу между развитыми индустриальными и развивающимися странами. В настоящее время обсуждается вопрос о том, как стимулировать развивающиеся экономики, чтобы они играли более активную роль в вопросе изменения климата.

Третьей темой переговоров станет более широкое применение инновационных технологий в борьбе с загрязнением окружающей среды.

В Японии, где в последние годы активно разрабатывались и внедрялись энергосберегающие технологии, при значительном увеличении ВВП, объем выбросов удалось сохранить на прежнем уровне.

Представитель Кремля напомнил принципиальную позицию России по этому вопросу: "глобальная проблема изменения климата касается всех и не может быть решена без участия всех крупнейших эмитентов, как развитых, так и развивающихся государств, а любые новые договоренности в этой области должны подразумевать справедливую нагрузку на страны с учетом их индивидуальных особенностей: уровня социально-экономического развития и природно-климатической специфики".

Всего на саммит "большой восьмерки" планируется вынести четыре темы: изменение климата, вопросы мировой экономики, развитие Африки и нераспространение оружия массового уничтожения.

Text 4

The deadliest place on Earth

One hour's exposure at a Soviet nuclear dump site can kill.

The Soviet military complex was called Chelyabinsk-40. Located in the Ural Mountains, 1,450 km east of Moscow, it was one of several top-secret locations surrounding the city of Chelyabinsk (pop. 1,1 million), where the Soviets made atom bombs in the 1940s and 1950s. Now it has another distinction. In a 32-page report titled "Soviet Nuclear Warhead Production" two US scientists, Thomas Cochran and Robert Standish Norris say, Chelyabinsk-40 is the world's worst radioactive disaster site. Says Cochran: "This is the most contaminated place on Earth".

Cochran and Norris are affiliated with the Natural Resources Defense Council, a private environmental group with headquarters in Washington. They based their conclusions on a visit to the site last summer as well as on information from the Russian press, which is just beginning to tackle the once taboo topic of nuclear waste.

Chelyabinsk-40 was built in late 1945, and the country's top scientists worked under tight secrecy there. In 1960 Francis Gary Powers' U-2 spy plane was shot down after it flew over the area. Initially, high-level radioactive waste from the facility was dumped directly into the Techa river. After contamination began showing up in the Arctic ocean 1,600 km away, four reservoirs were built to contain the most contaminated parts of the river, and dumping there ceased.

Starting in 1951, Chelyabinsk waste was dumped into nearby lake Karachay. Eventually, the accumulation of radioactivity reached 120 million curies –an amount about 2,5 times as great as the total released by the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe. Then, in 1967, winds carried radioactive particles from the lake and contaminated the surrounding country-side. Even now,

someone standing in the site would receive a lethal dose of 600 roentgens per hour – sufficient to kill a person in an hour. (Current US guide-lines prohibit exposure to the equivalent of three roentgens during a three month period)

In 1957, after the Soviets had started putting nuclear wastes in steel containers, encased in concrete, one of the containers exploded, spreading 70 tons of radioactive waste over a 15,000 km area, populated by 270,000 people. Some were quickly evacuated, but others stayed for six months, consuming contaminated food and water. Today four of the reactors at Chelyabinsk-40 have been shut down, and a fifth will close in October. A sixth one, of a different type, is still a secret.

The Soviet system of making plutonium for bombs was similar to that used at the US Hanford nuclear reservation near Richland Wash, but although the US is facing a bill of more than \$100 billion to clean up its bomb-production pollution. Cochran says the US has nothing to compare with Chelyabinsk-40 in part because Washington's restrictions were much tougher. Noting that it will take 600 years for the 120 million curies in lake Karachay to decay to a still dangerous level of 120 curies, and that other radioactive isotopes will then pose new threats, Cochran says, "It's essentially a sacrificed area for thousands of years".

Text 5

Climate change issue shows how little we care about our planet

If there's one thing that clearly shows our lack of care and love for our planet then this is no doubt climate change issue. Despite the scientific warnings that climate change impact is approaching a tipping point where changes will become irreversible (eventually leading to disaster of gigantic proportions) world is still nowhere near agreeing on new climate deal, and world leaders are still more worried about industry and finance than our planet's health. The latest reports suggest that political games and individual interests are still too big obstacle for one major global agreement such as new climate deal. Every country looks how to protect its own interests, and all of them seem to be blind when looking at the big picture. In these circumstances new (effective) climate deal is impossible, and Copenhagen may not turn to be the last huge blow when it comes to climate change deal like many environmentalists hoped it would be.

As long as there is such a discrepancy between agreements made by world leaders for reductions in emissions by 2050 needed for the world to be on a 2°C path and the comparatively weak targets pledged for 2020 we can forget about the effectiveness of new climate deal. The scientists have calculated that if we continue this current path we can expect a temperature increase of 3.5°C by the end of this century, and such increase would cause a real disaster in many parts of our planet.

What can we expect from the next round of climate talks in Bonn? Given the current political situation we might as well forget some meaningful action on global level. The most recent political analysis suggests that leading politicians still believe that costs of significantly cutting emissions would hurt our industries too much. In other words world leaders still prefer to sacrifice our planet's health to keep industry happy. In world where everything is measured through money this really doesn't come as a big surprise. It just shows one sad reality we live in.

Text 6

Rapid human population growth spells more trouble for environment

Different environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, deforestation and biodiversity loss have one thing in common, namely humans as the main reason behind their creation. The more people means sadly more environmental issues and the latest UN report says that world population could reach 11 billion by the end of the century.

World is yet to unite on solving major environmental issues, and things will become harder with more people involved. The growth of human population is sadly the topic that has gone off

the world's agenda in favor of other major global issues, such as climate and poverty, despite more than obvious interconnection between these issues.

The factor of better education is vital in this whole equation. Better education leads to better family planning, and this is something that should become priority among the developing countries. Education is not only key to family planning but to global environmental protection because educated people are more likely to comprehend the magnitude of current environmental issues.

Of course, tackling poverty and hunger still remains a necessity. It is easy to understand why poor and hungry people care very little for environment surrounding them. When your only concern is how to survive the day the last thing you worry is whether the air you breathe and water you drink is clean and is climate really changing or not.

Global population reached 7 billion in 2011. With new, improved policies there could be enough resources for all of us, which would no doubt lead to better environmental condition of our entire planet. However, seeking for global justice in this world of ours is nothing but an utopia, a sweet dream that ceases to exist once you open your eyes.

The environmental issues are just one of the many examples proving that our society still needs major upgrade before fulfilling the role of guardians on this planet. So far, it looks like our mission was more destroy, rather than guard. We keep forgetting that Earth is still our only home.

Text 7

Could power plants of the future produce zero emissions?

By Pia Gadkari

BBC News, Washington

Net Power says that, if built, its power plants would not release any gases into the air. Could the smoke stack of a power station soon be a thing of the past?

Today, fossil fuel power stations are usually built with towers that emit vapour as well as greenhouse gases into the air. But what if a new kind of power station could create electricity without belching harmful gases into the air?

Despite the development of renewable technologies, fossil fuels are still used to generate the overwhelming majority of the world's power, and it is likely they will continue to do so for many years.

In the US, about 70% of the country's electricity comes from burning fossil fuels. Other major economies, such as China, are even more dependent. But now Net Power, based in the US state of North Carolina, believes it can redesign the power plant so it can still run on coal or natural gas, but without releasing harmful fumes.

Rodney Allam, chief technologist at 8 Rivers Capital, which owns Net Power, says: "The perception has been that to avoid emissions of CO₂, we have to get rid of fossil fuels. But unfortunately, fossil fuels represent over 70% of the fuel that's consumed in the world and the idea that you can get rid of that in any meaningful sense is a pipe dream."

The Net Power system is different from currently operating power plants because carbon dioxide, normally produced as waste when making electricity, would become a key ingredient when burning the fuel. Carbon dioxide would be put into the Net Power combustor at a very high temperature and pressure along with the fuel, such as natural gas or coal, and oxygen. Using the carbon dioxide as a so-called working fluid - used to make the turbine function - it would pass through the system in a loop, to be recycled and used again. The system is geared to enable a process called carbon capture and storage (CCS), which would see the excess carbon dioxide from the fuel combustion funnelled into a pipeline or a tanker instead of being released into the air.

Mr. Allam says that because the whole cycle happens at a high pressure of about 320 atmospheres, the gas emerges with a pressure and level of purity that is "capture ready" - or ideal for storage.

Separating the carbon dioxide is hard, so it is difficult to apply the process to existing coal-fired power stations. Experts agree that although CCS models could be effective, they are still new and need to be proven to work well.

Text 8

Climate and the rise of men

*The history of human evolution holds sobering lessons
for those gathering at this week's Earth Summit*

When global warming finally came, it struck with a vengeance. In some regions temperatures rose several degrees in less than a century. Sea levels shot up nearly 400 feet, flooding coastal settlements and forcing people to migrate inland. Deserts spread throughout the world as vegetation shifted drastically in North America, Europe and Asia. After driving many of the animals around them to near extinction, people were forced to abandon their old way of life for a radically new survival strategy that resulted in widespread starvation and disease. The adaptation was farming; the global warming crisis that gave rise to it happened more than 10000 years ago.

Earth scientists are in the midst of a revolution in understanding how climate has changed in the past – and how those changes have transformed human existence. Researches have begun to piece together an illuminating picture of the powerful geological and astronomical forces that have conspired to change the planet's environment from hot to cold, wet to dry and back again over a time period stretching back hundreds of millions of years.

Most important, scientists are beginning to realize that the gyrations of this climate dance have had a major impact on the evolution of the human species. New research now suggests that climate shifts played a key role in nearly every significant turning point in human evolution: from the dawn of primates some 65 million years ago to human ancestors rising up to walk on two legs, from the prodigious expansion of the human brain to the rise of agriculture. Indeed, the human saga has not been nearly touched by global climate change, some scientists argue, it has in some instances been driven by it. Among other things, the findings demonstrate that dramatic climate change is nothing new for planet Earth. The benign global environment that has existed over the past 10000 years – during which agriculture, writing, cities and most other features of civilization appeared – is a mere blip in a much larger pattern of widely varying climate over the eons. In fact, the pattern of climate change in the past reveals that Earth's climate will almost certainly go through dramatic changes in the future – even without the influence of human activity.

At the same time, the research provides little comfort for those who would like to believe the Earth is a self-regulating machine that can unfailingly absorb the impact of any human activity. Over Earth's history, tiny alterations in the positions of the continents, the flow of air currents and other influences on the world's weather sometimes cascaded into huge changes in global climate. If the study of prehistory is any guide, a large shift in climate is likely to bring a fundamental change in the nature of human life.

If not for a dramatic shift some 65 million years ago, most of the animals on Earth today – including humans – would probably not even be here. Scientists have long suspected that a giant meteor collided with the Earth at that point in time, sending huge clouds of climate-altering dust into the atmosphere. The recent discovery in the Caribbean of tiny nuggets of glass whose chemical makeup suggests that they were formed in the heat of such a cosmic collision lends new support to the theory.

Scientists find evidence that in the heyday of the dinosaurs, 100 million years ago, the world was 10 to 14 degrees warmer than it is today. Breadfruit trees grew in what is now Greenland and dinosaurs wandered an ice-free Antarctica. In the wake of the meteor's impact, dinosaurs vanished in massive numbers, leaving the world wide open for colonization by mammals, including a small, shrew like creatures that was the ancient ancestor of humans.

Most shifts in Earth's climate have not been so sudden or dramatic. But even slowly changing environments have had an enormous influence on the evolution of the human species. After the demise of the dinosaurs, for instance, the Earth continued to grow cooler for tens of millions of years. The cooling resulted from the slow absorption into the Earth of atmospheric carbon dioxide through the weathering of rock, suggests Yale University's Robert Berner, who recently used computer modeling to show how carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have changed over the past 600 million years. Because carbon dioxide traps heat to create the so-called greenhouse effect, over time the reduction in CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere made the global temperature drop several degrees.

This gradual cooling helped set the stage for a crucial phase of human evolution: the beginning of upright walking. Ever since Darwin, anthropologists have speculated that our ancestors rose onto two legs in order to free their hands for some uniquely human activity, such as making tools. But Robert Berner argues instead that the first bipeds were trying to maintain their apelike lifestyle amid environmental change.

Texts for sight translation

Text 1

Is climate change really inevitable?

Climate change is the most talked about ecological issue in the last decade. Many scientists agree that climate change is inevitable, and that we are no longer able to stop global warming. The only thing we could do is to adapt, and to make sure we do not make things even worse. The future outlook doesn't look good, and scientists predict floods, droughts, rising sea levels, and extinction of many animals as the worst climate change consequences.

Many scientists also agree that our only chance to prevent the worst possible climate change scenario is to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions on global level. This will however be very hard to achieve because neither Kyoto nor Copenhagen were able to unite global political will in form of legally binding international climate deal. Our industries and economies are based on fossil fuels, and fossil fuel burning is the main source of carbon emissions on our planet. In order to cut our dependence on fossil fuels we would need a quick development of clean, renewable energy sources but this sadly doesn't look like happening any time soon.

Will climate change leave us enough time for transition to renewable energy? Difficult to tell, but if temperatures continue current warming trend at one time we will pass the point of no return, and we will not be able to prevent the worst of climate change. Many scientists are convinced that if we fail to significantly reduce emissions in the next few decades, we will see this point of no return very soon, even before the end of this century. World leaders still fail to find a mutual language when discussing climate change issue, and each country wants to promote its own interests before and against the global interests. In such atmosphere new climate change deal is impossible and this was clearly shown last year in Copenhagen.

The stakes are really high, and yet the politicians continue to gamble with our planet's health like this is some stock on the market. This needs to change very soon. Or else...

Text 2

Ecological problems - True crisis of humanity

If we consider Earth as our only home then we must acknowledge the great irony of the modern world, irony that reveals itself in vast number of ecological problems. Every way you look, starting from your own town you live in, and all the way to the ice sheets of Antarctica and vast deserts in Africa you can see one pattern that is repeating itself-ecological problems. Ecology is something that always ends up second best, always behind economy and our need for money and power.

We don't appreciate our planet, and Earth doesn't really revolve around the sun, it revolves around money. Ecology is always secondary, and can only survive once and when economy says so, and this happens very rarely.

So far we only followed industrialization and other similar ways on how to strengthen our economies and ecology has simply vanished out of our sight. But now ecology is keep coming back, only this time showing much scarier face, face with so many scars from so many different ecological problems.

We live in the time of the worst crisis in the history of humanity. So many people in this world live in hunger and poverty, but we try not to look at them and their problems. As long as we have enough for ourselves, we are not worried with other people problems, and though we have enough, we are always hungry for more. This uncontrolled hunger for more is the main reason why the word ecology is today used only in negative context. Our greedy nature of always wanting more has put aside ecology and environment in the name of progress and almighty dollar.

Situation is so out of the control that major ecological problems like global warming are still not taken seriously, and on the other hand there is complete chaos because of skyrocketing oil price. It is the sad ecological reality we are living in. We know that we are doing so much harm to our planet, and yet that doesn't seem to be bothering us too much. List of ecological problems gets bigger by the day, and the impact of leading ecological problems (climate change and global warming, pollution, endangered animals) is only getting stronger and stronger.

To really make difference you need to have politics on your side, and politicians are only mentioning the word ecology before their election when they are in need of votes, while after all gets forgotten. Our countries need more fuel, more energy, more resources, but apparently no environment protection. In 1990 for World peace day, Pope John Paul II said in his message: "The gravity of the ecological situation reveals how deep is the human moral crisis". And this was almost 20 years ago.

Text 3

Clean energy - Earth's only chance against global warming

Unfortunately for all of us, Earth is already faced with global warming because of dangerous greenhouse gases that are result of fossil fuels combustion. Oil, coal and natural gas are still something modern world can't live with and clean energy (renewable energy sources) are still very negligible on global scale and are satisfying very small percentage of world's total energy need.

Fossil fuels are traditional and dominant in many countries (especially in US since US emits most greenhouse gases into the atmosphere) and renewable energy sources which could provide clean energy that isn't harmful for environment are really lacking necessary attention of world's leading countries like USA, China and India.

Not only our air is polluted but there's also the worst ecological problem in history of the mankind - global warming which is mainly caused by carbon dioxide that gets released into atmosphere during the fossil fuels burning. Earth's temperature increased significantly (this particularly refers to Antarctica), ice is melting and obvious signs of climate change already showed us what we could expect in years to come.

There's lot of talking about renewable energy sources and their researching is taking place in many countries, but the real question is do we have enough time to wait for these clean energy sources? As current situation points out fossil fuels will be dominant force in the next 50 years as well and since our population will grow, there'll be also increased need for energy so we could expect even more greenhouse gases in atmosphere in years to come. Some countries, especially in Europe are doing its best, investing large funds in renewable energy sources and their progress is already remarkable (i.e. Germany and Scandinavian countries). On the other side there are countries like USA that are reluctant to give major boost

to clean energy sector because of its traditional dependence upon fossil fuels and very influential fossil fuels industry. We also have countries like China and India that are lately experiencing amazing economical growth and mainly because of its coal powered plants since coal is the cheapest (and also the dirtiest) fossil fuel and they lack necessary funds to invest in some other ecologically more acceptable energy sources.

This all means one big problem because efforts that some (smaller) countries put into their renewable energy sector are overshadowed by these big countries' dependence on fossil fuels, and there is really no exit from this enchanted circle. And it won't be until world's leading countries take this problem more seriously and what's more important start to do something noticeable about it. Only with clean energy sources we have a real chance stopping ever-increasing global warming levels and make safe future for our kids. So what are we waiting for?

Text 4

Wildlife management - Definition and its main role

Wildlife management is term very often used by the environmentalists all around the globe. The best way to define wildlife management would be to say that wildlife management is all about finding the balance between the needs of wildlife and the needs of people by using different scientific methods.

Wildlife management is these days mostly focused on wildlife conservation, and this requires help of many other scientific disciplines such as chemistry, biology, ecology, climatology and geography to get the best possible results.

Biodiversity loss is huge problem around the globe, and as you already know many plants are at the brink of the extinction. The ultimate goal of wildlife management is to stop extinction of many endangered species but in today's situation this is almost an impossible task due to many different ecological problems such as climate change and pollution.

Many animals are in trouble due to habitat loss, and some are threatened with the invasive species. Improving animal habitat is the key to success and this can be achieved with several different techniques such as reforestation, pest control, irrigation, hedge laying, etc.

Wildlife management also needs to find balance between the species, and ensure the perfect food chain functioning. Achieving this delicate balance sometimes even involves using certain unpopular methods such as hunting and culling that are criticized by environmentalists.

Wildlife management is multidimensional task that needs to view things from many different perspectives before choosing the perfect technique for given wildlife habitat. This makes wildlife management very complex science, which makes things very difficult for wildlife managers.

If we look at current situation in United States we can see that US wildlife management practices are often implemented by a governmental agency to uphold a law, the best example to this is the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Wildlife management is also the main preoccupation of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Text 5

Report suggests slowdown in CO2 emissions rise

By Matt McGrath

Environment correspondent, BBC News

Global emissions of carbon dioxide may be showing the first signs of a "permanent slowdown" in the rate of increase. According to a new report, emissions in 2012 increased at less than half the average over the past decade. Key factors included the shift to shale gas for energy in the US while China increased its use of hydropower by 23%.

However the use of cheap coal continues to be an issue, with UK consumption up by almost a quarter.

The main emitters, accounting for 55% of the global total, were China, the US and the European Union. All three saw changes that were described as "remarkable" by the report's authors.

Emissions from China increased by 3% but this was a significant slowdown compared to annual increases of around 10% over the past decade. There were two important factors in reducing China's CO₂. The first was the ending of a large economic stimulus package. As a result electricity and energy prices increased at half the rate of GDP. China also achieved exceptional growth in the use of hydropower for the generation of electricity, increasing capacity and output by 23% in 2012. This alone had the effect of curbing the country's emissions by 1.5%.

In the US, the shale revolution continues to make waves. Overall emissions were down by 4% in the year mainly because of a continuing shift from coal to gas in the generation of electricity. Shale is now responsible for one third of US gas production and almost one quarter of total oil production.

The other major decline came in the European Union where economic recession in the 27 nation bloc saw emissions decline by 1.3%. This was down to a decrease in energy consumption of oil and gas, with a 4% decline in road transport.

Renewable energy also continued its upward trend, at accelerating speed. It took 15 years for the renewable global share to increase 0.5% to 1.1% - but it took only six years for it to double again, to 2.4% in 2012.

Looking ahead, the report suggests that if the push for shale continues in the US, if China sticks to its published plans and if renewables continue to grow - particularly in Europe - global emissions might slow down permanently

Text 6

2010 showing record temperatures

There have been several different reports stating that this year is the hottest year on record, and latest of these reports comes from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. According to this latest data the average global temperature in period between January and July was 58.1 degrees, 1.22 degrees over the average from the 20th century, and the hottest in 130 years long recorded history.

This is mostly due to the global warming phenomenon but EL Nino was also responsible for pushing temperatures to record levels. This latest data also shows that March, April, May and June were all hotter than they've ever been in recorded history while July was second hottest on record, just behind July 1998.

Even if winter turns out to be very cold this year still looks to be on track as the hottest in recorded history.

By looking at the warmest spots NOAA stated Finland recorded an all-time high temperature of 99 degrees on July 29, and China recorded its hottest July since 1961. Situation in Russia is well known across the globe and Russia has experienced a serious heat wave, with a record of 102 degrees in Moscow and huge wildfires burning across the country.

And yet despite these record temperatures world leaders are becoming more and more ignorant towards solving climate change issue, and new climate deal looks to be very far away. Adequate climate change legislation is so desperately needed but after climate change talks in Copenhagen ended very miserably it is very hard to expect miracles. Especially in near future.

Education

General vocabulary

preschoolers
first-grader
fresher (freshman)
sophomore
junior
senior
undergraduate
graduate student
graduate school
postgraduate student
auditor
fee-paying student
cheat
to cram
swot
crib (trot)
truant
to play hooky
extracurricular activities
to perform well
to outperform
plagiarism
report card
sick note
to underachieve/excel in a subject
to choose a major
double major
minor
college campus
compulsory courses
optional courses
dormitory (dorm)
to put oneself through college/university
research assistantship
scholarship
a GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)
to ace an exam
an A level (Advanced Level Examination)
to defend the thesis/dissertation (senior thesis)
honor student
mid-term (term) paper
credit/pass
pop quiz
to fail/flunk an exam
transcript
academic degree
admission requirements
Bachelor's degree (BA, BS)
Master's degree (MA, MP, MS)

to be admitted to/ accepted b
to matriculate
to be expelled from/ flunked out of
to be registered for/ enrolled in a course
coeducation
to charge fees for tuition (tuition fee)
fee-paying education
educational institution
higher education institution/ college/ university
liberal arts
to take correspondence courses
to take evening courses
junior college
vocational school
boarding school
public school
magnet school

Texts for written translation

Text 1

The Bologna process

Russia has officially joined the process of creating a single European higher education space. In other words by 2010 the diplomas of Russian universities will be recognized in Europe, education will be assessed in accordance with the European scale and Russia will have more opportunities to make money on teaching foreign students.

The goal is to create by 2010 a single European space for higher education, envisaging mutual recognition of university diplomas and other general standards in higher education. 40 countries participate in the creation of a single education space in Europe. They all include almost all the Western-European space, Turkey, Cyprus and Malta. Among the former Soviet republics Russia and all the Baltic states joined the process. "By signing the declaration to join the Bologna process, Russia has made another step forward in its integration into Europe. The participation of the country in the Bologna process meets the interests of Russian students, teachers and universities", stressed Shishlov.

According to the terms of the Bologna club, the participating states undertake to reform their higher education systems by 2010 in compliance with a single standard.

They have to introduce two stages of education in universities – Baccalaureate and Magistrate, control the quality and certification of higher education in accordance with a single scheme, develop educational programmes compatible with the programs of other European universities – members of the club, as well as the single assessment of the academic merits of students. Due to the reforms the citizens of the member-states of the Bologna process will have a chance to study in work in other European countries where their diplomas are recognized.

An expansion of opportunities is envisaged not only for active students but also for those who would like to take a post-graduate or distance-learning education course.

As a fully-fledged participant of the process, Russia has to bring its legal basis in education into line with the demands of the reform. In some spheres Russian legislation is even ahead of the laws of other countries, for example it already envisages a two-stage education system, whereas a third of participants in the Bologna process have yet to impose this system. Modernisation of the Russian higher education system, including the introduction of a single state examination, is in line with the Bologna process. With the help of a single space for higher education, Russia wants to raise the quality and accessibility of education and become a

competitor to the US that has ranked number one on the higher education market. According to experts, the value of this market amounts to dozens of millions of US dollars, therefore it stands to reason that Russia should try to win market share.

It is also envisaged that if Russian universities issue European standard diplomas, a new revenue item will emerge in the Russian budget – revenues from granting paid educational services to foreigners. At the same time it is clear that an increase in the level of higher education will necessitate considerable funding, to say nothing of organizational expenses.

Text 2

Что такое "Болонский процесс"?

«Болонским» принято называть процесс создания странами Европы единого образовательного пространства. Его начало было положено подписанием в 1999 г. в Болонье (Италия) Болонской декларации, в которой были сформулированы основные цели, ведущие к достижению сопоставимости и, в конечном счете, гармонизации национальных образовательных систем высшего образования в странах Европы.

Предполагается, что основные цели Болонского процесса должны быть достигнуты к 2010 году.

В настоящее время (2004 год) Болонский процесс объединяет 40 стран: Великобритания, Германия, Италия, Франция, Австрия, Бельгия, Болгария, Венгрия, Греция, Дания, Ирландия, Исландия, Испания, Латвия, Литва, Люксембург, Мальта, Нидерланды, Норвегия, Польша, Португалия, Румыния, Словакия, Словения, Финляндия, Чехия, Швейцария, Швеция, Эстония, Кипр, Лихтенштейн, Турция, Хорватия, Албания, Андорра, Босния и Герцеговина, Ватикан, Македония («бывшая югославская республика Македония»), Россия, Сербия и Черногория.

Россия присоединилась к Болонскому процессу в 2003 году.

В Болонской декларации указаны 6 основных задач, решение которых, как предполагается, будет способствовать единению Европы в области образования.

Это введение общепонятных, сравнимых квалификаций в области высшего образования, переход на двухступенчатую систему высшего образования (бакалавриат – магистратура), введение оценки трудоемкости (курсов, программ, нагрузки) в терминах зачетных единиц (кредитов) и отражение учебной программы в приложении к диплому, образец которого разработан ЮНЕСКО, повышение мобильности студентов, преподавателей и административно-управленческого персонала (в идеале, каждый студент должен провести не менее семестра в другом вузе, желательно зарубежном), обеспечение необходимого качества высшего образования, взаимное признание квалификаций и соответствующих документов в области высшего образования, обеспечение автономности вузов.

К настоящему времени принято говорить о 10-ти задачах: к ранее сформулированным добавляются введение аспирантуры в общую систему высшего образования (в качестве третьего уровня), придание «европейского измерения» высшему образованию (его ориентация на общеевропейские ценности) и повышение привлекательности, конкурентоспособности европейского образования, реализация социальной роли высшего образования, его доступность, развитие системы дополнительного образования (так наз. «образование в течение всей жизни»).

Text 3

Universities go to market

By Harriet Swain

There was a time when the only thing students worried about was their mock statistics paper and world peace. Money, though always 2 concern was rarely something to stir the

passions. First, they had higher-minded things to think about. Then cash had a habit of turning up as soon as they left university and walked into lucrative jobs in finance or law.

No longer. In Germany and France students can queue for hours to find seats in a lecture hall. In Britain and the Netherlands grants barely cover the cost of basic food and accommodation, and young people are receiving more of their financing through loans, which must be repaid once they find the jobs that are becoming ever scarcer on the ground.

Scenes of Parisian students marching down the Boulevard Saint-Germain last November sparked mutterings about 1968. But this time, the theme uniting young people across the European Union is not ideological but practical. The common fear is unemployment the common demand is for an education to keep them ahead in the European jobs market and for the money to pay for it.

The trouble is that there is less public money available. Budgets across Europe are becoming tighter as governments struggle to meet the criteria for European monetary union. At the same time, they see a highly qualified workforce as the key to competing successfully both within Europe and abroad. A large proportion of young people in the United States and Japan already leave the educational system with a degree.

Not only does university keep European youth away from the dole queue for longer, it also equips them with the more specialised knowledge essential when the number of blue-collar jobs worldwide is shrinking. Pumping people with technical knowledge into the economy is vital to achieve its expansion.

But it can be a case of Catch 22. In Germany, for example, a budget deficit of DM 6 billion (\$ 4.6 billion) has squeezed every aspect of public-sector spending, including higher education. Berlin alone is being forced to reduce funded student places by 15,000 within 10 years, while the number of actual students will stay roughly the same. Nearly two bodies occupy every student seat in the average German university.

Thirty years ago, German university heads and politicians agreed to accept swollen student numbers temporarily, expecting them to have fallen back by this time because of fewer 18-year-olds. Instead, with more than a third of young people now wanting to go to university, the situation is worse than ever. Increasingly, courses are restricting intake, something which goes directly against the German principle of higher education being open to everyone who passes their school-leaving diploma (Abitur).

Recent money-raising ideas have included charging wealthy students tuition fees and demanding interest on loans. Both have sparked protests from young people, who late last year staged demonstrations in Bonn.

Meanwhile, in France the number of students entering higher education has risen by 83 percent over the past 20 years and government policy is to increase it still further.

But efforts to meet Maastricht criteria have left little public cash to pay for this expansion. Universities say they need millions to pay off existing debts, let alone employ extra staff, while students say packed lecture halls already make work extremely difficult. They want the kind of personalised contact with lecturers experienced by their British counterparts.

But in Britain itself this system is changing. The country has always had a tradition of high quality higher education for relatively few students, selected from the top of the academic pile. Over the last few years, however the government has made a concerted effort to widen the sector so that a larger proportion of the population gains qualifications.

Universities and colleges are now financed according to the number of students they attract. The results have exceeded expectations to dramatically that expansion has now had to be capped. Student numbers have doubled over the past decade to nearly 1.6 million. A target, set in 1989, of one in three young people entering higher education by the year 2000 was in sight within three years.

Panic has now set in at the realization that more students means more money to pay for them- cash which just is not available. Last November, the government announced a budget cut

in higher education amounting to a 9.4 percent reduction in capital spending. Already the amount of money spent on each student has dropped by more than a quarter over the last 5 years. Universities have begun to seek extra income from industry, commerce and from renting out their premises to summer schools. But vice-chancellors still warn that the famed quality of British universities is under threat.

Lecturers are having to take larger classes and the ratio of academics to students is falling in line with practices more common on the Continent. Students, meanwhile, fear their degrees are being devalued. While once they offered entry into an elite assured of employment, now they are no guarantee of avoiding the dole queue. To make matters worse, it has been suggested students may have to start paying a proportion of university fees- now paid by the state- and student grants are slowly evolving into loans payable once they start earning.

Next door, Ireland too is struggling with rapidly increasing student numbers. In 1980, 20 percent of the age cohort advanced to third level. This has now increased to more than 40 percent, about half of whom take degree level programmes.

The government is conducting a review to find out how it can maintain this expansion without starving other public services. It is encouraging private investment, particularly in combination with public money to cover capital projects. Like many other European countries, it sees developing closer links between universities and industry as the key to a thriving economy as well as a way of covering cost.

At the same time, it is trying to make entry to university more equal by phasing out tuition fees from this year and abolishing tax relief on education covenants to help pay for it. This is not equality for its own sake, but to improve employment prospects for Irish youth at home and abroad. Without an educated workforce, Ireland fears it will not be able to compete in European marketplace.

In Belgium, cuts in education spending have sparked continual strikes by lecturers over the last year. Many have been laid off with the merger of training colleges to reduce the ratio of lecturers to students. Job security is the main concern, with short-term contracts replacing many full-time posts. Worst hit is the poorer French-speaking part of the country, struggling to meet European economic criteria.

University overcrowding is also a problem since anyone with the correct school-leaving qualifications can enter higher education. And fees are relatively low, which makes the country attractive to foreign students.

In the Netherlands overcrowding is less of a problem, but unlike the French, the Dutch government is determined to reduce student numbers. In the 1970s, the Dutch government's policy was to allow everyone the chance of going to university. Now it claims there are no longer enough jobs for graduates, and youth people should be encouraged to developed technical skills instead.

Opponents say it is simply a way of saving money. But it is not the only saving scheme. All students at Dutch universities now receive a grant of about 470 guilders (\$115) per month if they live away from home, plus a loan. From September 1996, all grants will become loans that must be repaid, unless the student receives a high enough exam grade at the end of the year.

Conditions vary in Italy from the packed lecture halls of Rome's La Sapienza University- with more than 150,000 undergraduates in an institution originally designed for 30,000- to the relative quiet of Ferrara. Like Spain, it is trying to reduce the length of university courses as a way of saving money, although students argue this will reduce their quality.

Italian education ministers have also tried to solve financial problems by encouraging more private investment, although this too has proved controversial with students fearing reduction in academic independence. Sit-ins have become a common feature of university life, with staff shortages, understocked libraries and over-full lecture halls the usual complaints.

These problems in individual countries and the varying attempts by governments at solutions can no longer be treated in isolation.

Governments throughout the union are torn between the need to meet financial criteria for European monetary union and their desire to produce enough educated people to cope with the competition once they get there. Their proposed solutions vary, but most hit students, either financially or in their conditions for studying.

It is surprising that students are not making more fuss under the difficult circumstances that they face. Perhaps young people are so busy working to secure their own futures that they have little time left for protesting. In any case, the luxury of student years untouched by the practical concerns of the real world seems consigned to the past.

Text 4

Is college worth it? Too many degrees are a waste of money. The return on higher education would be much better if college were cheaper

When LaTisha Styles graduated from Kennesaw State University in Georgia in 2006 she had \$35,000 of student debt. This obligation would have been easy to discharge if her Spanish degree had helped her land a well-paid job. But there is no shortage of Spanish-speakers in a nation that borders Latin America. So Ms Styles found herself working in a clothes shop and a fast-food restaurant for no more than \$11 an hour.

Frustrated, she took the gutsy decision to go back to the same college and study something more pragmatic. She majored in finance, and now has a good job at an investment consulting firm. Her debt has swollen to \$65,000, but she will have little trouble paying it off.

As Ms Styles's story shows, there is no simple answer to the question "Is college worth it?" Some degrees pay for themselves; others don't. American school kids pondering whether to take on huge student loans are constantly told that college is the gateway to the middle class. The truth is more nuanced, as Barack Obama hinted when he said in January that "folks can make a lot more" by learning a trade "than they might with an art history degree". An angry art history professor forced him to apologise, but he was right.

College graduates aged 25 to 32 who are working full time earn about \$17,500 more annually than their peers who have only a high school diploma, according to the Pew Research Centre, a think-tank. But not all degrees are equally useful. And given how much they cost—a residential four-year degree can set you back as much as \$60,000 a year—many students end up worse off than if they had started working at 18.

Unsurprisingly, engineering is a good bet wherever you study it. An engineering graduate from the University of California, Berkeley can expect to be nearly \$1.1m better off after 20 years than someone who never went to college. Even the least lucrative engineering courses generated a 20-year return of almost \$500,000.

Arts and humanities courses are much more varied. All doubtless nourish the soul, but not all fatten the wallet. An arts degree from a rigorous school such as Columbia or the University of California, San Diego pays off handsomely. But an arts graduate from Murray State University in Kentucky can expect to make \$147,000 less over 20 years than a high school graduate, after paying for his education. Of the 153 arts degrees in the study, 46 generated a return on investment worse than plonking the money in 20-year treasury bills. Of those, 18 offered returns worse than zero.

What is not in doubt is that the cost of university per student has risen by almost five times the rate of inflation since 1983, and graduate salaries have been flat for much of the past decade. Student debt has grown so large that it stops many young people from buying houses, starting businesses or having children. Those who borrowed for a bachelor's degree granted in 2012 owe an average of \$29,400. The Project on Student Debt, a non-profit, says that 15% of borrowers default within three years of entering repayment. At for-profit colleges the rate is 22%. Glenn Reynolds, a law professor and author of "The Higher Education Bubble", writes of graduates who "may wind up living in their parents' basements until they are old enough to collect Social Security."

That is an exaggeration: students enrolling this year who service their debts will see them forgiven after 20 years. But the burden is still heavy for many. It does not help that nearly a third of those who take out such loans eventually drop out of college; they must still repay their debts. A third transfer to different schools. Many four-year degrees drag on longer and so cost more. Overall, the six-year graduation rate for four-year institutions is only 59%.

The lousy national job market does not help, either. A report by McKinsey, a consultancy, found that 42% of recent graduates are in jobs that require less than a four-year college education. Some 41% of graduates from the nation's top colleges could not find jobs in their chosen field; and half of all graduates said they would choose a different major or school.

Text 5

Есть мнение

Высшее образование у нас уже платное. Кто не отдал за поступление взятку или не платит за обучение напрямую, тот обязательно протягивал конвертики репетиторам или ходил на подготовительные курсы. При этом люди по-прежнему не ценят получаемого ими образования. И поэтому студенты пропускают лекции и прогуливают семинары, не задумываясь о том, что их обучение стоит денег. Оплата идет из городского или государственного бюджетов. Нужные в других сферах средства разбазариваются: один студент уезжает с новым дипломом за границу, другой работает по специальности. Поэтому все образование, осуществляемое по госзаказу, должно быть платным. Можно разработать различные формы оплаты. Причем бумажник родителей — не единственный источник средств (на Западе многие к нему и не прикасаются). Например, действенная система фантов (государство выделяет определенные средства на обучение каждому студенту) или кредитов (студент учится за счет фирмы, сотрудником которой становится на оговоренный в контракте срок). Форм много, главное — готовность их предложить. И законодательно поддержать. А то ведь почему юноши-москвичи рвутся после школы хоть в какой-нибудь вуз? Потому что могут загреметь в армию. Выбирают профессию, от которой потом всю жизнь страдают... («*АиФ-Москва*»)

Text 6

Rooting out student cheats

Universities are today being urged to take the growing menace of plagiarism by students more seriously. Cheats are a minority, but their actions anger and discourage other students and devalue the status of British qualifications, says a report going out to UK universities and higher education colleges.

The guidelines, called *Deterring, Detecting and Dealing with Student Plagiarism*, published online by the universities' joint information systems committee (JISC), say universities need to nominate specific members of staff to deal with cases of plagiarism, but that the whole institution, from the vice-chancellor downwards, must coordinate policy to deal with a problem that has grown with the spread of the internet.

The report notes that an increasing number of UK institutions have specialist officers located within the school or department who deal with all cases of plagiarism. Markers who detect unacceptable behaviour pass the case to the specialist who decides whether plagiarism is demonstrated and allocates a punishment from a limited range of options. Oxford Brookes University, where the system has been in place for five years, has 14 "academic conduct officers" and Sheffield Hallam has a panel of specialist officers.

The majority of plagiarism cases occur when students misunderstand or misuse academic conventions and attribution rules, but it is the deliberate cheats who cause the most concern, argues the guidelines document. "Students who deliberately cheat or engage in fraudulent behaviour are characterised as threatening the values and beliefs that underpin academic work, angering and discouraging other students who do not use such tactics, devaluing the integrity of

UK awards and qualifications, and distorting the efforts of lecturers who wish to teach rather than police others' actions."

Increasing pressures on students arising from undertaking paid work, heavier coursework load, or lack of personal organisation skills are contributing to the rise of plagiarism, argues the document.

It notes that concerns have been raised about "top-up" final-year programmes in which international students do the first two years in their home country and then finish the degree in the UK. The scheme meant students were often submitting a dissertation after eight months of UK study.

"Others worry it is more frequent in distance-learning programmes where authorship of coursework cannot be easily authenticated. It may be more common in very large classes. If these students enter programmes where the 'rules of the game' are unclear, they might continue to use tried and tested approaches and thereby, inadvertently, plagiarise," says the report, adding that the number of students falling into this category will grow as student cohorts become more diverse due to widening participation, increasing numbers of international students and greater use of different teaching modes (eg distance learning, work-based learning). (*The Guardian*, by Donald MacLeod)

Text 7

А за граница лучше

Сегодня общее число студентов, ежегодно уезжающих из своих стран на учебу за границу, составляет около 2 млн. человек, большую часть из которых традиционно поставляют Индия, Южная Корея и Китай. Эта тенденция сохранится и впредь, однако, вследствие экономического роста в Азии, сопровождаемого ростом численности тамошнего среднего класса, уже к 2005 году число «экспортируемых студентов» резко возрастет.

При этом в 90-е годы в мире появились новые подходы к обучению иностранцев. Страны со стареющим населением, например Канада и Германия, стали прибегать к тактике переманивания к себе высококвалифицированных кадров из-за рубежа. Там набирают талантливых студентов на самые перспективные направления образования и вдобавок всячески поощряют их остаться в стране после получения диплома о высшем образовании.

Способствуют изменению мирового рынка образовательных услуг и такие страны, как Китай, Индия и Сингапур. Здесь рассматривают обучение своих студентов за рубежом только как способ обеспечить высококвалифицированными кадрами свои собственные университеты. («АиФ. Семейный совет»)

Text 8

Examinations for sale

Italy - A judge in Camerino sits watching a video that could be hard-core porn, except that the "stars" are an elderly professor and a young student. In Messina, another professor jumps to his death from the balcony of his flat. Pupils arriving at a school in Crema, near Milan, are greeted not by their teachers, but by police officers, who escort them to a classroom for questioning.

These bizarre events all point to a rotteness in Italy's education system. A rash of scandals has shown that qualifications, including degrees, are for sale. The two professors were accused of offering higher grades for sex. One chose suicide. The other fought, claiming that it was charm, not high marks, that had seduced his students. On June 7th, he was acquitted; but he must pay compensation of €120,000 (\$150,000) to his university for damaging its reputation.

The school in Crema was among 34 private secondary schools caught up in an investigation into a vast trade in bogus exam passes. The going rate for a *diploma di maturita*, Italy's school-leaving certificate, was said by prosecutors to range from €2,000 to €8,000. Since

a diploma is needed to apply to university or get a white-collar public-sector job, that seemed a bargain — the more so since the organization behind it, called Diploma No Problem, offered such good service. Answers were supplied for written and oral exams; attendance records were fixed. Conversations taped by the police suggest that the company even booked flights and hotels for “clients” so they could sit exams in places where the outcome was assured.

One school south of Rome seems to have existed almost solely to produce study-free passes. It had 40 normal pupils, but around 1,000 external ones. The school was owned by a man with a criminal record, identified in court records as one of the bosses of Diploma No Problem. Police reckon the enterprise had an annual turnover of €5m. (*The Economist*)

Text 9

Язык до карьеры доведет

Перед современным человеком вопрос — зачем изучать иностранный язык — не стоит. Считается, что его наличие — свидетельство высокой квалификации кандидата при приеме на работу. «Рабочий» английский, немецкий или, допустим, испанский в объемах, превышающих школьный курс, ценятся во многих компаниях. Такого сотрудника работодатель поощряет и продвигает по службе. «Известия» решили выяснить, какой язык надо учить сегодняшним школьникам, чтобы сделать успешную карьеру.

На курсах иностранных языков в международном центре обучения при колледже МИД России «Известиям» сообщили, что в этом году английский и китайский пользуются практически одинаковым спросом.

С английским все понятно. Этот язык, конечно, перевешивает по количеству обучающихся, — рассказывает менеджер курсов Мария Петрова. — Его изучают преимущественно потому, что язык является первым международным. Но китайский наступает на пятки, вот и приходится его учить и школьникам и студентам.

Мы попросили преподавателей ведущих гуманитарных вузов страны сделать прогноз на ближайшие 10 лет. В результате выяснилось, что учить надо английский, испанский, китайский и арабский.

Английский - легкий, логичный, понятный язык, он является своеобразной классикой, - объясняет Валерия Касамара, кандидат политических наук, заместитель декана факультета прикладной политологии Государственного университета Высшей школы экономики. Прагматичные люди в наш все более суматошный век будут отдавать предпочтение в первую очередь ему. Кроме того, в ближайшее время нас ожидает бум на изучение испанского языка. Он будет обусловлен демографическим кризисом в Европе. Чем глубже этот кризис, тем востребованнее специалисты, знающие испанский язык. Ведь прирост населения Европы ожидается именно с китайской и латиноамериканской сторон. К тому же у нас традиционно теплые отношения со странами Латинской Америки. Уменьшение спроса на европейские языки видно невооруженным глазом. Групп, изучающих итальянский и немецкий языки на курсах, в этом году совсем мало. Зато интерес к китайскому растет как на дрожжах. Не нужно думать, что мода на китайский язык скоро пройдет. Это макроэкономический тренд, а не сиюминутная необходимость.

Анна Кравченко, заместитель декана переводческого факультета Московского государственного лингвистического университета (МГЛУ, бывший иняз им. Мориса Тореза), рассказала, что в этом году абитуриенты (в основном выпускники спецшкол) уже сдавали в качестве иностранного языка китайский на вступительных экзаменах.

Правда, редкость языка на результатах зачисления не сказывается, поскольку конкурс общий — какой бы язык ни был, знать его надо на достойном уровне. Еще среди студентов наблюдается большой интерес к арабскому (уже более 30 стран мира говорят на нем). И эта тенденция продолжится, — объяснила она. (*«Известия»*, Лариса Каллиома, Мария Дмитраш, Мария Петрова, Елизавета Хворикова)

Text 10

Another country

As Berlin's universities reach crisis point, Helen Pidd describes her German Educational experience.

To your everyday undergraduate Brit, university in Germany sounds like the ultimate higher education dream. For the sometime slacker, periodically panicking over the doom of impending deadlines, the promise of a life without tuition fees and compulsory end of year exams is pure academic nirvana. Especially with no danger of ever being kicked out for not handing in work on time and next to no pressure from on high to finish a degree within an allotted time period. Parachuting into Berlin last October as an exchange student from Edinburg, first impressions confounded all myths of Teutonic precision.

Well-versed in the glossy, globalised ways of a united Europe, like a sheltered 19th-century colonial I naively expected things to work pretty much the way they did back home. Choose courses, get timetable, write essays, take exams, finish the year, move on to the next: that kind of thing. How different could academia be, a mere two-hour plane-hop away? Totally and utterly, of course. For starters, in the three to four years it takes a British student to earn their letters, your average Berlin scholar is invariably only halfway through their studies. My poor chum Sebastian seems to have been at it forever. Thanks to extended bouts of impressively Proustian procrastination and frantic subject changing, after three long years he is bewilderingly still in his first semester.

Before the head-shaking begins, it is worth pointing out the umpteen reasons for such a mammoth fresher-to-graduate gestation period. Getting a degree at any of Berlin's three universities simply takes longer than in the UK, however hard you cram. More courses have to be attended, more exams taken and more essays written.

The difference is that in Germany there is no financial or institutional pressure to finish a degree within a certain period of time. Despite sporadic threats from the government, Berlin's 120,000 students still pay no tuition fees. Matriculation carries an administrative fee of 150 euros per semester, which entitles students to free travel on all public transport in the city. It's quite a bargain. For sightseeing alone it's worth enrolling, particularly when you consider that some courses don't carry specific entry requirements. (*The Guardian*, by Helen Pidd, June 17)

Texts for sight translation

Text 1

Murphy's law

Not long after Simon Murphy started work as head of the North school in Ashford, Kent, one of his students came up to him and said "Why have you come here, sir? It's crap." This was the summer term of 2001 and that summer only 9 % of the students got at least five good GCSEs and, once again, it was in the list of England's bottom 100 schools. It had been named and shamed for its high levels of truancy and was on special watch because it had only just lost the tag as a school with serious weaknesses. The school had developed a bad reputation for behaviour, and numbers were spiralling down. The buildings were mostly old and pretty decrepit with plenty of teaching still going on in temporary huts built in the second world war, which were well past their sell-by date. There was a £250,000 budget deficit. To top it all, as Murphy joined it was named in Hansard³⁹ as a school that had gone on to a four-day week because it couldn't recruit enough teachers; it was more than 25 % understaffed. Without improvement it was a prime candidate for closure.

Contrast then with now. This year 60 % of the students at this secondary modern school, which is bled of higher levels of ability by the grammar school across the road and the popular comprehensive nearby, got at least five good GCSEs, making it the most improved school in the secondary school league tables. Attendance has improved dramatically and is now around the

national average. It is part of an £80m private finance initiative in Kent, which will see it substantially rebuilt and refurbished with work starting this April. And, if it can find the sponsors, has high hopes of being a technology and sports college from this September. (*The Guardian, By Wendy Berliner*)

Text 2

British Students Protest Tuition Hikes

VOA News

Thousands of students angered by government plans to triple university fees are marching in London and other British cities in protests targeting the Liberal Democrat party, which shares power with conservatives in the coalition government.

Students on Wednesday packed Whitehall, the street that runs from London's Trafalgar Square past the prime minister's residence, as a phalanx of riot police blocked protesters from reaching parliament.

Students are venting anger at Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, accusing both him and his party of reneging on promises during this year's election campaign to oppose any fee hikes. A small group of students hanged an effigy of Mr. Clegg in north London late Tuesday.

Protests were also under way Wednesday in Leeds, Birmingham and Manchester. At least one officer sustained injuries, and police reported several dozen arrests.

A demonstration two weeks ago against the fee hikes turned violent as protesters stormed the London headquarters of Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservative party.

The planned increase will bring annual tuition costs to about \$14,000 annually.

The tuition hikes are part of a program of sweeping austerity measures taken by the coalition government to help tackle Britain's soaring budget deficit.

Text 3

Portrait of the student as a young swot

Niki Hindmarsh, a final-year journalism student, gets up at 4,30 a. m. to do a four-hour shift at a local radio station, reading the traffic and the weather report. She's back at Liverpool John Moores University for a 10 a. m. lecture, then spends the rest of the day between lectures and the library. She is also entertainment coordinator in the student union and runs the student radio station. When her mates go to the pub in the evening, she's tucked up in bed.

Niki, 21, has made a profession out of being a student. She worries about money and is keenly aware of the competition she'll have to fight off to get a foothold in her chosen career. That's why she works so hard. But, Niki insists, hers is definitely not a baked-bean-diet kind of existence. She prefers lunching out with her girlfriends. "People see university as an easy thing to do, like we're all lazy," says Niki. "But it's a lot harder than people realise. You really have to work hard, think about the future and juggle trying to earn some money. Then you have to live with a label that says you're not really human."

According to the most comprehensive research on the life of students to date — conducted by the polling company Mori for the student housing group Unite and published today — Niki's generation is more career orientated, hard working and serious than any of its predecessors. "A degree is now seen as a necessity on every CV. It's expected by employers and, because it's so expensive, students have to get value for money. They are going there to work," says Tabitha Birchall, head of communications at Unite, who has managed the annual survey for the past five years. (*The Guardian, By Polly Curtis*)

Text 4

University today

Worriers crippled with debt or binge-drinking hedonists — who exactly are the people attending university today? A new survey paints a fascinating picture.

In this year's survey, which involved in-depth interviews with 1,007 students, 70 % said they had applied to university to get a good qualification. Four years ago, that figure was 53 %. Some 57 % of replies cited the need to improve their job chances, compared with 52 % four years ago. Students are putting their noses to the grindstone. The survey finds that many are too focused on their work to worry about their love life. A third said they were actively choosing to avoid relationships. Seven out of 10 students said they cared very much about health and fitness. But the student body has not collectively gone on the wagon and grown halos. Students' average monthly booze bill is £73, according to the survey, compared with the £122 they spend on food. A third of them drink more than the 21 units recommended as a maximum weekly limit. "Despite a high level of awareness of the risks of binge drinking, significant proportions buy more alcohol than the recommended levels for safe drinking," the report says.

While more indebted than ever, students are spending more money on gadgets: 47 % have a DVD player in their room, 49 % have a mobile phone with picture-messaging and 16 % have an MP3 player.

Darren Wilson, 21, a third-year economics student at Leeds University, jokes that there are more DVD players in his house than people. Darren grew up next door to Niki in Newcastle. Now their lives are very different. By the time he gets up in the morning, she has finished her radio shift and is at her first lecture. "The likelihood of my making it to an early lecture is proportional to the hangover," he admits. Spoken like a true student, but Darren is not quite as nonchalant as he pretends to be. "I quite like the challenge of university. Not that I want to sound like a geek, but this last year and the end of the second year, it's been stretching." And Darren is far from lazy, four nights a week he takes part in sport and once a week he goes to a Spanish class. All on top of preparing for his finals. (*The Guardian*, By Polly Curtis)

Text 5

The belief that the future of society depends on the quantity and quality of its educated citizens is widely held. It explains why a great many Russians are still willing to get good education. Higher education institutions in Russia are diverse, ranging in size, mission and history. Some of universities have been founded by state. Several dozens of universities determine their admission policy and requirements. In most cases, entry requirements are specified as grade point average. Nevertheless, the best universities are also the most difficult to get into.

After finishing the 11-th form high-school students take Unified National (State) Exams. Each exam is conducted by independent examining boards. If a student gets high scores, such a result is considered to be good and he/she has an opportunity to enter university. They can choose from a wide range of universities according to their will. The typical academic programme for university students is composed of varying number of courses or subjects within a field of specialization. Courses are a combination of lectures, seminars and laboratory work. Many courses are available for disabled people.

Undergraduate degrees normally take four years to complete and they lead to a Bachelor's degree. Those who want to receive Master's degree, continue their studies and research work for another two years. Students may go on postgraduate (graduate) education. For this they carry out independent research, prepare and defend a dissertation. The Ph.D (candidate's degree) is a degree received as a result of completion of dissertation.

The system of secondary and higher education in Russia is going through a transitional period. The main objectives of the reform are: to decentralize the higher education system, to develop a new financial mechanism, to give more academic freedoms to faculties and students. Although the standards of higher education in Russia are considered to be one of the best, there are many problems we are facing in our higher education. For instance, universities complain that the equipment which is used at universities is not modern enough, tuition fees are growing and many talented young people cannot receive higher education. All these problems are widely discussed in Russian society.

Crime

Vocabulary

accomplice
appeal
benefit of the doubt
to charge with
court-martial
to commit a crime
criminal
criminal code
delinquent
felon
felony
immunity
international/civil law
judicial bodies
juvenile delinquency
labour law
law and order
law enforcement agencies/bodies
under new/current/existing legislation
mafia protection, associated 'family'
to give smb Miranda
misdemeanor
penitentiary system
persistent offender
to prosecute
shoot-out

Crimes and Criminals

arson
arsonist
assassin
assassination
assault
battery
bigamy
blackmailing
bribery
burglary
embezzlement
extortion
defection/desertion
forgery
fraud
fraudster
highjacking
hitman
hostage taking
housebreaking
kidnapping
libel

manslaughter
money laundering
to mug (mugging)
to murder/kill
murder/homicide
murderer
personal injury/(grievous) bodily harm
to pickpocket (pickpocketing)
to pilfer
pilferer
premeditated (murder)
to rape
rapist
to rob (robbery: armed/attempted/bank)
to shoplift (shoplifting)
slander
to smuggle (smuggling)
theft
thief
treason
trespass

Investigation

to issue an arrest/search warrant
aggravating circumstances
alibi
attenuating/mitigating circumstances
case
coroner
to detain
detention
evidence
indictment/charge
investigation
irrefutable evidence
lock-up ward/ remand cell
to remand
to sue
to try
suspect
testimony/evidence
the case is in process/ under investigation
the probe is going on
unreliable evidence
witness

Lawsuit

accused
Attorney-General
barrister/solicitor (BrE)
bring a case against smb
close/dismiss a case
complainant/plaintiff
(defence) counsellor/attorney (AmE)

defendant
to file a complaint/lawsuit against smb
to file for a divorce
interrogation
in the dock
to institute court proceedings against smb
judge
juror
jury
lawsuit
magistrate
to plead guilty/innocent to smth
to prosecute
prosecutor
prosecution/defence witness
to review the case
to sanction a case
to win/lose a case
Sanctions
to acquit
to be on probation
to be released on parole
capital punishment
to commute a sentence to smb
to convict
convict
death penalty/sentence
execution
to found guilty/innocent
life imprisonment
to release on bail
to sentence to
to serve a sentence
suspended/probationary sentence
verdict

Texts for written translation

Text 1

Crime and Punishment

Crime violates the laws of the community, state or nation. It is punishable in accordance with these laws. The definition of crime varies according to time and place, but the laws of most countries consider as crimes such offences as arson, bigamy, burglary, forgery, murder and treason.

Not all offences against the law are crimes. The laws that set down the punishment for crimes form the criminal code. This code defines as crimes those offences considered most harmful to the community. The common law recognizes three classes of crime: treason, felony and misdemeanor.

Death or life imprisonment is the usual penalty for treason. Felony is a crime that is punishable by a term of imprisonment (life, 25 years to a few months). In this case a convict may be sent to a jail or to a penitentiary camp. We can distinguish such felonies as different kinds of murder (manslaughter, homicide), rape, theft (robbery, burglary), arson (deliberately), bribery,

kidnapping. A misdemeanor is a petty offence. A person who commits misdemeanor may be punished by a fine as in the case of speeding, shoplifting, pick pocketing or a jail term of less than one year (blackmail, slander), or an offender may be granted probation or released on parole. If you have aggravating circumstances misdemeanor may turn into felony and if you have extenuating circumstances the penalty may be less serious.

The distinction between felony and misdemeanor is less significant for modern law than formerly, and many commentators have questioned its utility.

The criminal codes of modern nations are enormously complicated, growing bodies of written rules and doctrines, most of which are unknown to the average citizen. Offenders are detected, brought to court, tried, convicted, and punished by professionals especially trained for their particular functions; in the meantime, other professionals, the criminologists, investigate the causes of crime and examine the ways in which correction and prevention are handled. Judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, police, prison officials, sociologists, social workers, psychiatrists, and psychologists all have different functions to perform in the criminal-justice system.

The dominant conflict of views in the field of penology is between those who put their faith in severe punishment in the belief that this will prevent the criminal from repeating his crimes and also serve as a deterrent to others and, at the other extreme, the school of thought that emphasizes the futility of punishment and the evil effects of prison life. The advocates of this latter position often conceive of the criminal as a victim of social and psychological forces outside his control.

During the last several centuries, use of the death penalty has declined, and it is under attack in many of the jurisdictions that still retain it, as do some of the states of the United States. Corporal punishment, torture, banishment, and other more brutal forms of punishment have largely been abandoned in favour of imprisonment for almost all serious crimes and fines for the lesser ones.

Public opinion in regard to the punishment of criminals is divided and vacillating. Rising crime rates invariably create a demand for greater severity of punishment, restoration of capital punishment, or more frequent infliction of the latter. When legislatures respond to these pressures, however, public opposition often develops and may prevent the actual imposition of the increased penalties.

Increasing crime appears to be a feature of all modern industrialized societies, and no developments in either law or penology can be shown to have had a significant impact on the problem. The effect of crime on the quality of life cannot be measured simply in terms of the actual incidence of crime, because the fear of crime affects far more people than are likely to become actual victims and forces them to accept limitations on their freedom of action. Paradoxically, many social changes that are perceived as progress may lead to further escalation in the incidence of crime—economic progress, producing greater wealth, almost always leads to greater opportunities for crime in the form of more goods to steal or enhanced possibilities for successful fraud—and an increase in individual liberty may have similar effects, as the older constraints on behaviour are discarded. Crime is least likely to be a serious problem in a society that is economically undeveloped and subject to restrictive religious or similar restraints on behaviour. For modern urbanized society, in which economic growth and personal success are dominant values, there is little reason to suppose that crime rates will not continue to increase.

Text 2

Defiant Khodorkovsky denies all charges

Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the former head of the Russian oil firm Yukos, today said he was completely innocent of charges of tax evasion, fraud and misappropriation brought against him by the state.

“I do not consider myself guilty of a single charge that has been brought against me,” he said as cross examination began in the nine month- old trial.

Reading from a thick sheaf of notes, Mr. Khodorkovsky methodically responded to each of the prosecution's accusations against him. He **argued** that he had not been responsible for the decision-making behind some of the alleged violations and that, in any case, there had been nothing wrong with Yukos's actions under the laws that existed at the time.

He said prosecutors were making "deliberately false declarations every time he came to the end of his response to an accusation.

"The state prosecutor has not provided any evidence, but he tries to create it," Mr. Khodorkovsky said, adding that he felt sorry for the prosecutor, Dmitry Shokhin, because "his role is to make a stand for the illegal hypotheses of others."

Yukos has been the target of a months long back-tax investigation that culminated in the sale of its main production facility, Yuganskneftegaz, against \$28bn (€14.6 bn) in back-tax claims at a disputed auction in December.

Critics of the Kremlin say the case is part of a government vendetta against Mr. Khodorkovsky after he funded opposition parties. Moscow insists the investigation is targeting a rotten business empire and its owners.

Mr. Khodorkovsky and his co-defendant, Platon Lebedev, stand accused of fraud in connection with the 1994 privatisation of a fertiliser company, Apatit. The prosecution says the pair illegally acquired a 20 % stake in the company, valued at \$283 m.

"I always acted within the law," Mr Khodorkovsky said. "I have given a detailed account of the circumstances of the acquisition of 20 % of Apatit, and said I consider the accusation that acquisition was fraudulent to be a deliberate lie."

Yukos yesterday suffered a setback in its efforts to get a hearing in the US when a judge threw out its bankruptcy case and said the issue belonged in a forum that included the participation of the Russian government.

The ruling ended two months of legal attempts by Yukos to pull the US courts into its struggle with the Kremlin.

Describing the US court's decision as "regrettable", Yukos pointed out that the judge agreed with it on four of five issues, and said it had no doubt it had acted appropriately in bringing the matter to the US bankruptcy court.

"We must now consider all the options available to us and determine what our next steps will be," Steven Theede, the Yukos chief executive, said in a statement.

The trial continues.

(the Guardian, by Mark Tran, February 25, 2005)

Text 3

Ирония судьбы

Накануне Нового года, 31 декабря, Петроградский федеральный суд Санкт-Петербурга преподнес подарок губернатору Ненецкого автономного округа (НАО) Владимиру Бутову, приговорив его к трем годам лишения свободы условно с испытательным сроком два года. Таким образом, впервые в России был осужден действующий губернатор. А днем ранее суд НАО отменил регистрацию Бутова в качестве кандидата в губернаторы. Выборы назначены на 23 января, и Бутов, баллотирующийся на третий срок, был лидером предвыборной гонки.

Глава НАО был наказан за избиение питерского постового ГИБДД Д сержанта Алексея Попова. Однако ни потерпевший, ни его обидчики с выводами суда не согласились. Потерпевший вообще встал на сторону своих обидчиков, отказавшись от своих обвинительных показаний. Суд же установил, что Попов получил от Бутова и его коллег сотрясение мозга, гематомы на лице и ссадины на руках. Но ненецкий губернатор уверял, что «честно, не бил» постового. (*«Известия», 11.01.2005*)

Text 4

“We were victims too”

As part of our debate on the reform of the criminal justice system, Reg Dudley, who was convicted in 1977 of a horrific double murder, urges caution on the Government in its drive to secure more convictions.

This week, more than 25 years after my friend Bob Maynard and I were sent to prison for two murders we didn't commit, evidence of severe irregularities in the original investigation will finally be heard by the Court of Appeal. New expert testimony suggests that the main planks of the case against us, our supposed 'confessions', were fabricated — as we have claimed all along. The Crown's star witness has also made a statement admitting perjury. In June 1992, The Observer published an investigation into our case. More than a decade later, it looks as if the courts are finally catching up.

I am now 77. My marriage broke up long ago. I missed my children flourishing into adulthood; the childhoods of my grandchildren. I had to live with the label of being one of the notorious 'torso murderers', who had shot, decapitated and dismembered one man, and then brutally disposed of a second. Although the trial judge recommended we serve 15 years, Bob and I were 'knocked back' time and again by the Parole Board and Home Secretary — because we would not admit our guilt. Before I finally came out in 1998, I had done the rounds of Britain's toughest jails: Dartmoor, Gartree, the Scrubs.

So forgive me if I sound cynical. When I hear politicians and police officers claiming that our criminal justice system needs reforming to make it easier to get convictions, that guilty man are going free and that victims are unprotected, I feel a need to interrupt. Hold on. Be careful. Bob and I are victims too. (*The Observer*, July 7, 2002)

Text 5

Война ведь

С осени 1999 года более 50 российских военных обвинялись в преступлениях против мирного населения. По данным правозащитного центра «Мемориал», реальные сроки получили 22 человека, обвиненных в убийствах. В 2003 году суд приговорил полковника Юрия Буданова к 10 годам лишения свободы за похищение, изнасилование и убийство. Буданов захватил в чеченском селении Танги Эльзу Кунгаеву, которую он считал снайпером боевиков. Он допросил девушку, а затем задушил ее.

Большинству подсудимых были даны условные сроки или они были оправданы. 29 июня 2004 года Северо-Кавказский окружной военный суд оправдал офицеров внутренних войск МВД Евгения Худякова и Сергея Аракчеева, обвиняемых в убийстве трех пассажиров. Приговор этот отменила коллегия Верховного суда России. («Известия», 19.01.2005)

Text 6

When age is just a number

Text 7

Еще раз о правосудии

В 1989 году город Магнитогорск Челябинской области всколыхнула серия убийств и покушений на убийство несовершеннолетних девушек. Нападения в основном совершались в лифтах. Поиски маньяка, прозванного «лифтером», взяло под свой контроль МВД. Магнитогорских следователей торопили.

25 ноября 1989 года житель Челябинска Дмитрий Гридин был задержан по подозрению в совершении одного из убийств. Далее в деле Гридина начинается целая цепь нарушений, допущенных сотрудниками милиции, прокуратуры, а также судом.

Два месяца после ареста (вместо двух дней, положенных по закону) Дмитрий Гридин содержался в изоляторе временного содержания, хотя должен был быть помещен в следственный изолятор. Все это время его постоянно допрашивали, не давали спать и

систематически избивали. В результате, как утверждают адвокаты Гридина, не выдержав истязаний, Дмитрий оговорил себя и дал признательные показания по шести из пятнадцати эпизодов. Все время, пока Гридина допрашивали, он не имел возможности встретиться с адвокатом. Защитников не ставили в известность о предстоящих следственных действиях, что открывало простор для фальсификаций. Например, одежду Гридина отправили на экспертизу в одном мешке с одеждой потерпевшей, и в результате на одежде девушки нашли ворсинки и волокна ткани от одежды подозреваемого.

После ареста Дмитрия Гридина сотрудники МВД во главе с тогдашним министром Вадимом Бакатиным заявляли, что поймали настоящего убийцу, фотографии Гридина были напечатаны во всех местных СМИ. Таким образом, в отношении Гридина была не только нарушена презумпция невиновности, но стало невозможным еще и опознание, поскольку потерпевшие, которые уже видели фото и были убеждены в виновности Гридина, не могли дать четкого ответа на вопрос, это ли человек напал на них.

Во время заседания суда по делу Гридина на адвокатов и свидетелей защиты все время оказывалось давление: им постоянно угрожали как родственники погибших, так и сотрудники следственных органов. Протокол судебного заседания вместо положенных по закону двух недель оформлялся два месяца, и показания свидетелей в нем были грубо сфальсифицированы и «дотянуты» до обвинительного приговора. На суде Гридин не признал себя виновным.

Дмитрия приговорили к высшей мере наказания – расстрелу, который впоследствии был заменен на пожизненное заключение. Убийства в Магнитогорске после ареста Гридина не прекратились. (www.grani.ru)

Text 8

Hijacked Jets Destroy Twin Towers and Hit Pentagon

Hijackers rammed jetliners into each of New York's Trade Center towers yesterday toppling both in a hellish storm of ash, glass, smoke and leaping victims, while a third jetliner crashed into the Pentagon in Virginia. There was no official count, but President Bush said thousands had perished, and in the immediate aftermath the calamity was already being ranked the worst and most audacious terror attack in American history.

The attack seemed carefully coordinated. The hijacked planes were all en route to California, and therefore gorged with fuel, and their departures were spaced within an hour and 40 minutes. The first, American Airlines Flight 11, a Boeing 767 out of Boston for Los Angeles, crashed into the north tower at 8:48 a.m. Eighteen minutes later, United Airlines Flight 175, also headed from Boston to Los Angeles, plowed into the south tower.

Then an American Airlines Boeing 757 left Washington's Dulles International Airport bound for Los Angeles, but instead hit the western part of the Pentagon, the military headquarters where 24 000 people work, at 9:40 a.m. Finally, United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757 flying from Newark to San Francisco, crashed near Pittsburg, raising the possibility that its hijackers had failed in whatever their mission was.

In all, 266 people perished in the four planes and several score more were known dead elsewhere. Numerous firefighters, police officers and other rescue workers who responded to the initial disaster in Lower Manhattan were killed or injured when the buildings collapsed. Hundreds were treated for cuts, broken bones, burns and smoke inhalation.

By 8 p.m., police officer volunteers using dogs had found four bodies in the smoldering, stories-high pile of rubble where the towers had once stood and had taken them to a make shift morgue in the lobby of an office building at Vesey and West Streets.

But the real carnage was concealed for now by the twisted, smoking, ash-choked carcasses of the twin towers, in which tens of thousands of people used to work on a weekday. The collapse of the towers caused another World Trade Center building to fall 10 hours later, and several other buildings in the area were damaged or aflame.

"I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost", said Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. "Right now we have to focus on saving as many lives as possible."

The Mayor warned that "the numbers are going to be very, very high." He added that the medical examiner's office will be ready "to deal with thousands and thousands of bodies if they have to."

Within an hour, the United States was on a war footing. The military was put on the highest state of alert, National Guard units were called out in Washington and New York and two aircraft carriers were dispatched to New York harbor. President Bush remained aloft in Air Force One, following a secretive route and making only brief stopovers at Air Force bases in Louisiana and Nebraska. His wife and daughters were evacuated to a secure, unidentified location. The White House, the Pentagon and the Capitol were evacuated, except for the Situation Room in the White House where Vice President Cheney remained in charge, giving the eerie impression of a national capital virtually stripped of its key institutions.

Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks. But the scale and sophistication of the operation, the extraordinary planning required for concerted hijackings by terrorists who had to be familiar with modern jetliners, and the history of major attacks on American targets in recent years led many officials and experts to point to Osama bin Laden, the Islamic militant believed to operate out of Afghanistan. Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban rulers rejected such suggestions, but officials took that as a defensive measure.

Text 9

Трагедия в церкви

Настоящая трагедия разыгралась сегодня в отеле «Шератон», г. Брукфилд, штат Висконсин. На проходящую там регулярную мессу пришел вооруженный мужчина и неожиданно открыл огонь по прихожанам.

Как сообщают власти города, в результате беспорядочной стрельбы 4 человека погибли на месте, еще несколько получили серьезные ранения и были отправлены в госпиталь. Позже в ходе пресс-конференции детектив местной полиции Даниэль Ташаус сказал, что трое раненых, доставленных в больницу, также скончались. Но на этом трагедия не закончилась.

После того, как неизвестный мужчина расстрелял участников службы, последний патрон он выпустил в себя, таким образом, покончив с жизнью, передает AP.

Напомним, что это уже не первое массовое убийство в США за последние дни. Так в пятницу трагедия разыгралась прямо в здании суда округа Фултон в центре Атланты: подсудимый Б. Николс выхватил пистолет у полицейского и открыл огонь по находящимся там людям. От его пуль погибли судья, стенографистка и помощник шерифа. После тройного убийства преступник угнал автомобиль и скрылся с места происшествия.

В субботу утром полицейские, разыскивавшие Б. Николса, обнаружили на севере Атланты труп сотрудника таможни. Его нагрудный знак, пистолет и автомобиль, которым он управлял, пропали. Подозревается, что это дело рук того же человека. В субботу вечером убийца был задержан полицией штата Джорджия. (*Associated Press online, 13/03/2005*)

Text 10

Down with the Death Penalty

The warrior and the executioner do similar jobs. Both kill the enemies of the state. But there the similarity ends. From time immemorial the warrior has been **feted** and honoured. The public executioner, by contrast, has always had to lurk in the shadows, working anonymously or for a pittance. There is no glory in what he does.

That sense of discomfort and shame is why a growing number of countries have washed their hands off judicial execution. Today nearly all western democracies, as well as dozens of other countries, have abandoned capital punishment. Most of the countries, which still use it with much frequency, such as China or Iran, are authoritarian states without independent legal systems.

The single most defiant - and most notable - exception to this trend is the United States. To the irritation of many of its allies, the American government regularly defends the death penalty in international forums, reflecting widespread support for capital punishment at home. Too often, death-penalty opponents have reacted to America's stubborn exceptionalism on this issue with knee-jerk condemnation, or despair. Instead they should relish the chance to convert the world's most vigorous democracy to a saner policy. For they have a better case.

Three basic arguments are made for the death penalty: that it deters others, saves innocent lives by ensuring that murderers can never kill again, and inflicts on them the punishment they deserve. The first two, utilitarian arguments, do not stand up to scrutiny, while the moral claim for retribution, although naturally more difficult to refute, can be answered.

Despite voluminous academic studies of American executions and crime rates, there is no solid evidence that the death penalty is any more effective at deterring murder than long terms of imprisonment. This seems counter-intuitive. Surely death must deter someone. But the kinds of people who kill are rarely equipped, or in a proper emotional state, to make fine calculations about the consequences. Moreover, even for those who are, decades of imprisonment may be as great a deterrent as the remote prospect of execution. Although European countries have abolished the death penalty, their rates of violent crime have risen more slowly than crime overall. Indeed, their murder rates remain far below America's.

It is indisputable that executing a murderer guarantees that he cannot kill again, and this argument once carried considerable weight in societies that could not afford to imprison offenders for long periods. But today most countries, and especially America, can afford this. Opinion polls show that support for the death penalty among Americans drops sharply when life imprisonment without parole is the alternative. Executions are not needed to protect the public.

Against the dubious benefits of capital punishment must be weighed its undoubted drawbacks. It is a dangerous power to give any government, and has been grossly abused by many to kill political opponents and other inconvenient people under the colour of law. Even America, with all its legal guarantees and complex system of appeals, has not been able to apply it fairly or consistently. Worst of all, it is irrevocable. Mistakes can never be rectified. America, like all countries, which use the death penalty, has executed innocents. This is too high a price to pay for an unnecessary punishment.

Where does this leave retribution? Some crimes are so heinous that a societal cost-benefit analysis hardly appears relevant. Death alone seems sufficient. And yet, as many relatives of murder victims have discovered, real retribution can never be achieved. For example, the only way to repay fully those who have committed multiple murder, or killed in a ghastly way, would be to torture them physically in turn, or to strive to make them endure repeatedly the torments of death. Modern societies have rightly turned away from such practices as barbaric, tempering their demands for retribution in recognition that tit-for-tat vengeance is beyond the reach of human justice. That is where the death penalty, too, belongs.

In 1976, after short lull, the court allowed executions to proceed again under redrafted state statutes. Since then it has frequently changed the rules, most recently restricting appeal avenues so as to shorten the time between conviction and execution, now averaging almost ten years. Even so, researches still find inequities in how the death penalty is applied. Avoiding a death sentence depends a lot on having a good lawyer. Not surprisingly, rich, well-educated murderers rarely get a capital sentence. And the risk of executing the innocent remains very real. Since 1973, 78 people have been released from death row after evidence of their innocence emerged.

The attempt to apply the death penalty fairly has exhausted even some of its staunchest supporters on the bench. After retiring from the Supreme Court, Lewis Powell, the author of a

landmark 1987 decision upholding Georgia's death penalty even in the face of an undisputed statistical study showing racial bias in its application, said that he regretted the decision and backed abolition.

America's stubborn retention of the death penalty is usually seen as the abolitionist movement's greatest defeat. And yet in the long term it may prove to be one of its greatest assets. If even America, with its complex legal guarantees and elaborate court system, cannot apply the death penalty fairly or avoid condemning the innocent, then do executions have a place in any society which values justice?

Texts for sight translation

Text 1

Kholodov Appeal Rejected

The Supreme Court on Monday upheld the acquittal of six men suspected of murdering investigative journalist Dmitry Kholodov more than a decade ago, delivering a blow to state prosecutors and the victims' parents, who exhausted their last legal recourse in Russia.

Kholodov, a Moskovsky Komsomolets reporter who investigated military corruption, was killed in 1994 when a briefcase he had picked up at Kazansky Station following an anonymous call blew up in his office.

Six men charged in the killing, including four former members of an elite paratroops unit, were acquitted in two separate trials, in 2002 and 2004.

The Supreme Court's military board on Monday ruled against the prosecutors' and Kholodov family's appeal to send the case back to trial. The statute of limitations on the case had expired.

There are no more possibilities for appeal in Russia, and Kholodov's father said they now would appeal to the European Court of Human Rights, whose ruling would be binding on Moscow. "We are sure they are guilty of the death of our son," Kholodov's father said after the verdict. "No one can convince us otherwise."

Prosecutor Irina Aleshina insisted that the evidence in the case pointed at the defendants' guilt. (*The Moscow Times, March 15, 2005*)

Text 2

Human trafficking and slave trade

Only 25 cases of human trafficking and slave labor were registered last year, but an Interior Ministry official said this was only the tip of the iceberg and understaffed police forces and hesitant victims were hindering prevention efforts.

Igor Dyomin, deputy head of the Interior Ministry's criminal investigation department, said Tuesday that 17 cases of human trafficking and eight cases of slave labor were registered in 2004.

"But the statistical data we have do not reflect the actual situation, because the latency of such crimes is high", Dyomin told reporters, adding that most victims are women forced into prostitution, ITAR-TASS reported.

Anti-trafficking organisations said last year that some 50,000 women and children from Russia and other former Soviet republics are sold into slavery in the United States every year. Other destinations include Turkey, Italy, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and China.

Dyomin said the police force did not have enough officers to deal with the problem, and that victims were often scared to turn to the police for help. "These factors make the job significantly more difficult", Dyomin said.

Dyomin also complained that penalties were too lax for sex tourists who prey on minors.

Interior Ministry spokesman Denis Strukov confirmed Wednesday that the criminal investigations department was monitoring sex tourism but declined to elaborate, citing ongoing investigations. In April, US law enforcement officials arrested an American doctor at New-

York's John F. Kennedy Airport on suspicion of travelling to St. Petersburg to have sex with boys. (*The Moscow Times*, by Carl Schreck, 3.03.2005)

Text 3

Attorney jailed in Spanish probe

Spanish authorities on Tuesday jailed a lawyer and alleged mastermind of a money-laundering ring, believed to have siphoned funds from Yukos, Spanish media reported.

Fernando-del Valle Vergara, a Chilean who has lived in southern Spain for more than two decades, was the latest person jailed in the case. He was called in Monday by the Marbella court investigating the case and questioned for several hours before being formally detained after midnight.

Since last week, Spanish authorities have arrested 41 people in connection with the alleged money-laundering ring, which reportedly laundered more than 250 million euros for gangs involved in murder, drug trafficking, arms dealing and prostitution.

But authorities have released at least 24 of those arrested. The ring was reportedly centered in Marbella.

On Saturday, Spain's Interior Ministry said authorities suspected some of the laundered money was illegally siphoned from Yukos. Yukos officials have denied any links to the ring. (*The Moscow Times*, 16.03.2005)

Text 4

Too immature for the death penalty?

Just after 2 a. m. on Sept. 9, 1993 Christopher Simmons, 17, and Charles Benjamin, 15, broke into a trailer south of Fenton, Mo., just outside St. Louis. They woke Shirley Ann Crook, a 46-year-old truck driver who was inside, and proceeded to tie her up and cover her eyes and mouth with silver dust tape. They then put her up in the back of the minivan, drove her to a railroad bridge and pushed her into the river below, where her body was found the next day. Simmons and Benjamin later confessed to the abduction and murder, which had netted them \$6. Police called it "a cheap price for life."

The two were convicted. Benjamin was sentenced to life in prison, and Simmons was given the death penalty. The Missouri Supreme Court overturned Simmons's sentence last year, and the case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court, which recently heard arguments on the constitutionality of the death penalty for those who are 16 or 17 when they commit their crimes. (The court has already ruled against execution of anyone under 16.)

Unlike other death-penalty cases, this one has drawn intense interest from the American Medical Association, the nation's psychiatrists and psychologists and other health and research groups. They've filed briefs with the court making a novel scientific argument — that juveniles should not be executed because their brains are still developing. In other words, teenagers cannot be held fully responsible for their actions because all the wiring to allow adult decision making isn't completed yet. As Stephen K. Harper, a professor of juvenile justice at the University of Miami School of Law, puts it, "Adolescents are far less culpable than we know." (*The New York Times Magazine*, by Paul Raeburn, 17.10.2004)

Text 5

An end to killing kids

America's Supreme Court has abolished the death penalty for those under 18 when they committed their crimes. It is just another nibble at the edge of still-popular capital punishment — but does it show that America can sometimes be swayed by world opinion?

Which country seems the odd one out in this list: China, Congo, Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the United States? These eight countries are the only ones in the world that have executed children under 18 since 1990. Now, at last, the world's self-proclaimed beacon of freedom will be able to take itself off the list. On Tuesday March 1st, America's

Supreme Court ruled, by five votes to four, that putting to death those who were minors at the time of their crimes is unconstitutional. The move reprieves 72 juvenile offenders on death row.

Of course, the death penalty will remain in place for convicted murderers in America. Indeed, it remains popular — two-thirds of Americans support it (though this number drops to half when life imprisonment without parole is offered as an alternative). Despite this week's ruling, America is clearly still out of step with most of the countries it considers its friends.

More than half of the world's countries have either abolished the death penalty for normal crimes or have imposed moratoriums, according to Amnesty International, a non-governmental organisation that campaigns against capital punishment. These include all but two countries in Europe and Central Asia (Belarus and Uzbekistan), as well as both of America's neighbours, Canada and Mexico, and like-minded countries such as Australia and New Zealand. Among large democracies, only India, South Korea and Japan still practice capital punishment. But it is rare in those places.

According to Amnesty, in 2003, 84 % of the world's known executions took place in just four countries: China, Iran, Vietnam and America. (*The Economist*, March 2nd 2005)

Mass Media

censorship

to conduct/carry out/do a poll

respondent/interviewee

freedom of speech

fourth estate

glossy magazine

gutter press

tabloid

scoop

libel/defamation

to receive/get media/press coverage

print run

publicity

publicity campaign

publicity stunt

to steal/hit the headlines/airwaves

on (someone's) radar screen

to slip under the radar

target audience

anchorman

breaking news

broadcaster

canard/newspaper hoax

feature on

investigative reporting

muckraking

news

analyst
newscaster
paid-for reports
talk show host
advertising
advertisement
to run commercials
billboard
kid-directed advertising
stealth advertising
jingle
endorsement
to provide live coverage
to broadcast
on/over the airwaves/on air
open mike
watchdog

Texts for written translation

Text 1

Russian Television in the era of managed media

Television has been through a revolution and back in the last three decades. We get the insight story from veteran TV critic Irina Petrovskaya.

Moscow, 1979: You get home from a tiring day and turn on TV. On one of the four channels is a rather boring class in French; you move on. On another is a Chekhov play filmed for TV. The third is showing a documentary about the agricultural success in the Virgin Lands. You move on again until the fourth channel, where you settle down to watch a football match. At nine o'clock you watch the news on Channel one – Time. The newscasters begin with a description of the “businesslike and productive” meeting between the general secretary of the Communist party and the President of India, followed by a series of reports of excellent harvests, increased industrial output, and the anniversary of an Esteemed Artist of the USSR. There are no crime stories, except for the occasional cautionary tale about a “speculator” who sewed scarves into dresses until he got caught and sentenced to a penal colony. There are no advertisements or flashy graphics. News from the West is bad, as usual: riots, famine, hunger, injustice. You might suspect that things aren't quite as rosy in the USSR as they are portrayed (if the harvest was so good, why hasn't there been a single carrot in the stores for the last three months?), but, then again. Perhaps that's just Moscow, and elsewhere the carrot situation is under control. In any case, you go back to watching your football game with a reassuring sense that all – or almost all – is right in your world. By midnight, the game and the broadcast day end.

That was Soviet television: total control of information, propaganda of the successes of the Soviet state and the failures of the capitalist world, and rather staid entertainment shows. But it was not all boring, and definitely not unprofessional. TV in the Soviet Union was made by well-trained people with a great deal of talent, expertise and experience – if limited opportunities. Series made then, like “You can't change the meeting place”, “Seventeen moments in spring” or “The investigation is headed by pros” still get high ratings when shown as reruns. They were masters at the difficult art of filming plays, ballets and concerts for television. And the variety shows were well-produced and performed, if as staid as the Ed Sullivan Show we in the US were watching at the time.

Soviet TV was transmitted through ground wires and then satellite transmission to virtually every home and hamlet in all eleven time zones and 16 republics. In addition to receiving central TV from Moscow, republican channels included local news and productions – and sometimes had more freedom: Armenia had the privilege of showing Western films virtually every weekend

(presumably to keep the pot of dissent from boiling over). Holiday variety shows were a treat, as was Easter: to keep people home and away from churches, the stations traditionally broadcast pop concerts or foreign films. And so it was, from year to year.

And then came glasnost.

Text 2

The golden years

The Soviet media were quick to act on the policy of openness declared by Mikhail Gorbachev in 1985. In 1986 a series of space bridges with US audiences let Soviet viewers see an entirely new America – and a Soviet population with opinions that were far from uniform. News from around the Soviet Union was not so good after all: newscasters showed the failure of local bosses to get the crops off the field before they rotted, dissent among leaders, poorly manufactured goods, roads and schools in criminal disrepair. Public affairs talk shows like “Viewpoint” kept viewers riveted to the TV on weekend nights with the young and hip hosts’ irreverent banter, interviews with scholars and political figures critical of the regime, and breaks for rock’n roll. At one point nearly 90 percent of the Soviet Union’s huge population was watching the show. And when the first Congress of People’s Deputies was aired live in 1989, it seemed that everyone was sitting in front of TV in every home, in every office, in every store. Never before or again will television in Russia have such dedicated viewers and such a plethora of viewpoints, information, and political discussion.

Text 3

The nineties

Television was always an instrument of political power in the Soviet Union, and by the 1990s, before the break-up of the Soviet Union and in the troubled times afterwards, it continued to be a political battleground – complicated by commercial interests and big money.

Channel Two was transferred to the Russian government and provided an anti-Soviet (and anti-Gorbachev) perspective. A bit later other private channels like TV-6, NTV and Ren-TV appeared. Hundreds of local channels – first with nothing more than a couple of VCRs and a transmission point – appeared in the provinces, showing a variety of local news, translated Western news broadcasts and pirate films. Advertising, music clips, and finally MTV hit the airwaves.

Pensioners and housewives watched Santa Barbara with bated breath, game shows appeared, the first successful Russian serials were launched with the popular cop show “The streets of broken Streetlamps”, while everyone continued to watch a range of talk shows and public affairs programming.

And then came the elections of 1993 and 1994. TV coverage blurred and then dissolved the line between those who made politics and those who reported on them: the stations backed Yeltsin, a decision that is still hotly debated today. Meanwhile, television business practices were a page out of “gangster capitalism”: huge amounts of money were made and lost, stations cried poverty and didn’t pay producers for months (while the parking lot at the TV center Ostankino continued to look like a luxury car dealership), reporters made cash by airing paid-for reports and Channel One director (and popular TV talk show host) Vlad Listev, was murdered, presumably over money.

Text 4

Today

Although in recent years business practices in the TV industry seem to be cleaner, Russian TV viewers have had less and less choice in news and information. Many of the most talented reporters at NTV jumped ship when the channel was taken over by Gazprom Media, and many more disappeared from the screens in the last few months.

Although viewers could still see a difference during the Beslan tragedy (NTV was the only channel that provided live coverage, and its coverage afterwards continued to show what other main channels did not), there is now little that distinguishes the nightly news on the three main channels. There is virtually no political debate. On the other hand, the airwaves are filled with a full range of entertainment fare, from and imported series to game shows galore. This may reflect the mood in the country and more sophisticated research on viewer preferences, but it also may reflect changes in the attitude and policies with regard to television among the powers that be.

“Who is to blame” for the television’s fall from the pinnacle of the Golden Years is the subject of endless arguments. It is still hard to judge how much the television industry was undermined by its own bad business practices, bad programming choices and bad policies (and to what extent those policies and choices, however unwise, were unavoidable or at least understandable); and how much it was undermined by a state that realized only too well (after the elections of 1993 and 1996) the power of this medium. Not all the evidence is in. In any case, by the 21st century, Russian TV had turned into something else: a hybrid of managed Soviet media and Western-style entertainment broadcasting. (*Passport*, by Michele A. Berdy, Dec/Jan 2005)

Text 5

Как сделать новости правильными

Text 6

Четвёртая власть — словосочетание, определяющее и саму прессу, и её влияние в социуме. Утверждается, что «журналисты обладают большой властью в обществе» Осознание этой власти должно сочетаться со скромностью и чувством долга перед читателем. Во все времена журналисты добивались признания благодаря высокому уровню точности и беспристрастности, а также благодаря соблюдению ими правил честной игры.

Первой, второй и третьей властями являются, соответственно, законодательная, исполнительная и судебная ветви власти.

Следует отметить, что термин «четвёртая власть» является лирическим и отражает лишь огромное влияние СМИ на общество. При этом СМИ не имеют реальной власти, так как не имеют законного права насильно принуждать к совершению какого-либо действия, например, к уплате штрафа.

Во времена СССР пресса не обладала самостоятельным влиянием и воспринималась лишь как инструмент коммунистической партии. Модель «четвёртой власти», в понимании советских журналистов, означала не совсем то, чему учат американских студентов в школах журналистского мастерства. Они видели своей задачей не информирование публики или формирование достоверной картины реальности, но просвещение, агитацию и организацию масс во имя истинных ценностей и идеалов.

И в советские времена, и сегодня пресса в России является не отдельной ветвью власти, а услугой власти. Карьера Бориса Ельцина и Владимира Путина строилась как манипуляция прессой и, особенно, телевидением в противовес традиционным партийным институтам.

В современной России влияние СМИ на общество в качестве четвёртой власти иногда ставится под сомнение. Тем не менее, пресса не без оснований ощущает себя таковой. Достаточно вспомнить Томаса Джефферсона, который сказал однажды, что если бы ему пришлось как гражданину выбирать жизнь с правительством без прессы или жизнь со свободной прессой, но без правительства, он выбрал бы последнее.

В контексте глобализации некоторые эксперты называют власть прессы первой, а не четвёртой.

Text 7

San Francisco center keeps muckraking alive

Back in 1977, when a group of idealistic journalists founded the nonprofit Center for Investigative Reporting, muckraking was in demand.

Washington Post reporters had just helped topple President Richard Nixon, and a new generation of journalists signed up for the same type of endeavor.

Over the years, some academics say, the media, controlled by a shrinking number of large corporations, has lost some of its appetite for investigative journalism.

“It has been clear for many years how cuts in news operations — both newspapers and TV — have been limiting the depth of many newspapers and newscasts,” Ted Pease, head of the Department of Journalism and Communication at Utah State University, said in an e-mail. The center certainly concurs.

“Investigative reporting is a money-loser for journalistic corporations,” said Burt Glass, executive director of the center. “It’s expensive, stories may not pan out, and you make a lot of enemies.”

But the center, based in San Francisco’s Financial District, doesn’t really worry about any of those things. As a nonprofit, it doesn’t concern itself with whether a story will make money, or enemies. It only wants its work to have an impact.

As the center marks its 25th anniversary, it can see results.

The center has exposed how toxic waste gets shipped from the United States to the Third World; how pesticides banned in the United States come back to this country on food grown elsewhere; and how the illegal trade in weapons operates.

Certainly, a wide range of outstanding investigative work appears in the mainstream media, such as the Boston Globe’s reporting on sex scandals among Catholic priests, which kick-started a national furor. Large newspapers remain committed to investigative work, according to Brant Houston, executive director of Investigative Reporters and Editors, a professional association of more than 4,000 journalists based at the University of Missouri’s journalism school.

But staff cuts — often made in the name of boosting profit margins — have taken a toll on in-depth reporting. Marilyn Greenwald and Joseph Bent, journalism professors at Ohio University, studied three months’ worth of nine daily papers from 1980 and 1995 and found that the number of investigative reports had been cut almost in half over that period.

Corporations have also lost the stomach for hard-hitting reports, because of investigative projects that backfired and led to lengthy legal battles, including notorious cases like the Cincinnati Enquirer’s expose of Chiquita Banana Corp. and ABC News’ undercover look at Food Lion supermarkets. (*San Francisco Chronicle*, by Dan Fost, October 24, 2002)

Text 8

The center for investigative reporting

The Center for Investigative Reporting is a non-profit news organization dedicated to exposing injustice and abuse of power through the tools of journalism. Led by a staff in San Francisco and powered by a nationwide team of independent reporters and producers, CIR is organized along three functions: as a journalism venture fund, investing in promising investigations at their early stages to give them a chance in the increasingly competitive news marketplace; as a documentary production house, producing investigations for television and radio; and as a publicity firm, maximizing the impact of the best investigations from the journalism community by promoting them to decision-makers, citizen groups and our journalism peers. Together, these activities equip citizens with the information they need to participate fully in the democratic process and bring about needed changes in laws, regulations, and the operations of government, corporations, and institutions.

Currently, CIR is focused on three beats or topic areas: Social and Criminal Justice, Environment, and Science and Technology. Over the years, reporting beats have also included Health, Education, and Politics and Money, among others. (*San Francisco Chronicle*, by Dan Fost, October 24, 2002)

Text 9

Новый жанр публицистики

Появился и все больше развивается новый жанр публицистики — журналистское расследование. У этого творческого направления уже славная история. Самый большой успех был, конечно, у американских журналистов, когда они обнаружили, раскопали «уотергейтский скандал», который окончился тем, что в отставку подал президент могущественной страны. Весь мир с восхищением следил за ходом расследования, начатого скромными работниками газеты.

В отечественной прессе жанр расследования стал активно развиваться в семидесятые годы. Вопреки строгим цензурным ограничениям, изобретательно обходя запреты ЦК КПСС, в «Литературной газете» два десятилетия печатались «Эксперименты ЛГ», которые были поддержаны миллионами читателей.

Сейчас у российских СМИ имеются более широкие возможности для развития этого трудного, но столь необходимого всему обществу жанра. Появились и энтузиасты, которые самостоятельно «разгребают навоз в конюшнях». Все чаще в СМИ мелькает название рубрики «Расследования». Однако публикуемые материалы не всегда соответствуют смыслу рубрики. По большей части, это публикации готовых судебных расследований, к проведению которых журналисты не имеют никакого отношения.

Что же такое журналистское расследование?

Журналистское расследование не может появиться на свет без инициативы, идеи и усилий со стороны журналиста. Это материал, обладающий высокой новостной ценностью и большой значимостью для общества. Расследование основывается на множестве источников информации — людях, документах, данных и личном наблюдении. Во многих случаях на поверхность выплывают материалы, которые власти предпочли бы не раскрывать. Но иногда в материалах содержится информация, полученная непосредственно от представителей власти.

Джин Робертс, в прошлом редактор «Филадельфия инкуайерер» — одной из самых известных американских газет, специализирующихся на расследованиях, сказал, что журналистское расследование заключается «не в том, чтобы застать политика со спущенными штанами или выявить отдельное нарушение закона, а в том, чтобы докапываться до фактов, лежащих глубоко под поверхностью, чтобы помочь читателю в понимании того, что происходит в нашем все более сложном мире». (www.relga.rsu.ru, Лариса Чиликина)

Text 10

When Love Backfires

Reporters have a crush on Barack Obama. Could that help John McCain win the election?

In the closing days of the 1992 presidential campaign, President George H.W. Bush took to waving a bumper sticker with the slogan “Annoy the media – reelect Bush”. Four years later, Senator Bob Dole asked voters to “rise up” against media that were trying to “steal these elections”. Complaining about the liberal media is a signature of losing Republican campaigns. It doesn’t work because whining doesn’t look presidential and because annoying the media tends to be pretty low on voters’ to-do lists.

But now John McCain, who once enjoyed excellent relations with reporters, is criticizing the press. Frustrated by his inability to get attention amid the wall-to-wall coverage of Barack Obama’s foreign tour, McCain released a Web ad accusing journalists of nursing crushes on the Democrat. Among the ad’s highlights: a clip in which NBC reporter Lee Cowan confesses that “it’s almost hard to remain objective” while covering Obama because the energy of his campaign is so “infectious”. The ad is lighthearted, but the McCain team’s frustration is obvious.

Journalists have put up several lines of self-defense. Obama is on more magazine covers in part, they note, because those issues sell better than McCain covers. McCain is a familiar figure who has been involved in presidential politics for nearly a decade while Obama’s rapid rise -

from state senator to presidential nominee in four years - is part of what makes him a compelling story.

That McCain's complaint is sometimes overstated and imprudent, however, does not mean that it is wrong. The political press corps has a problem when Jon Stewart lampoons reporters for being even more in the tank for Obama than he is.

Why are the media so smitten with Obama? Journalists have an affinity for the Democratic nominee in part because he is a wordsmith and they make a living manipulating words and symbols, so they have a special appreciation for his gifts. But another part of the reason is, yes, plain old liberal bias. McCain was a press darling when he was a maverick dissenting from the Republican Party from points left. Obama has become one by succeeding as a down the line liberal. When McCain decided this time around to court conservative Republican voters as much as liberal reporters, the coverage of him became more critical. Notice a pattern?

At this point, denying that the press has a liberal tilt, particularly on social issues, is like denying that the universities have one. Surveys of reporters show that they have more liberal views than the public; surveys of the public show that readers and viewers pick up on it. The silver lining for McCain is that the media's bias has sometimes backfired on liberals. One reason gun control and abortion have repeatedly been landmines for Democrats is that reporters never issued any warning signs. The press has long underestimated the political risks in liberalism. Obama's Reverend Wright fiasco was a case in point. Even though the two men have close ties, the press gave little scrutiny to the radical preacher for a year after Obama's campaign began. When attention finally came, Obama gave a speech that tried to shift the focus from their relationship to the rest of the country's racial wounds. He was rewarded with rapturous coverage. The next day, the New York Times ran a "news analysis" calling the speech "hopeful, patriotic [and] quintessentially American" and comparing him to John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln. It took a few more weeks for Obama to realize that he had to take the final step and repudiate Wright.

Media bias poses only one serious danger to McCain. One of Obama's standard tactics has been to predict that McCain would "play on our fears", "exploit our differences" and stir up "fake controversy" to win this fall. It's a clever move; it simultaneously paints McCain as a brute while making him think twice about hitting back - the harder McCain hits, after all, the more it will look as though he is stirring up fake controversy. Too many reporters have bought that spin, and that's a problem. McCain doesn't need reporters to fall out of love with Obama. But he does need to be allowed to make the case against the Democrat. (*TIME*, by Ramesh Ponnuru, August 11, 2009)

Texts for sight translation

Text 1

Overview

In recent years the Kremlin has secured greater control over the country's main national TV networks — Channel One, RTR and NTV. Critics say independent reporting has suffered as a result.

Bringing court cases against two of the country's biggest tycoons, Boris Berezovsky and Vladimir Gusinsky, and acting through the industrial groups Gazprom and Lukoil, the Kremlin wrested control of NTV in 2001 and ordered the closure of TV-6 in January 2002. TV-6 was replaced by TVS, which soldiered on as Russia's only privately-owned national network until the authorities pulled the plug in June 2003, officially for financial reasons.

Russia's TV market is highly competitive; state-owned or influenced TV networks have the largest audiences. Hundreds of radio stations crowd the dial; traditional state-run networks compete with music-based commercial FM stations.

The conflict in Chechnya has been blamed for government attacks on press freedom. Journalists have been killed in Chechnya while others have disappeared or have been abducted.

In Moscow and elsewhere, journalists have been harassed or physically abused. Journalists investigating the affairs of the political and corporate elite are said to be particularly at risk of intimidation.

Free coverage of the 2003 parliamentary elections was said by the media watchdog Reporters Without Borders to have been “obstructed” by the authorities. The top state TV networks had “openly backed” President Putin’s party, it added. (*The Economist online*)

Text 2

To join the elite it’s TV that counts

It’s not how powerful you are but how much coverage you get on television.

That was the finding of a recent opinion poll that asked Russians across the country to name the most influential personalities in politics, business, culture and science.

Unsurprisingly, respondents readily picked President Vladimir Putin as the most powerful politician and pop diva Alla Pugacheva as the leading culture figure.

But their selections for the business elite essentially turned into a hate list topped by Unified Energy Systems chief Anatoly Chubais.

Many respondents were unable to name a single scientist, leading to a top-10 list that bunched together Nobel prize winners with dead scientists, television hosts and a hostage negotiator.

The sometimes startling answers are a direct result of television, which is the sole information source for many people these days, said Irina Palilova, a sociologist with the Levada center, the independent polling agency that carried out the survey.

“This poll reflects that people just don’t understand what the elite is and can only come up with names of figures who are popular in the media”, said Olga Kryshantovskaya, head of the Center for the Study of the Elite in the Russian Academy of Sciences.

“Members of the elite are those who rule and decide, but the public knows little about those people”, she said.

As such, Putin was followed on the list of the political elite by ultranationalist politician Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, whose fist-waving antics are often shown on television. Third place went to Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov, whose complaints about government social reforms got significant television coverage in January, when the poll was conducted. Also on the list were State Duma speaker Doris Gryzlov (4), liberal politician Irina Khakamada (5), Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov (7), and one-time political heavyweights Yabloko leader Grigiry Yavlinsky (9) and Mayor Yuri Luzhkov (10).

After Pugacheva, the list of cultural figures included Oscar-winning film director Nikita Mikhalkov, crooner Iosif Kobzon, comedian Yevgeny Petrosyan and pop singer Nikolai Baskov. Not a single writer, artist or philosopher made it into the cultural top 10. (*The Moscow Times, by Nabi Abdullaev, March 15, 2005*)

Text 3

Sweden Pushes Ban on Children’s Ads

When kids in Sweden watch the Pokemon cartoon series, they don’t hear the jingle that everywhere else in the world ends each show: “Gotta catch ’em all.” The country’s consumer ombudsman deemed it stealth advertising, ruling that the tune is a surreptitious plug for Pokemon playing cards.

That’s illegal on Swedish television. In fact, Stockholm has prohibited all TV advertising aimed at children under the age of 12 since 1991, so the ruling wasn’t all that radical. What alarms advertisers and broadcasters is that Sweden wants the rest of Europe to follow its lead. Sweden’s Radio and TV Act has banned ads directed at kids from the first day that commercial television was allowed in the country on July 1, 1991. The ban was based on research that indicates children can’t fully distinguish between advertising and programming until about age 10.

Broadcasters argue that the revenue generated in the EU every year by TV ads for children's products — between 670 million euros and 1 billion euros — is essential for the creation of quality children's programming. European governments have been pushing television stations to produce more of their own shows, to reduce the amount of American-made content that fills up TV schedules, but for-profit station owners say that without sufficient ad revenue, only fee-supported broadcasters will be able to even try to do so. (*The Wall Street Journal*, by Brandon Mitchener, May 29, 2001)

Science Vocabulary

miscarriage
IVF
conception
uterus/ womb
virus
strain
plague
test-tube child
clinical trial
DNA
cell division
stem cells
inner organs
limb
pancreas
lungs/ kidney/ liver
bone marrow
ulcer
tissue
tumor
benign/ malignant
contagious/ catching
to contract
blood transfusion
brain concussion
transplantation
donor/ recipient
rejection
proteins/ fats/ carbohydrates
nutrients
genetically modified food
artificial intelligence
virtual reality
alternative/renewable sources of energy
windmill
solar panels
tidal energy

biofuel
voltage
velocity
EMT
ICU
ventricular
to elaborate
to deteriorate/ ameliorate
enfeeble immunity
to fertilize
inflammation
french pox
agent of disease
intestinal tract
failing heart
hereditary disease
CAM
ward
mutability
holistic
gland
complete genome sequence
inoculation
sterility
to inline cells
urine
antiretroviral
enzymes
extraterrestrial
lymph
solution
toxins
fatty acids
ethanol
feedstock
transgenic
to secret
to derive from
to endow
to cripple
a neuron
circadian rhythm
melatonin
artificial intelligence
cognition
pupil
lens
cornea
vascular system
digestive system
cryonics
preservation

UFO
constellation
alien
integral part
rough estimates

Texts for written translation

Text 1 The age of genes

Text 2

Text 3 Dispute over Stem Cells: A Timeline

For more than 40 years government officials have grappled with how to regulate and fund the controversial research

May 1, 2014 |By Roni Jacobson

The Science of Memory

Despite its promise, stem cell research in the U.S. has been stymied, time and again, by bioethical landmines. The explosive debate revolves around the fact that, until recently, the only way to get pluripotent stem cells was to extract them from human embryos left over from in-vitro fertilization—a process that destroyed the five-day-old embryo. The ongoing debate about when life begins has led many to oppose stem cell research on the grounds that it is immoral to destroy something that could eventually grow into a person. On the other hand, promoters argue that the potential to help millions of people with stem cell therapies outweighs the sanctity of cells that are not viable outside the womb and that often go unused. Arguments on both sides are based on personal beliefs that may never be reconciled, so the debate hinges on whether the federal government should fund research that many citizens find morally objectionable. The following box chronicles stem cell research regulation in the U.S.

1970s

The Supreme Court legalizes abortion in 1973. The ensuing debate on the ethics of experimenting on fetal tissue prompts Congress to issue a moratorium on federal funding for research on human embryos the following year.

1990s

In 1995 President Clinton lifts the ban on funding for study of stem cells left over from in-vitro fertilization, but leaves other restrictions in place. In response, Congress passes the Dickey-Wicker Amendment, prohibiting funding for all research “in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death,” regardless of the source of the embryo.

2000s

President George W. Bush announces that federal funding will be made available for research on the approximately 60 existing embryonic stem cell lines, but not new ones. Congress twice votes to loosen the restrictions on funding for research using embryonic stem cells left over from in-vitro fertilization but President Bush vetoes the legislation both times.

In 2009, early in his first term, President Barack Obama removes the ban on federal funding for new stem cell lines but signs an omnibus bill preserving the Dickey-Wicker Amendment. The move retains restrictions against federal funding for the direct creation of new stem cell lines, but opens up funding for research on newly created lines developed with private or state money.

2010s

In 2012 stem cell biologist Shinya Yamanaka wins the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering how to reprogram adult skin cells into pluripotent stem cells. Going

forward, policy makers will have to determine whether Yamanaka's induced pluripotent stem cells (iPS) will face the same regulations as human embryonic stem cells or if new legislation is needed.

Text 4

The New Role of Microbes in Bio-Fuel Production

March 28th, 2011

Currently biofuel is produced from plants as well as microbes. The oils, carbohydrates or fats generated by the microbes or plants are refined to produce biofuel. This is a green and renewable energy that helps in conserving fossil-fuel usage. But a new research has led to a new discovery of getting the microbes to produce fuel from the proteins instead of utilizing the protein for its own growth. The research is being done at the premises of University of California in Los Angeles.

The focus of the experiment was to induce the microbes under the study to produce a specific kind of proteins rather than what they otherwise might be inclined to produce. This special protein can be refined in to biofuel. The task is to make the microbes produce only this kind of protein rather than utilizing it for their own growth and growth related activities as they otherwise do.

This kind of biofuel production is different from the traditional behavior of microbes where they use the protein only for growth. This is like tricking the microbes to deviate from that and produce fats or material that can be converted to biofuel. In the words of UCLA postdoctoral student and lead researcher, Yi-xin Huo -"We have to completely redirect the protein utilization system, which is one of the most highly-regulated systems in the cell."

This has been claimed as the first ever attempt to use the proteins as a source for generating energy. Until now the biofuel-producing algae has not made use of the protein like a carbon supply for biofuel. It was only used for growth. But now the scientists have tampered with usual nitrogen metabolism process and induced biorefining process and altered the metabolizing of nitrogen at the cellular level.

By this process, they are letting the cells to retain the nitrogen and take out just the ammonia. Once done with the biofuel production, the residue is a better kind of fertilizer thanks to the low nitrogen levels. This in turn will lessen any greenhouse emissions that happen during the fertilizer production. The new process will reprocess the nitrogen back and will help in maintaining a nitrogen neutral state and less harmful emissions during fertilizer production.

The Nature Biotechnology Sunday issue has published the team's findings. The team hopes that their findings will rewrite biofuel production by inundating the field with protein eating microbes which will generate fats and substances that can be converted into biofuel. The microbes will feed on proteins that are not fit for animal consumption and keep producing special proteins for biofuel conversion and later can become a better type if fertilizer with less nitrogen and nil harmful greenhouse emissions.

Text 5

Scientists Build a Custom Chromosome

Steve Baragona

Baltimore, MD. — Scientists have built a custom chromosome -- a package of genetic material assembled entirely from synthetic DNA.

This engineered chromosome belongs to yeast, but experts say it can help them understand how genes work in humans as well. And it could help make these tiny living factories better at producing everything from medicines to biofuels.

In a lab at Johns Hopkins University, students stitched together machine-made strands of DNA, the chemical that carries the genetic blueprints of life.

Their goal: to assemble all 6,000 genes in the genome of yeast.

Johns Hopkins geneticist Jef Boeke leads the class. He said yeast does familiar jobs, like turning grapes into wine, but they also do more than that.

“We have yeast that is used not just to make alcohol and bread, but also all kinds of chemicals, medicines, vaccines and fuels. And I think we’re going to see more and more of this in the future,” said Boeke.

And with genetic engineering, Boeke said, scientists could help yeast do those jobs better. Plus, these one-celled creatures share about a third of their genes with us. Studying their genes can teach us a lot about ourselves.

Like us, yeast cells keep their genetic material in bundles of DNA known as chromosomes. Think of each chromosome as a book of genetic instructions, Boeke said.

They engineered the new chromosome to let researchers shuffle genes around like a deck of cards.

“Some will have winning decks at making biofuels and some at making some other useful product,” he said.

Researchers say they are careful to consider the ethical implications of re-writing the code of life, but Boeke adds that his students are learning the basic tools of modern biology and getting excited about the possibilities.

“We could teach them how to do something at once very practical but at the same time amazing and unique,” said Boeke.

Macintosh Cornwell, a student at Johns Hopkins, said it’s helped him prepare for a career in science.

“The range of skills you learn and the amount of experience you get in such a small time period, it’s invaluable, really,” said Cornwell.

He and his class are on the cutting edge of this new world of biology.

Text 6

Scientists Revisit Power from Potatoes

July 12th, 2010

This could very well be the magic formula for future power generation. Yes, scientists are busy crafting what is now called as “solid organic electric battery based upon treated potatoes.” These are absolutely eco-friendly batteries – based on the hidden powers of potatoes – which will be an economical answer to the growing power needs of developing and developed countries.

There are still places in the world where basic infrastructure for lighting and other electrical needs is insufficient. The researchers at Hebrew University are now trying to create magic out of humble common potatoes to provide a solution for generating power to meet this need.

It is the salt-bridge capacity that is latent in treated potato tubers which makes them the ideal medium for generating power easily and economically. An easy process of electrolysis is used in the construction of the simple yet efficient battery. A slice of our ordinary potato, zinc and copper electrodes are all that go to make the battery. By boiling the potato, the electric power is increased 10 times more than with the non-boiled potatoes, and the longevity is also greatly increased.

The principle scientists use to better the performance of the traditional batteries is almost similar. The less the salt-bridge resistance in the potato-power battery, the longer and more efficient the batteries are.

The treated potato power batteries (with low power electricity) were used to power LEDs. These telecommunications transfer information in the developing non-OECD populated areas. Where there is insufficient access to proper electrical infrastructure, these eco- and environmentally friendly green generators of power will be found useful.

Prof. Haim D. Rabinowitch, Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food & Environment and Alex Golberg, School of Computer Science & Engineering, Hebrew University, jointly with Prof. Boris Rubinsky, University of California, Berkeley, carried out the research – sponsored by

Yissum Research Development Company Ltd, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The research was into electrolytic process in living matter that can be used for many applications, including generation of electric energy like for self-powered implanted medical electronic devices.

Cost-wise also potato-powered batteries are more viable. The 1.5 volt D cells and Energizer E-91 cells proved to be more costly – about 5-50 times more than these vegetable powered cells. Not only potatoes but other treated vegetables can be utilized to provide clean and inexpensive green energy. But potatoes win hands down as vegetable of choice to power the battery due to their high production and easy availability.

Text 7

New Earth-Size Planet Found

April 17, 2014

Not too big, not too small. Not too hot, not too cold. A newly discovered planet looks just right for life as we know it, according to an international group of astronomers.

Orbiting a star about 500 light-years away, the planet called Kepler-186f is about the same size as Earth. As this artist's interpretation shows, it orbits its star at the right distance for liquid water on the surface. That is an essential condition for life as we know it.

But it is not exactly like Earth, NASA planetary scientist Elisa Quintana said via Skype.

"It's more of an Earth's cousin. It's not an Earth's twin. It shares the same characteristics as Earth, but their parent stars are very different," said Quintana.

Kepler-186f orbits a star that is smaller and cooler than our sun.

But, writing in the journal *Science*, the astronomers say the planet appears to be a closer relative than most of the hundreds of others discovered so far.

Some are massive gas-covered giants with thick, crushing atmospheres. Others orbit too closely to their stars and are too hot for life.

Two planets discovered last year are in the right orbit and might be good candidates for life, Quintana says, but they are a bit bigger than Earth.

"For the first time, we can actually say we now have a planet that is both Earth-sized and orbits in its star's habitable zone," she said.

It may be the first time, but it probably is not the last, says Massachusetts Institute of Technology astrophysicist Sara Seager.

"We've been waiting decades to understand how common habitable planets might be, and it's looking like they're really common. And this gives us excitement and motivation to take the next step," said Seager.

The next step would be to look for traces of life in the atmospheres of these distant worlds. That would take a more sophisticated space telescope. But budget cuts threaten that mission, says University of California at Los Angeles astrophysicist Ben in this Skype interview. "In principle, we could do this in the next couple decades. But in practice, because there's no money, it's not gonna happen. It's not gonna happen in my lifetime, for example," said Zuckerman.

Leaving earthbound concerns behind, NASA's Elisa Quintana believes that when the next-generation space telescope is launched, it will find that we are not alone in the universe. "I guess I'm an optimist. I think that life is definitely out there. Just looking at the abundance of stars. I mean, hundreds of billions of stars. The likelihood that one of them might have some form of life to me seems rather high. But everyone has their own opinion about that, I'm sure," she said.

In the meantime, the search continues for other worlds where life may find a home.

Text 8

Male or female? First sex-determining genes appeared in mammals some 180 million years ago

April 23, 2014

Male or female? In humans and other mammals, the difference between sexes depends on one single element of the genome: the Y chromosome. It is present only in males, where the two sexual chromosomes are X and Y, whereas women have two X chromosomes. Thus, the Y is ultimately responsible for all the morphological and physiological differences between males and females.

But this has not always been the case. A very long time ago, the X and Y were identical, until the Y started to differentiate from the X in males. It then progressively shrank to such an extent that, nowadays, it only contains about 20 genes (the X carries more than one thousand genes). When did the Y originate and which genes have been kept? The answer has just been brought to light by the team of Henrik Kaessmann, Associate Professor at the CIG and group leader at the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics, and their collaborators in Australia. They have established that the first "sex genes" appeared concomitantly in mammals around 180 million years ago.

By studying samples from several male tissues - in particular testicles - from different species, the researchers recovered the Y chromosome genes from the three major mammalian lineages: placentals (which include humans, apes, rodents and elephants), marsupials (such as opossums and kangaroos) and monotremes (egg-laying mammals, such as the platypus and the echidna, a kind of Australian porcupine). In total, the researchers worked with samples from 15 different mammals, representing these three lineages, as well as the chicken, which they included for comparison.

Instead of sequencing all Y chromosomes, which would have been a "colossal task" according to Diego Cortez, researcher at CIG and SIB and main author of the study, the scientists "opted for a shortcut." By comparing genetic sequences from male and female tissues, they eliminated all sequences common to both sexes in order to keep only those sequences corresponding to the Y chromosome. By doing so, they established the largest gene atlas of this "male" chromosome to date.

This study required more than 29,500 computing hours! A gigantic task, which could not have been performed without important technical means: the high-throughput DNA sequencers of the genomics platform at the Center for Integrative Genomics, for the generation of the genetic sequences, and the calculation means of Vital-IT, SIB's high-performance computing centre, for the biological analyses.

The study shows that the same sex-determining gene, named SRY, in placentals and marsupials had formed in the common ancestor of both lineages around 180 million years ago. Another gene, AMHY, is responsible for the emergence of Y chromosomes in monotremes and appeared some 175 million years ago. Both genes, which according to Henrik Kaessmann are "involved in testicular development," have thus emerged "nearly at the same time but in a totally independent way."

The nature of the sex-determination system present in the common ancestor of all mammals remains unclear, given that mammalian Y chromosomes did not yet exist at that time - - at least not those discovered in this study. So what triggered back then that an individual was born male or female? Was this determination linked to other sex chromosomes, or even environmental factors such as the temperature? The latter is not an unreasonable scenario, given that temperature determines sex in present-day crocodiles. As far as mammals are concerned, "the question remains open," concludes Diego Cortez.

Texts for sight translation

Text 1

What is human cloning?

Cloning an organism involves replicating the DNA of that organism in a new organism, that has the exact features and characteristics of the parent organism. Human cloning would

mean recreating the person that is being cloned. With the successful cloning of Dolly, the sheep, human cloning is on the verge of becoming a reality.

How would human cloning work?

Human cloning, if it is ever done, will be carried out by the same method that brought forth Dolly, that is via reproductive cloning. In reproductive cloning, the nucleus is isolated from a cell of the organism to be cloned, and is then inserted into an enucleated egg (an egg whose nucleus has previously been removed).

The egg with the new nucleus is then given electric or chemical treatment to simulate cell division. The resulting embryo is transferred to a host uterus to develop, and eventually gives birth to the clone. The new-born organism will be a replica of the original organism, but not the exact, since it will have DNA derived from both the organism as well as the egg.

Why would human cloning be done?

Cloning animals, especially endangered species, is one way of preserving the species from dying out entirely. But why would anyone want to clone human beings? There are enough of us already on the planet, without enough resources to sustain the large population, so why bother to clone?

Well, one reason is pure scientific research. We've already come a long way. After Dolly, scientists have managed to clone various animals. So cloning humans seems the next logical step and a very important one too.

Cloning humans could also prove a major breakthrough as far as cloning for therapeutic purposes is concerned. Cloning could be used to produce new organs for organ transplants. Since the cloned organ, produced from a body cell of the person needing the transplant, would have the same genetic code, the risk of the body rejecting the new, transplanted organ is reduced to a great extent. Cloning could also be used to treat cancer, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and a host of other illnesses.

Cloning would allow infertile couples to have their own genetic offspring or otherwise normal couples to order designer babies. It could also be used to bring back relatives from the dead. So if you want to give birth to your great-great-grandmother, you can! However, you need to have preserved some samples of her body cells. One American couple reportedly is willing to pay \$500,000 to clone their dead infant daughter. And then there are some who would like to clone themselves, and thereby achieve eternal life.

Is it ethical to go ahead and clone humans?

Well, sometimes one of a kind is more than one can tolerate. But, on the serious side, many leading scientists that have been involved in cloning research, like Ian Wilmut and Richard Gardner, have expressed serious doubts and ethical dilemmas over the cloning of human beings. Firstly, reproductive cloning is not yet a fool-proof method. It took 272 attempts before Dolly was produced. This means 272 embryos either failed to develop properly or were discarded as defective. In other cases, if the embryos weren't miscarried, a large percentage of the animals born showed a high degree of abnormality and died quickly or had to be euthanized. Those successfully cloned have shown many health problems and none have lived to a ripe old age so far.

Now, since human beings consider themselves a class apart, obviously many moral problems would arise with treating defective human embryos or new-born, handicapped babies in the very same manner.

There is also no way of predicting what the intelligence level and capabilities of a human clone would be. What would be the psychological and societal implications for it as an individual? What kind of a life or future would it have? Since we don't know, many people consider it unethical to go ahead and clone. But that argument doesn't hold much ground. After all, we have no way of knowing exactly what sort of a person, a normally conceived embryo will turn out to be either.

Is Human Cloning legally allowed?

Reproductive cloning of humans is banned in many countries around the world, including the USA and UK. Therapeutic cloning is allowed to some degree, however, it has faced a lot of opposition from religious and pro-life organizations, many of whom are acquainted with its theological implications, than its theoretical possibilities.

Text 2

Briton, Japanese Share Nobel Prize for Medicine

Jeff Seldin

October 08, 2012

Two discoveries over the course of more than 40 years are now getting credit for revolutionizing the way scientists look at saving and creating life.

The Nobel Prize committee Monday awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine to Britain's John Gurdon and Japan's Shinya Yamanaka for those discoveries in their work with cells, often called the building blocks of life.

First Gurdon and then Yamanaka showed that mature, specialized cells could be reprogrammed, causing them to revert to an immature, embryonic state and then turned into a different type of specialized cell.

The implications are enormous, allowing researchers to work on technology that could one day allow doctors to fight disease by regrowing tissue in damaged brains, hearts or other organs. "This year's Nobel Prize awards a discovery that has changed the way we understand how cells in the body become specialized," said Thomas Perlmann, Professor of Molecular Development Biology of the Karolinska Institute in Sweden. "It has provided entirely new tools for effective development of drugs and new therapies."

Until recently, many scientists thought the only viable way to do this was to use embryonic human stem cells, which involved the destruction of a human embryo. The discoveries also set the stage for work on advanced cloning techniques and other technologies involved in creating life itself.

"This brings me great joy, but at the same time I feel a great sense of responsibility," said Yamanaka, now at Japan's Kyoto University. "Stem cell research is still a very new field." The question lingered for more than 40 years. Then, in 2006, Shinya Yamanaka uncovered the mechanism, tracing the transformation to four specific genes.

Yamanaka took skin cells from adult mice and found by simply introducing a combination of four genes, he and his colleagues could essentially turn back time, transforming a mature, adult skin cell into a stem cell like state.

"The reality is that both medicine and drug research has such great potential," he said. "We have not even really begun to explore all the possibilities in medical and pharmaceutical development."

Text 3

Google Plans New Solar Mirror Technology

March 8th, 2010

Google is known for its Internet search engine. Now they want to make inroads into green technology too. They declared in 2007 that they want to invest in clean and green technology and want to do research of their own in the field of alternative energy. Now Google's engineers are putting their effort and energy into solar technology. We all know that solar power is clean and green fuel. But the cost of solar panels prevents us from utilizing solar energy extensively. Now Google Inc. is trying to come up with its own solar panel with a reduced cost of 25%. They are developing a new mirror technology for cheaper solar power.

Google is also going for another technology — gas turbines — that would derive energy from solar power rather than natural gas. This will help Google office to reduce their electricity bill further.

Google is aiming to make the alternative form of energy cheaper than the energy generated from coal. Earlier Google was investing in other green companies. But later on they decided to develop their own clean and green technology. They discovered that most of the companies lack innovative ideas to replace dependence on fossil fuels. That's why they are actively involved in coming up with their own new green technology.

First, Google people have put their own house in order. Goggle's data centers make sure that 300 million web searches take place smoothly. But these searches translate into huge costs as they devour mammoth amount of electricity. Google put his team of intellectuals to come up with more efficient and less power consuming designs. This step reduced the servers' consumption of energy by half. Google's Mountain View, California, headquarters installed solar panels producing 1.6 MW of solar energy. Their carefully selected carbon offsets, has helped the company become carbon-neutral.