



RUTGERS  
GREEN PRINT

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Hello Green Print readers!

The spring semester is now in full swing. As someone who will be graduating in May, the unsolicited vibe of this semester has been *“What next?”* *What are you gonna do after you graduate? Are you going to get a job in your field or will you continue with grad school right away? Are you gonna get a car? Will you move back home? What’s your plan, what are you gonna do?*

ENOUGH! Please, I am only a human, and a fragile one at that. Can’t I just for one minute take a step back and ask *myself* “What next?” Like, a chill and fleeting “what next” with inconsequentiality taking frame rather than fateful importance. Will I play FIFA or Skyrim tonight? Will my girlfriend and I throw on an episode of Planet Earth or Queer Eye? Will I get the original or the pulled pork potachos at Stuff yer Face? These are the kind of meaningless plans I try to escape to in lieu of looking life in the eyes.

Unfortunately, family and strangers alike believe they are entitled to ask the loaded “What next?” I know people are not always ill intentioned with this question; in fact, they probably never are, but that doesn’t mean it doesn’t make my soul tired every time I have to answer it. I wish us twenty-somethings could just forego answering this question for an undetermined amount of time: leave them on read irl, if you will. But alas, the world is not so simple.

I will try to find solace in this issue. I hope you all can do the same.

Bless,  
Andrew Cumming  
Editor

# THE BANANAPOCALYPSE..



BY HENRY VELASQUEZ

The end is near! Well, at least for bananas it might be! This would not be the first time bananas almost got wiped off the face of the Earth, either. Back in the 1950s, the banana cultivar known as the “Gros Michel” was devastated by Panama Disease (Fusarium Wilt Tropical Race One). Although some Gros Michel banana trees still exist, they are virtually extinct in the wild. The banana cultivar we know and love is known as the Cavendish, and it is currently waging a war against an upgraded version of Panama Disease known as Fusarium Wilt Tropical Race Four, or TR4 for short.

Banana-lovers have reason to worry about this fungal plague. But never fear, biotechnology is here! Through genetic engineering, biotechnologists have the potential to produce TR4-resistant Cavendish bananas, and they actually already have! James Dale, and his colleagues at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia, have conducted a three-year field trial in which eighty percent of the transgenic Cavendish banana plants had no symptoms whatsoever and others

were completely immune to the disease. Though the problem might seem resolved, we are not able to hang our hats and call it a day yet.

As of 2011, almost fifty percent of Americans and sixty percent of Europeans are opposed to genetically modified food. This means big companies such as Chiquita and Dole do not want to sell transgenic bananas and instead fund millions of dollars into the Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research (FHIA) to try to create TR4-resistant bananas through traditional breeding methods. There is nothing wrong with using this method as it could eventually produce a TR4-resistant banana, however; it is viewed as time-consuming and labor-intensive. On the bright and yellow side, we already have a promising backup plan for when the people change their minds. Genetically modified organisms have always been a part of the human diet and have never shown detrimental effects. Still think GMOs are bad? Come back next time to join me in debunking the misconceptions associated with GMOs!

# SCIENCE IS(N'T) REAL: THE ANTI-VAXXERS MAY JUST HAVE A POINT

BY WAMIA SIDDIQUI

*Disclaimer: This article is by no means supporting the anti-vax movement or suggesting that all science is fake, rather, it encourages the reader to really question and scrutinize what they're told-- including the scientific research that's oftentimes touted as cold, hard fact. So please, remember that climate change IS real, and get your flu vaccines people.*

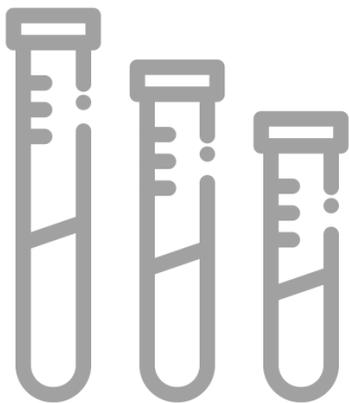


Science is assumed to be factual and objective, so when certain groups blatantly disregard what most people believe to be undisputable, their perspectives tend to be dismissed as fringe beliefs. Two prominent factions of such people, climate change deniers and people who do not believe in vaccinations (“anti-vaxxers”), have been at the receiving end of many jokes in the past, and I too used to think that such people were solely crazy conspiracists. That is, until two things happened; first, the meningitis outbreak right here on Rutgers campus, and second, a peculiar Facebook post written by my favorite teacher from middle school about how to enroll her son in NJ public schools without exposing him to the state-mandated vaccinations. I immediately wondered how someone who seemed educated, eloquent, and by all means, a normal person, could end up part of a movement that put their

own lives and others' at so much risk, so I went down the rabbit hole in an attempt to understand their reasoning. Beyond the pseudo-science, disproven claims of "vaccines causing autism," worries of being exposed to chemicals (surprise: everything is a chemical), and my least favorite, people who asserted they were pro-vaccines but "just not the flu shot," there was rationale that scientific research had been hijacked by special interests like pharmaceutical companies and are not nearly as impartial as people may believe.

In my high school biology class, students were banned outright from using the word "prove" in any of our explanations, because, as Dr. Frank would always remark, "very little in science is ever completely proven." This mindset is one that lays the framework for all of science; the most prominent scientific

theories out there, though validated with repeated evidence, have the possibility of not standing the test of time. Historically speaking, science has not always been correct-- and this is well documented; we know know that the Earth is not at the center of the universe, that infections are not caused by bad odors in the air, and that many things that were once accepted as scientific fact are now, clearly, untrue. However, science in more modern or recent history within the past 100 years has also prominently been wrong, oftentimes manipulated or used as a justification for policies or practices that are somewhat objectionable. As late as the last century, eugenics and white supremacy were bolstered by scientific racism, and now outdated theories of the difference between races, and both normal female sexual desire, as well as homosexuality, were classified as mental disorders. More recently, the belief that different parts of the tongue were responsible for different types of taste was disproven, and the common notion that ulcers are caused by stress was overturned--as it turns out, they're caused by bacteria, and the only way for the 2005 Nobel Prize winning researcher to make people believe this was to ingest the bacteria himself.



In more recent decades, the underpinnings of scientific bias has been somewhat less blatant, and yet, the biases still are markedly swayed by political or corporate interests. The food industry is one of the biggest perpetrators of this. Anyone that's heard the phrase "breakfast is the most important meal of the day," has probably absorbed the concept that eating breakfast is good for your health. However, upon further review, the results are a lot more debatable than you'd think. Many of the studies that seem to point of the weight loss or metabolism boosting benefits of breakfast have corporate sponsors and "Big Cereal" lobbyists behind them. Breakfast, especially processed, sugary foods, may not be all that healthy for you after all, but Kelloggs' would want you to believe otherwise. This is one simple example, but similar ones are pervasive throughout scientific literature. From anything from antioxidants in pomegranates to the heart benefits of dark chocolate, nutritional sciences are well-sponsored, and very much skewed in favor of, the food industry. In a review of 168 "industry-sponsored" studies, almost 93% of them had positive results about their sponsors products.

Clearly, it appears that large corporations or industries, especially "Big Pharma,"

have infiltrated and undermined the validity of a lot of research for the sake of their well-funded, corporate interests. But it's not always "the bad guys" that skew science for an increased profit interest -- a fact anti-vaxxers may be quick to point out. Sometimes, bad or biased science can be employed for the promotion of what is perceived as public interest, as in the case of a prominent Swedish study published in Science that investigated the detrimental impact of microplastics on sea creatures. Used as a baseline for a lot of progressive environmental campaigns and policies, it wasn't until later that the study was revealed to have been fabricated, though its impact does continue to live on in environmental justice projects.

Overall, science in my own life has sometimes been a grounding force, and I know for many, it's the objective counterbalance to their own religious skepticism, touting what they think is "fact" over "faith". Now that I think about it, the concept that blind belief of anything, science or otherwise, can bring you closer to enlightenment could not be further from the truth.



# passion puddle playlist

BY CHRISTIANA DALTON

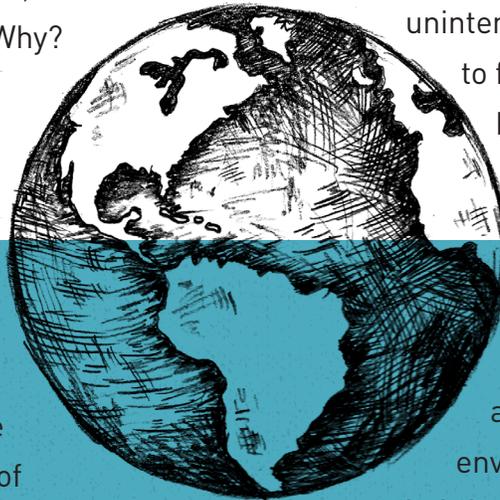
1. "SPACE FOR US"  
WINGTIP, YOUNGR
2. "TOOTIMETOOTIMETOOTIME"  
THE 1975
3. "LOST IN YOUR LIGHT"  
DUA LIPA, MIGUEL
4. "BACKSEAT GIRL"  
MEGAN GAGE, WAHALA AK
5. "PHOTOSYNTHESIS"  
SABA, JEAN DEAUX
6. "BEST PART"  
DANIEL CAESAR, H.E.R.
7. "WHY DON'T YOU COME ON"  
DJDS, KHALID, EMPRESS OF
8. "NARCISSIST"  
NO ROME, THE 1975
9. "ALMOST (SWEET MUSIC)"  
HOZIER
10. "I GOT"  
YOUNG THE GIANT
11. "TIEDUPRIGHTNOW"  
PARCELS
12. "IT'S NOT LIVING (IF IT'S  
NOT WITH YOU)"  
THE 1975

# WHY PEOPLE DON'T CARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE

BY TESS OSBORNE

This past October, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report stating that global carbon emissions would have to peak by the year 2030 if we want global temperatures to increase by 1.5°C at most. Staying under this 1.5°C threshold is critical in order to reduce the global environmental strain on future generations. This report has given us the most concrete deadline and goal we have ever had in the battle against climate change, and yet even with all of this available scientific evidence, it still seems like no one cares. Why?

According to Markowitz and Shariff in their 2012 article, "Climate change and moral judgement," part of the problem stems in its nature: that climate change is an issue our psychological system of moral judgement isn't suited for. According to the researchers, there are six main psychological challenges that climate change poses:



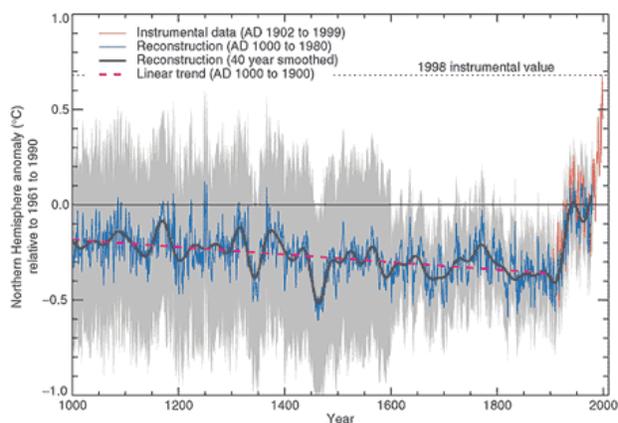
1. Abstractness and cognitive complexity: Climate change is such an abstract issue that it doesn't generate a visceral, rapid emotion reaction, which slows people's response to do something about it.
2. The blamelessness of unintentional action: Few people want to cause harm to the environment, even if they know that their actions are harmful long-term. As a result of people feeling like their environmental impact is unintentional, they are more likely to feel blameless and thus not be motivated to change.
3. Guilty bias: Although people may feel blameless, a majority of climate change advertising attacks individuals for the environmental consequences of their behaviors. No one likes feeling guilty, so people tend to minimize the seriousness of an issue and their complicity in it rather than change their behavior.

4. Uncertainty that breeds wishful thinking: While scientists can make well-educated predictions about the impacts of climate change in the future, no one knows exactly what our world will look if our global temperature increases by 1.5 or 2°C. In the face of uncertainty, people are likely to be more optimistic about the future (again minimizing the problem) and thus less likely to be motivated to act.
5. Moral tribalism: Research has shown that views of climate change can be drawn along political lines. For example, political liberals are more likely to be concerned about climate change because it concerns their principal values of individual welfare while political conservatives are less likely to be concerned due to their values of in-house loyalty, authority/respect, and purity/sanctity. Group

identity greatly impacts one's beliefs and their willingness to accept data that isn't consistent with their views.

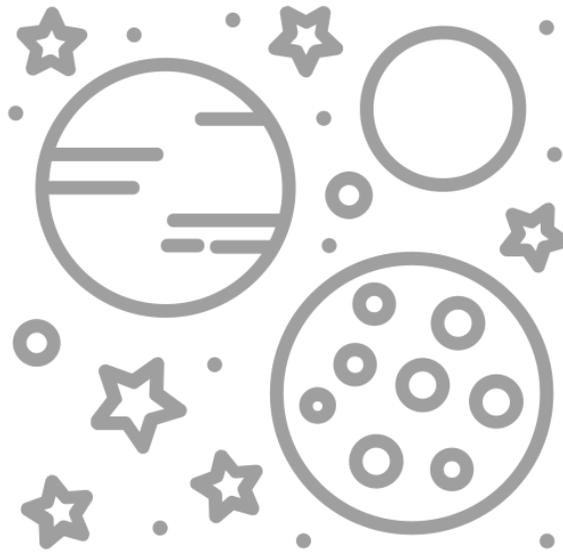
6. Long time horizons and faraway places: Most people, at least in the United States, believe that climate change is mostly going to affect people who live faraway or who will live far in the future. As a result, they feel less urgency and continue to procrastinate dealing with the problem.

So what can we do to combat this? Well, the authors suggest that climate change messaging should highlight morals that various political groups, including political conservatives, are invested in. They also suggest advertising that highlights the benefits of fighting climate change rather than the burdens of climate change impacts. In other words, messaging should concern creating a better future instead of painting a dire picture. As the IPCC report stated, we have twelve years to curb our greenhouse gas emissions. The only way this can happen is if we use the data and strategies from research such as this to adopt policies and behaviors that will create a more sustainable future.



# THE PALE BLUE DOT

*WE  
ARE →  
HERE*



BY **DILARA KARAHAN**

If you haven't heard of TEDxRutgers, it is an annual student run event that gives impactful speakers a platform to share their ideas about interesting past, current or future events and topics. This year TEDxRutgers had their conference on "The Pale Blue Dot," which was about the picture the Voyager spacecraft took of Earth from 6 billion kilometers away. In the image, the Earth appears as a barely visible dot. Seeing this image really put my life into perspective. This photo revealed to me just how large the universe is and how small our problems are in comparison. We all live different lives and experience unique experiences. For some, life is short and for others it is long. Life is beautiful but fleeting. Therefore, we need to cherish

the people that we love while they are still around. The meaning of life is uncertain, but what is certain is that we all have different values, morals, and norms. We may live in different cities, countries, and continents. We may have different definitions of what it means to be alive. But the one thing that we all share in common is: we live on a small rock, floating somewhere through the vast emptiness of the universe. The complexity of it all is unfathomable yet breathtaking. As Astronomer Carl Sagan had said: "Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives."

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OF THE MONTH:



# RHINOS

**BY ALLISON ALMEDA-AHMADI**

Rhinos need our help! Once one of the most magnificent species to freely roam the Earth, rhinos can no longer survive outside of national parks and reserves due to their critically endangered status. Conservation efforts are mainly focused on 4 species of Rhino: Javan, Sumatran, Black, and the Greater One-Horned Rhino. Rhinos are a major tourist attraction, known as one of the “Big Five” among the African safari trips that help the economies of the countries that rhinos naturally inhabit. Rhinos are being driven to extinction due to poaching for their horns, which are used in East Asia for traditional medicine, art, and high-value gifts. Following the growing middle class within countries such as China and Vietnam, rhino horn demand has increased within the international black market. The World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) has been making efforts to translocate endangered species of Rhino to safer habitats free from poaching. Research, intensive management, and surveillance are also being conducted in order to ensure the safety of the remaining wild Rhinos. The WWF has made great progress in protecting and reviving the population of the Greater One-Horned Rhino, but their work is far from done.

If you would like to help in the conservation of the rhino, the World Wildlife Foundation is a major player in the game.

You can donate and adopt a rhino with the WWF at:

[https://gifts.worldwildlife.org/gift-center/gifts/Species-Adoptions/African-Rhino.aspx?sc=AWY18000Q18317A01909RX&\\_ga=2.8013744.322556852.1549417324-240205817.1549417324](https://gifts.worldwildlife.org/gift-center/gifts/Species-Adoptions/African-Rhino.aspx?sc=AWY18000Q18317A01909RX&_ga=2.8013744.322556852.1549417324-240205817.1549417324)

# A SCARLET NEW DEAL

BY ANJALI MADGULA



As a sophomore at Rutgers who studies English literature and Computer Science, it is easy to go about my day and not think about how wasteful a day in the life at Rutgers can be. In fact, I spent most of my freshman year feeling a sort of entitlement to not care much about anything outside of my immediate school-eat-sleep-friends bubble. My commitment to the environment was just a bit of quirky passion for recycling water bottles and paper and reading green life newsletters, which my other friends found “cute.” However, after talking to some out-of-state friends, I became growingly anxious about how much more there is to be done at Rutgers and in New Jersey. California has recycling and composting everywhere in malls, stores, offices, etc. UT Austin has a program for reusable takeout containers where students use ecochips to receive and return a container while eating. Many areas have reduced usage of plastic bags, and some companies have become conscious about cutting down on receipts. With a giant student population, Rutgers can make an amazing positive impact by having solid green practices. I wanted to explore some of the things Rutgers does currently and propose a few changes which I believe we should make as soon as possible.

## RUTGERS (CURRENTLY)

1. Cupanion- distributing cupanion bottles and not providing foam cups at takeout
2. Vegawatt- burns waste vegetable oil and generates electricity and hot water
3. Local produce- some local produce at Rutgers is used at dining halls
4. Aerobic Digesters in Henry's diner, Harvest Café, and Neilson dining hall
5. No solid food waste from dining halls goes into landfills
6. Livingston campus gets 60% of its energy from its solar panels
7. Business building heated by geothermal heating

Based on the included lists, Rutgers has a fair share of green initiatives, but as the world starts to recognize a certain urgency with environmental issues, there is no better time to step up our game. These propositions are nothing that hasn't been proposed many times by say RUSA's Sustainability Task Force, but it is clear to see that they haven't been

implemented yet. Why the delay? The authorities at Rutgers have the ability and surely the money to make bigger changes. With every day that passes, we are generating exponentially more waste as our student population grows.

A college education is about gaining skills and knowledge that are valuable in a rapidly changing world, and that needs to include learning how to live a green life. Everyone must start adapting, and there is no better place to start doing so than on college campuses (I would argue that green education can and should start as young as kindergarten, but that's beside the point) Many SEBS students do learn about the environment, but as an SAS student I can tell you I was not academically engaged to think about environmental issues before my SEBS minor. Although climate change and the environment have long been seen as controversial topics in politics and media, I am confident that the power of youth voices can make a difference in how we take it from here. College campuses are a great place to cultivate innovation if the government isn't willing to take action on something. Rutgers, by taking major strides to turn our campus green, would most definitely be making an impact that will have lasting effects on how our students approach the future.

## SCARLET NEW DEAL

1. Switch from styrofoam takeout containers to biodegradable containers or reusable containers on all campuses
2. Compost bins everywhere
3. Getting rid of plastic bags
4. Educate freshman during New Student Orientation about simple green practices
5. More recognition for environmental accomplishments and movements at Rutgers as a whole as opposed to just in the SEBS community/ creating a unified movement to normalize green practices for students across all schools



# THE SCOOP ON ICE CREAM



BY **JULIA BUTTGEREIT**

There is no doubt that ice cream is one of our favorite treats. The average American eats over 23 pounds of this cool treat every year, but how much of this is truly ice cream?

The FDA has regulations, also known as standards of identity, that are put in place to establish a common name for a food product and the general components. They also list ratios of ingredients that a product must contain in order to be called by that particular name. The standards of identity generally contain mandatory and optional ingredients for a specific food product. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure that consumers can trust that manufacturers are producing the products that they claim they are.

According to the FDA, in order to be considered “ice cream,” the product must contain at least 10 percent dairy milkfat. In addition, it must weigh at least 4.5 pounds per gallon and have no more than 100 percent overrun. Overrun is the amount of air that is whipped into the product, so this regulation essentially prevents manufacturers from selling air to the consumers. The standards for ice cream also explain the maximum amounts of mixed-in ingredients, like chocolate solids, fruit, or nuts, that a product can have before it is no longer considered ice cream. If a product does not meet these standards, it legally cannot be called ice cream and is usually labeled as “frozen dairy dessert.” Along these same lines, there are specific



regulations manufacturers must follow in order to label products as “reduced fat,” “light,” and “lowfat.” The FDA even has specific rules about the size of letters used on packaging of frozen dessert products to promote honesty and fairness for the consumer. Other frozen desserts have their own standards of identity as well. For example, frozen custard must contain at least 1.4 percent egg yolk solids by weight of the food. Who knew?

Many consumers can’t tell the difference between ice cream and frozen dairy dessert, but it is smart to consider the price you are paying for a gallon of something that could contain more air than actual product. Companies could be overcharging you for a product that contains less of the essential components of ice cream. Each product has its own pros and cons for both the producer and the consumer. For example, ice cream may be more expensive to manufacture, but it also has a creamier and richer texture than a frozen dairy dessert. The next time you go to the freezer aisle in the supermarket, check the smaller print on that container and see if your favorite ice cream is not what you thought it was.



# JURASSIC PARK IN REAL LIFE: FICTION BECOMING FACT

BY PADMA SAMHITA VADAPALLI

If you've watched Jurassic Park (and its seemingly never-ending sequels), you know that the idea of bringing back an extinct species, is one which has fascinated and astounded human beings for years. We've all seen dinosaurs, sabre tooth cats, and woolly mammoths come alive in our movie screens and television shows. It seems now, that recent

research may fulfill this human fantasy of resurrecting a dead species. How? The answer lies in synthetic de-extinction technology.

Earth is currently in its sixth wave of mass extinction-with a higher extinction rate than ever experienced in the past 65 billion years. It is estimated that 150-200 species of plants and animals become extinct each day! This is nearly 1000 times the natural background rate. Our planet is headed into a frightening future indeed, with mass ecological destruction looming on the horizon. However, de-extinction technology may be a possible

solution to this growing problem. De-extinction technology uses gene-editing techniques and biotechnology to recreate the genetic compositions of extinct animals from preserved tissue samples. Genetic engineering and cloning are utilized to develop these organisms, which are then bred to recreate populations. The final goal is to release these organisms back into their natural habitats, allowing them to restore damaged ecosystems.

The rise of this technology has left the scientific community divided amidst a heated debate about the ecological and ethical implications of the project. The question arises: has science truly found a way to reverse the death of a species? To answer this, let us consider both the opportunities and the obstacles that de-extinction brings.

The benefits are self-evident. This technology can be used as a form of ecological restoration, by reviving important keystone species - organisms which play crucial roles in maintaining the structure and functioning of their communities and habitats. It can help in strengthening our ecosystems through increased biodiversity as well. The presence of multiple, different species

increases the stability of a community, by increasing the capacity of the community to recover from disturbances and damages. The thousands of organisms previously lost can theoretically be brought back into existence.

There are also several obstacles which need to be considered. The resurrected organisms may not be able to survive in today's ecological systems, due to changes in their habitats and environments. They might also cause disturbances within existing ecosystems, as their interactions with the current living species cannot be predicted. Factors such as epigenetics (changes in gene expression caused by external factors), in-breeding, diseases, funds and human exploitation can further complicate this project.

This brings us to a second question: What impact does this technology have on our moral and ethical values? Well, the answer depends on who you ask. Many worry that this technology is simply a vanity project which undermines the value we place on wildlife and the environment. There is concern that this might reduce the importance of existing conservation projects, and create an opportunity for increased human exploitation. If

extinction is no longer permanent, it might result in a decrease in the already scarce environmental protection policies and conservation measures. There are also many who fear the consequences of men 'playing god', as the reversal of death could change our future in ways which we cannot possibly predict or understand with our current knowledge.

On the other hand, there are still optimists who insist that the ecological and economic benefits that this technology will deliver, will outweigh any moral complications. They view this technology as a rescue project - to save the species we have lost, and to make amends for the human exploitation which was responsible for their disappearance. De-extinction technology is a revolutionary concept with great scope for growth. However, at this point in time, it is merely the beginning of an intriguing idea that many are exploring and developing. Should this project even be implemented? And will it succeed? Only time will tell.

# LESS IS MORE

BY SAMARA MOWLA

*Author's Notes: I am in no way saying this is the best way to live life, however this is something I would like to incorporate into my daily life. I believe it can give me a chance to enjoy life in a different way.*

Minimalism: this is a term that has grown in use over the past decade. There are those who make fun of minimalism and exaggerate the principles revolved around it, and conversely, there are those whose lives have been changed forever by it. In short, minimalism is a method of becoming a producer instead of a consumer. It is a lifestyle in which quality is valued over quantity. Minimalism has the ability to offer people true freedom: freedom from the materialistic world that society has glorified which in turn comes with a peace of mind.

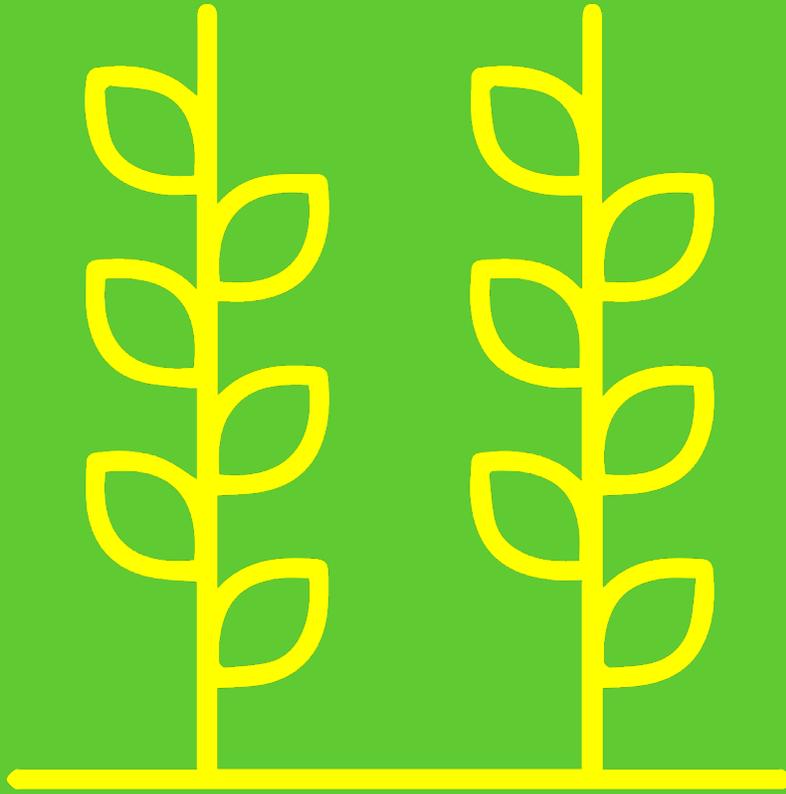
In this capitalistic society, it is profitable to push materialism. Companies spend millions on marketing to deceive people



and trick them into thinking that they do not have enough - that there is always something missing. This implies that the emptiness one feels within their life will be fulfilled by acquiring copious amounts of wealth, and then purchasing luxurious items to “flex” on their friends and family. Think about the times before you purchased that brand-new iPhone or new pair of shoes; in that moment you feel like your life is incomplete without said item or that your life may be exponentially better with it. Then, once you obtain that item, the initial excitement wears off within a week or so. Lo and behold, the following day, week, or month, there is a new, hot item that is a “must-have.” This is how

individuals can get trapped in the cycle of materialism.

When it comes to minimalism, you have the ability to keep items that bring true value to your life. It is not necessarily about having the least amount of possessions as possible; rather, minimalism allows you to appreciate the things you own and acknowledge the benefits they bring to your life. Hence, once you get rid of all the unnecessary, materialistic, distracting items, you are truly free. You are free to live more in the moment, pursue your passions, and contribute beyond yourself. Consume less and appreciate more.



*Interested in Green Print?*

CONTACT ANDREW CUMMING AT  
SEBSGREENPRINT@GMAIL.COM  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW  
TO GET INVOLVED!

AND CHECK OUT FUTURE ISSUES AT:  
RUGREENPRINT.COM.

# WORKS CITED

## The Bananapocalypse...

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## Science Is(n't) Real: The Anti-Vaxxers May Just Have a Point

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## Why People Don't Care about Climate Change

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## The Pale Blue Dot

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## Endangered Species of the Month: Rhinos

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## A Scarlet New Deal

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## Less is More

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