

# The Slate



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Issue 1

## Obama: Ready or Not?



**By Editor-in-Chief  
Rebecca DeLong  
Staff Writer Ethan Robles**

The dominate question asked by the media's political panels throughout the night was: Is America ready for Barack Obama?

What America is clearly ready for is to once again be worthy of its standing in the world; to once again be a place where the American dream can come true; to live up to those ideals which forged our government, "the greatest work ever struck off at one time by the mind of man."

Whether or not the country is "ready" for an African-American President, it is ready for change. After eight years of division and strife, war and recession, America is looking, quite simply, for hope. For the majority of Americans Barack Obama represents that hope.

Presidents have enormous power not only to suggest the legislative agenda, but also to establish policy by refocusing the efforts and emphases of executive agencies. The new president must use all of these tools to restore freedom and move the country forward. Barack Obama has made many promises to the people of America, and today begins

the long years that America will watch and wait for the fulfillment of those vows.

According to Obama, he will work to overturn the Supreme Court's recent ruling that curtails women's and racial minorities' ability to challenge pay discrimination. He will reverse the politicization that has occurred in the Bush Administration's Department of Justice, and put an end to the ideological litmus tests used to fill positions within the Civil Rights Division. He will strengthen federal hate crimes legislation, expand hate crimes protection by passing the Matthew Shepard Act, and reinvigorate enforcement at the Department of Justice's Criminal Section.

The people of America voted for change, and they voted for a president who they believe will restore fairness to the tax code and provide 95 percent of working Americans the tax relief they need. They voted for a president who will eliminate all capital gains taxes on startup and small businesses to encourage innovation and job creation. They voted for a president who will use trade agreements to spread good labor and environmental standards around the world.

The Obama campaign made history on November 4th, and it did so while promising to end the war in Iraq. It promised to renew American diplomacy to meet the challenges of the 21st century. It promised to lead the effort to secure nuclear weapons materials at vulnerable sites within four years and help our allies stop the smuggling of weapons of mass destruction.

### **But what should he do?**

The first hundred days of any Presidency are the most critical, and if Obama truly meant that he stood for change, then he has an intense agenda before him:

If Obama truly wants to give an answer to "anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy", then he needs to end the warrant-less spying, the watch list, the abortion gag rule, the Real ID Act, and once again erect that wall between church and state by putting an end to the faith based initiatives of President Bush.

In short, the President Elect needs to, in what would per-

haps be a first for an American President since the years immediately following the Revolution, remember that the purpose of his position is to uphold and enforce the Constitution of the United States of America.

In a country sorely divided and deeply suspicious, Barack Obama needs to first restore the faith of the American people in their government. He cannot do this by offering them tax breaks, by extending government control over businesses, by trying to hold up a failing economy, but rather by removing the shadow that government currently casts over the civil liberties of its citizens.

Privacy laws in most of the developed world - particularly Europe - are overwhelmingly more comprehensive and protective than in the United States. Other advanced industrial democracies have entire governmental institutions dedicated to protecting privacy. Yet the United States is spying on its own citizens under the justification of the Patriot Act, and collecting databases of DNA samples from its citizens.

Democracy cannot flourish in an atmosphere of secrecy and unilateral assertions of executive privilege.

Americans have a right to know what their government is doing and to insist that the executive branch act only within its constitutional bounds. Obama needs to direct the attorney general to rescind the "Ashcroft Doctrine" regarding Freedom of Information Act compliance, which instructs agencies to withhold information whenever there is a "sound legal basis" for doing so.

The question of the evening should not have been "Is America ready for Barack Obama?" but "Is Barack Obama ready for America?"

November 4th, 2008 was a day that will go down in history - not as an end, but as a beginning.

"To all those who have wondered if America's beacon still burns as bright --tonight we proved once more that the true strength of our nation comes not from the might of our arms or the scale of our wealth, but from the enduring power of our ideals: democracy, liberty, opportunity, and unyielding hope.

For that is the true genius of America -- that America can change. Our union can be perfected. And what we have already achieved gives us hope for what we can and must achieve tomorrow."

# Michael Phelps: Beneath the Surface

Staff Writer Mel McCoy

While many call themselves "Phelps Phans" because they watched Michael's outstanding performances at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, few know all the details about his 23 years prior to this event. *Beneath the Surface* seeks to allow fans to dive into the history of Michael Phelps and study the making of an Olympic champion. The book uses the first person point of view, recalling events through the eyes of Phelps to add a personal touch to the biography. He covers various

swimming milestones, such as the first time he entered a pool, and places an emphasis on the heroes in his life. While *Beneath the Surface* portrays the life of the greatest swimmer to ever live, it hardly leaves readers at the edge of their seats and actually had me thinking multiple times that I was just reading statistics. If you are looking for an action-packed book describing the background of a great American athlete, this is not the book. So, to all you "Phelps Phans" out there interested in the exciting life of Michael



Phelps, you may just want to avoid the book and stick

to watching him shatter world records on your

television.

## College Review: Villanova University

Staff Writer

Jessica Wagner

Researching, visiting, essay writing, stressing, and finally, applying - these are the five steps that current high school seniors

are getting to know too well during the fall and winter months. With an average of eight identical college advertisements bombarding juniors and seniors every day, few stu-

dents know how to decide which college will fit them best. Universities and colleges can range from the local community colleges to the prestigious 9% acceptance rate Ivy Leagues. One popular local school is Villanova University, located approximately one hour away from Allentown and right outside the city of Philadelphia.

Becoming part of the Nova Nation is not something for the weak-spirited. Villanova cannot only be distinguished by its high academic prestige, but also for the excellent sport programs. The Catholic university plays host to twenty-four men and women's Division I teams, and even more intercollegiate and intramural sports. The Wildcats are known for their incredible men's basketball team and the huge fan base that follows the players. Alongside of sports, however, the school provides an excellent education to anyone interested in business, nursing, engineering, or the liberal arts

and sciences. When applying to the university, applicants must choose which of these four areas they will be studying in, but each one offers a highly respected education. Several dining halls can be found spread throughout the campus for students' convenience. Students rave about the delicious food served at the school, and one girl admits, "I'll be honest, I'm a picky eater, but I love the food here. I was really surprised with it." Villanova University sends a sufficient amount of their students overseas every semester to study abroad in numerous foreign countries. In fact, the school ranks fifth in the nation for the most esteemed international program available. For students not interested in leaving the country, plenty of opportunities reside at the university itself. Every year, Villanova holds the largest Special Olympics event in the entire country. Students at the school love to get involved with the affair, and they take pride

in representing their school's generosity. The university also has its own train station on campus, which is available to all students who want to take the twenty minute ride into the lively city of Philadelphia. Movie theaters surround the college's campus, and small shops can be found all along the Main Line of Philadelphia, which passes through Villanova. With a 42% acceptance rate, the school is continually becoming more competitive every year. The early action application needs to be turned in at Villanova University by November 1st, 2008 for anyone applying to the school for the Fall 2009 semester. The regular deadline for applications is January 7th, 2009, but the sooner the application is received, the better chance of being accepted! To become part of the Nova Nation, students need to show that they want to make a difference - internationally or just around the corner!



# Movie Review

## Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist

**Staff Writer Katrina Wehr**

Micheal Cera (*Superbad and Juno*) along with up-and-coming actress Kat Dennings (*The House Bunny and Charlie Bartlett*) star in this youth-oriented comedy released on October 3rd. Nick (Cera) and Norah (Dennings) encounter each other at a nightclub in New York and discover their similar taste in music. The adventure becomes a memorable first date for the two teens, as this meeting sends them on a late-night journey around NYC to find

their favorite underground band's secret show. Katey Rich, from CinemaBlend.com, comments, "It will enthrall teen viewers who imagine such an adventurous, music-fueled life for themselves." *Teen Vogue* magazine calls it "One of the cleverest teen films to hit screens in years." With a little *Superbad* humor mixed amid the clever sarcasm we loved in *Juno*, *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* is definitely a movie you want to catch.

## Places to Visit

**Staff Writer**

**Emily Mulcahy**

I know summer vacation is over, but I would like to keep its spirit alive by writing about favorite vacation spots. My first choice to describe is Boston because I visited there this summer with my family. Boston was full of great times. We started our vacation with whale watching and the great New England aquarium. The whale watch was an amazing experience; whale watch boats guarantee you will see at least seven whales. They were beautiful, majestic creatures, as everyone has

heard.

The aquarium was disappointing, but the main tank had huge turtles and sharks. The next day our visit to the science museum was boring. It was very hands on and recommended for younger siblings. Also Salem, MA was educational, and there was a tour of the house in which Nathaniel Hawthorne was born. This building was next to his house of seven gables. That night there was a "haunted" tour of Salem. It was great fun hearing all the ghost stories.

Six Flags and Sturbridge

**Staff Writer Katrina Wehr  
Movie News:**

The sixth installment of the Harry Potter movie series, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," originally scheduled to release November 21, 2008, will now be hitting theaters on July 17, 2009.

The President and Chief Operating Officer of WB made this statement in regards to the switch: "Our reasons for shifting 'Half-Blood Prince' to summer are twofold: we know the summer season is an ideal window for a family tent pole release, as proven by the success of our last 'Harry Potter' film, which is the second-highest grossing film in the franchise, behind only the first installment. Additionally, like every other studio, we are still feeling the repercussions of the writers' strike, which impacted the readiness of scripts for other films—changing the competitive landscape for 2009 and offering new windows of opportunity that we wanted to take advantage of. We agreed the best strategy was to move 'Half-Blood Prince' to July, where it perfectly fills the gap for a major tent pole release for mid-summer."

President of Warner

Bros. Motion Picture Group, Jeff Robinov, assures fans that the delay will not affect production of the seventh movie, which will in fact be released in two parts. "In fact, the good news for them is that the gap will now be shortened between 'Half-Blood Prince' and the first part of 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,'" Robinov adds. The first part of Harry Potter 7 is scheduled for release on November 19, 2010, with the second part following in the summer of 2011.

As a result of the move, Walt Disney Pictures' animated film "Bolt" will be moved up five days to November 21st to take advantage of the gap left by "Half-Blood Prince," along with the much anticipated movie version of Stephanie Meyer's hit book series "Twilight."

**Movies to Watch For:**

*The Express* (Oct. 3)-

Follows the story of young college football player Ernie Davis, the first African-American to win the Heisman Trophy.

*Quarantine* (Oct. 10)- For fans of *Cloverfield*. This movie is the only evidence of the events that take place in a building

quarantined for an unknown virus.

*Beverly Hills Chihuahua*

(Oct. 10)- Chloe, pet Chihuahua of a Beverly Hills star, is separated from her owner on vacation in Mexico. With the help of other Chihuahuas and a spirit guide, Chloe makes her way home and discovers her breed's heritage.

*The Secret Life of Bees* (Oct. 17)- Based on the *New York Times* best-selling novel, this movie shares the story of a 14-year old girl who runs away from her abusive home and in search of clues to her deceased mother's past.

*Saw V* (Oct. 24)- The fifth installment in the *Saw* series for those who've enjoyed the previous four movies. *Saw V* promises more horrifying situations, gory traps and everything we've come to expect from the *Saw* movies.

*The Haunting of Molly*

*Hartley* (Oct 31)- A fitting Halloween movie. After her mother's psychotic break, Molly Hartley looks for a new beginning at a new school. But terrifying voices and visions still find a way to haunt her.

Village were accomplished in one day. The sailboats were beautiful when in full sail, and very relaxing. Quincy markets are a must see; the food smelled delicious. They probably had any type of food one could think of.

Warning ... in New England the beaches are not warm. Actually they are quite cold, but it was beautiful climbing rocks near the water. The Cheers bar, where they filmed the TV show Cheers, had delicious food. On the drive home I had had enough of these days on my feet, and slept the entire ride.



# Cross Country

## Sports Records

Boys' Cross Country  
22-4

Girls' Cross Country  
15-11

Field Hockey  
17-5

Football  
4-6

Soccer  
0-17

Staff Writer

Amber Vanhorn

The Northern Lehigh cross country season started off excellently. The boys finished 22-4, while the girls ended 15-11. Despite losing some talented seniors, Coach Oertner said, "I think this team is as good as last years, but the competition has gotten better." The ambitious team set high goals for themselves, and Kyle Bender and Steph Pryor even made it to states.

This year's team has a strong group of seniors: Kyle Bender, Mitchell Demko, Steven Gross, Mel McCoy, Zak Moser, Mollie Rohrbach, Michael Showak, Jess Wagner, and

Katrina Wehr. They make sure their underclassmen are doing what is needed to succeed. Even though there are nine seniors, the underclassmen, such as Steph Pryor and Austin Danish, are stepping up.

The cross country team has formed a tight bond with one another. When asked what she likes best about this sport, Mel McCoy said, "I'm a big fan of the cross country family," while Katrina Wehr said, "I've never experienced such a family atmosphere as I have in cross country. Everyone is really close; I like that." Knowing that their teammates are cheering them on motivates the team while they

are running those three-mile meets.

Some people may wonder why anybody would run for fun, but in fact, the members of the cross country team do; they run 3.1 miles at meets and usually a lot more at practices. What possesses them to run? Perhaps it is the races when everybody gets his or her personal bests or during practices when someone randomly falls; perhaps it is the joy and excitement they feel when their individual and team goals have been achieved. Whatever it is, it is enough for them to reach their goals and have a successful season.

The girls' team warms up before the race.



Senior Mollie Rohrbach and junior Jess Buzinski give it their all at the Palmerton Meet.



The boys' team poses for a picture at Palmerton's cross country course. Below, the girls gather before their race.



Senior Mel McCoy finishes the race with her best efforts.



# Happy Birthday Barbie



By Staff Writer  
Ashleigh Arnold

The famous doll every little girl grew up playing with is finally hitting the big 5-0. Although she looks as young as she did back in 1958, our beloved Barbie doll is finally celebrating her half century anniversary. Joining her in the cele-

bration this year are Ellen DeGeneres, Sharon Stone, Michelle Pfeiffer, Kevin Bacon, Tim Burton, Madonna, Jamie Lee Curtis, Prince, Drew Carey, and Michael Jackson.

Although all of these people are accomplished individuals, not one of them can say he or she has experienced as much as Barbie. She's traveled the globe, been employed in countless jobs, and acted out the dreams of millions of children, and even some adults. Take a journey through her 50 years and see just what she has been up to in her short lifetime, which is safe to say is not ending any time soon.

1958: Inspired by her daughter, Barbara "Barbie" Handler, Ruth Handler decided to create an adult-like female doll. (Meanwhile, Elvis Presley was being inducted into the army.)

1959: Handler, partnered with Mattel Corp., sold 351,000 Barbie dolls at the American Toy Fair for \$3.00 each. (At the same time, you could buy 12 gallons of gas for that price.)

1960: Barbie's male counterpart Ken enters the scene. (Ironically, the first contraceptives were made available this year.)

1964: Skipper, Barbie's little sister, is introduced. (Hasbro created G.I. this year. Double date potential?)

1965: Not only does Barbie receive bendable legs, but also becomes an astronaut. (Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman astronaut, would not travel to space until 1968.)

1968: Three new dolls are developed: Christie the African-American doll, a talking Barbie, and a more muscular Ken. (This same

year, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, McDonalds created the Big Mac, and 911 was first available.)

1971: Barbie's trademark glance is replaced with her now familiar straight-ahead look. (In addition, Disney World opens in Florida.)

1976: This is a big year for Barbie; she becomes an Olympic skier, a gymnast, skater, doctor, surgical nurse, ballerina, flight attendant, and the "doll of the century" at the bicentennial celebration. (Despite Barbie's growing fame, Chimpanzee populations dwindle and they are put on the endangered species list.)

1985: Tiffany designs a sterling silver Barbie ring as Andy Warhol presents his Barbie painting. (This same year, the remains of the Titanic are found.)

1990: Army Barbie is marketed followed by Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps Barbie. (With patriotism rising, U.S. Supreme Court enforces a law banning flag burning.)

1996: Barbie now has her own website. (45 million people are now using the Internet.)

2000: Barbie runs for president. (Unfortunately, she doesn't win, and George W. Bush is elected.)

2004: Barbie and Ken break up! (In other tragic news, Martha Stewart is sentenced to five months in prison, and George Bush is reelected.)

2008: Barbie celebrates her 50th anniversary! (Many other celebrities join her over the hill making 50 the new 30.)

## Student Opinion Column: Off to a Good Start?

By Staff Writer  
Ashleigh Arnold

With the start of a new school year comes many problems. As students wave goodbye to summer highs, they must deal with the many lows brought on by school work, fellow students, and faculty. When asked about the negatives and positives of our school, students' complaints somewhat outnumbered the good things they had to say.

Upperclassmen only had to come in for half a day on the first day of school, while the freshmen came in the afternoon for orientation. This half day setup received mixed reviews from the students. Seniors did not get the joy of feeling superior to the panicked freshmen, who received the advantage of sleeping in. Upperclassmen whined about how, as freshmen, they were never

given a tour of the high school before being thrown into the mysterious new environment. The ninth graders, however, seemed to enjoy the transition.

Another hot topic in the school involved the cafeteria. Students disliked the new fingerprint scanners and the increased lunch prices. The upperclassmen's complaints were focused on the long lines, while the freshmen were more concerned with the eight to a table rule.

Freshmen also found problems with the dress code, gym clothes requirement, and block scheduling. Even though the rule has been enforced for two years now, the seniors still complained about the no electronics or food policy.

True to tradition, rivalry still exists between classes. The seniors referred to the freshmen as immature and annoying. The freshmen

felt that the seniors thought they were better than everyone else.

In general, students are not happy with the club budget cuts or the parking dilemma. Still, they seem to be finding ways around the problem with creative fundraisers, such as the great challenge of ridding Mr. DeLong of his beard. As for the parking passes, students are dealing with their new spots.

Although the students certainly have strong opinions about all the problems in the school, some pluses exist among the lists of minuses. Seniors are taking advantage of the privilege to come in late and leave early during study halls. The freshmen also appreciate the freedom that comes along with entering the high school.

Our school is now taking part in an Accreditation for Growth (AFG) program

which shows they are trying to make the school a better place. Students and faculty discuss problems with the school and try to find solutions.

Northern Lehigh seems to be swarmed with opinionated students, but complaining about our school won't change it. Instead, join AFG representatives Shannon Davies, Sarah Arndt, Michael Showak,

Danny Boyle, and the high school staff and administrators in their quest to improve our school. My advice to students is to focus on the positives and not on the negatives. There's no such thing as a perfect school, and our school offers many opportunities to be appreciated.



# I will give college a try (while in high school.)

For qualified high school students, our PA Academy and Dual Enrollment programs let you take college classes now. You can attend LCCC at reduced tuition and earn credit that can be applied later. If you're unsure about whether higher education is right for you, check out our Middle College program. You can give LCCC a test drive by choosing from a wide selection of classes. So give college a shot now. You will be glad you did. For details, see your guidance counselor.



[www.lccc.edu](http://www.lccc.edu)



# Dual Enrollment

By Staff Writer

Katrina Wehr

Looking for a challenge? Want to get ready for college? Well, there's a new program that many students are already taking advantage of that can do just that.

Dual enrollment provides the college-bound high school student with a great opportunity to earn college and high school credit at the same time. Students can sign up for a

select variety of classes that they can take through Lehigh Carbon Community College; see your guidance counselor for a list.

For those blessed with their own means of transportation, students can attend classes at LCCC's campus. Northern Lehigh allows two blocks for the class and for transportation time.

But if you don't have a car, you're in luck. Some LCCC courses are offered

at Northern Lehigh. College English, Introduction to Psychology, Calculus and Analytical Geometry, and US to Reconstruction are four classes taught here with college and high school credit. While LCCC professors teach English and Psych, calculus and US to Reconstruction are headed by our very own Mr. Lehtonen and Mr. Defrain, respectively. To get into English and calculus, stu-

dents must achieve a certain score on the COMPASS test. However, if you score high enough on the English section of the PSAT, you may be exempt from testing into that class. All students must pass the COMPASS test for math, though. The classes are run just like a college course. Think of a more rigorous Northern Lehigh class, like an honors class, for an idea of what a college class is like.

If a sit-down, live lecture class isn't your style, there's also the option of taking classes online. An assortment of course options are available, ranging from astronomy to philosophy to business and politics. Typically students take an online class every other day opposite gym. This choice is ideal for someone who doesn't want to sit around in study hall for a whole block. Generally there are weekly assignments, like review questions for the chapter you're working on that week or maybe a report or a paper that can be emailed directly to the professor through the ANGEL system. Occasionally you may be required to take a test or drop off a research paper at LCCC's campus, but lucki-

ly it is conveniently located in Schnecksville, about a 10-15 minute drive from Northern Lehigh High School.

One of the greatest advantages of dual enrollment is that the credits you earn count both at Northern Lehigh and LCCC. What does this mean for the student? Well, your class rank will certainly get a boost, which always looks good for college applications. And not only that, but LCCC credits are easy to transfer just about anywhere. That means a lighter course load in college, and possibly even early graduation, not to mention the money you'll save not having to pay for so many classes. And even if the university or college you're looking at won't take the credits, at least you are prepared for what college life is like.

So if you're looking for a challenging but beneficial schedule in your junior or senior years, dual enrollment might be an avenue you want to pursue. Talk to your guidance counselor (Mr. Anderson, A-G, Mrs. Smith, H-N, and Mrs. Lanshe, O-Z) come course selection time to see what classes are available.



## Dual Enrollment Classes

College Spanish III  
College German III  
Principles of Accounting I  
College English I  
Intro to Psychology  
US to Reconstruction  
Painting I  
Fundamentals of Early Childhood Education  
Calculus and Analytic Geometry I  
Principles of Accounting II  
Introduction to Astronomy  
Principles of Marketing  
Foundations of Education  
Introduction to Special Education  
College English II

Cultural Geography  
World Regional Geography  
Western Civilization I  
Western Civilization II  
Business Mathematics  
Finite Math for Business/ Social Science  
Introduction to Political Science  
American Federal Government  
State and Local Government  
Comparative Religion  
Introduction of Philosophy  
Arabic I  
Elementary Chinese I  
College French I

**Obama: Ready or Not**

By Editor-in-Chief Rebecca DeLong  
Staff Writer Ethan Robles  
Pg. 1

**Michael Phelps: Beneath the Surface**

By Staff Writer Mel McCoy  
Pg. 2

**College Review: Villanova University**

By Staff Writer Jess Wagner  
Pg.2

**Movies**

By Staff Writer Katrina Wehr  
Pg. 3

**Places to Visit**

By Staff Writer Emily Mulcahy  
Pg. 3

**Cross Country**

By Staff Writer Amber Vanhorn  
Pg. 4

**Happy Birthday Barbie**

By Staff Writer Ashleigh Arnold  
Pg. 5

**Student Opinion Article**

By Staff Writer Ashleigh Arnold  
Pg. 5

**Dual Enrollment**

By Staff Writer Katrina Wehr  
Pg. 6

**Environmentalism in the Tropics**

By Staff Writer Laurel Horwith  
Pg. 8

Photo Contributions: Marlena Schnyder  
Jess Wagner  
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# Environmentalism in the Tropics



By Staff Writer Laurel Horwith

Norway and Brazil announced on Monday September 16, 2006 that a new fund has been set-up for the preservation of the Amazon Rain Forest in Brazil. Norway plans on donating \$20 million in 2008 and

increasing donations in 2009 to nearly \$120 million.

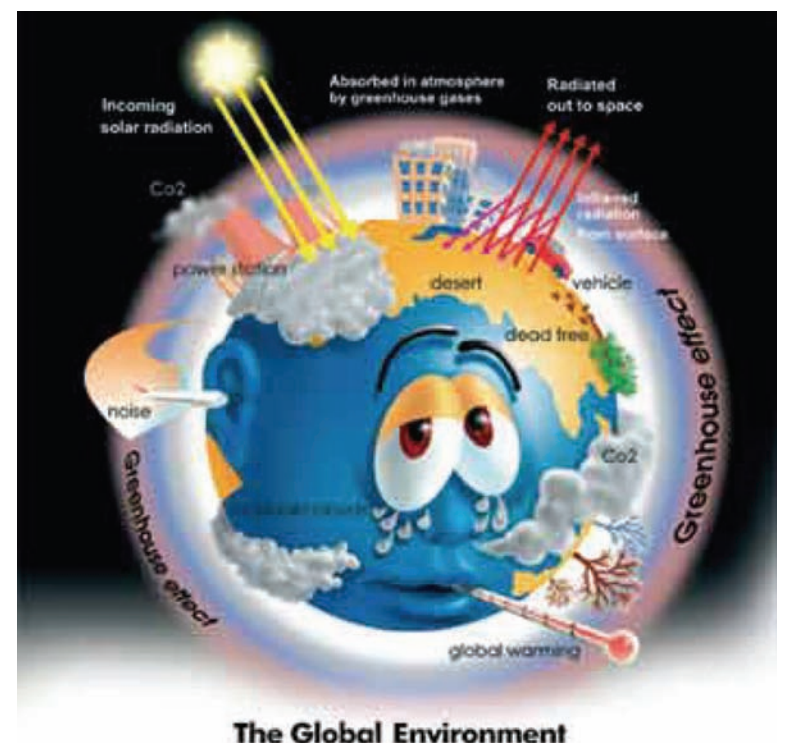
Norway has indicated that they plan to contribute \$1 billion by 2015, on the condition that Brazil dramatically decreases its deforestation levels in the Amazon. A decline of

deforestation from the present staggering levels could result in a large and quick reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Deforestation in tropical countries accounts for nearly 20% of man-made CO2 emissions worldwide, which is why many believe that

maintaining Brazilian forests is so essential to the welfare of the planet.

Most deforestation is the result of high world food prices that are causing cattle ranches and soy plantations to be created in the tropics. The Amazon's trees are being burned in bulk for loggers, ranching, and farming; this activity vents approximately 400 million tons of carbon diox-

ide into the atmosphere. These emissions represent 80 percent of Brazil's total greenhouse gases, thus making the country one of the top contributors of greenhouse gas emissions. Whether or not restricting industry in favor of environmentalism will help the country of Brazil, however, is the question left unanswered.



The Global Environment